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Magazine published by **Q.D. STATIONERY & SERVICES LTD**

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

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**COUNCILLORS SURGERY.** Held in Hassocks Parish Centre. Gordon Marples & Michelle Binks will be holding a surgery on Thursday **17th January** 2 pm - 3 pm. No appointments necessary. Gordon can be contacted on **01273 843643** or email [gordonm440@btinternet.com](mailto:gordonm440@btinternet.com) Michelle can be contacted on **07505 123149** or email [michelle.binks@midsussex.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.binks@midsussex.gov.uk)

Sue Hatton(MSDC) & Kirsty Lord (WSCC) Sue can be contacted on **07821 351411** or email [suebillhatton@btinternet.com](mailto:suebillhatton@btinternet.com) Kirsty can be contacted on **07952 643623** or email [kirsty.lord@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.lord@westsussex.gov.uk)

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### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

#### **HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING FIRST RESPONDERS**

**Thurs. 3rd Jan. 7.30 pm**

#### **BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY**

**Mon. 7th Jan. 7.30 pm** at URC Hall, Junction Road Burgess Hill. Spring Season starts new members welcome

#### **HURSTPIERPOINT SINGERS**

**Mon. 7th Jan. 7.30 pm**

#### **HASSOCKS EVENING JAZZ**

**Tues. 8th Jan. 8 pm**

#### **DITCHLING DOWNS WI**

**Tues. 8th Jan. 7 pm**

#### **DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT**

**Wed. 9th Jan. 2 - 5 pm**

#### **HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**Wed. 9th Jan. 8 pm**

#### **DITCHLING WI**

**Thurs. 10th Jan. 2.15 pm**

#### **HENFIELD ARTS SOCIETY**

**Thurs. 10th Jan. 2 pm**

#### **Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church Hall**

Training Night - New members welcome

Rehearsals start for Spring Concert at Hurst Methodist Church Hall

#### **Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks**

Trad Jazz Evening. All welcome

#### **Old Meeting House, Ditchling**

Lowland Rescue - Dai Thomas

#### **The White Horse Restaurant, Ditchling**

Come along and share your knowledge of Ditchling and ask any questions

#### **Adastra Hall, Hassocks**

Cacti & Succulents - Suzanne Mace

#### **Ditchling Village Hall**

My Boyhood in Ditchling - Dick Morley

#### **Henfield Hall, Coopers Way**

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**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLAYTON & KEYMER WOMENS SECTION** Legion HQ, Woodland Road  
**Thurs. 10th Jan. 3 pm** Card Bingo  
**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Ditchling Village Hall  
**Thurs. 10th Jan. 7.30 pm** Film - Loveless. Cert 15  
**HENFIELD ARTS SOCIETY** Henfield Hall, Coopers Way  
**Mon. 14th Jan. 2.30 pm** Courtly Etiquette in the Middle Ages - Imogen Corrigan. Guests Welcome  
**DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION** Ditchling Village Hall  
**Tues. 15th Jan. 10 - 11.30 am** The Coffee Morning will be run by Friends of Ditchling Museum  
**STAR CINEMA** Adastra Hall, Hassocks  
**Fri. 18th Jan. 7 pm** Mamma Mia! Here we go Again  
**HURST, HASOCKS & DITCHLING U3A** Adastra Hall, Hassocks  
**Fri. 18th Jan. 2 pm** View from the Wings - Brian Freeland  
**HASOCKS WI** Adastra Hall, Hassocks  
**Mon. 21st Jan. 7.45 pm** Resolutions  
**HASOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD** Age Concern, Hassocks  
**Tues. 22nd Jan. 2.30 pm** Diving to the Titanic - R Goldsmith  
**HASOCKS AND HURSTPIERPOINT LABOUR BRANCH** Purple Carrot, Hassocks  
**Fri. 25th Jan. 2 - 3 pm** Meet for a cuppa and a chat - A warm welcome to all  
**MID SUSSEX HEALTHCARE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP** Hurstpierpoint Village Centre  
**Sat. 26th Jan. 2.15 pm** 'New Year New Things To Do' - Mid Sx Older People's Council  
**CHURCHES TOGETHER** United Reformed Church, Hassocks  
**Sat. 26th Jan. 10 am - 12 pm** Messy Church - Activity morning for adults and children with refreshments  
**HASOCKS VILLAGE MARKET** National Tyres Forecourt  
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## DITCHLING SINGERS

