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

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We thank to Dave of Hurstpierpoint for this picture of the two old cottages on the Brighton Road, down from Hurstpierpoint Church, just below Geers Nursery. The one nearest to Geers, Stan Anscombe lived in. He was a part time game keeper at Danny Estate and served with the Home Guard during the Second World War.



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If you have any other questions or would like to get involved in any other way, you can contact us by email stlawrencefair@gmail.com.

Thank You - we look forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of the St Lawrence Fair Committee.

Lona McDonald

DITCHLING NEWCOMERS' PARTY - Saturday 13th April Ditchling Village Association is organising its annual party to welcome new residents to Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat at 6.30 to 8.30 pm in Ditchling Village Hall.

Free and open to anyone who has moved to the villages recently and not attended before. Suitable for all ages.

It is a great chance to meet other new residents as well as representatives from local clubs and societies. Wine and soft drinks provided.

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DVA Secretary

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Tickets include refreshments. Book please by email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com

Pennie Ingram

OLDLAND WINDMILL - First Open Afternoon of 2024 on Sunday **7th April**.

Oldland Windmill is a beautifully restored circa 1703 award winning working Post Windmill, within the South Downs National Park in the heart of the glorious Sussex countryside. The mill will be open to visitors on Sunday **7th April** from 2 pm to 5 pm. Volunteers will be on hand to give guided tours of the mill. Refreshments, mill gifts and memorabilia will be available too.

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For more information, please view our website www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk.

Karen Regan

ADASTRA JUNIOR STOOLBALL CLUB We are looking forward to light evenings, warm and dryer weather to begin our training again. Learning the skills of our ancient game of Stoolball.

Sadly, for various reasons, our numbers have dropped, so to insure paying our costs, we hope for a few more junior girls players between 9 years and 16 years will join us. We meet Wednesday evenings in Adastral Park at 6 pm to 7.30 pm, 8 pm if playing a match - to find out more please ring **01444 236782** or **07986 584228**.

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March at Age Concern Hassocks included a visit to Wings Museum – World War Two Remembrance Museum near Balcombe. We also held our first Rummage Sale which sells unsold stock from our Charity Shop at discount prices. We are hoping this will be a regular event and will keep you informed. The Sundown Ukelele Band will be returning on Thursday **18th April** at 1.30 pm – please feel free to pop in for a sing-along! We are also thinking of holding a quarterly Craft Fair – are there any local Craftspeople who would be interested in hiring a table? Please note this is a work in progress and we are seeing how much interest there would be in something like this. If you would like further information, please email lindsey.fitch@achassocks.co.uk or call the above number.

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most days 9 am to 12 pm and 1.30 pm to 3 pm.

We serve a 3 course lunch Monday to Friday and run a bus Tuesday and Thursday, picking up from Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling. If you live outside our regular pick-up areas, please give us a ring and we will see if we can accommodate you. Please ask the Office to book transport and/or lunch the day before or up to 10 am 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 9 am to 11.45 am Saturdays. 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.

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HURST PLAYERS PRODUCTION

think gym slips, jolly hockey sticks, adventures and spiffing good fun as scholarship student Daisy joins traditional private school, Grangewood.

Denise Deegan's "Daisy Pulls it off" – follows the Players' smash hit *The Lady in the Van* which finished its run last week. An hilarious initial reading following the end of the Players' last production, "The Lady in the Van" led to auditions on 19th and 23rd March.

Ian Amos returns to direct this production for us, running from **2nd to 6th July** – and if we've kindled your interest its worth noting that all schoolgirls will be played by adult women – of any age – and all teachers and other adults, both male and female will be played by men! There may well be some parts still to cast by the time you read this – and whether your interest lies onstage or

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backstage you will be most welcome to join us.

It will certainly be interesting, engrossing and great fun!
AH

We thank Sheila of Hassocks for the following email:- After reading the March issue of Talk About magazine, it occurred to me how lucky we are to have so many clubs and organisations in our village providing help and interests for us to enjoy. From our lovely Age Concern Centre with its transport for lunches and outings, the rickshaw trips for those with mobility problems, the U3a with a variety of interesting groups, the WI and it's craft afternoons, plus pop-in centres for those with disabilities and stress related problems, and many more. Not forgetting this magazine to keep us in touch with what is going on. Well Done Hassocks long may it continue 😊😊

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ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB How are your New Year resolutions holding up? Like most of us, have you found that the cold and rain damped your enthusiasm?

Good News! Spring and summer are on their way and the Bowls season is starting again on Monday **22nd April**.

If you fancy some gentle exercise, lots of fresh air and good company, why don't you try bowling? This is not only for retired people, as the greens and clubhouse are open from 10 – sunset on most days. And the bar is open after games!

Interested? Open Days are on Saturdays **4th, 11th and 18th May** from 10 am to 12 o'clock. Come along and have a go at bowling, meet the members and have a chat. No

need to book – just turn up.

If you want more information beforehand call me on **01273 842360**.

Diana Webley Ward

HEBER OPERA is delighted to announce two Afternoon Tea concerts, **19th May** in King Edward Hall, Lindfield and **26th May** in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, both starting at 3 pm.

We invite you to join Heber Opera's talented principal singers for a musical treat on the theme of Paradise, Passion and Puccini - all sung in English, of course. The afternoon includes a musical entertainment of solos, duets and ensemble pieces, and a delicious afternoon tea of homemade treats, all prepared and served to you by members of Heber Opera.

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Jenny Hawkes

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HAPPY RETIREMENT

Sharon was born in Albourne and has lived and worked in the surrounding villages all her life.

Sharon started working for me at Bowley Funeral Service in 2000 and has been an exemplary employee and friend to the Bowley family.

Over the past 24 years Sharon has guided and helped many families who've experienced the loss of a loved one with her calming manner and professionalism.

In 2008 she received her certificate in Funeral Practise from the Independent Funeral Directors College and in 2021 her Diploma In Grief And Counselling.

I personally have enjoyed working with her, we have laughed and cried together, myself, Davina and all staff will miss her terribly.

She has been a tremendous asset to Bowley Funeral Service, and we would like to wish her a very happy well deserved retirement.

