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

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The GOLDEST SHOP WINDOW in TOWN!

It was really delightful to see so many shops and businesses take part and the high street turn so very golden this September with this year's theme of Golden Teddy Bears. Thank you for all the efforts made by everyone, but this year's outstanding winners with almost twice the public votes over

any other shop window display were QD STATIONERY! Their colourful bold window packed with teddies of all sizes as well as gold bees, butterflies and sunflowers (themes of previous years) was voted top of the high street! CONGRATULATIONS QD!

HassocksGoesGold 2023 reached the £13,000 target including gift aid, but even better than that is that we have reached and SMASHED the  incredible  milestone of £100K in the #PearlPower

fund that HassocksGoesGold is just one event of. Set up in 10 year old Pearl's memory, to fund the fight against Children's Cancer, #PearlPower has already helped to fund two separate research projects this year to find kinder and more effective treatments for childhood cancer.

So because of Hassocks Goes Gold, more research can be funded and children in the worst of circumstances can have a better chance of a future. Thank you so much to all the residents, families, businesses, volunteers, auction bidders and prize donators, to all the sponsors of Giant Gold Bows, the Let's STALL Cancer stall holders, the Golden Gala teams, the village market tombola players, the ribbon buyers, the event holders and ALL the fundraisers. Thank you! <https://specialnamedfunds.cclg.org.uk/pearlpower>.



Rachel

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Delicious food available from Tiny Thai and a selection of wines and beers at the bar.

Please book ahead if possible, so that we can be sure of being able to accommodate your party.

Tickets from Ditchling Post Office or online at boatmancryptics.co.uk/live-music

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – HAS-SOCKS POPPY APPEAL

Hello Everyone – by the time that you read this the RBL Poppy Appeal for 2023 will be underway. I just wanted to highlight a few things during this time of Remembrance.

You will find Poppy Boxes in some of the businesses and shops in Keymer and Hassocks where you will be able to get your Poppy. Please look out for the QR Code on the collecting cans and on the boxes. By using the camera on your smart phone and pointing at the QR Code this will take you to an RBL my giving page where you can

make a secure donation using a debit card or Apple pay.

So, if you find yourself without cash but still want a Poppy this is a new and simple way to do so.

Finally, we would be delighted if any of you reading this would consider becoming a member of your local RBL Branch which is Ditchling & District. Although we are a small Branch, we have a very active Committee. You may feel that you do not have a connection with the Services. From WW1 and WW 2, from Suez to Iraq there could be someone in your family who has served – parent, grandparent, even great grandparent, uncle, aunt etc and what better way to honour their memory by becoming part of the RBL family. By becoming an RBL Member your membership will help provide support to our Armed Forces Community and their families. From being at the end of a phone line and visiting veterans in their local area to holding Remembrance and community events across the UK, our Members help us to reach those who need us most. Joining is simple, just Google The Royal British Legion then download a Membership Form.

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**.

Margaret Bovill, RBL Ditchling & District Branch, Poppy Appeal Organiser for Keymer and Hassocks

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REPLIES TO STEVE BACK PAGE GOS- SIP ABOUT WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN TO NATIONAL TYRES

Sue writes: Steve, in his back page gossip in the October Talk About is asking for suggestions from the locals as to what we would like to see on their ground.

May I suggest that in these days when banks are closing and it is very difficult for a lot of people to get in to the few that are open, that a bank hub would be extremely useful to local people and local businesses. These are places where members of staff from different banks attend for specified hours a week and members of the various banks can go in and consult them on financial matters.

My other suggestion is that a school uniform shop could be set up as this would be of help to parents of the local schools and perhaps for those in Hurst and Ditchling.

Stephen writes: I would suggest that we have a Santander Building Society with cashpoint as there is no bank or building society of any kind in Hassocks and sometimes it is not convenient to travel to Burgess Hill.

**1ST HASSOCKS SCOUT GROUP - CHRIST-
MAS POST** The scouts are happy to offer a delivery service in Hassocks and Keymer for Christmas cards again this year, in the hope to raise funds for the local group. The cost will be 40p a card, last year we raised £265.

There will be 5 Collection boxes located at QD Stationery, Marchants Estate Agents, Age Concern, Hassocks Hardware, and Hassocks Pet Shop. Please can we ask for the correct amount of 40p, as giving change isn't an option.

This service will start the day of Light Up Hassocks on Friday **1st December** with the last collection at 4 pm on Friday **15th December**.

Lisa Sendall, Scout Leader

THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB has three more meetings before we break for Christmas. We will be meeting on **6th and 20th November**, and the final one this year will be **4th December**. The club restarts on **15th January 2024**.

The club meets at the United Reformed Church Hall, Keymer Road on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays, and more details can be found on our website: www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk/ *Sean*.

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2023! Get ready for an explosive evening of family fun at the 26th Annual Family Fireworks Event in the grounds of Danny House, the first year organised by the St Lawrence PTA.

Join us on the **5th November, 2023**, for a night to remember!

Supporting Our Community Every penny raised goes directly towards benefiting the local community. Your contribution will support St. Lawrence CE Primary, Oldland Windmill, The Hurstpierpoint Gym Club, and nearby schools in the area. Together, we can make a lasting impact!

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Event Details: Gates open at 4.15 pm, so come early and grab a prime spot!

The mesmerising fireworks display begins at 5.30 pm, promising a breathtaking show that will light up the night.

Bonfire by Oldland Windmill follows.

Parking Information Limited on-site parking will be available for a nominal fee. To guarantee your parking spot, be sure to book in advance at ptahurst.uk. Please allow extra time if you intend

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Get Your Tickets Now! Secure your spot at this unforgettable event by visiting ptahurst.uk. Hurry, tickets are going fast!

Don't miss out on an evening of dazzling lights, delectable bites, and a whole lot of family fun! Let's make the 26th year of the Family Fireworks @ Danny House the best one yet. See you there!

For further inquiries or additional information, feel free to reach out to us at hello@ptahurst.uk.

Remember:- For 20% off use discount code: QD-Hassocks available until 1st November

Lucas Tucknott

HEBER OPERA CRAFT FAIR

- in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Saturday **18th November**, open 10 am to 2 pm. We have 30 stalls booked so this the ideal time to start your Christmas shopping with hand crafted gifts. We also offer homemade refreshments throughout the day.