Sun. 6th Jan. 4 - 6 pm

Rehearsals at Old Meeting House, Ditchling - Open to all more info 01273 844818

Sun. 20th Jan. 4 - 6 pm

Rehearsals at Keymer Church Hall, Keymer - Open to all more info 01273 844818

## HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY

Mon. 14th Jan. 7.45 pm

**Adastra Hall, Hassocks**

Mon. 28th Jan. 7.45 pm

Gongoozling for Beginners - Neil Sadler. All welcome  
The Search for Wallaces Spider - Ray Hale. All welcome

## HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

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## KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB

Mon. 7th Jan. 7.30 - 9.30 pm

## United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks

Club Callers. All welcome

Mon. 21st Jan. 7.30 - 9.30 pm

Sean Goddard. All welcome

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Mon. 14th Jan. 7.30 pm

Meeting at Mid Sussex Golf Club with speaker from Know Dementia

Fri. 25th Jan. 7.30 pm

Burns Night Supper at Mid Sussex Golf Club



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A digital watch found outside Downlands School in December. A small Animal Jam toy found in Downsview Road, A childs character bobble hat, also a ring all handed in from Light Up Hassocks night. A black wallet in Adastra Park at the end of October, a single door key with a

leather fob found at the end of October

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**PUBLICITY OPPORTUNITIES AT OLDLAND WINDMILL** 2018 was another very successful year for Oldland Mill. Despite the major task of refurbishing two sweeps during the summer of 2018 and the interruption this caused in the regular milling activities, a lot of milling was carried out in advance of the refurbishment to build up a stock of flour for sale. This enabled us to maintain the supply to our regular outlets. After rehanging the sweeps, we again focussed on milling to replenish our stock of flour in the Autumn so as not to disappoint all our many customers.

As we always anticipated, running a working windmill is very different to restoring a windmill, but we have created a milling team of volunteers who enjoy the excitement - and challenge - of controlling the windmill. There is very great satisfaction in standing inside the windmill as she grinds away, swaying slightly to the rhythmic rotation of the wind shaft as fine white flour pulses out from the spout. But to ensure that the mill runs reliably and safely we need to attract a steady income to cover

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the regular maintenance and insurance costs.

Our Promotion and Fund-raising Team look after all aspects of publicity including designing and printing the A4 posters on display in the village before open days, designing and printing various mill leaflets and cards of all descriptions for sale in aid of mill funds, and ensuring that notice of our events appear in the local press. The team also explore opportunities to sell more flour and raise funds by other means. The team meets every two to three months and the meetings (which are informal and good fun!) rarely last more than one and a half hours. We have recently lost a couple of regular team members and are looking for replacements. We're particularly interested in attracting some more volunteers who are social media savvy and interested in working with our Web Master to ensure that our website remains current. If this opportunity appeals to you or you would like more information, please contact me Fred Maillardet on **01273 842342**. Similarly, if you know of somebody who might be interested, please ask them to get in touch with me. 2019 will be another exciting year for Oldland Windmill with the second pair of sweeps being refurbished. Why not become a part of the team?

*Fred Maillardet*

**MESSY CHURCH** is a morning of activities for adults and children with refreshments and food for thought. Why not come along and try the activities or just pop in for coffee, tea, cake and a chat. Organised by Churches Together in Hassocks the next Messy Church will be on Saturday **26th January** between 10 am and 12 noon at Hassocks United Reformed Church. There is no charge and all are welcome.

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**HASSOCKS WI** What a lovely productive evening we had at our November meeting, with ladies producing Christmas crafts, although it has to be said, there was as much chatting as working going on. Many of the craft items were sold on our stall at Light Up Hassocks, along with the usual delicious cakes and produce. What a fantastic evening that was. It was lovely to see so many people coming to our stall, and we completely sold out of everything. Our WI ladies were also responsible for the judging of the best dressed Christmas window competition. The windows looked really festive, and with so many wonderful entries this year we had some hard decisions to make.

This month the fun of the festive season is over, and on **21st January** we're back to business - the business of discussing the resolutions for 2019. The resolutions stem from the concerns of our members, and all suggestions put forward are whittled down to a shortlist of 6. These are debated in every WI, and every member has a vote to decide which resolution will form the basis for the next national campaign. Just in case we get too serious, there will be light-hearted entertainment to follow.

