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*1st Hassocks Guides at their first camp in Bishopstone in 1924  
the year they were formed.*

*Please see article on the following pages for more information.*

*Photos supplied by Leon.*

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**1ST HASSOCKS GUIDES'**  
**BEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT, EVER!**

Christmas and birthdays are usually times for present giving and we wonder what readers would name as their "favourite gift" of 2023? This month, the only Guide unit in Hassocks will be celebrating its 100th birthday and its 17 members will be celebrating this special occasion in several ways, as mentioned in last month's Talk About. However, back in the 1920s, they did not even have a base in which to meet: that is until they were given something quite astonishing.

Girlguiding was born in May 1910 when, after seeing what Baden-Powell had created for the Scouts three years earlier, the demand went up for "something for the girls". Units began to be set up all over the country and 1st Hassocks Guides was formed on 1st February 1924. They met in the garden of their Guide Captain, a Miss Gillet, who lived at Ravenswood, a large house at the top of Semley Road.

Imagine the group's utter amazement and jubilation when their Captain's father, Walter Gillet, a local JP, soon generously gave the unit a piece of land at the bottom of his garden. The space would enable them to have a permanent base built and still leave enough room around it for the group to enjoy outdoor activities: an absolutely magnificent gesture.

The girls originally set about raising money to



*1st Hassocks Guide leaders in 1927*

build a small HQ but then they heard of a lady in Lindfield who had a "Norwegian room" attached to her house. She offered the building to the Guides if it could be dismantled and relocated. The cost of taking it down, transporting it, installing it on the Semley Road site and extending it was £118 7s 9d. The money was found, kind people gave their skills to adapt the construction for the unit's purposes and a grand opening was held to celebrate its completion.

The building that stands there today is that same Norwegian room with some useful additions. In 1953 a Sunday School started to use the building

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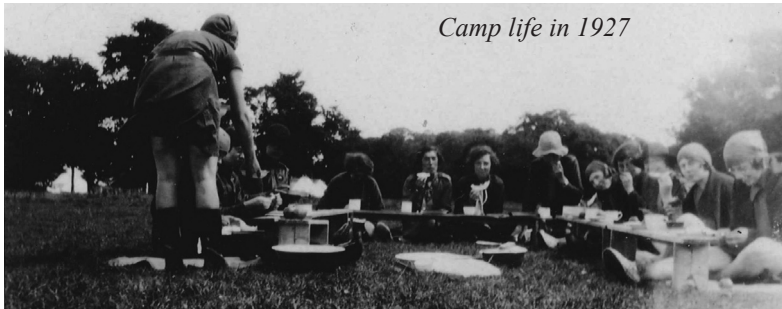
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*Camp life in 1927*

and from 1959 - 1969 it was the first home of St Francis Church. In the late 1970s an extension was built adding another room, a camp store, toilet facilities and a kitchen with hot and cold water. Miss Gillet and her Guides would be surprised to see the original building still there today as it was thought to have a lifespan of 20 years. They would be pleased that Guides, Brownies and Rainbows are still enjoying its much-improved facilities and still having great adventures thanks to Mr Gillet's amazing, thoughtful and most generous gift all those years ago. Equally, Miss Gillet and her Guides would be amazed at the way Girlguiding itself has changed over the past 100 years offering

activities which reflect the lives today's girls want to lead, demonstrating that every opportunity is open to 21st century young women. Girlguiding in Hassocks would like to recruit more leaders so that even more Hassocks girls can share its programme and activities and, as well as needing new

leaders, several other posts are available such as unit helpers, administration assistants and a hall hire manager. A warm welcome is assured as is fun and friendship together with the reward of joining the ranks of the many other volunteers in Hassocks who make the village the special place it is.

Do get in touch for an informal chat:

**beaconguidingdc@gmail.com** if you think you can support Girlguiding in Hassocks and meanwhile, "Happy 100th Birthday, 1st Hassocks Guides!"

*Pennie and Dawn, Leaders, with huge thanks to Clare Brittain for the historical research into Hassocks Guide Hall*



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**HASSOCKS WI** Meets 3rd Monday in the month at Adastra Hall

Doors open 7.30 pm Evening starts 7.45 pm. Reflecting on our stand at the LUH event, it was very hard work, bitterly cold and although we had lots of lovely cakes and Xmas items our stand felt quite isolated and dark. We will re-consider supporting it for 2024. There are other fundraising opportunities which may be preferable.

We enjoyed a good Xmas party, the food was delicious, thank you everyone who helped. And the entertainment, Mags and Ally, we will view Cinderella in a new light. Doreen, star of the choir. Well done to all.

Unfortunately, January Craft Club had to be cancelled as the room was unavailable. We may consider choosing another day when the Craft Club falls on a Bank Holiday. February Craft Club is Monday **5th February** 2 pm Committee room. All welcome.

As you know we have had the pleasure of many new members in 2023 and I feel it is very important to make everyone feel welcome at our meetings. Invite a new person to sit with you,

introduce her to your mates, chat, eat cake, make a friend.

Our February meeting is our AGM, come along hear what we did in 2023, and aim to enjoy in 2024 if we have finalised the programme, possibly vote for a new president. Who knows. We will round off the evening with 'Laughing Yoga' which sounds very intriguing and beneficial. Come along, visitors welcome (donation), don't feel lonely try us out. If in doubt, there is always cake.

*Gerry*

**CHURCHES TOGETHER** It was a great joy to see so many people attending all our Church services over Christmas. The Carol Service at Keymer raised a magnificent collection of £546.00 for Leo House Children's Hospice in Brighton.

We once again had a very successful Boxing Day party for those who were on their own.

Thank you to all who organised this or who provided food and gifts for all our guests. We wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2024.

*Juliet Strange*

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**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON** Our Sunday services for February are as follows:

Sundays **4th and 11th February** - Ditchling at 10 am - Morning Prayer with Holy Communion. Youngsters can enjoy a Little Beacons session on both of these dates.

On Sunday **18th February** we'll be at Westmeston at 10 am for Morning Prayer with Holy Communion

Sunday **25th February** - Ditchling at 10 am for another of our popular All age Family Services with Holy Communion.

Our mid-week service of Holy Community takes place each Wednesday of the month in Ditchling and, on Wednesday **7th February**, will be our Ash Wednesday service at the start of Lent.

Our Sunday services are full of music and song and, if you enjoy singing, why not join us on Wednesday **7th February** in Ditchling at 6 pm for our informal SING! session? Come and learn some new songs, enjoy some old favourites and make some new friends too.