The pre-Christmas season with Heber Opera is the ideal time for singers to come and join to find out if they like us without jumping in at the deep end with the need for learning an opera for performance! We have a number of concerts and other festive music opportunities scheduled for December and start rehearsing for these on Sunday **5th November** in Hurstpierpoint. Please get in touch if you want to know more. Jenny Hawkes. jenny@heberopera.co.uk or **07770 962811**.

Jenny Hawkes

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Our film on **2nd November** is *The Farewell* a 2019 American comedy-drama written and directed by Lulu Wang. It stars Awkwafina, Tzi Ma, Diana Lin and Zhao Shuzhen. This funny, uplifting tale is “based on an actual lie”. Chinese-born, U.S.-raised Billi returns to China to find that, although the whole family knows their beloved matriarch, Nai-Nai, has been given mere weeks to live, everyone has decided not to tell Nai Nai herself. The family bring forward a wedding date as a pretext to get the family together without letting grandma know they have come to say goodbye. As Billi navigates a minefield of family expectations and proprieties, she finds there’s a lot to celebrate... A poignant and funny story which brings out the clashes between Billi’s American and Chinese culture and between tragedy and joy. It received widespread acclaim from critics, with particular praise for Wang’s screenplay and the performances of Awkwafina and Zhao Shuzhen. At the 77th Golden Globe Awards the film was nominated for two awards including Best Foreign Language Film, with Awkwafina winning for Best Actress. Certificate 12A. Running time 100 minutes. English and Mandarin with subtitles. On **7th December** we will celebrate our year of films with mulled wine and mince pies. We’ll be showing *Licorice Pizza* directed by Paul Thomas Anderson (2021).

We’re putting together our new programme for 2024. It is going to be a very interesting selection

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and we’ll be publishing it shortly. 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 any-time. Members can take advantage of 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 show 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 for a glass of good wine and a great film. There’s plenty of parking next to the hall. Go to the website ditchlingfilm.org.uk. for membership news and to see our future programme. You can also join the mailing list to keep up to date with films each month and also follow us on Instagram @ditchlingfilmsoc and Tweet @Ditchlingfilm.

Kate Odonnell

THE NSPCC ANNUAL QUIZ The NSPCC are having their annual Quiz in the Hurstpierpoint Bowls Club, South Avenue, BN6 9QB on Saturday **25th November** at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

Teams of 4 to 6 people and the tickets include a Fish and Chip supper. Tickets are available at Mishon Mackay, 106 High Street, Hurstpierpoint. BN6 9PX. **01273 834602**.

There’s a licensed bar and a raffle.

Looking forward to seeing you there. *Jo Marshall*

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH

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On Armistice Day, Saturday **11th November**, there will be a brief Act of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial at 11 am (gathering from 10.45 am onwards). Please do join us to Remember the Fallen.

For the first time this year our Remembrance Sunday Parade will be starting from St Margaret's School. We are immensely grateful to Mrs Amy Clarke, Head Teacher, for opening the school hall for all the Youth Organisations to muster in no later than 10.20 am. Our Parade will march from St Margaret's School along the Lewes Road to the crossroads then up West Street to the War Memorial. If the Parade from St Margaret's

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seems a little daunting, please join us at the Village Hall for the final part of the Parade.

Finally, we would be delighted if any of you reading this would consider becoming a member of RBL Ditchling & District Branch. We are a small Branch but with a very active Committee and becoming an RBL Member would support our Branch. You may feel that you do not have a connection with the Services. From WW1 and WW 2, from Suez to Iraq there could be someone in your family who has served – parent, grandparent, even great grandparent, uncle, aunt etc and what better way to honour their memory by becoming part of the RBL family.

By becoming an RBL Member your membership will help provide support to our Armed Forces Community and their families. From being at the end of a phone line and visiting veterans in their local area to holding Remembrance and community events across the UK, our Members help us to reach those who need us most. Joining is simple, just Google The Royal British Legion then download a Membership Form.

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**.

*Margaret Bovill, RBL Ditchling & District Branch,
Poppy Appeal Organiser.*

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HURSTfolk I am delighted to be able to tell you about the new music festival for Hurstpierpoint – HURSTfolk. – which will take place in venues across the village from **17th to 19th November**.

The festival features musicians from the village taking to new and traditional venues, performing everything from barbershop to rock, jazz to folk, classical to spoken word – and everything in between. There will also be music workshops, and an absolutely unmissable Desert Island Discs conversation.

This non-profit event has many free events, free ticket options, and paid-for tickets.

At a time when many households are feeling the strain of energy prices and mortgage hikes, HURSTfolk. provides some light relief, a chance to congregate with friends and family, to support our high street spaces, and encourage established and up-and-coming musicians.

For more info please visit www.hurstfolk.org.
 Programme:-

Friday **17th November** HURSTfolk. Opening concert, The Sussex Harmonisers, Danny House, Hurstpierpoint, 7 pm.

Saturday **18th November** Live Music at The Hop Tub, High Street, Hurstpierpoint, 12 – 4 pm. Featuring musicians Ian Roland + bass player 45m, Neil Ferrigan, Adam Whitby.

Saturday **18th November** Lou Beckerman's singing workshop for adults, 124 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm, Singing for relaxation, confidence, health, well-being and fun.

Saturday **18th November** Singing Sessions for



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Children with Mike Reinstein, 124 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, 1.30 – 2.30 pm. Singing for fun. For children aged 4-7. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday **18th November** Sussex By The Sea, Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Hurstpierpoint, 6 – 7.30 pm. Stephen Ostler and Matthew Sprange (+students) will present a varied programme of songs and piano music.

Saturday **18th November** Live Music at The New Inn Featuring : Dukes + The Self Help Group, High Street, Hurstpierpoint, 7 – 10.30 pm.

Saturday **18th November** Heather McClelland, Mike Reinstein + Reina James-Reinstein, Players Theatre, 7–10.30 pm

Sunday **19th November** Live Music at Hurstpierpoint Football + Cricket Club, Fairfield Recreation Ground, Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint, 12 – 4 pm. Breeze In, No Hat For Jo and DJ Daryn Buckley + hot food and a well-stocked bar!