Paul Bowley

AND NOW A MESSAGE FROM SHARON

It is with great sadness that I am retiring from Bowley Funeral Service after 24 years of working in the village. I have made some lovely friends whilst working in the funeral service as well as the fundraising.



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Another special thanks must go to Chris Lambe and family and all the shops in the village for the support with all the fund raising events I have put on, without your help this would not have been possible. Over the years, with all your help, we have raised over £20,000.

I will miss being involved with the funeral service and all the families and friends I have made over the years.

I would like to thank all those who came to say goodbye on the 28th March. A special thanks to Paul Bowley and Berit Hoad and all the staff I have worked with over the years.

Thank you Hassocks, please support your local shops other wise we will lose them.

I will see some of you around the village whilst I am pottering around in my retirement.

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH We seem to have given up sunshine for Lent. No need for further privation. Almost every day this month has dawned drear and grey or has been quickly scumbled over with cloud and the crocuses have come and gone and the early daffodils have been flattened in mud and the birds have sat mute through squall after squall and the farm paths are reduced to slop and *where* are the 'joys of spring'? Such grouchingness, on my part, is doubtless physiological and stems from sunshine deficiency. There is simply not enough colour in the world! Nature's palette is cold. And greyness eats into the mind, no matter how much one tries to look on the bright side. After all, bright grey is still grey! No wonder the Bulgarians used to tie red ribbons around their farmyards at the beginning of March to remind them of the colour of the heart - Nature's stirring lifeblood. No wonder all traditional farming communities once performed stamping dances to awaken Earth from its winter slumber, or lit spring bonfires to encourage the sun. Europeans used to participate in the cosmic cycles of growth and decay, with festivals and rituals, never taking things too much for granted, for Famine, along with Auntie Smallpox and Bogies and Ghosties, haunted the hinterland of the mind then, just as we now have Global Warming, and Bird 'Flu and The Bomb. But the Earth, for all that, was felt to be con-

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scious and alive, pregnant with new life, a presence to be fed and plied with gifts - a relative in time of need. Human life was inextricably woven into the complex of vibrations which made up the 'music of the spheres' - or the cosmic dance which animated every level of existence. "As above, so below," says the ancient hermetic author of *The Emerald Tablet*. Such influences flow either way. Hence the old resurrection myths enacted in the Christmas Mummery Plays and the symbolic celebration of new life in the miniature cornfields or bowls of sprouted grain which decorate family tables for Persian New Year. They remind the cosmos of what is needed, but they hearten the participants too, for feeling or believing these connections can make all the difference between living alienated or integrated lives. Which is better, to master and determine one's environment, or accept and lose oneself in it? Rationalists favour detachment. Lovers are lost in awe. At any moment one can move from one mindset to the other. But our ancient ancestors inherited a culture of belonging and for them it was simply assumed that every star, tree, rock, river was animated with spirit. They could send messages to these spirits and know that they would be read. They could love them and receive their love. Likewise, they could offend them and arouse their wrath. Mother Earth was one spirit you really needed to have

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on your side, so feeding her, dancing and singing to her, celebrating her beauty, were critically important. I have just bought an old coin as a present for a friend who has become interested in Roman history. The coin depicts the head of an Emperor's wife, Salinina. c.206 A.D. On the obverse is a goddess with a child. The lettering around her reads: *Fecunditas*, and she holds a cornucopia, the familiar symbol of abundance, spilling fruit and flowers. This is the famous horn of the goat-nymph Amalthea, who suckled Zeus when he was a baby. *Fecunditas*, fertility, is a term sadly tainted in our day with negative concepts: with over-population, or with hormone disruption. *Fertilisers* are either beleaguered bees whose colonies keep on collapsing, or chemical 'improvers' which leave the planet with toxic slag-heaps and depleted soils. But fecundity *is* the joy of spring – the magic that drives the birds to sing, as soon as there is a break in the weather; the miracle of life in every seed. Rather than worrying about how things should or shouldn't be, perhaps I should be reaching out to whatever is simply there. Abandon the expectation for something more and befriend what *is*. According to the explorer Benedict Allen, the native peoples he has met in some of the world's most challenging environments do not see their lands as hostile, or wild, or inadequate. They see them simply as home – places which provide them with what they need to survive. These people *are* their landscape. They do not seek to escape until they catch the white man's disease and, taking off their forest, become dispossessed. In Hawai'i, the tradition of Aloha 'Aina binds the people to their land with the breath of love. Traditionally, wearing the flowers, the grasses of their surroundings, they *became part of* the fertility of the land. Aloha – the practice of opening the heart and sharing the breath with for their own kind - created a powerful sense of community which nurtured life. Where such traditions have been broken, the land begins to suffer. *Fecunditas* fails. Pierre Rabhi, the Algerian visionary, who pioneered the practice of Agroecology on his organic farm in France, and then set up

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programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa to restore soils consumed by the desert, found a way to tap into Earth's self-renewing fertility. His secret? This same Aloha. The poetry of love. Inspired by the oasis home of his childhood, he realised that trees, which hold the key to life, are, like Amalthea's horn, rivers of life, and that we might be the same. "Trees," he said in an interview, (my translation), "are the fleece of our earth. Observe a tree at close quarters and if your senses are truly awake you will feel that it reaches for the sky. It captures energy. Earth in its cosmic complexity, is endowed with several means of communication and a tree is one of the most obvious. It is not just cellulose, a physiological mechanism for exchanging oxygen and carbon gas. There is within it a living being, something which raises up a kind of magic. The role of the tree is really to connect earth and sky. It is also the protector of the earth and that is why we ourselves must protect it... I maintain that a tree is nothing less than a manifestation of the earth itself, reaching towards the sky." Trees moderate the weather, they harvest water, they condition the soil and they are beautiful companions. They provide a home for birds, animals, insects. They lift the spirits – nourish the soul. "And yet we massacre them," says the interviewer. "We massacre all creatures," says Rabhi. "Every time we maltreat a tree, we injure