We'd love to see you at any of our services. You

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can also watch our Ditchling Sunday services on-line via the Beacon Parish website [www.beacon-parish.co.uk](http://www.beacon-parish.co.uk) where you will also find any changes to the information given above.

*Sherrian Guest*

**KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** The Keymer Folk Dance Club continues its Spring term dances with meeting on Mondays **5th and 19th February** at the URC Church Hall, Hassocks. Each meeting starts at 7.30 pm. Every dance is taught. On Monday **4th March** we welcome Keith Calver as our caller. Keith called for us in October and we had a splendid evening.

On **9th March**, Sean Goddard, will receive the English Folk Dance and Song Society's Gold Badge Award at a special event at the Adastra Hall. Sean is currently the chair of the club, and well known as a barn dance caller. The programme for the day is still being finalised, but Sean says it will contain performances by The Copper Family from Rottingdean, The Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men, and music for the evening Barn Dance by the Keymer Occasionals.

Further details can be found on the club's Website: [www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk](http://www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk).

*Sean Goddard*

**BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.** Wednesday **7th February** Illustrated talk with a representative of 'Froglife' - a wildlife charity dedicated to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles. All welcome! Cyprus Hall, 7.45 pm, (doors open 7.15 pm). Admission: Members free and visitors small fee.

[www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com).

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**AN EXCITING NEW PLAN TO MANAGE LODGE HILL**, including action to nurture its rare animals and plants, reintroduction of live-stock and proposals to create two new ponds, has been adopted by owners the Turner-Dumbrell Foundation.

The five-year plan was drawn up by Dolphin Ecological Surveys after a study of the flora and fauna on the site, with the work funded by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The report identified a range of protected and designated animal and plant species and the management plan, which covers Lodge Hill and its neighbouring fields, sets out measures to nurture them and enhance the overall biodiversity of the site.

One of the priorities is to reduce the bracken and brambles, which are threatening to overwhelm parts of the site, and to help with this livestock will be reintroduced to graze on Lodge Hill.

The report also notes that the lower slopes of Lodge Hill have a drainage problem with deep mud affecting accessibility, particularly in the winter months, and it suggests that new two ponds could help to solve this issue.

The report and management plan will be given a public launch at an event at the Ditchling Village Hall on Saturday **24th February** from 2 pm to 4 pm, which will include a presentation by local wildlife expert Michael Blencowe.

Trustees will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and there will also be representatives from other local groups supported by the Foundation.

The Turner-Dumbrell Foundation is a Ditchling-based charity that owns Lodge Hill, its neighbouring fields, the site of the village orchard and the workshops in North End. It was set up 40 years ago with two main aims: to provide grants to support local good causes and to ensure local people have access to the local countryside. More information about the Turner-Dumbrell Foundation is available here.

If you would like to see the full report by Dolphin Ecological Surveys, it can be downloaded from the Latest News section of our website:

[turner-dumbrell.org.uk](http://turner-dumbrell.org.uk) *The Secretary*

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The company strives to remove those (inaccurate) myths that opera is 'difficult' or 'elitist' by singing in English and performing in the round - which means Heber can stage shows without the need for traditional theatres.

Heber Opera is a self funded group, and raising money through various musical and other events is essential for the staging of full operatic productions. Over the Christmas period 2023, the group sang three times in Brighton's Royal Pavilion as well as seven late night carol singing events on Horsted Keynes station for the Bluebell Railway Golden Arrow Pullman trains.

Now resting their voices for a few weeks, Heber's first rehearsal of 2024 will be in Hurstpierpoint

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Village Centre on Sunday **4th February** at 7.30 pm. As a versatile and dynamic group, the first rehearsals will concentrate on a song cycle by a well-known local composer Nick Bicat in preparation for making a first recording of the music in March. In May there is the opportunity to be part of Brighton Festival Fringe (still to be confirmed), the Hurst Festival in September.

All the 2024 events will build Heber Opera's reserves for their next full opera production in 2025, and the group would love to see more local singers coming along to participate. This year is an ideal opportunity for those new to opera to join and enjoy singing without going directly to learning a full show. There is no obligation to join immediately, and no cost to coming and sampling a Heber Opera rehearsal before deciding!

To find out more about singing, being part of Heber's back stage crew, to join our supporters mailing list, offer sponsorship or musical opportunities to Heber Opera, please get in touch.

[jenny@heberopera.co.uk](mailto:jenny@heberopera.co.uk) or **07770 962811**.

*Jenny Hawkes*

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## A PANTO MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Yes, it is that time of year, when the last vestiges of Christmas silliness erupt in the cheering, booing and general mayhem of seasonal pantomime. Here we are in a familiar, fairy-tale, topsy-turvy world where nothing is quite what it seems; a world of miracles and surprises, tragedy and comedy, which whirls us breathlessly along till we are almost falling off the edge of our seats. Yet, if we have been to the panto before, we cling to the hope that all will be well, desperately trusting that no matter how awful the ogre or the wicked witch, no matter how hopeless the case of the young lovers, or the abandoned children, everyone will get their just deserts in the end and rags will turn to riches. Pantomime evolved from the Italian Commedia dell'Arte in the 18th century and the figures of Harlequin and Pantaloon, themselves derived from earlier, medieval characters, first appeared on the London stage in productions bursting with visions of Greek and Roman divinities, dramatic stunts, and satirical knock-about. A century later, the ancient gods went out and in came Mother Goose, Cinderella, Puss in Boots and Aladdin, while the theatrical effects became ever more sophisticated. Victorian Music Halls put on rowdy versions for the masses while in the West End Theatres you could find the same stories, tastefully adapted for a

more discerning audience. Genteel pantomime came with dazzling costumes and scenery and top class singing and dancing. No self-respecting Gaiety Girl could be seen looking less than her best, so in a vintage production of Cinderella, Mabel Russell, (a stage star who later retired to Ditchling), played one of two very *pretty* 'Ugly Sisters', which was a serious aesthetic lapse. After the Great War, pantomime went out of fashion for a time before making a come-back as a show for children, and today the magic, thanks to digital technology, is literally out of this world. So why am I talking about all this? Well, because I, for one, have always been a bit of a snob about pantomimes, and it is only recently that I have taken the time to delve a little into the history of what is a most interesting institution. Upon reflection, I admit that I have been over-hasty in my judgement; that there is more to pantomime than meets the eye, and that amidst the rouge and the tinsel and the whoopee-cushion humour of it all, are hidden messages which we might do well to heed. (And no, Disneyworld, the message is *not* that if you are nice to frogs and ugly old crones, you will win the lottery and 'Strictly Come Dancing' and marry the Hunk of the Year!) The Fairy Tales which feature in pantomimes are deeply subversive things. (The Beautiful Step-Mother is always a witch; the dusty lamp is a treasure; the youngest son inherits the kingdom; gingerbread is poison.) They ask us to look deeply. Question everything. A while back, a friend introduced me to a remarkable book called '*The Lost Language of Symbols*' and in this book, I learned that the legend of Cinderella, for example, is as old as remembered time. There are recognisable elements of the tale in every culture, from India to Ancient Egypt, from Russia to South America. The version familiar to