Sunday **19th November** Lou Beckerman & Joss Peach 'Taz Modi' Danny House, 2 pm.

Sunday **19th November** Kevin Carey's Desert Island Discs with Eddy Temple Morris Lamb House, 6 Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint, 7.30 pm.

Debbie

CHRISTMAS FAIR at Adastra Hall, Hassocks on Saturday **11th November** from 10 am to 12 noon. Clayton with Keymer Churches will be holding their annual Fair. Stalls. Raffle, bottle stall, gifts, coffee and teas, cakes and children's activities.

Juliet

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COULD YOU JUST? Those are the words so often on the lips or in the mind of anyone with a substantial disability. They were certainly often heard in the Brighton household of a young quadriplegic man. His NHS power chair had been adapted so that he could control it by head movements and a special arm. He could choose between using his tablet or moving around. But he had to call for help to change from one mode to the other. No statutory or commercial adaptation was available. No wonder his mother contacted REMAP, a national organisation of retired engineers who specialise in one-off solutions to the individual problems of disabled people.

The Brighton branch had just been joined by Noel Poncelet, a recently retired BT engineer. With skills in electronic and mechanical engineering, and manual dexterity which meant that he could not only design but build his own components, plus a lifetime of problem solving he began what turned into three years of research, creativity and innovation. It was, says Peter Cattermole, Remap's Chairman, 'probably the most complex task that any of us have undertaken'. The result was a system based on two adapted wheelchair arms, again controlled by pressing a head button, but now the pressure will swing

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the relevant arm into position depending on whether the user wants to use his computer or drive the chair. When not needed, the arms park themselves behind the chair. For good measure, Noel also designed and made a 'stick dispenser' where a mouth pointer can be stored and offered up when needed.

It is not surprising that at the REMAP annual awards ceremony in London on 28th September, Noel received an 'Above and Beyond' special recognition plaque. It had been an outstanding achievement, bringing together electronic and mechanical skills. Other awards included bed access steps for a six year old, a shower mounted shampoo and conditioning device, access to a narrow boat and a Thomas the Tank Engine walker for a toddler who needed to push his ventilator and oxygen bottle.

With such a galaxy of sophisticated designs, it is easy to forget that REMAP is proud to be involved with providing free solutions to the smaller, seemingly insoluble 'could you just?' difficulties which confront people with disabilities every day of their lives. Contact REMAP at www.remap.org.uk (01732 760209). Check YouTube for Noel's project and search for REMAP motorised arms or for full details head to Motorised Arm System User and Set Up Guide.

Margaret Ford

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We thank Miss Kavanagh who has been delivering this magazine for decades and we hope you look forward to your retirement. Ed

THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL We have had such a brilliant start to the year—with plenty of sunshine, biblical rain and the most incredible learning experiences, some old favourites, and others new to this year. Year 6 had a very successful trip to PGL where they challenged themselves and dug deep to overcome their fears and take part in all the activities. They all get a prize for sticking it out in one of the wettest campfires ever! They came back exhausted but energised by the experience.

Our new year 3 children recently had the chance to immerse themselves in a stone age experience; reliving exactly what it was like to be alive at this time. They had several exciting adventures to go on. One of these was an amazing tent experience where the children travelled back in time and met two people from this period in time. They explained to the children how they survived with their cooking, hunting and weaving skills. After preparation, the children watched a fish being cooked over the fire and then got to taste this tasty treat—the children wanted more! Year 3 also got to explore, feel and try on some amazing artefacts including holding a stone that was over 20,000 years old!

The Foot Nurse

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Year 3 and year 4 parents were invited in to share a book with their child on the field in the second week of term. This was a lovely event that really celebrated the love of reading and allowed parents to spend a bit of time in school with their child. The children were very excited to show their grown-ups the school field, their classrooms and introduce them to their class teacher and teaching assistant. In year 5, the children recently spent a week doing some work based around the 'Room of Requirement' from Harry Potter. The children created their own rooms which they then went on to write about in English. Before they created their rooms, they looked at various techniques in art such as: cross hatching, circling, zigzagging and chevrons. The children were able to build texture to make their artwork look more realistic. The children particularly considered light and dark tones. For example, by overlapping pencil in areas where there might be shadow.

The children loved being back enjoying new experiences in our outdoor learning environment. Year 6 were challenged to make Green Man faces on the trees using mud, leaves, twigs and even some fruit (all things sludgy and slimy!). The results were astonishing and it was great to see the children working together and sharing the outdoor space once again.
'on behalf of The Windmills'

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SUSSEX PATHWAYS RAMBLING CLUB

November is an excellent time to discover new walks and enjoy the colourful countryside. Walking in a group also allows us to take part in an outside activity where we can feel safe.

Unfortunately, our annual September excursion to London was cancelled due to the rail strike but, hopefully, it can be re-scheduled to take place in the not too distant future.

On Sunday, **19th November** there will be a 'Figure

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of 8' walk of either 5 or 10 miles starting in Newick, east of Haywards Heath. The first loop starts at 10.30 am returning there for lunch, and the second loop starts from the same place at 2 pm.

Everyone is welcome to join us for the morning, afternoon or both halves. No need to book, just turn up and introduce yourself to the group leader.

Full details of all our weekend walks can be seen on the website www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk.

If you require more information contact, diann.clarke@outlook.com. *Di Clarke*

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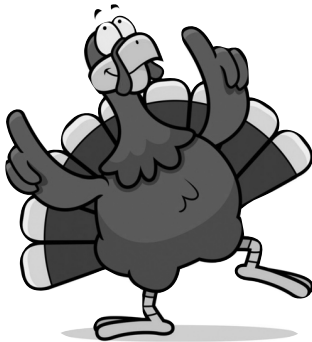
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LIGHT UP HASSOCKS - IT'S CHRISTMAS! It may only just be starting to get a little chilly, but plans are well afoot to give you a jingle-tastic event on Friday **1st December**. You'll notice some big changes this year and an extra sprinkling of magic!