ourselves. Every time we cut a tree without real need, we deliver an axe-blow to ourselves.” A tree embodies the miracle of *Fecunditas*. And a seed is the beginning and end of all. “Give me one grain of corn,” says Rabbi “and I can feed the world.” There is just one impediment, however: the greed which makes humans crave ever more, turning them into ‘hoggers of the harvest’. This greed, the creed of *EVER MORE*, is antithetical to Rabbi’s belief that “Life promotes life”. Unaware that trees are the guardians of life, modern mankind allows them to be casually destroyed. Never before has society officially endorsed what amounts to a war on *Amalthea*, interfering in the integrity and viability of all life forms, including seeds, essentially in pursuit of profit. This pillage of the free, regenerative power of Nature literally robs the world’s independent farmers and gardeners of their livelihoods and puts hunger on the plates of those who depend on them. The cornucopia represented Nature’s limitless generosity. In folklore the abuse of such a gift appears in ‘killing the goose that laid the golden egg’ or milking a magic cow into a sieve. Not sharing is the ultimate crime. Is it too late for the West’s ‘hungry ghosts’ to curb their appetites? To decline the assets which industry fashions for them out of global plunder, and determine instead to become nourishers, givers, not takers, and recognise the sovereignty of the living things around them? To be gracious and respectful, even when such things seem to be in the way? Old tree stumps, muddy puddles, clumps of weed – all are home to someone and that ‘someone’ might be the vital link for an unseen community, which includes us too. The Highland Maya of Guatamala welcomed the forest into their gardens, because the forest brought with it the vigour that their cultivars needed to survive. This kind of hospitality was accompanied by gifts of chocolate and beads at any place where the spirits of the earth might accept them. Back in Hawai’i, Kumu Micah Kamahoali’i’s Auntie welcomed the lava from a nearby volcano. Yes, she said placidly on the telephone, she could see the flow, which was making

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straight for her house, so she had put out food and flowers in welcome, for the lava was part of her family, a grandmother who must be honoured with love and respect. In the event the lava made a detour and spared the house. Can I learn to be like a Hawai’ian and welcome the rain? And would this act of goodwill put the missing sunshine back into my life? In the end we are all seeds and all capable of generating joy. Perhaps I should go out in the garden and kick up my heels. At least it would be one way of getting warm! And if we all, did it together, we could really shake the world.
Rosemary

GREAT NEWS FOR DITCHLING SINGERS CHOIR!

We are delighted that the very experienced and talented Mike Hatchard has agreed to be our new choirmaster! We rehearse in the charming Old Meeting House, (2 The Twitten), in Ditchling, on alternate Sundays from 4 pm to 6 pm. Our first few rehearsal dates with Mike are on the **7th and 21st of April and 5th and 19th May.**

Any new singers are most welcome, there is no audition and the first session is free. Just come along and join us as we start this exciting new chapter!

For further information contact me on **01273 845627**, e-mail: **erikach@mac.com**.

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

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

Film night on **April 4th** brings together Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson in The Banshees of Inisherin.

Tragedy and comedy are paired in this end-of-friendship movie which is at times funny, horrifying and heartbreaking. Two men meet every lunchtime for a drink on this small remote Irish village in the 1920s – Padraic, a simple soul and dairy farmer, and his best friend Colm, a thinker and a fiddle-player. They lead uneventful lives until one day Colm no longer wants to see Padraic. Padraic asks his sister why Colm wouldn't open the door to him and gets the reply 'Perhaps he just doesn't like you no more' – a joke that soon turns out to be horribly true. This film reunites Brian Gleeson and Colin Farrell of In Bruges fame.

The Banshees of Inisherin (2022) Director Martin McDonagh of *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* fame. 114 minutes. Golden globe win-



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ner. Drama some violence, strong language. English.

Our May film is Limbo (2020) directed by Ben Sharrock on **18th May**.

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

The films are usually shown on the first Thursday of the month at Ditchling Village Hall. Limbo, however, is showing on the 3rd Thursday on the **18th May**. Doors open at 7.30 pm and you can buy a glass of good wine before the showing at 8 pm. Go to our website ditchlingfilm.org.uk for membership news and join our mailing list to keep up to date with our films each month. Follow us on Instagram [@ditchlingfilmsoc](https://www.instagram.com/ditchlingfilmsoc) and Tweet [@Ditchlingfilm](https://twitter.com/Ditchlingfilm).

Hope to see you at the next film.

Kate



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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.

Our February AGM went well, we started with a glass of fizz and rounded off the evening with Laughter Yoga . Thank you Ann, for encouraging us to giggle. We welcomed the president of Ardingly who also is a WI trustee for West Sussex. Our finances are in good order, you voted me to remain president and we got a new committee member. We summed up our 2023 year, our meeting ‘Tea at the Palace’ was a highlight, but we relished fun, learning and play throughout the year. Thank you so much to the hard working committee, members and visitors who supported us.

Our exciting 2024 programme is being fine tuned.

In March we had ‘Mad March Mix Up’.

The April meeting is ‘Who Dunit?’ - How to investigate a murder the old-fashioned way. I shall have to find my glasses as well as pen and paper. Come Along.

Besides the monthly meeting there are various small groups, open to all members. We have two well established book groups, afternoon and evening. The books are obtained from the library (small annual charge), so you can read and discuss different genres, discover new authors enjoy friendly conversation.

Visitors are welcome (donation) Pay us a Spring visit; the rain has to stop eventually come along. All details are on our website.

Gerry

NEWS FROM BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On Wednesday **3rd April**, Fergus Garrett, Head Gardener at Great Dixter will be giving a talk, ‘Succession Planting for a Long Season’ in the Cyprus Hall. Talk commences 7.45 pm, (doors open 7.15 pm). Small admission charge for visitors, BHHS members are free. For more info www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com or telephone **01444 245509**.

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TURNER-DUMBRELL FOUNDATION

Local naturalist Michael Blencowe held a packed audience spellbound during a 70-minute presentation at Ditchling Village Hall, at the launch of the Lodge Hill management plan on Saturday 24th February.

For those who missed out imagine David Attenborough's in-depth knowledge of all types of flora and fauna, focused on Lodge Hill and the local environment, but with plenty of laughs thrown in.

The presentation was the centrepiece of the event organised by the owner of Lodge Hill, the Turner-Dumbrell Foundation, and supported by our partners and other groups enhancing our local environment including: The Monday Group, Ditchling Village Orchard, Ditchling History Project, The Ditchling Society, Lost Woods and Batcheller Monkhouse.

The afternoon was rounded off with free refreshments and cakes, with the catering team dealing superbly with the turnout of around 100 local people.