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us appeared in the Fairy Tales of the French poet Perrault, which were translated into English in about 1729. Yet, in each Cinderella tradition, the same sequence of events unfolds: the pitiful girl, grimy with the ash of the fireplace, is transformed into a princess arrayed in glass slippers and a dazzling gown by a fairy god-mother, or real mother, who may appear as an old woman or as a queen with a star on her brow, or even as a cow with golden horns. According to the author, Harold Bayley, this 'mother' from ancient mythology represents the Mother Ocean, the source of all Life and Wisdom. Compassion towards the humblest creatures under her care reveals the spark of kinship and the innate beauty which belong to all at the merest touch of her wand. This kinship is the true wealth of which the story speaks, and it is not to be won or lost, for it lies already within the heart-scope of each living thing. Cinderella's dress is sometimes described as the blue of the sea, or the colour of the sky. Sometimes it is made of flame, or of darkness. It is elemental. One is reminded of the 17th century English poet Thomas Traherne, who wrote: "You never enjoy the world aright till the Sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars..." The Wisdom, which is conferred when such a state occurs, transforms humblest of Earth's children. Each mouse becomes a thoroughbred, each pumpkin a golden coach. We have *already won* the lottery. To wake in a world radiant with life and beauty is good fortune beyond telling. To despoil and deprecate it is to throw all that away. Hence, the wandering

dervishes of the Middle East eschewed monetary wealth, dressed themselves in patched robes and went barefoot in search of wisdom – the miraculous 'Robe of Light'. What better legend could one hope for at the beginning of a new year? For as the dervishes and Shakespeare knew: "*All the world's a stage...*" and the dramas which rack the world are the sum total of what plays out in every individual heart. We are burlesques in miniature. Inside us all are ugly sisters, greedy brothers, lazy stewards, wicked schemers and innocent lovers with their faithful animal guides. Which of these characters do we enthrone? Where is the truth-telling looking-glass which will show us? And how, once we see, will we find the courage to act for the best? This is the story of the real delusions and disasters of the human condition. The illusions of the stage pale beside it. But even in the darkest and most desperate of times a happy ending is never beyond reach and our human nature impels us to seek it. Over time, the phantasms with which we mortals intoxicate ourselves and harm one another stand exposed for the shams they are: Hellfire, slavery, the divine right of kings...dare I say it, *economic growth*? One day we will look back and marvel that anyone could have chosen mechanical, engineered 'effects' over the genuine miracles of Nature, or bothered with Artificial Intelligence – a synthetic stage-show stunt - when the Real Intelligence of the cosmos is calling. And in any case, what kind of fool would be content with mere Intelligence, when the greater prize of Wisdom waits to be claimed? How is it possible we do not call deception out with up-

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rious cheers and boos? The thing about Fairy Tales is they cannot be updated. To tinker with the story is to re-establish the bad old state of corruption which the tale set out to subvert in the first place. In 2024, all our cousins - the trees, the rivers, birds, insects, are begging us to acknowledge kinship with, not lordship over them; to become lovers not users; to rediscover our elemental selves and be true to them. What might we not then become? "What elemental self?" I hear you retort. "Why, *that one*." "Where? I can't see one." "It's *behind you!*" "Oh, no it *isn't!*" "Oh, yes it *is!*" "Oh, no it *isn't.*" "Tis!" "Tisn't." "TIS!" ...

Quick! Bring on the magic mirror before the curtain comes down!

*Rosemary*

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nections with the neighbourhood and can show need for subsidised housing.

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*Mike Coward*

**SUSSEX SEWING CLUB** Come join us on Saturday **10th February**, 10 am to 4 pm, at Westmeston Parish Hall. Sussex Sewing Club is a monthly get-together for people who love sewing. Bring your own project, your sewing machine, and spend the day working on your project in a relaxed environment, chatting all things sewing! Please email [sussexsewingclub@gmail.com](mailto:sussexsewingclub@gmail.com) for more information about memberships and the booking link.

*Dianne Bowles*

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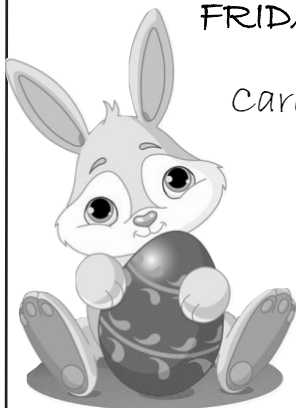
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**DITCHLING PLAYERS** – May Production ‘If I Were You’ by Alan Ayckbourn

How many times have you used the phrase “well, if I were you...” yes, me too. But do we really mean it and what would happen if you changed personality with the person you were speaking to? Well, Alan Ayckbourn has taken this one stage further and considered the outcome.

Jill & Mal Rodale are an ordinary couple, he the manager of a furniture salesroom and her a housewife, but beneath the surface things are beginning to crack and they seem to have lost the spark in their marriage. Their son, Sam, resents his father and their daughter, Chrissie, has recently become a mum and is dealing with marriage issues of her own. They all share advice on how others should live their lives, but nobody is really taking it on board.

Then one morning Mal and Jill wake to find that they have switched personas, with Mal in Jill’s body and Jill in Mal’s. Their family are not aware of this change and so they must continue “as normal” as their other half Jill facing the challenges of working with their son-in-law, Dean, and being more forceful and

shorter tempered. Whilst Mal is now calm and considerate, learning more about his children — and finding out the secrets they already know about him! Will seeing things from the other side make matters even worse, or is this just what they

need in order to save their family?

As you read this, rehearsals have just started, and we’re pleased to welcome both familiar and new faces to the Ditchling stage for this production.

Performances are **22nd to 25th May** with a matinee on the 25th, so please make a note of these dates. I’ll be providing you with further information regarding tickets etc in the coming months.

*David Tetersell*

---

**THE GROWING NETWORK** We are a freely-giving 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 on your gardening journey. You don’t even need to have your own garden, as there are some of us that like to collaborate and grow vegetables and fruit together.

This month we will have plenty of seeds and we hope to be joined again by volunteers from a Touch of Gentleness who will be offering free hand massages!