We have a truly fantastic 6-piece band - The Stanmer Band - to serenade you, as well as the school choirs and much, much more! Keep an eye on [facebook.com/lightuphassocks](https://www.facebook.com/lightuphassocks) for the schedule of events and more information.

Please remember that the high street will be shut from 4 pm to 8 pm between Wilmington Close and Woodslad Road, and that laybys need to be free from 3 pm to allow stallholders to come in and set up. If you are collecting from local schools, we suggest you park outside of this zone and walk through the village, especially if you are collecting from Hassocks Infant School.

Buses will be diverted around the closure and NHS carers will be advised. If you have private carers or know a neighbour that does, please let them know so that they can still get the help they need with the minimum of inconvenience. We will of course escort emergency vehicles through the closure and other vehicles in emergencies.

If you would like to help with this event, we are re-

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cruiting helpers, so drop us a line to
lightuphassocks@gmail.com. Merry Christmas!

Erika Woodhurst-Trueman

HURSTPIERPOINT ADVENT CALENDAR

2023 A minimum of 24 Advent Windows will be opened and lit on their allocated day from 5 to 8 pm. Shops and Households are taking part, and all windows will be lit on **24th December** to mark Christmas Eve. An online map of addresses can be found at www.HurstRethink.org under Events and a printable at home copy can be requested by emailing hurstadvent@gmail.com. Both will be available at the end of November.

Anna Riis

CRAFT DAY The Old Meeting House, The Twitten, Ditchling - Saturday **18th November** 11 am to 3 pm. The Old Meeting House will be open to visitors to try their hand at some crafting. Materials will be provided. For adults and children. You may like to make a Christmas decoration or have a go at crocheting? You could bring along your own project or just pop in for a cake and a chat.

There will be some stalls selling crafts, sculpture and art by artist Tim Wheeler, and a display of automata hand crafted by Ivan Morgan. Delicious refreshments will be available.

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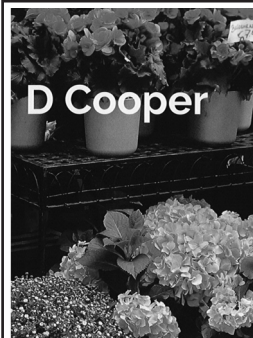
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**HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS CLUB
FREE GYMNASTICS PLACES.**

Do you have a three-year-old living in Sayers Common?

Sayers Common Community Shop are funding a free term for you to try Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club. The classes are on a Friday afternoon in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre and offer a fun environment for building skills in balance, fitness, co-ordination and suppleness.

Please enquire by email contacthurstgym@gmail.com

Gymnastics Champions – 2023. Each year Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club recognise the achievements of their gymnasts and award gold and silver medals to the gymnasts who have passed the most agilities than any others of their age group.

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

The silver cup for the Top Infant was presented to Gigi Braid. The Top Junior was Maya Muncaster, while the top senior was Esme Graham-Evans. The Top Boys were Lewys Habberfield and Thomas Radford.

This year's full roll of honour is :- Year 1 – Jessica Parsons & Beatrix Harms, Year 2 – Gigi Braid & Raffle Raiss, Year 3 – Daisy Gigney & Diddie Smith, Year 4 – Maya Muncaster & Matilda Dhanda, Year 5 – Jessica Jones & Astrid Mitchell-Berglund, Year 6 – Grace Nicholls & Neve Brouder, Year 7 – Chloe Longley & Ruby Tomsett, Year 8 – Emma Alcock & Darcy Ganpatsingh, Year 9 – Isabel Faulkner & Grace Balcombe, Year 10 – Esme Graham-Evans & Holly Atherton, Year 11 - Bea West & Layla Leschinsky

Pictured are:- Gigi Braid - (Infant Girl Cham-

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panion), Lewys Habberfield - (Infant Boy Champion)
 More details of the Club can be found at www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk

There are currently vacancies for pre-school children who have passed their third birthday and for most school age children. Please contact the Club to find the up-to-date position.
Andrew Hair

HURSTPIERPOINT CHRISTMAS FAIR organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club will be held at the Village Centre, Hurstpierpoint on Friday **24th November** from 6 pm to 9 pm and on Saturday **25th November** from 9.30 am to 1 pm. Entry is free and there will be a wide range of stalls selling a variety of Christmas gift ideas. Cards, advent calendars, craft kits, pottery, knitted crafts, jewellery and much more will be available. For further information or stall availability, please contact hurstchristmasfair@yahoo.com.
Rebecca

CAMEO - Come And Meet Each Other. Monthly afternoon get together to chat and enjoy home-made afternoon tea, quizzes and entertainment at Keymer Church Hall, Church Mead from 2 pm to 4 pm. Lifts available call **01273 843908**. Next meeting Monday **27th November**.
Juliet

CAN YOU HELP? We have a few roads that need a volunteer to deliver this free magazine in Hurstpierpoint once a month.
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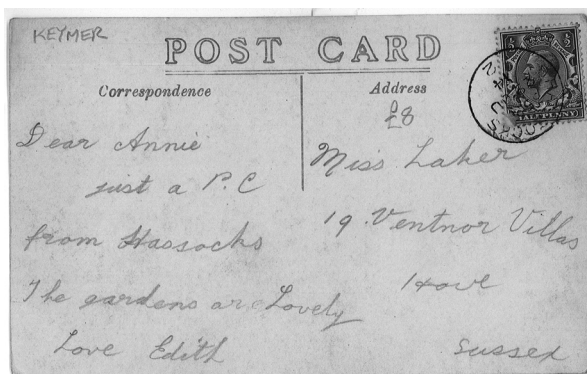
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HURST PLAYERS PANTO REHEARSALS

are well under way for Red Riding Hood, Hurst Players panto for this Christmas. Written and directed by Bob Sampson, who wrote last year's successful Treasure Island, it promises to be extremely entertaining and very funny.

An ideal post-Christmas pick-me-up for the whole family.

Tickets will be on sale from the Players' website: www.hurstplayers.org.uk and available in person after **2nd December** from the Theatre's Box Office Saturday mornings between 10 am and 1 pm. Performances will begin at The Players Theatre at 7 pm on **28th, 29th, 30th December** then **4th, 5th and 6th January**. Matinées will begin at 2 pm on **30th, 31st December** then **1st and 6th January**.