The Turner-Dumbrell Foundation is following

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up Michael's presentation with a series of free nature walks on Lodge Hill, guided by him. They are now all fully subscribed, but we are hoping to be able to organise more later in the summer. Anyone wishing to go on the waiting list should contact the secretary via the Turner-Dumbrell website.

The five-year management 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).

It aims to enhance the environment on Lodge Hill, and the neighbouring Bowries Fields which the Turner-Dumbrell Foundation also owns, to nurture the existing flora and fauna and hopefully entice exciting additions.

Work has already started with Monday Group and SDNP volunteers clearing much of the bracken and brambles that have been choking less invasive native species on Lodge Hill.

Proposals to introduce more trees and new ponds to improve drainage of the site are also being considered.

John Wood

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HJFC DONATES PREVIOUS KIT



Hassocks Junior Football Club which provides footballing activities to over 300 youth players of Hassocks and the surrounding communities recently donated all their previous football kit to children and young people in Ghana, Africa. The Street to School project where football plays a big part for children in helping them access education and healthcare is called Akwaaba Volunteers.

Akwaaba Volunteers have been operating in Ghana since 2016 working with over 1000 young people and families in the local community. Jordan Palmer, who co-founded the project said,

“Our main aim is to Brighten the future of the next generation, alleviate poverty and create better opportunities for underprivileged children and disadvantaged communities in Accra”.

The project provides opportunities for children and young people who want to play sport to then get access to education, health care or good nutrition.

One of the Hassocks Juniors U14 football coaches and his family took five large bags of kit out to the project in Ghana (thanks to the BA Community Branch who provided free excess baggage) and personally delivered it on behalf of the club. They also offered some training and support to the under-13s team and coaches while they were out there. This was a great opportunity for junior footballers in Accra to learn from a junior football coach from the UK and also for the coach to learn from them. Coach Gordon Macleod said, *“I was inspired by the skills, quality of play but also dedication and commitment these young footballers have. They give it everything and appreciate every opportunity they get to play football.”*

He also found it moving to see how much the young people appreciated being given a kit and acknowledged the great work done by the project to give children in poverty opportunities to learn and thrive, all through playing football.

TO YOUNGSTERS IN GHANA

“It was also great for coaches and players back in Hassocks to see their kit go directly to the children who need it most. The kit was so popular that even children who don’t currently play football wanted to join in so that they could also have their own Hassocks football kit!”

Ex-Fulham Juniors Player King Boateng at Akwaaba Volunteers. We are using the power of sport to unite communities and give children a brighter future. We are so grateful to Hassocks FC and Gordon, Ewan and the family for donating to our Street to school project. New kits give the kids a sense of being part of a team and they look amazing too. Thank you to everyone for the support and we can’t wait to share their success in their new kits. Hassocks Junior Football Club Chairman Stuart Doyle was delighted to see the pictures of children and young people enjoying football in disadvantaged communities

on the other side of the world and to know that the kit had found a good home.

“Everyone at Hassocks Juniors is very proud of the work that we do as a club and to have people working in the club who want to see children in Ghana to benefit from football and enjoy having a good kit to play in.”

He adds that:

“Football is a game for everyone and it’s wonderful to be able to reach out through the sport to those less fortunate. We would like to thank coaches, parents and players for their kind donations of kits and boots.”

To Donate and find out more about Akwaaba Volunteers and the street-to-school football project see:

www.akwaabavolunteers.org.uk/

If you would like to support a child through sport and education, you can contact the project founders via the website.

Alison MacCleod





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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON Our Sunday services this month will be as follows:

Sundays **7th and 14th April** Morning Worship with Holy Communion and Little Beacons at 10 am in St. Margaret's Ditchling. We have the first of this year's Sunday afternoon services taking place at Streat Church at 3.30 pm on Sunday **14th April**. Come and celebrate with friends and enjoy a lovely cup of tea, delicious cakes and some great hymn singing!

If you need to brush up your vocal chords ready for that, why not come along to SING! in Ditchling Church earlier in the month as we meet at 6 pm on Wednesday **3rd April** to learn some new songs and sing some old favourites? All are welcome.

On Sunday **21st April** our Morning Worship with Holy Communion will be at St. Martin's in Westmeston at 10 am and we'll be holding one of our popular All Age Family Services with Holy Communion in St. Margaret's Ditchling at 10 am on Sunday **28th April**.

Our weekly Wednesday @ 10 service of Holy Communion continues but do check our website at www.beaconparish.co.uk/ for any changes to this and other events.

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GRANNIES ON THE RAMPAGE would like to say just a few thank you's following the Beatles Tribute Band Evening at Adastra Hall on 16th February.

Firstly, to the band for supporting us when we asked if we could do a dance routine to the track 'Don't stop me now'. The band had no idea what we were up to until the night.

To Chris Hobbs and Adastra Hall for supporting us allowing us to have a collection bucket for Teddy, and of course the audience. Between us all we collected £203.58 in our buckets.

Just wanted to share with you all and say a big thank you.

Grannies on the Rampage

Articles for the May 2024 issue

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ELF RECRUITMENT DRIVE Dear Villagers, Work for the next Light Up Hassocks began the day after the last one, but it begins in earnest in mid-summer and new elves are needed to be sure the event can go ahead. We are looking for: Management Elves - to plan and deliver the magical night.

The work isn't hard, but it requires commitment, with monthly meetings from now until October and then once a week from end of October, usually only an hour and organised to accommodate diaries, with some actions to be taken away and completed before the next one. The current team would tell you that we have a great laugh and have developed firm friendships. Management elves usually help on the day (see below), but that isn't obligatory.

Perks: meetings usually take place in one of our lovely local cafes. Stunning hi-viz and Santa hat to wear on the night! Making a big contribution to the local community.

Workshop Elves: Workshop elves help marshal the event on the day. They are friendly, smiley and love to wish people 'Season's Greetings!'. They ensure stalls are set up safely while the road is still open. They advise stallholders,

deal with any questions or problems (supported by the event coordinator), and regularly patrol the event area to ensure it is free from obstacles and other hazards to keep attendees and parade participants safe. They may support hired professional security staff if needed, to escort vehicles through the event site in the event of an emergency. They assist in the closing down of the event and any clearing up that may be necessary. Work begins at 2 pm and finishes at approximately 8 pm (with a break), but 2/3 hour shifts can be accommodated.