Saturday **17th February** 10.30 am to 12 pm at Friends Meeting House, 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](mailto:julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk).

*Julie Ulbricht & Kate Sherman*

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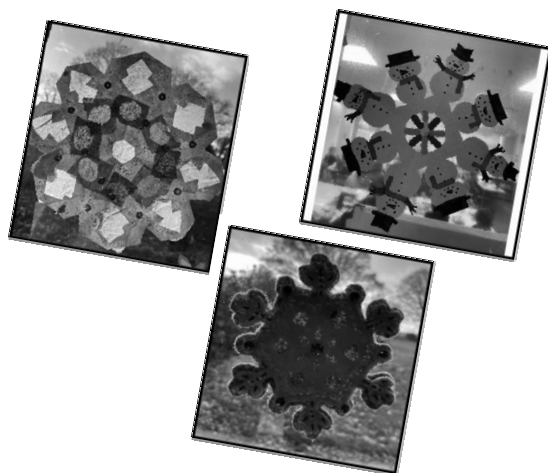
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**THE WINDMILLS SCHOOL** This term we have been running a cross country club that has been well attended by the most brilliant team of children; they deserve a special mention. They have all shown such dedication and resilience by arriving at school early three times a week to run in all weathers! On Saturday 2nd December, 10 boys and 10 girls from years 5 and 6 took part in a cross-country competition. Temperatures in the minus did not put them off and they worked hard as a team to get across the line as close to the front as possible. We were delighted to be placed in second place for both teams. The whole of the girls' team are going through to the next round as well as 7 of the boys' team.

The parents of year 5 were invited in to see our 'Ancient Egyptian Museum'. The children showcased their Ancient Egyptian singing, dancing, music and a short play before taking their parents on a tour of the galleries and workshops. These celebrated and presented their learning across the curriculum—including IT, art, DT, geography and of course history.



During November Year 6 were set the challenge of designing and making free standing Christmas games as part of their D.T. learning that they then ran as stalls at our Christmas fair. The year 6 games alone raised an impressive £660! The Christmas



fair was truly magical, with singing performances from each year group and lots of games and activities to keep everyone entertained. Well done and thank you to all the FOWs, parent helpers, year 6, and staff who made this event such a brilliant success.

Providing lots of musical opportunities is something that is central to our philosophy of ensuring children get a rich and varied experience in their time with us. Years 3 and 4 were treated to a performance from our up and coming musicians who take individual music lessons. These children showed perseverance in learning their pieces and great courage on the day to perform in front of an audience. Our year 5 team were also absolutely brilliant at Light Up Hassocks. The children in year 5 learnt 4 songs to perform on stage on the night. They did such a good job. There were lots of smiles and the crowd sang along to some festive favourites as well as more modern songs. '

*on behalf of The Windmills'*

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Facebook - **Age Concern Hassocks.**

We are thrilled to let you know that we raised the fantastic sum of £1768.25 at our Christmas fair! This will help enormously towards the continued running of our Centre which is here to support Hassocks and its surrounding villages. We held the Fair at the same time as the Saturday Market and it was wonderful to see lots of local residents who would not normally have a reason to step into our Day Centre. Father Christmas joined us and our walk-in sessions to see him turned out to be very popular. We would like to thank everyone who brought children along and send a special thank you to Santa and his elves who worked so patiently with everyone who wanted to see him. We will do the same next year – Market and Fair together in December 2024.

In January, we had the KSS Air Ambulance Charity (Kent Sussex Surrey) visit us to talk about their incredibly important work. We have the Sundown Ukelele Band returning on Wednesday **14th February** 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm – come along for lunch or pop in at 1.30 pm and enjoy this musical treat. 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 to book transport and/or lunch the day before or up to 10am on the day you'd like to join us. The menu changes weekly and is on our website.

Our Charity Shop is open 9 am to 4 pm every weekday and 9 am to 12 pm Saturdays. Donations are most welcome and if you are unsure about what we take, we work on the basis of "if you would buy it, we can sell it". While you are visiting the Charity Shop why not stop by for a hot drink and cake in our Coffee Shop, open 9 am to 3 pm weekdays and

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We are hoping to provide various trips, talks and musical entertainment throughout 2024. Come along and see what we have on offer.

We look forward to seeing you.

*All at Age Concern*

### **NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME GARDEN OPEN FOR CHARITY.**

Pembury House, Ditchling Road, Clayton, BN6 9PH will open its Garden for the National Garden Scheme.

See see our Snowdrops and Hellebores we will be open every Thursday and Friday starting on **8th February** until **8th March** from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm & 2 to 3.30 pm.

We would love for you to visit our garden. Tickets need to be pre-booked on the NGS website, easily done by using the link from our own informative website.

**www.pemburyhouse.co.uk.** The admission price includes the tea/coffee and cake.

In 2023, the NGS donated £3,403,960 to its beneficiary charities including MacMillan, Marie Curie, Hospices UK & Parkinson's.

Please bring cash if you wish to purchase plants, snowdrop mugs, bags and robins!

Parking will only be at the recreation ground in Clayton, opposite the Church. The only visitor entrance is from our back gate onto the footpath which runs by the railway line from Clayton to Hassocks. This will be signed from the car park.

We look forward to meeting you in our garden. Your visit will change lives.

*Jane Baker*

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## SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB

I always look forward to January as it's when the club's new six month programme becomes available, either online or by post.

All members are encouraged to share their favourite walks which is why we have such a diverse programme ranging throughout East and West Sussex.

Jean is leading the 7.5 mile walk from Peacehaven on Sunday, **4th February** starting at 10.30 am. This includes the Castle Hill nature reserve at Newhaven with it's stunning views and mixed habitat. Plus, there is also the possibility of snow drops at Piddinghoe.

One of our Crawley members will be taking us through woods and villages on a 6 mile undulating walk starting at Crawley Down on Saturday, **24th February** at 10 am. and going via Down Park, Snow Hill, Cophorne Common, Sussex Border Path and Worth.

The Sussex Border Path is a footpath route nearly 150 miles long around the inland boundary of the county of Sussex, first devised and published in 1983 by Ben Perkins and Aeneas Mackintosh. The

county of Sussex owes its origins to the kingdom of the South Saxons and can claim to have one of the longest inland county boundaries from Emsworth in the west to Rye in the east. It has an interesting history which can be found on Google. Full details of February's eight walks can be viewed on [www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk). There is no need to book a place just turn up and introduce yourself to the leader.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

*Diann*

## SUSSEX CHORUS MONTEVERDI'S VES-

**PERS** Saturday 23rd March. Preceding the above concert there will be a Monteverdi Workshop at St Francis of Assisi, Priory Road, Hassocks. BN6 8PS on Saturday **10th February** from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. For this there is a charge (to include music hire & refreshments). For more information, please see [www.sussexchorus.org](http://www.sussexchorus.org).