The story is based on the traditional Red Riding Hood Story and given a Pantomime twist to boost its entertainment value!

Hope this will be alright for you.

Bob Sampson

THE GROWING NETWORK We are 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 **4th November**, 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

Deadline for the December issue is 1st November

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**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING,
STREAT & WESTMESTON** The month begins
with our friendly and informal SING! session in
St. Margaret's at 6 pm on Wednesday **1st Novem-
ber**.

Our service of Morning Worship with Communion
on Sunday **5th November** at 10 am will be at St.
Margaret's, Ditchling.

Our focus then turns to Acts of Remembrance the
following weekend:

Saturday **11th November**, Armistice Day, there
will be an Act of Remembrance at the War Memo-
rial in Ditchling from 10.50 am.

On Sunday **12th November** Remembrance Sun-
day, there will be a short service of Holy Commu-
nion in St. Margaret's. The Act of Remembrance
at the War Memorial at 10.50 am starts after the ar-
rival of the procession which includes the Burgess
Hill Marching Youth Band and Youth Organisa-
tions from the Village. This will be followed by
the Service of Remembrance in St. Margaret's
church beginning at 11.15 am.

We'll be holding a Morning Worship with Com-
munion service at Streat on Sunday **19th Novem-
ber** at 10 am and a Family Service at St.
Margaret's on Sunday **26th November**, at 10 am.

Our Wednesday @ 10 service of Holy Communion
is held at 10 am each Wednesday in St. Margaret's.
All our churches are open daily and each currently
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Sherrian Guest

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merstein, Noel Coward, and Ivor Novello.

Sunday **26th November**, 2.45 pm, Adastra Hall,
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Tickets include refreshments and mince pies and
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Pennie Ingram

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01273 844461 www.achassocks.co.uk We would like to thank everyone who came and supported our Summer Fair on the 2nd of September. We raised £1036.70 which will help greatly towards the running and upkeep of our Centre. We are especially grateful to our Volunteers, the Community, our neighbours from Parklands Road and all those who donated cakes, prizes and plants for our stalls, raffle and tombola. We couldn't have done it without you. Unfortunately, we recently missed a couple of Issues of Talk About. We will now endeavour to keep you updated on a regular basis. We serve a 3 course lunch Monday to Friday and run a bus Monday, Tuesday and Thursday picking up from Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint. Please ask the Office about booking transport and/or lunch anytime up to 10 am on the day you'd like to join us. The Menu is on our website and changes every week. 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. We have several Clubs, activities and services on offer which are held during the week. Please see our website or ask 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 take-away refreshments. Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday **16th December**. We look forward to seeing you.
All at Age Concern

HASSOCKS GUIDE HUT We are looking forward to meeting you all for free tea and biscuits at our AGM on **8th November**, 7.45 to 8.45 pm at the Guide Hut, Semley Road, BN6 8PD. All members of the public will be most welcome. Please email beaconguidingdc@gmail.com for more information. All welcome, free tea and biscuits!
Kathleen Chu-Spear

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COME AND HAVE A BROWSE

GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHING HAS LAUNCHED!

On Saturday 23rd September our local Transition Town group relaunched with the new name Greener Hassocks & Ditchling (formerly HKD Transition). A big thank you to everyone who attended our welcome launch event at BN6 Hassocks, enthusiastically sharing their ideas and expressing interest in our project groups.

The room was buzzing and packed for two hours with interested people enjoying tea and cakes and finding out about local projects including:

The Hassocks Community Veg Patch - the 'Patchworkers' displayed some of their autumn harvest and welcomed newbie gardeners to come along and start growing veg together.

The Schools Group table included the young creators of the Windmills School Manifesto for Change, which inspired visitors with their imagination and optimism directed to practical solutions. They showcased their ideas and shared an informative quiz to test your eco knowledge. Lots to learn! There was discussion and support shown for the idea of a School Streets project, which aims to make travel to school safer and more eco friendly.

The Youth and Family Group table was bustling with some tree crafting and checking out a wheel of edible berries created by our local Foraging Gang for families.

The Floods and Suds Group shared the Hassocks Flood Risk Map, pictures of past flooding events and projects to make our community manage floods better - from rain, box planting, debris dams, tree planting, attenuation ponds and more.

The Biodiversity Group talked about local rewilding options and how to make our area more biodiversity friendly. The group shared ID guides for local species and what you can look out for in autumn.



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Our new Community Hub Group shared our plans for monthly talks and practical skills workshops. We collected your ideas for further practical activities. The HKD Energy Group talked to people about energy efficiency in homes, including the new energy champion scheme to help individual households measure and reduce their energy use (and bills!).

All these groups (and more!) are working on plans for new practical projects to bring our community together, to create more long term resilience to the rapidly growing effects of climate change.

You are invited to come along to our AGM at 7.30 pm on **30th November** at Adastral Hall, Hassocks to find out more about what we are doing. There will be a screening of 'Once you Know', a short film about positive community action to address the effects of climate change, followed by a short talk explaining how the hugely successful Transition Town movement works.

Anyone can join in with a project group, or even just come and join in one project or event. These volunteer projects work with many hands doing their small bit, so all interest and ideas are welcome. Come along and find out more! Email info@hkd-transition.org.uk to sign up to our newsletter.

*On behalf of Greener, Hassocks
& Ditchling Steering Committee*

STAR CINEMA Friday **3rd November** at Adastral Hall. 'What's Love Got To Do With It', a romantic comedy starring Emma Thompson and Lily James, tells the story of a filmmaker who decides to document her friend's journey to an arranged marriage. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets available on the door. Tea, coffee, wine, and the usual popular raffle. The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Edmunds



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CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND GIFT IDEAS AT

4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT 4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is getting ready for Christmas with its annual Christmas Concert and Grand Draw, as well as offering cards and gift for sale. Proceeds will help the charity in its work supporting blind and sight impaired residents of all ages throughout West Sussex.