Perks: use of a walkie-talkie, fashion-forward hi-viz and Santa hat. Making a big contribution to the local community.

If you are interested in either role please contact: **lightuphassocks@gmail.com**.

Erika Woodhurst-Trueman

THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB will only meet twice in April. Will **not be** meeting on **1st April** as this is Easter Monday. However, we will be meeting on Monday **15th and 29th April** at 7.30 pm in the URC Church Hall. The **15th April** is our AGM, but don't let that put you off coming if this would be your first meeting. It doesn't take very long.

In May we will only meet on the **20th May** however, this will be followed by **3rd June** with our annual dance at Ditchling. More details can be found on our website **www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk**.

Sean Goddard



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No previous experience is necessary! Are your skills perhaps related to social media and publicity? We'd certainly appreciate your expertise in that area.

By the way, anyone interested in acting too? Everyone is welcome – we are very keen to meet you and share our knowledge and experience with the next generation of volunteers, and to take the Players forward. Our lovely theatre needs your

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skills and enthusiasms so come along on **17th April** and join the gang. *Jo Kearns*

DITCHLING DOWNS WI Our meeting on 6th February was held on yet another wet and blustery evening and once again thank you to all who came despite the weather.

Our speaker was Lady Teviot and her talk was entitled "Kill or Cure - Medicine in the 19th Century" We learnt that death certificates did not appear until mid 19th century and that the cause of death was not at all obvious occasionally even being recorded as "a visitation from God"! More information was given about diseases that were prevalent during that period, about the start of vaccinations and about the doctors who pioneered such things. All in all, a very informative talk.

Our **2nd April** meeting is the first of the new WI year - a good time for new members to join. In addition to the AGM, we will also have a talk by Sarah Oldridge on "Marianne North - a remarkable Victorian Flower Painter."

Do please come along – 7 pm at the Village Hall, Ditchling. *Suzanne Pryde*



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HHDU3A MONTHLY MEETING 'Orkas and Auks' was the title of the HHDu3a Monthly Meeting. Michael Blencowe took us on a virtual journey discovering wildlife around British coastline. Here were gannets dive bombing into the waters and storm petrels bobbing on the waves. Once believed to be water-witches the real story is even more legendary: weighing less than an ounce they still undertake epic migrations to South and West Africa. Inland we met golden Hares and giant Wrens. But back to auks. We were introduced to the UK species including puffins and guillemots. And orcas, or killer whales, who share the sea around Sussex with the long-finned pilot whale and the bottlenose, harbour and short-beaked common dolphins. We learnt of stick insects where, with males scarce, the females breed solo. Unfortunately, not all our wild life is as resilient: global warming means puffins can no longer find the



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sand eels they feed on, gannet numbers have plummeted, victim of avian flu, dolphins get entangled in discarded fishing nets. But Michael cheered us with news of whale numbers increasing once hunting stopped and clearing islands of cats and rats has helped ground nesting birds raise their chicks. For more information see www.u3asites.org.uk/hhd/welcome.

Jeremy Weinstein

STAR CINEMA Friday 19th April at Adastral Hall. The Miracle Club is a story of faith and forgiveness, heartbreak and healing, regret and redemption. Starring Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates and Laura Linney. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets available on the door. Tea, coffee, wine, raffle. The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Edmunds



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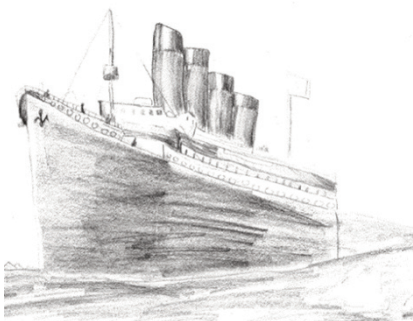
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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 3 had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a day of Greek fun! We had some visitors who were brilliant actors and took us on a journey through Ancient Greece. We saw what life was like, took part in some Greek mythology and played with some amazing props. We have also been looking at the different foods they ate in Ancient Greece. We sampled ingredients including olives, feta, cucumber, tomatoes, red onion and pitta bread and then we designed our very own signature dishes.



The week before half term, the children in Year 4 travelled back in time to 1912. Dressing up to look their best, they imagined stepping on board Titanic, dancing and experiencing life as a passenger travelling in either 1st, 2nd or 3rd class. Each child had been researching a real Titanic passenger and saw life on board through their eyes. JK Theatre Arts led a drama and dance workshop for us and we were so impressed by the children's acting and role-playing skills, their thirst for knowledge and empathy for the characters. Back in class, we wrote postcards home to our loved ones and produced some wonderful artwork of the ship. At the end of the day, we shared scenes from our day and enjoyed watching each class per-

form a dance to either a waltz, ragtime jazz or Irish jig.

To enhance and bring alive their space topic, Year 5 visited the Science Museum. The 'Exploring Space' exhibition on the ground floor was a sight to behold and the children immediately got started on a treasure hunt, finding objects around the room. This ranged from the giant Apollo II to perhaps the strangest object; a 'space nappy'! We also climbed to the very top of the museum to experience the brilliant 'Flight' exhibition, full of fascinating aircraft and aeronautical inventions. We were also lucky enough to experience an educational show - Mission to Space - which was filled with amazing experiments, rockets and even some pyrotechnics!

Year 6 are fully engrossed in their history topic at the moment, with World War II as the focus of our learning. So far, we have learnt about; the state that Germany was in after World War I, The Treaty of Versailles and Hitler's rise to power, Britain's declaration of war, and two of the three *key* turning points in World War II (Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain). The children have been debating which of these turning points was more of a success story for Britain, weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of both events.

Our Year 6 basketball team attended the Sussex county-wide basketball finals in Littlehampton. After some exceptional victories and one hard-fought draw we fell to a narrow defeat at the very last hurdle leaving us Sussex-county runners up: 2nd out of 232 primary schools! We are so proud of these incredible basketballers for their incredible commitment to the sport. '

on behalf of The Windmills'



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SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING

CLUB My last report on the activities of our group featured the partly discarded walk around the re-wilding area of Knepp Castle due to heavy rainfalls. Unfortunately, nothing has changed and the past month has seen walk leaders struggling to find alternative pathways where a collection of mud and water doesn't go inside our boots.