*Angela Holroyd*

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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** To make sure that the Ditchling Film Society continues to give you a variety of genres through the year we're bringing you a horror movie for February. Saint Maud (Dir. Rose Glass). **1st February**. In her directorial debut Rose Glass has created a very well-crafted film; a psychodrama with astute character observation and strong performances by Morfydd Clark and Jennifer Anne Ehle. The film earned a record seventeen nominations at the British Independent Film Awards 2020. Film critic Mark Kermode listed it as his favourite film of 2020, calling it an "electrifying debut". At its centre is a troubled young woman, Katie, a palliative nurse. We learn something of her own past trauma and find a woman who believes she is guided by God to save her clients' soul. It can only end badly. Saint Maud, 15, (2019). 84 minutes. This is a horror film and contains sexual and violent scenes. English.

**Return to Seoul**, (Director David Chou) is showing on the **7th March**. An absorbing and emotional film about adoption, loneliness, a search for identity and the meaning of existence.

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New offer! Under 25s can buy guest tickets! BBFC legal age restrictions still apply. The films show on the first Thursday of the month at Ditchling Village Hall, 18 Lewes Road, Ditchling, Hassocks, East Sussex. Doors open at 7.30 pm and you can buy a glass of good wine before the show which starts at 8 pm. There's plenty of parking next to the village hall. For full information go to their website:

**ditchlingfilm.org.uk**. Follow us on Instagram @ditchlingfilmsoc and Tweet @Ditchlingfilm.

*Kate Odonnell*

**CRAFT VOLUNTEERS WANTED** I am making 1000 glass flower heads to raise money for a hospice. They will be an art installation for 2 weeks after which the charity will sell them to raise funds. I am looking for help on a couple of mornings in February applying the copper foil to the glass. It's a creative and straightforward process and good fun in a group. No previous experience required. I will provide all guidance, materials, tea, coffee and biscuits at my home studio in Hassocks. If you would like to volunteer your time or want more information, please contact Ellie on **ellie@glassgardenart.co.uk**.

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**TOAD-IN-THE-HOLE** Once upon a time, the British people were divided. Impassioned debates raged throughout the land, truth and common sense became distorted, and the public rose up and demanded an answer. How did that toad get inside that rock?

In 1898, two burly workmen in a chalk quarry near Lewes cracked open a hollow chunk of flint. The solid rock, formed 85 million years ago, split open to reveal an airtight cavity at its core. To the quarrymen's amazement, entombed within the ancient flint was a dead toad.

'Toad-in-the-hole' hysteria soon hit the headlines. It seemed like every month the newspapers reported how someone had split open a rock and found a toad inside. Some of these toads had already croaked but others would inexplicably still be alive and hopping. The Victorian world was thrown into theological and philosophical panic. Clergymen preached that the Creator had placed the eternal amphibians in rocks at the dawn of time. Subscribers to Darwin's new theory of evolution were perplexed. Charles Dickens wrote of his bewilderment, while others believed it was simply sorcery. Scientists began burying living toads in sealed boxes to investigate the unfortunate animal's longevity.

The Lewes toad of 1898 is the world's only surviving artefact of the entombed toad craze. It now resides in Brighton's incredible Booth Museum of Natural History – one of my favourite places in the whole world. Amongst the many awe-inspiring exhibits at The Booth, you'll find a special cabinet



dedicated to curiosities. In it, lying reverentially on a bed of maroon felt, there is 'Probably the most famous toad in the world'. Admittedly when it comes to world-famous toads it's not a particularly crowded field, with only Toad of Toad Hall to contest the title. Alongside the original oval of cleft flint sits the shrivelled body of the infamous amphibian. The whole surreal exhibit is like a Kinder Surprise designed by Hieronymus Bosch.

But this cracked up flint isn't all it's cracked up to be. The Lewes toad was originally presented to the Brighton and Hove Natural History and Philosophical Society by Charles Dawson. That's the same Charles Dawson who would soon be sticking some Orangutan teeth on a human skull and declaring he had discovered the 'missing link' at Piltdown, near Uckfield. In 1953, Dawson would be unmasked as a fraudster and the whole 'toad-in-the-hole' phenomenon would come crashing down, dismissed as poppycock.

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](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join).

*Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust*

# M.J. Pitt

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**HURST PLAYERS** After the success of The Players Christmas/New Year Panto – Red Riding Hood – Hurst Players have chosen a remarkable piece of theatre for their next production which is in rehearsal now – and opens on **5th March**.

“The Lady in the Van” is the compelling, true story, of how Alan Bennett, one of Britain’s most successful writers ended up playing an unintentional host to a vagrant woman who parked her van in his garden from 1974 to 1989 – a three-week visit which lasted fifteen years.

The play is directed by Jacqui Figgins in her first production for Hurst Players. We wish her well, because while we work out the theatrical obstacles to presenting two vans and one Reliant Robin on the relatively tiny Players Theatre stage, Jacqui is already working with a large cast which for dramatic reasons includes two “Alan Bennetts” [you’ll have to come and see us] plus a variety of people intent on removing Miss Shepherd from this home.

“The Lady in the Van” will run at the Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, from **5th March to 9th March** – starting at 7.30 pm.

For those wanting to get in with an early booking,

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you can do so online at our website now – **[hurstplayers.org.uk](http://hurstplayers.org.uk)** – go to the ‘what’s on’ section – and we shall also be making tickets available at our Saturday morning box office at the Theatre in the month prior to production dates.

*Anne Hopper*

### **FOOD AND BONES LEFT OUT ON OPEN SPACE IN ADASTRA AVENUE**

Over the last few weeks plastic trays containing food/bones have been left on the grass alongside the stream in Adastra Avenue.

My dog has on occasions picked up food which has caused her illness. One day a carcass was left.

I appreciate people like to feed wildlife, but such food should not be left in such a public place as this.