This year the annual Christmas Concert with Seaford College Chapel Choir will be held on Monday **11th December** in the early evening, rather than at lunchtime, to allow more people to attend after work. This is always a lovely event and 4SVS advises reserving a place well in advance to avoid disappointment, with payment then taken on the door. The Concert will be held at St Mary de Haura Church in Shoreham, tickets include festive refreshments.

The Grand Draw has a number of fabulous prizes, with the main prize being £250 in cash. 4Sight Vision Support is encouraging everyone to share the news of the draw with family and friends, The winners will be announced at 2 pm on Wednesday **20th December**.

Christmas cards are available with a variety of seasonal and fun designs, please order well in advance while stocks last. And if you know someone living with sight loss, or you yourself do so and would like to drop a few hints to family and friends (!) there are gift ideas including large print playing cards, large print Scrabble, large print calendars and diaries, as well as equipment such as talking kitchen scales. For those who enjoy walking, a book of 35 'Short Rambles in the Sussex Countryside And Days Out' by volunteer Jane Aston features walks carefully designed to be suitable for everyone including those with sight loss or vision

impairment.

For further information about the Concert and Prize Draw and to purchase tickets, and to enquire about Christmas cards and gifts, please call **01243 828555** or email fundraising@4sight.org.uk.

Cathy

THE LOCAL HURST, HASSOCKS &

DITCHLING U3A is growing, and we now have 50 groups. If you are no longer working full-time, or are retired, why not become a member. You will be very welcome. There is a low annual fee, and many interest groups are free. Visit Hurst, Hassocks & Ditchling u3a: Home (u3asites.org.uk) and click on New Member Form. The Short Walks Group is very popular. On 13th September we started at Keymer and set off to Ditchling via fields and footpaths, reaching the Ditchling Museum in perfect time for coffee and cake! The round trip was about two miles. You can learn more about other groups and activities by visiting the Groups page on our website.

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DITCHLING PLAYERS - "3 by 2" For their November production the Players are pleased to perform 3 One Act Plays (hence the title) from Thursday **22nd** to Saturday **25th November** with a matinee on the Saturday afternoon.

The three plays selected are Dead Nice a black comedy by Andrea Macphail. Sonia & Trisha did not like each other when alive so how will these two adversaries react when they meet up in Heaven, surprising things reveal themselves with hilarious results.

Meanwhile in Theatrical Digs by Jean McConnell two actresses meet on the seafront and the two strangers fall into an uneasy conversation, with each expressing personal perceptions of their own individual careers, but will they be able to overcome their rivalry?

Finally, in Dock Brief by John Mortimer we move to a prison cell where Fowle stands accused of murder and is awaiting a visit from his Dock Brief, Morgenthal, who is the barrister he has selected as his defence, but will he succeed in getting his client off?

Performances start at 7.30 pm (Doors open at 7 pm) and 2.30 pm (Doors open at 2 pm). Tickets are now on sale and can be obtained either on the door, from

the White Horse, Ditchling (Thursday & Friday after 10am) or online at ditchlingplayer.org.uk (a Booking fee applies to online purchases).

We look forward to welcoming you for what is sure to be an enjoyable evening.

David Tetersell

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

The year is flying by, can't believe it is nearly December. Our September evening went well, and it was lovely to see so many members and visitors after our summer break.

October was Halloween themed, and we enjoyed scary tales, games and food. Thank you to the member who made the amazing tunnel book and fright novel. I shall look at old books in a new light now.

Of course, we participated in Hassocks on Show, Hassocks WI ran the teas/coffee and cake during the day many thanks to Stella and her wonderful team.

Our tables in the hall were popular and we enjoyed talking to visitors and friends who mingled during the day. I hope we got the message across that we are Not just jam and Jerusalem.

November meeting **20th November** is called Deck the Halls come along, see what we are doing.

Our next afternoon Craft Club is Monday **6th November** 2 pm in the committee room.

Visitors are welcome to our meetings (donation) and we look forward to seeing you.

Gerry

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT VILLA ADASTRA

Villa Adastra Care Home are holding their Christmas Fayre on Saturday **2nd December**. Doors open at 2 pm. There will be a variety of stalls, books, puzzles, gifts and lots more. Small entry fee will get you cake and a hot drink.

Major Ali Stone



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BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

At our Christmas concert, Burgess Hill Choral Society will perform Vaughan Williams' moving *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and Rutter's beautiful *Magnificat*. We shall be accompanied by South Downs Sinfonia who will also perform Hely-Hutchinson's popular *Carol Symphony*. In addition, there will be carols for choir and audience. What better way to usher in the spirit of Christmas?

Vaughan Williams' love of Christmas is reflected in his wonderful *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* which consists of arrangements of four traditional carols.

Rutter's *Magnificat* is composed of seven movements, each of which has its own mood, from great joy to quiet reflection and the work contains what many have described as Rutter's best melodic writing.

Hely-Hutchinson's *Carol Symphony* is composed of six well-known carols set to rich orchestration.

The concert takes place on Saturday **2nd December** at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG.

Tickets are available at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshillchoral, from Burgess Hill Help Point, on the door, by phone **07522 493966**, or visit our website at

www.burgesshillchoral.org.

Jane Leng

DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MARKET

is returning on Saturday **25th November**. Start your Christmas shopping - we have lots of stalls from outside local traders selling unique and beautiful handcrafted gifts, Student stalls and games, mulled wine, bacon rolls, refreshments, and entertainment from the wonderful Downlands orchestra and choir. Also look out for our fantastic Christmas prize draw which is supported by so many local businesses (tickets on sale soon).

The Christmas Market is one of Downlands School Associations (PTA) biggest fundraisers. The Downlands School Association is made up of a combination of friendly dedicated parents and staff who work as a

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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 improve the year 11 common room, outside areas and this year are raising funds for a new and improved long jump as well as other exciting projects.

Please support Downlands and pop along on Saturday the **25th November** from 11 am to 2 pm.

Follow us on Facebook –

Downlands School Association Facebook
and Instagram
downlands_school_association.

Sarah

Dear Ed, Michael wrote a lovely article about helping our pollinators, including hoverflies, and the need for more bee-friendly plants - in October 1805 Vice Admiral Nelson signaled "England expects every man will do his duty" before the Battle of Trafalgar - surely in 2023 the same message applies with the same urgency with the loss of so much natural habitat.