Hopefully, this will be the start of another exciting year of WI activities. Why don't you come and join us? Adas-tra Hall. 7.45 pm. 3rd Monday in the month. Check out our website [wihassocks.org.uk](http://wihassocks.org.uk) for further information.

*Maureen Dodd*



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**CROHN'S DISEASE RESEARCH** A Christmas card I received from CICRA (Crohn's in Childhood Research Association) wishes you all a Happy and Healthy 2019 and thanks you for the support given to them during 2018. I have sent a cheque for £900 being monies raised mainly from the successful concert in June and also from the collecting boxes that Kevin Thorne, the butcher in Market Place, Burgess Hill keeps for CICRA. I thank Kevin and his staff for their help and, of course his kind customers, too.

My thanks, too, to our own butcher here in Hassocks, Andy Twine who also houses a collecting box on his counter just waiting for the odd change to come its way. Thank you everyone.

I cannot believe that I am having to tell you that there will be no 'Variety Show' in June this year due to my problems. I am sure you can imagine how bitterly disappointed I am as the shows have not only raised a lot of money over the years but it also kept the serious illness of Crohn's Disease to the fore in our local communities. It goes without saying that I always thoroughly enjoyed producing them and I hope you had enjoyment, too from the concert evenings.

If anyone wishes to donate to CICRA or would be willing to house a collecting tin please ring me on **01273 845291** - I will be pleased to speak to you. I have to thank everyone for their generosity over the years which

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has raised over £83,000 to date and I shall be doing my best to keep that total improving. I wish you all a Healthy and Happy 2019.

*Dorrie*

### DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH of THE

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION:** On behalf of the Chairman, Tom Jones, and the Branch Committee, we would like to thank all the shops, businesses, our wonderful door-to-door Collectors, Poppy Knitters, St Margaret's School and to everyone who has supported and helped with the 2018 Poppy Appeal. This year our total has reached well over £5,000 which is a record amount for the Branch. Therefore, please accept a very heartfelt thank you to each and everyone of you who has given so generously to our Branch Poppy Appeal and a huge thank you on behalf of those who will now benefit from your support.

*Margaret Bovill*

**DITCHLING SINGERS** Why not start the New Year by joining a friendly choir? If you enjoy singing popular songs why not give the Ditchling Singers a try? No auditions and the first session is free. We rehearse on alternative Sundays.

Our January dates are Sunday **6th January** from 4 to 6 pm, in the Old Meeting House in Ditchling, and Sunday **20th January** from 4 to 6 pm at Keymer Church Hall. Just come along or contact Julie on **01273 844818** or Christine on **01273 846098**.

*Julie and Christine*

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**AWARDS SUCCESS** This term Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club has presented a record 175 British Gymnastics Awards. Each award is the result of coaching gymnasts in the performance of ten skills from the nationwide proficiency award scheme. Each gymnast is tested by our team of coaches and then the end of term sees the presentation of the awards gained.

Well done to all the gymnasts and coaches in this achievement. Mid Sussex District Council are thanked for funding this term's awards.

Junior & Senior gymnasts will now be turning their attention to the 20th Arts Competition, creating sports acrobatic group sixes, ribbon or beam pairs and hoop solo routines. Just like the awards, entry to the competition is free with gymnasts themselves choosing which parts of the competition to enter.

If there are any children who think they would like to try Gymnastics, at the time of writing, the Club has vacancies in January for girls on Wednesdays and Thursdays, for Junior age boys on Tuesdays and Pre-school girls on Friday afternoons. There are short waiting lists for pre-school boys and Infant / Key Stage One boys.

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*Andrew Hair*

### **YOUR LOCAL CRICKET CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Do you have a spare room that's not being used? Keymer and Hassocks cricket club are looking for some help ahead of the coming season.

We are looking for someone who would be able to house a young and respectable Australian player who will be spending the summer playing for the club and coaching the communities youngsters as well as working with local companies.

The club will pay a weekly fee for housing the individual and this can be discussed moving forward. We have had great success in the past with people housing individuals who have really enjoyed the experience.

If you would be interested or could help out in any way then please do get in touch with me on **07853 296787** or **Joeisted21@hotmail.com**.