The plastic trays are left there and can cause harm to wildlife. Please leave food out if you wish in your own garden. *Name and Address Supplied*

### ***DEADLINE DATE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE***

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**DITCHLING DOWNS WI** - Tuesday 2nd January 2024. We met on a very blustery night in the Village Hall - thank you to everyone who showed up. We were entertained by a most informative presentation by Anton Pruden about his grandfather, Dunstan Pruden and how he became involved with the Guild on Ditchling Common. We also saw some lovely examples on slides of the chalices and other things that his grandfather made, we learnt some interesting facts about gold and silver and hallmarking and finally got to see some of the designs that Pruden and Smith currently make in their workshop below the shop in the village.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in Ditchling Village Hall - our next meeting is on Tuesday **6th February** at 7 pm and the talk is "Kill or Cure - Medicine in the 19th Century" Please come along if you're interested in joining the group.  
*Susanne Pryde*

**STAR CINEMA** Friday **23rd February** at the Adastra Hall... A Haunting in Venice. Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot in an Agatha Christie murder mystery set in post WW2 Venice. Doors open at 7 and the film starts at 7.30. Tickets available on the door. Wine, tea, coffee and the usual popular raffle.

The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

*Liz Edmunds*

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*We Thank Tony Evans for this picture of Blacksmith students from Plumpton College in 1951. LR: Alford, Mick Dennet, (Mr Smith Blacksmith), Bill Shelly and myself Tony Evans*

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**THANKS FROM CICRA.** My thanks, once again to Andy Twine our local butcher for housing my collection can for CICRA - Crohn's in Childhood Research Association. Of course, if a cure for the serious illness is forthcoming - an occasion we all hope for - then the cure will obviously be for children and adults alike. Can that be during 2024?

Thank you, too, to Andy's hard-working team and, of course to the generous customers who kindly put their 'loose change' into the cans. If you would like to make a personal donation to the fundraising, I will be only too pleased to pass it on to the CICRA offices on your behalf.

Despite being unable to be among you in my usual way during the past 7/8 months - YES - I am still fundraising for this important Charity - having already raised - with your help - more than £83,000 to date how can I not! Also, with my own son being a sufferer of this serious illness it became a personal interest and challenge - I am sure you can all understand that.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2024. Keep well and stay safe!

*Dorrie*



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Presents

## A Talk and Afternoon Tea with guest speaker



### Michael Heyland

The man who returned "The Sorcerer" to the D'Oyly Carte repertoire.

25th February 2024 at 2.45pm until 5pm.  
at the Adastral Hall, Hassocks, Sussex, BN6 8QH

**THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX** presents a Talk and Afternoon Tea with guest speaker Michael Heyland. The man who returned "The Sorcerer" to the D'Oyly Carte repertoire.

Sunday 25th February at 2.45 pm. Adastral Hall, Hassocks.

Tickets to include a delicious selection of sandwiches and scones.

Booking [gandstodaysussex@gmail.com](mailto:gandstodaysussex@gmail.com).

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# SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS



We are a Friendly and welcoming Woodturners Club for Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and surrounding areas. To promote, educate and encourage woodturning as a craft and an art form.

Our monthly meetings, typically on the last Wednesday of each month, 7 pm to 10 pm in Beeding and Bramber Village Hall, BN44 3WN for demonstrations, competitions, practical evenings, informal chats, help and advice etc.

Also at each meeting, a shop with woodturning related supplies and timber, a raffle to cover meeting costs, free tea/coffee and biscuits. Members benefits

also include use of a Toolbank and a Library of books and DVD's.

We encourage members to bring items along to our Tools 'n' Turnings table, and to participate in our Chairman's Challenge (held at meetings when there is no competition).

Potential new members welcome to come along to find out more. Complete novices to those with vast experience are welcome to join, very reasonable yearly subscriptions.

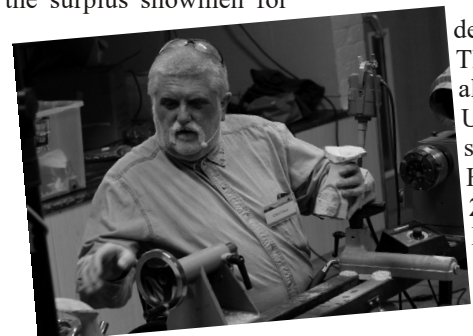
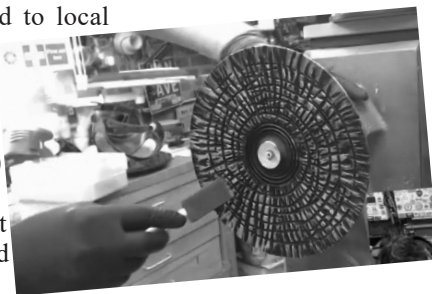
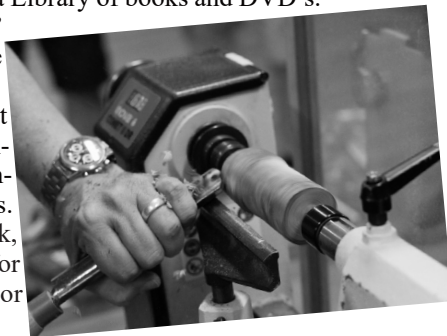
Please see our Facebook, Instagram or website for further information or contact

[secretary@southdownswoodturners.com](mailto:secretary@southdownswoodturners.com)

Snowmen - Each year we ask members to turn some snowmen which are then donated to local playgroups or nurseries, for the children

to decorate. This year Barcombe playgroup that meets at Barcombe Village Hall from Monday - Friday, during school term time. It accommodates about 30 children, aged 2 to 4 years.

As well as the children decorating them, they also had a stall at the Barcombe Primary School Christmas Fair where they sold the surplus snowmen for



decoration, along with other items, to help boost their funds. They proved to be popular with adults & children alike. Please see attached photos.

Upcoming Meetings - **28th February** Professional demonstration: a return visit to our club for the ever-popular Kevin Hutson

**27th March** Member demonstration (in preparation for the May competition). "From Log to Bowl" - Gordon Eaton takes us through the process of turning a bit of tree trunk to a finished bowl.

*Anthony Trigg*

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## HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

meets at 8 pm on the last Friday of each month in the Guide Hall by Trinity Road Car Park. At each meeting we have an expert speaker and first class audio/visual presentations. Visitors are welcome. Speakers and subjects for the first half of 2024 are:-

**23rd February**, Hurstpierpoint Museum Group on their work and the History of the Group

**22nd March**, Jo Kearns on the Hurstpierpoint Theatre (29th March is Good Friday)

**26th April**, Ian Everest on the Ouse Valley

**31st May**, David Rudling of the Sussex Archaeological Society on Bignor Roman Villa.

*Janice Kent*

## HALLS FOR HIRE

**The Players Theatre**, Hurstpierpoint- A meeting room for up to 10 people. If you need a larger space, the auditorium is available too. Please contact Pippa Sampson on 01273 833397 for further details or e-mail: [enquiries@hurst-players.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hurst-players.org.uk)

**Albourne Village Church** - ring 07513 453679 or book online at [www.albourneparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.albourneparishcouncil.co.uk) for your business or pleasure bookings, some space is available for regular bookings.