Not only should the nation plant bee-friendly plants but we need to be aware of the invasion of the aggressive (to pollinators) and carnivorous Asian Hornet, which has a diet of bees, wasps and hoverflies. Asian Hornets are already having an adverse effect on pollinators in Europe and if it gets established in the UK it will have equally devastating consequences for our pollinators. DEFRA & NNS are so concerned about the potential consequences of Asian Hornet colonies that they have developed the free Asian Hornet Watch app for Android and Apple phones. Asian Hornets are wasp like but have yellow legs and an orange / yellow fourth segment on their abdomen. DEFRA & NNS are asking everyone to download the app and report any possible sightings - if in doubt take a photo and submit on the app. No pollinators: no food: no future

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SLUGS I've had a strange fascination with slugs since I was a little boy. Back then I believed that they were homeless snails that had lost their shells. It turns out I was right. Sort of. The whole eviction process had started as far back as the murky Mesozoic when some land snails cast off the shackles of a shell and evolved into slugs for some truly independent living. Sure, shells are great for protection and will help you to avoid drying out but they're clunky and require calcium to construct. Without them you can roam anywhere and (to namecheck another mollusc) the world's your oyster.

The slug's shell has never been completely lost — a fragment remains hidden under their skin, a tiny, shrunken souvenir of their snail ancestry. Another link to their slimy dynasty is that all slugs, like all snails, are both male and female. As hermaphrodites, they possess both sets of sexual organs and this means that, if the situation dictates, they can go it alone and simply self-fertilise to produce their offspring. A true state of independence. Self-fertilisation creates a clone - or in a slug's case hundreds of clones - but the problem with inbreeding is a lack of genetic variability. Clones all possess the same weaknesses. An entire slug population can be wiped out by the same parasites and pathogens. To produce varied and resilient offspring, most slugs go in for the more old-fashioned approach of finding a partner for a quick rustle in the undergrowth.

But one garden slug species has turned this chore into art - a flamboyant celebration of a lack of independence. The spotted and striped Leopard Slugs start their performance by chasing each other around a tree, giving each other sonic, sensuous strokes and cheeky nibbles. Then they



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climb, shimmy along a branch, and descend on a rope made of their own mucous. Here, hanging in mid-air, the slugs evert their sexual organs, entwining them to create a moonlit globe. This graceful, balletic trapeze performance must be one of the most mesmerising sights on our planet. If you search hard enough, you can find beauty in the strangest places. Still, if I was strolling through the woods at night, I'd hate to walk into it face-first.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in 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. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join.

Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust



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DITCHLING CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK BIKE SWARM

On Saturday 23rd September, members of Ditchling and Hassocks community met to raise awareness of the dangers of the stretch of road joining the two villages. A large number of people set off from Ditchling School and slowly cycled or walked together to Hassocks in a bid to encourage East Sussex County Council to improve road safety along the Keymer Straight.

In 2018 a Sustrans report recommended that a new cycle and footpath, separated from the road by the hedge, be constructed. Since then, there has been no action by East Sussex County Council, in spite of increasing use of the road. Concerns remain over the dangers to cyclists and pedestrians using the road, many of whom are school children, from fast traffic.

Approximately 100 members of the community attended the event and made the journey by bike or on foot from Ditchling School to Hassocks Saturday Market.

Local MP Maria Caulfield also attended the event to show her support, along with local councillor Sarah Osborne.

The bike swarm was a huge success in raising

awareness of the current safety issues of the road between Ditchling and Hassocks and putting pressure on the Council to take action. A concerned Ditchling parent at the event reported "My son used to cycle from Ditchling to Downlands School, but I stopped him after another parent told me they'd seen a car speed right up to his back wheel and stay there all the way down the Keymer straight. It's just too dangerous".

Another bike swarm participant exclaimed "It felt great to come together with our children and our community to highlight the dangers of the Keymer Straight and show how many people want to be walking or cycling more, if the road was made safer".

If you would like to sign our petition to improve safety on this stretch of road please visit www.you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/improve-safety-on-the-keymer-straight-now

Melanie Nelson

DIARIES AND Calendars

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What's On in November

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 NOVEMBER- Services of Morning Worship 10 am at St Margarets, Ditchling at 10 am on **5th, 26th (family service)** and at Streat Church on **19th**

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 Mondays **6th & 20th Nov** 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

HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks first sunday of the month except January. 2 pm. All welcome.

HEARTS OF SUSSEX BRIDGE CLUB - Tuesdays at Age Concern Hassocks as well as Mondays on-line. For details see www.hsobcbridgeclub.co.uk or email hsobcadmin@hsobridgeclub.co.uk

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 consol etc.

Daily Events

1st BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors open 7.15 pm. 'The Story of the Crystal Palace' Ian Gledhill. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com

1st THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

2nd DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - The Farewell (12a).

2nd VILLA ADASTRA Keymer Road, Hassocks 2 pm. Christmas Fayre with all the usual stalls.

2nd BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY St Andrews, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. Fantasia on Christmas Carols and Magnificat. See article for more info. To book 07522 493966

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

3rd STAR CINEMA Adastral Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'What's Love Got To Do With It'. Tickets available on the door.

4th HURST VILLAGE MARKET, New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 10 am to 1 pm. Sussex Products and Gifts.

4th 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.

4th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Peacehaven & Tels. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

5th DANNY FIREWORKS Danny House, New Way Lane gates open 4.15 pm. 26th Annual Fireworks with The Hassocks providing BBQ as usual. Tickets ptahurst.uk or QD Stationery in Hassocks. See article for early bird discount code.

5th DITCHLING SINGERS Keymer Church Hall 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome.

5th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Ashford United. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

6th HASSOCKS WI Adastral Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

7th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. AGM followed by 'Out on a Limb - Tree Surgery Tales' Lesley Baker

8th HASSOCKS GUIDE HUT Semley Road, 7.45 pm. AGM all welcome. email beaconguingdc@gmail.com

8th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastral Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

10th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. '23cms on Ultra Low Power' Jonathon Hare G1EXG. All welcome.