Puddles have turned into ponds, grassy fields have become swamps and tiny streams are now fast flowing rivers.

Fortunately, SPRC has a superb committee and changes to our programme can be made quickly. This is backed up by a members' group email informing everyone of last minute changes.

I did walk around the country lanes of Storrington a few days ago and my spirits were lifted by the sight of thousands of Spring flowers plus beautiful camellias and magnolias.

At present, our programme for April starts in Ditchling and Chiddingly then moves on to Brighton and Littlehampton. Angmering, Bolney and Thakeham are next and finally an 8 mile walk starting at Warnham.

There is no need to book a place on our walks, just turn up and introduce yourself to the leader. However, bearing in mind the horrendous rain falls which, at the time of writing, seem determined to continue, a regular daily check on walks on our website is imperative

www.sussexpathfinders.gov.uk

Diann Clarke

ASIAN HORNET May I ask everyone to be very aware of a new insect that has come from Asia initially, and now in Europe. It is already attacking hives and people in Jersey and a few have been seen in the UK. This hornet is **not** our European hornet (which is like a huge wasp, with red legs- noisy but usually timid).



The new Asian hornet is brown and has **ONLY 1 YELLOW STRIPE** near its tail end. It has **YELLOW** legs and is slightly smaller than the European. But it is nasty, can be aggressive and will destroy bee hives. If you happen to see one, **please don't kill it.** but trap it under a glass (so we can try to trace the nest it came from), then ring Ken Isted **01273 842458**, Heather McNiven **01825 722066** or Manek Dubash **07762 312592** or Notify the Great British Non Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) immediately. This is becoming an emergency that beekeepers do not need. Neither do you.

Thank you, Hassocks. *Heather McNiven*

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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 by growing with others.

This month we will have seedlings to share. Come and see what's on offer!

Saturday **6th April** 10.30am to 12 pm.
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

Julie, Catherine and Imke

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BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY **SPRING CONCERT**

At our spring concert, Burgess Hill Choral Society will perform Haydn's uplifting *The Creation*, an enduringly firm favourite with concert audiences.

Inspired by Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn depicts a dazzling vision of the Genesis creation story in a work which is full of drama and light. It reminds listeners of the beauty of the natural world and, despite the problems in society, the potential for harmony.

There are many reasons to love this work: many are drawn to its majestic choruses as well as wonderful solos. The orchestral accompaniment is also very important in its painting of pictures of the creation story, for example the emergence from chaos and formation of animals. Few doubt *The Creation* is a choral masterpiece.

The concert takes place on Saturday **20th April** at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG. Tickets (students free) are available from Burgess Hill Help Point,

at:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshillchoral,
on the door, by phone **07522 493966** or visit our website at
www.burgesshillchoral.org. *Jane Leng*



Opening Hours

Monday - Saturday
9.00am - 5.30pm

Contact us on
01273 843946

Email: reception@hassocks eyecare.co.uk
or book online www.hassockseyecare.co.uk

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website
is now up
and running!**

**You can now see
'What's On'
at the pub
in April**



FRIDAY 5TH & 19TH
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FRIDAY 19TH APRIL
8PM

**HASSOCKS
COMEDY**



TUESDAY 23RD APRIL
8PM

**MID SUSSEX
MUSIC HALL "TRÉ
BURT TRAFFIC
FICTION TOUR"**



FRIDAY 26TH APRIL
5PM

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HURSTPIERPOINT OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 16th June, 1 to 5.30 pm.

The Hurstpierpoint Open Gardens team is delighted to announce this year's event which will be held on the above date. It's a big challenge to surpass the successes of the previous events but we're going all out to make sure that we do again and give visitors a wonderful time.

There will be gardens majestic and handkerchief-sized; from manicured to those with a little left to nature; contemporary and traditional with flowers, shrubs, trees, views and always something round that corner to please the eye and satisfy the curiosity. Of course, there'll be all the extras like gardens to stop and rest your feet - with moreish home-made cakes, tea to sip while listening to soothing live music. There'll be stalls to buy a little something and - most important of all for the gardeners - lots of varieties of plants for sale - all grown locally.

We're at the stage where we're still on the lookout for some more gardens so, if you are in Hurst and would like to volunteer - this is a fabulous day. Here's what one gardener said after opening their garden last year.

I am an enthusiastic and seasoned punter of Open Gardens events across Sussex and Hampshire. They are always an inspiring and motivating celebration of peoples' outside personal spaces shared for the joy they bring and for charitable ends. I fought my imposter syndrome which questioned whether my 10m by 7.75m north facing back garden with challenging clay soil was

worthy or sufficiently interesting and, setting aside my doubts, agreed to take part. The bubble of chatter from the constant flow of visitors snaking to and from the garage all afternoon dispelled any misgivings I may have had. It was lovely to take part and maybe my garden has inspired you."

All proceeds from the day are donated to our local St. Peter and St. James Hospice.

Your garden doesn't have to be perfect!

If you are interested in finding out more about opening your gardens, hosting a stall of your locally made goodies, donating cakes and/or plants, please call **07769 904724/01273 835064** or email **prue.heron@gmail.com**. You can also message via our website **www.hurstpierpointopengardens.co.uk** or see our Facebook page Hurstpierpoint Open Gardens.

You can help to make a huge difference to our contribution to our local St. Peter and St James Hospice in one afternoon and enjoy the experience as well, just like our gardener above.

Prue Peters

GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING

will be holding events throughout the year on the first Tuesday evening of every month. Look out for our posters around the village and on social media and sign up to our newsletter by emailing us on **greenerhassocksditchling@gmail.com**. On **2nd April** we will be getting ready for 'No Mow May' so come and find out about how to encourage wildflowers and pollinators in your garden or nearby green space and pick up some seeds to get started! Proper Cafe 7.30 pm.

Beth

A TREAT, NOT JUST FOR BEATLES FANS!

George Harrison wrote some of the Beatles' most beautiful songs (Here Comes the Sun, Something...). During his solo career he continued to create masterpieces.