**Sayers Common Village Church Hall** - ring Judy Miller on 01273 834640. Space available for regular clubs/bookings.

**Sayers Common Village Hall** - call Agatha Winters on 01273 833377 for bookings.

**Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church and Hall** - in Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint bookings can be made through Margaret Taylor on 01273 832286.

**Hurst Scout H.Q.** - has a hall and kitchen as well as a smaller meeting room. Ideal for parties, classes or meetings. Ring Heather Hush on 01273 831023

email: [bookings@hurstpierpointscouts.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hurstpierpointscouts.co.uk). Please Note: 1st Hurst Scouts have a website for hall

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bookings where users can view the diary, check prices and download the booking forms – <https://www.hurstpierpointscouts.co.uk/hq-bookings>

**Hurstpierpoint Village Centre** - has three spaces for hire, a hall that seats up to 200, a conference room for up to 20 and the Club Suite for up to 40. The Club Suite is ideal for children's parties, offering its own kitchen and toilet facilities. The kitchen serving both the hall and conference room is also free of charge. Email [office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](mailto:office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk) or [www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk)

**Hurstpierpoint Guide HQ** - Kitchen and carpeted hall and lovely enclosed garden call Judy Leech on 01273 833954.

**Adastra Hall**, in Hassocks is your community space and can be booked for parties, meetings and events. If you'd like to book, please take a look at our website [www.adastrahall.com](http://www.adastrahall.com) or email [bookings@adastrahall.com](mailto:bookings@adastrahall.com).

**Court Buses Community Hub**, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9TH

This building has a large function room and club lounge. For booking enquiries, please contact the Parish Council office on 01273 833264, email: [office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](mailto:office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk) or visit [www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk)

**Ditchling Village Hall** - attractive, well equipped and versatile venue, comprising large main hall with stage, smaller hall and kitchen. Suitable for a diverse range of occasions and activities such as parties, plays, weddings, exercise classes and certain indoor sports. See website [www.ditchlingvillagehall.uk](http://www.ditchlingvillagehall.uk) for full details and pricing. Email the booking secretary on [bookings@ditchlingvillagehall.uk](mailto:bookings@ditchlingvillagehall.uk) for enquiries.

**Clayton With Keymer** has three church halls and serveries available across the parish. Please visit the website [www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk](http://www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk) for details

# What's On This February

Clubs, Societies & Groups please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section. Email [ed@villagemagazines.co.uk](mailto: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 FEBRUARY** - Services of Morning Worship (**family services**) 10 am at St Margarets, Ditchling at 10 am on **4th, 11th & 25th** and at Westmeston Church on **18th**.

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10 am at St Margarets Church, Ditchling with a special Ash Wednesday service on **7th**.

Coffee, Chat & Play Thursday mornings in the Emmanuel Centre South Street Ditchling from 10 am. Always check [www.beaconparish.co.uk](http://www.beaconparish.co.uk).

**16-25 GROUP** - New group that is designed as a Christian social group for those aged 16 - 25 we will be going out and socialising together once a month on the first Saturday of each month our next meeting is Saturday 2nd December, please check out our website for more information [www.claytonwithKeymer.org.uk](http://www.claytonwithKeymer.org.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 MORRIS** - We practise Thursday evenings in United reformed Church Hall on Thursdays at 7.30 pm. Pop in if you feel like joining.

**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 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](http://www.hsobcbridgeclub.co.uk) or email [hsobcadmin@hsobridgeclub.co.uk](mailto:hsobcadmin@hsobridgeclub.co.uk)

**HUG IN A MUG** - A coffee (and cake!) morning for all. Held at St Cosmas and St Damian Church Hall, Keymer every Monday at 10.30 am and at Clayton Church Hall, Clayton every Tuesday 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.

**KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** Mondays **5th & 19th February** We meet from 7.30 at the URC Hall, Hassocks, [www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk](http://www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk)

**SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD** Clayton Village Hall, Thursdays 7 - 9 pm. Beginners to Advanced [sussexflydressersguild.org.uk](http://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** MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

**1st** DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Saint Maud cert 15.

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

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

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

**4th** SUSSEX PATHFINDERS 10.30 am Peacehaven Walk 7.5 miles. More info [www.sussex-pathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussex-pathfinders.org.uk)

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

**6th** DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. 'Kill or Cure - Medicine in the 19th Century' Lady Teviot.

**7th** BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**7th** BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors open 7.15 pm. 'Froglife' - a wildlife charity dedicated to the conservation of amphibians & reptiles. All welcome. [www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com)

**7th** THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

**9th** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). 'Building using an Arduino' Dave MOLDP. All welcome.

**10th** SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book [sussexsewingclub@gmail.com](mailto:sussexsewingclub@gmail.com).

**10th** MESSY CHURCH URC Church 9.30 am. Meet for breakfast, story, celebration and crafts.

**12th** HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Borde Hill its History and Gardens'.

**12th** THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55

unattached. [www.thegroup.org.uk](http://www.thegroup.org.uk).

**13th** HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Garden Design inspired by Wild Landscapes' Peter McGarr from Feraland

**14th** AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue 1.30 - 2.30 pm. 'Sundown Ukelele Band'. See article.

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

**17th** 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.

**17th** JAZZ ETC Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. The Month of Love. Valentines Special with Aneesa Chaudhry & K2 singing Blues, Jazz Classics. Tickets Ditchling Post Office.

**18th** DITCHLING SINGERS Keymer Church Hall 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome.

**19th** HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. AGM followed by Laughing Yoga. Visitors welcome.

**19th** CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

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

**21st** BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**22nd** POLICE BEAT SURGERY Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks 11 am - 1 pm. Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.

**23rd** STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'A Haunting in Venice'. Tickets available on the door.

**23rd** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). 'Radio Discussion Night' All welcome.

**23rd** HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. 'Auks & Orcas - a journey round the British Isles' Michael Blencowe. All welcome, refreshments, small entrance fee.



**24th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB** The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Steyning Town. Bar & Food available. Free entry to kids 16 & under.

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

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

**25th GILBERT & SULLIVAN** Adastral Hall, Hassocks. 2.45 pm. 'The Man who returned "The Sorcerer" to the D'Oyly Carte Repertoire' Michael Heyland. Tickets [gandstodaysussex@gmail.com](mailto:gandstodaysussex@gmail.com).

**23rd HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY** Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 8 pm 'Hurstpierpoint Museum Group on their work & the History of the Group'. Visitors welcome.