11th SUSSEX CHORUS All Saints Church, Hove

7.30 pm Verdi Requiem a concert of remembrance weekend with Sussex Symphony Orchestra & Brighton Orpheus Choir. For more info and tickets visit www.sussexchorus.org.

11th 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 THE BEACON PARISH War Memorial, Ditchling, 10.50 pm. Armistice Day - Act of Remembrance.

11th CLAYTON WITH KEYMER CHURCHES Adastral Hall, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Christmas Fair, stalls, raffle & refreshments.

12th THE BEACON PARISH War Memorial, St Margarets Church, Ditchling 10.50 pm. Act of Remembrance followed by Service of Remembrance. See article.

12th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Montpelier Villa. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

13th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastral Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance.

13th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thegroup.org.uk.

14th LUNCHTIME JAZZ AT THE HASSOCKS Has-socks Hotel, doors open 11.45 am for 12 pm. A set Lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01273 842113 to book.

14th POLICE BEAT SURGERY Parish Centre, Adastral Park, Hassocks 11 am - 12 noon Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.

16th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastral Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

18th OLD MEETING HOUSE Ditchling 11 am - 3 pm. Craft Day - open to visitors to try their hand at some crafting. See article.

18th HEBER OPERA Hurst Village Centre 10 am - 2 pm. Craft Fair with over 30 stalls.

19th TEDDY AND THE BIG C Adastral Hall, Hassocks 2 - 4.30 pm. Teddy's Festive Fair - stalls family activities, music & mulled wine.

19th DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome.

19th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS 10.30 am Figure of 8 walk either 5 or 10 miles starting in Newick visit www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk for more info.

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20th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Deck the Halls. Visitors welcome.

21st DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Beacon Parish Church Events. All welcome.

22nd - 25th DITCHLING PLAYERS Ditchling Village Hall, various performances. '3 by 2' 3 one Act plays. Tickets www.ditchlingplayer.org.uk.

22nd BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

23rd LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

24th/25th HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS CLUB Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 24th 6 pm - 9 pm, 25th 9.30 am - 1 pm. Christmas Fair. Free entry, stalls selling Christmas gift ideas.

24th THE HONEYPOT CHILDRENS CHARITY Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 7 pm. Music Quiz and Race Night. Tickets from QD Stationery in Hassocks

24th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'The Downton Era; The Start of Modern Britain a Musical Tour' Kecsoprano. All welcome, refreshments, small entrance fee.

24th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millford Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'How did it go then? A

review of the 2023 Sporadic-E season and what to do this winter' Jim Bacon G3YLA. All welcome.

25th MESSY CHURCH URC Church 9.30 am. Meet for breakfast and crafts with a story.

25th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

25th 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.

25th NSPCC Hurstpierpoint Bowls Club, South Avenue 7 pm. Annual Quiz and Fish & Chip supper. Call 01273 834602.

25th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Saltdean United. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

25th DOWNSLANDS SCHOOL Dale Avenue, Hassocks, 11 am - 2 pm. Christmas Market - Local traders, student stalls, games and mulled wine.

26th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Bexhill United. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

26th GILBERT & SULLIVAN Adastra Hall, Hassocks. 2.45 pm. 'Time Flies'. See article.

27th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

27th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Stories from the Sussex Downs' Ian Everest.

30th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Adastral Hall, Hassocks, 7.30 pm. AGM and screen of 'Once you Know'. All welcome. See article.

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Property Maintenance

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

You would not believe the e-mail I got from West Sussex Council, basically they want to purchase the planters outside the front of my row of shops, smash them up, which would also entail removing the trees of which we have two, just to put a cycle lane in which would only run for 100 yards and the pedestrian lights would also be moved down about 30 feet, which would take them to just before John Saxby Place, not only is this lunacy of the highest order, the disruption would be catastrophic for the shops - think of the traffic chaos and then what about the cost of it, if HS2 is anything to go by then this little bit of mayhem must run into hundreds of thousands of pounds. Surely the money would be better spent repairing the roads and filling in pot-holes first to make it safer for everyone including the cyclists. I expect you've noted the cartoon drawings of a bike which has been painted on the road running the length of the High Street, these as a motorist are supposed to tell me what? That you may encounter a bike on the stretch of road. OK, if I catch sight of one I'll do my best to avoid it, just like I do on any other road that hasn't got these stupid pictures on. When I'm on my way home late at night I come across quite a few cyclists, some are obviously adrenaline junkies who could possibly have a liking for hospital food because they've not got any lights on their bike, but just around the corner comes a stampede of mountain bikers with more lights on than the mother ship in Close Encounters and are intent on blinding every motorist they come across. My reply regarding the removal of the planters resembled something like over my dead body!

I had a very interesting meeting with the owners of the National Tyres Site, they are intent on putting something in its place that is ecologically and environmentally pleasing to everyone. One of the owners is an architect so he knows what is required. I thank everyone for their ideas which ranged from pop-up banks to the most popular being a proper restaurant, but nothing will be allowed if it cuts across another established business in the immediate vicinity. My friend Rita informed me we have a lot of knitters in the village, so what about a wool shop well anything is possible Rita. In the meantime, the building will remain as it is and won't be demolished as that would create an even bigger eye sore. As I mentioned last month this will be a slow burner as nothing can go ahead until everyone is happy about what will go there. And don't forget you can get tyres from Station Garage, you know where they are, they've been there almost as long as me.

Another product of 'shrinkflation' Whiskers pouches the ones that are only 4% meat have come down from 100g to 85g with no change to the price even the packaging is thinner and flimsy, I wish I could find something positive and exciting in the retail business, but those days are long gone. The smaller companies are OK it's the big ones that just want to rip you off and now we're struggling to find flea shampoo because of an unprecedented demand due to the flea epidemic this summer. I think fleas are getting resistant to all these chemicals that are meant to kill them, but there is no research to come up with something new and strong which would do a better job and be safe, after years of being discriminated against the insects are fighting back. Look at the bed bugs in France a prime example of what happens when you let something get out of control you get overrun. Nothing in Steve's shopping trolley this month, but a reminder we still do small animal boarding, mainly Rabbits and Guinea Pigs for only £2.50 a day for more information just phone the shop. Steve x

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