Alex Eberhard and Bernd Rest from the now legendary All Things Must Pass Orchestra, have arranged many of his songs for an intimate duo setting.



Celebrating the music of
GEORGE HARRISON

The Duo **ALL THINGS MUST PASS**

"Perfect... Thanks for paying my dad so much respect..."
DHANI HARRISON



Doors 7.30pm
APR 27 DITCHLING
Village Hall

TICKETS
allthingsmustpass.co.uk

Bring your own
drinks and snacks

Even Dhani Harrison, George's son was very impressed with the Duo's offering.

That was perfect... thanks for paying my dad so much respect..." *Dhani Harrison, following a performance by the duo in Henley in 2021*

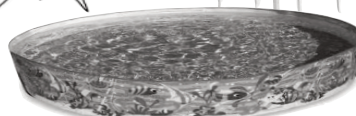
"Alex Eberhard ... captures the subtleties, colour and power that infuse so many of George's songs..." *Henley Herald*

"Great music, great musicians, a great evening. Very, very special indeed." *Chichester Observer*

Alex & Bernd will be performing their programme at The Ditchling Village Hall on **27th April**.

Tickets are available at
www.allthingsmustpass.co.uk

Buckets & Spades • Sandcastle Flags
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Balls • Character Balls • Badminton Sets
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THE SOUTH DOWNS

I love heading out at the weekends for a hike over the Downs - but 90 million years ago, this part of the planet wouldn't have been a safe place to be. I'd have been busy avoiding the teeth of hungry aquatic predators like the 10-metre-long Mosasaurs as I cruised through a shallow sea. But it would be much smaller, less fearsome prehistoric organisms that would shape Sussex. The calcium shells from microscopic marine algae slumped to the sea floor and millions of years of pressure and erosion moulded them into the curvaceous chalk hills that form the familiar foundations of the South Downs.

It only feels like yesterday (well, about 6,500 years ago) that we humans showed up and got to work. The wild Sussex woods were chopped down and eventually sheep grazing became the dominant activity on the cleared hills for many centuries. The sheep-nibbled short downland turf is an internationally rare habitat, rich in flowers and the creatures that depend on them.

And, as chalk downland is such a rare habitat, the species that live here are also uncommon. Our butterflies are a prime example. Species like the Grayling, Silver-spotted Skipper, Small Blue, Adonis Blue and Chalk Hill Blue are restricted to this special habitat.

But it's not just wildlife that benefits. Those porous chalk hills filter, store, and provide us with most of our water. They also offer loads of other free services from flood prevention to pollination and food production. The open countryside around Sussex also offers us immeasurable physical, mental and spiritual benefits. The South Downs were designated a National Park in 2011.

While writing this article, I discovered a letter penned in 1915 by the Lewes naturalist, W.E. Nicholson, expressing concern for the future of the South Downs around Lewes, and especially the rare Adonis Blue butterfly and scarce Forester Moth that live there. I'd like to think that Mr. Nicholson would be re-assured to know that, more than a century later, his beloved Lewes Downs, butterflies and moths are still just where he left them and all flourishing under the care of Sussex Wildlife Trust on their reserves at Malling Down and Southerham.

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



Useful Information

OUT OF HOURS CHEMIST

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

Hurstpierpoint - 01273 832609
Hassocks - 01273 842779
 Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9am - 1pm
 & Thurs., Fri. 1 - 5pm

HASSOCKS FOOD BANK

Open to anyone in need of support. Held in
 Powell House (next to United Reformed Church),
 Hassocks. 10am to 12noon. Every Monday and
 Friday. Drop donations to Bella and Megs,
 Mansell McTaggart & Budgens in Hassocks

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
01243 642106.
EAST SUSSEX Ham Lane, Lewes, BN7 3PS
 9am to 4pm daily www.eastsussex.gov.uk
0845 355 0550

PARISH COUNCILS

Hassocks - 01273 842714
www.hassockspc.net.
 Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 2pm, Fri 10am - 12pm.
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common
01273 833264
www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
 Mon.- Fri. 9.30am - 1pm.
Ditchling - 01273 844733
www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk

DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

are at the following locations in the parish. In an emergency please dial 999 to access them:

HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON

Sayers Common Community Shop, London Road, Sayers Common
Village Centre Library Entrance, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 40 High Street, Hurstpierpoint
Bowling Club, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint
Court Buses Community Hub, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint
Fairfield Recreation Ground, Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint

DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

Ditchling Village Hall,
 Streat Church and Westneston Church

Hassocks - Defibrillator Locations

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

What's On in April

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

BEACON PARISH APRIL SERVICES Morning Worship 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling **7th & 14th** (inc. Little Beacons) and **28th** (Family Service) and St Martins Westmeston on **21st**. Afternoon Service at 3.30 pm at Streat Church on **14th** with refreshments and great hymn singing.

Wednesday@10 (am) Holy Communion weekly 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.

BBT - Hassocks (Bumps, Babies & Toddlers) - St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks. Thursdays 1-2.30 pm. A group for play & chat.
DITCHLING MORRIS - Practise Thursday at United reformed Church Hall at 7.30 pm. Pop in if you feel like joining.

DITCHLING 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 to 8 pm. Pool, table tennis, games consoles & lots of activities finishing with circle time and prayers

HEARTS OF SUSSEX BRIDGE CLUB - Mondays online and Tuesdays Age Concern Hassocks. See www.hsobcbridgeclub.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.

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) 3-5 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 English lessons start at 1 pm

YOUTH GROUP at St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks. Thursday 5-6.30 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

2nd DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. Annual Meeting plus 'Marianne North - A Remarkable Victorian Flower Painter'. Sarah Oldridge

2nd GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Proper Coffee Shop, Hassocks 7.30 to 9 pm. 'No Mow May' find out about wildflowers and polinators in your garden and pick up some seeds to get started.

3rd BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors open 7.15 pm. 'Succession Planting for a Long Season' Fergus Garrett. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com

3rd BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

3rd HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm The Players Theatre with Jo Kearns. Visitors welcome call 01273 649023

3rd THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

4th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 'The Banshees of Inisherin'.

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

4th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 8 pm. 'The Hanging Stars'. For more info and tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

6th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 - 5 pm. Open Afternoon with tours of the mill. Refreshments, gifts and memorabilia.