**24th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** 10 am Crawley Down 6 miles. More info [www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk)

**24th TURNER-DUMBRELL FOUNDATION** Ditchling Village Hall 2-4 pm. 'Public Launch of the New Plan to Manage Lodge Hill - see article.

**26th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY** Adastral Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'A History of Bignor Roman Villa' Lisa Tupper.

**28th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS** Beeding and Bramber Village Hall 7 - 10 pm. Professional demonstration: a return visit to our club for the ever-popular Kevin Hutson. All welcome see article for more details.

**29th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL** The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 7.30 pm. Hannah White 'Sweet Revolution' with full band. Tickets [www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk](http://www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk).

**29th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS** Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

## Useful Information

### OUT OF HOURS CHEMIST

covered by either **Day Lewis** or **Boots** in Hassocks. Mon. to Fri. 5.30pm - 6 pm. Sun. 10 am - 4 pm covered by Boots Burgess Hill **Bank Holidays** Please see chemist doors. **Urgent prescriptions** call Sussex Police **0845 6070999**

### NEAREST HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE

**WEST SUSSEX** Fairbridge Way, Burgess Hill, RH15 8AR. From 12th February you will need to book a visit via [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk) **01243 642106**.

**EAST SUSSEX** Ham Lane, Lewes, BN7 3PS 9 am to 4 pm daily [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk) **0845 355 0550**

### PARISH COUNCILS

**Hassocks - 01273 842714**  
[www.hassockspc.net](http://www.hassockspc.net).

Mon, Tues, Thurs 10 am.- 2 pm,  
Fri 10 am - 12 pm.

**Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common**  
**01273 833264**

[www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk)  
Mon.- Fri. 9.30 am - 1 pm.

**Ditchling - 01273 844733**  
[www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk)

### LIBRARIES

**Hurstpierpoint - 01273 832609**

Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9 am - 1 pm & Thurs.,  
Fri. 1 - 5 pm

**Hassocks - 01273 842779**

Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9 am - 1 pm & Thurs.,  
Fri. 1 - 5 pm

### 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 also be dropped to Bella and Megs, Mansell McTaggart & Budgens in Hassocks



## Iron On or Sew On NAME TAPES

For your childrens' school clothes

Available to order from: QD STATIONERY 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks **01273 846978**

Also Suitable for:  
*Retirement Home Clothing,  
Hospital Stays, Uniforms,  
Workwear, Sportswear.*



# Wellesley

Hassocks resident

## Giles Turner

Your local financial adviser



I am a Chartered Financial Planner with over 15 years' experience. I work with people like you to help them secure their financial future by putting the right plans in place today.

I love being a part of Hassocks Village and feel lucky to be able to watch my children grow up within this inspiring community.

I can help you with all aspects of financial planning, including investment, pension and Inheritance Tax planning. It's the creation of a financial plan that is key to delivering your desired outcomes.

Please contact me if you are looking for guidance on planning for your financial future.

“The success we have in the future is built on the plans we make today.”



Giles Turner, APFS Chartered Adviser

Wellesley House, 50 Victoria Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 9LH  
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SJP approved 06/06/2023

# David J Stevens

Property Maintenance

Feel free to contact me  
07593 792418  
djstevens1973@gmail.com

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LOCAL BUILDER, BASED  
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## STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

The Cat Lounge as I call it at our shop is so unique it attracts visitors from all over the world. If you want to sit down and socialise with cats in an environment that is not out to make you pay lots of money, then our place is the only one of its kind in the country and I'm very proud of the fact that a majority of our visitors are young people who obviously have issues, they are always accompanied by a carer or on the odd occasion a parent.

Just lately one of our visitors a young girl, not from around here, has been refusing to go to school, from what her mother tells me it's because she is autistic and finding it very difficult to fit in and make friends - the only way she can persuade her to go to school is if she promises her that after school she'll bring her to the shop to sit with the cats because she adores cats. Her mother who is a single mum has a job she loves, but frequently has to phone in and say she can't come in because her daughter has once again refused to go to school. Now, I'm no expert but I do know that taking the wrong approach and dragging them kicking and screaming will make the situation 10 times worse. My mantra is love and kindness will always find a way, for example I have a cat who flatly refuses to use a litter tray, she'll go up to it put her foot in it and then backs out and does it on the floor next to it. If I pick her up and try to put her in the tray you would think I was trying to lower her into a vat of boiling oil. I've been through every considerable make of cat litter but it makes no difference and it's no good losing your temper or getting cross because that achieves nothing. You just have to understand there's something different about her and accept it. With me it's just a nigging problem with one of my cats but if you're a parent trying on your own to come to terms with this kind of problem, then my heart goes out to you because it beggars the question what does the future hold with the way things are, getting help can't be easy - there are precious few places available at specialist schools with hundreds of applicants getting turned away. I do hope that with the extraordinary rise in autism cases that some kind of research into why is being conducted by some Government Department, in the meantime it's rewarding to know that so many benefit and get pleasure from the visits to our shop and let's hope the young girl continues to want to visit and find the help she so desperately needs.

So, I do have a NEWS UPDATE on the planters saga any changes would be centred around the relocation of the pedestrian crossing near Dale Avenue. This would involve moving it approximately 7 metres to the west, which apparently would not only provide more capacity for the crossing but would also make it more accessible for all users. To make such an improvement would result in the loss of at least one of the brick planters, but this would be migrated by the introduction of new planters. So if you can understand that, this is what is proposed, there are no detailed plans or drawings to explain what it would look like, my advice would be to wait until the plans for the National Tyres Sites have been approved by the council because that is going to have a big impact on this end of the village, we're still a few months off any major work starting and although we have seen the original vision of what it may look like, the end result has yet to be decided, so moving the crossing may be a big mistake.

I can remember in the good old days when you came across road works with temporary traffic lights you always saw a load of workmen beavering away to get it finished so that the road could open quickly. These days when you come across road works a lot of the time there's not a soul insight doing any work. Just lately Clayton Hill seems to be continuously having lights, on the odd occasion I've been sitting in the queue I look around to see who's doing what and guess what once again not a soul in site.

It's good that the horse feed and bedding prices have stabilised so you'll be pleased to know our horse bedding prices are unchanged.  
BEDMAX £8.50 - LITTLE MAX £9.75 - BURLEY BED £8.75 - SUNDOWN YELLOW £9.00 - AUBOISE/AUBICHICK £11.50 - SHAVINGS £10.50.  
We are the Lid for horse bedding. Phone for info - also top spec feeds are doing a brilliant deal on balancers and supplements, you'll be amazed!  
For example, ANTILAM 15KG £31.95 - once again phone for details we're here to help you help us - Shop local when you can please. Steve

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