6th 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.

6th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email tamarajanebaxter@yahoo.co.uk.

6th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 11 am. (Mens) The Robins take on Bexhill United. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

7th DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome plus meet our new choirmaster.

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

8th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thegroup.org.uk.

9th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Art and the Garden' An interactive and fun talk by multi-media artist Michael Joseph.

12th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Construction Contest, Refreshments available'. All welcome.

13th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

13th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 6.30- 8.30 pm. Newcomers Party - See article. Refreshments provided. Book a free ticket at www.ditchling.com

14th GILBERT & SULLIVAN Wivelsfield Village Hall. 2.45 pm. Patience (concert version) starring Godalming Operatic Society. Tickets include refreshments email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

15th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Hall, Hassocks, www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk. All welcome no partner needed plus AGM.

15th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Who Dunnit?'. How to investigate a murder the old fashioned way. Visitors welcome.

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

17th HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint 6.30 pm. Taster Session for more info 01273 834356

17th HURST PLAYERS 7.30 pm. Our lovely theatre needs your skills and enthusiams. Come and join to see about volunteering to take the Players forward. www.hurstplayers.org.uk.

17th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

18th AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue 1.30 pm. 'Sundown Ukelele Band'.

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

19th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'The Miracle Club'. Tickets available on the door. Refreshments available.

20th HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint 10.30 am. Taster Session for more info 01273 834356

20th BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm Haydn's 'The Creation'. www.burgesshill-choral.org. Tickets 07522 493966.

20th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Newhaven. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

20th 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.

21st DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New members always warmly welcomed.

23rd MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 8 pm. 'Tre Burt & Skyway Man'. For more info and tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

24th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Beeding and Bramber Village Hall 7 - 10 pm. AGM, Members demo Barry Chidlow. All welcome

25th POLICE BEAT SURGERY Southdowns Garden Centre, Hassocks 11 am - 1 pm. Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.

25th BEREAVEMENT WELL-BEING GROUP Clayton Wood, Natural Burial Ground, Brighton Road, Clayton 10 am - 12 noon.

Come and meet others who understand what you are going through. www.bereavement-care.uk.

25th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hutton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

26th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 8 pm 'Ouse Valley' Ian Everest. All welcome.

26th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 6.30 pm setup 7.15 pm start. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Surplus Equipment Sale, Upstairs' Refreshments, burgers and cakes. All welcome.

26th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. '100 Piers' Paul Tracey preceded by a short AGM. Includes refreshments.

27th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk.

27th ALL THE THINGS MUST PASS ORCHESTRA Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Celebrating the music of George Harrison. Tickets www.allthingsmustpass.co.uk.

27th REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or www.hkd-transition.org.uk.

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

29th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

29th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Hall, Hassocks, www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk. All welcome no partner needed.

WANTED If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included in this magazine please email us at ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or visit QD Stationery

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

It's a funny thing how some things you remember so clearly as if they happened yesterday when other more important events seemed to drop into the memory ravine never to be remembered again. I only mention this because when I was at school our history teacher was Wing Commander Smith a lot of ex-servicemen retrained as teachers after the war. He was a kind patient man who obviously enjoyed his job, unlike our maths teacher Mr Smurthwaite who was an excellent shot with the blackboard rubber, not a very patient man who soon lost his temper if he thought you weren't concentrating. To be honest maths was not my favourite subject mainly because I wasn't very good at it, as far as I was concerned once I had learnt my times table it was job done. On the plus side I became an excellent blackboard rubber dodger probably the only thing I ever came top of my class in! However, I did enjoy history very much and it was a lot more interesting than maths especially when we did Roman Britain, that was a remarkable era. Did you know the Romans invented self repairing concrete something which we've never been able to replicate mainly because we can't work out how they did it. What I'm leading up to in a very convoluted way is the Romans were very good at communication they were forever sending messages. After the Roman invasion of Britain probably a few years into it, one of Caesar's top generals, whose name I can't remember, Maximus Peronius probably, sent a message home to Caesar detailing several important issues but ending with a question, "Why on earth did we invade this country all it does is rain and morale is very low?" So you see all those years ago and it still rains a lot, there is nothing sinister about it weather patterns come and go there is nothing you can do about it. In my mind you don't have to glue yourself to anything or deface works of art, nothing will change what weather has done for thousands of years in this country - rain a lot!

I've not heard a lot about the National Tyres site I think we're waiting for some revised plans. In the meantime, did you know that on the same piece of ground a large house existed called Dale House which is what Dale Avenue was named after. The house was owned by Walter Hamilton and his second wife Ellen Adlele. They had a son Anthony Patrick Hamilton who was born on 17th March 1904, he grew up to be a playwright and novelist. He wrote two books in his early 20's - Craven House and Two Pence Coloured - which were moderately successful but his first real success was a play called Rope - this taut psychological thriller was eventually made into a film directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring James Stewart. He also wrote Gaslight and Hanover Square both made into films and hugely successful but it's the film Gaslight which has provided the world with the term gaslighting which we now know is a term used to describe the process where individuals can be manipulated so that they lose their resilience and question their own perception of reality and make them think they're going mad. At his peak in the 1930's he was one of Britain's most successful authors with vast global sales and he was born in Hassocks.

Anthony Patrick Hamilton playwright and novelist who invented the term 'gaslighting' died aged 58 on the 23rd September 1962, perhaps we can persuade the owners of the new development when it's built to call it Hamilton Place?

Villa Adastra, which does a great job looking after our aging community when they can no longer do it themselves, are getting desperate to find staff. They've had a recruitment drive recently but need a lot more - so if you're looking for a job and fancy helping others then get in touch with Villa Adastra on Keymer Road they'd love to hear from you.

Before I ride off into the sunset, I'd liked to remind you that we're the only place round here now that is licenced to sell horse wormers and don't forget our low low prices for bedding.

SHAVINGS £10.50 BEDMAX £8.50 BURLY CHOPPED STRAW £8.75 AUBOISE & AUBICHICK £11.50 WOOD PELLETS £8.75 STRAW or MISCANT-HEUS PELLETS £7.50 plus many others and lots of other stuff as well including Dunlop Wellington Boots £16.50. As always whenever you can support your local businesses. Thank you Steve.

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392