*Joe Isted*

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**HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL** In May 2019 there will be local elections for the Parish and District Councils. The Parish Council which works solely for the local community consists of 15 councillors and these posts are all up for re-election. This is a really good opportunity for local residents to take on a role that helps to meet the needs of our community. To give you a flavour of what's involved I have written the following piece:

What the Parish Council does – Well there is the practical stuff like the Parish Office where you can get lots of local info including for example Bus Timetables, Planning Applications, info on local organisations as well as lots of other help if you don't know who to approach. Then there's running and maintaining Adastra Park and Memorial Garden both of which were gifted to the community by Edward Stafford; whilst it's quite unusual for a Parish to have a park (most are run by Mid Sussex Council) it does allow us to update it with facilities that local people use and currently there is a major project to improve the range of facilities over the next two years. We also own and manage two pieces of land – Parklands Copse where the access was improved a few years ago with a new footpath giving an attractive streamside walk which emerges into fields with lovely views of the South Downs and Talbot Field (on the road towards Hurst) which is kept as a managed wild area to support local wildlife and offer a spot for a quite wander or possibly even a family picnic. Oh yes and there's the Burial



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Ground at Keymer. We also do lots of other things that involve working with either Mid Sussex District or West Sussex County Councils. Sometimes we can only encourage them to take action that benefits the local community - But by providing some modest additional funding from the Parish we have been most effective in getting West Sussex to properly implement the Hassocks Traffic and Parking Scheme and also to improve a couple of local Footpaths and Bridleways – all against pressures to spend their budgets on other communities. Currently we are working on a revised Neighbourhood Plan with Mid Sussex with the aim of protecting the character of the Village which is a tough call given that the National Government has set housing targets for the District Council and that the Railway Station and Schools are seen by both Builders and Planners as a reason to focus on Hassocks. The Parish Council meets once a month to oversee the running of the council and there are a number of Committees that manage the facilities and projects that are underway. Meetings are normally held in the evening and the commitment can be as little as a couple of evenings per month although as they find projects that inspire them it's not unusual for individual councillors to increase their commitment from time to time.

If you find this interesting you can get further information from the Parish Clerk and the Website.

*Ian Weir*

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### ADASTRA PARK PROJECT UPDATE DECEMBER 2018

Since the consultation event in May, much work has been going on behind the scenes to progress improvements to the park using the Park Masterplan as our guide.

Garden of Remembrance - Improvements to the Garden of Remembrance had the greatest support from the consultation responses. During the consultation we asked for volunteers to work on the Garden, and as a result we are fortunate to have acquired a keen pool of dedicated people who have worked hard tidying borders, pruning trees and cutting hedges to prepare the area for the next stage of the work, which will involve planting borders and improving the pathways.

Rain Garden - As many of you may have noticed, the rain garden has now been installed in the South Field, Adastra Park. The garden is an initiative of HKD Transition and has been installed in partnership with the Parish Council. It is designed to help mitigate the effects of heavy rainfall on the drainage system, and, once es-

tablished, the garden will also provide some natural play value and be a feature within the park. A local company, Garden Sage, has kindly designed the planting scheme and provided plants for the rain garden, which HKD will maintain.

Both of the above projects have been excellent opportunities for partnership working with the community.

Wheel/Skatepark - We have appointed a project manager to oversee the development of this initiative, and the tender has now been advertised. It is anticipated that a preferred supplier(s) will have been selected in the New Year, and a public consultation will be held inviting those interested to view and comment on the proposed design(s). These responses will be valuable in helping to shape the final design.

We will be publicising further as the project progresses, but in the meantime please do look at the Parish Council website for this and other Parish news - [www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk).

*Ian Cumberworth, Parish Clerk.*

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**DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL** – Always Giving! The students at Downlands are very proud of their school uniform - from their black leather shoes to the bright red jumpers, they are instantly recognisable as Downlands students. But it was all change on Friday 2 November as we celebrated the birthday of Daisy Bushnell.

Daisy brought a smile to all our faces and one of her great loves was wearing crazy trainers - the brighter and more colourful the better. She was such a beautiful person - a real bright spark. Sadly, Daisy lost her battle with cancer last year but her spirit is very much with us.

So, to celebrate what would have been her 15th birthday, students and staff alike donned their crazy trainers. They came in all shapes and colours - from just trendy to really wacky! In exchange for a £1 donation and for one day only, students and staff were allowed to wear their trainers to school.

It was not always a very elegant picture - some female staff in lovely dresses with their running shoes - but we raised a whopping £1060, which we are donating to the Chestnut Tree House Hospice.

The Downlands Christmas Tree Forest raised an additional £150 for the Chestnut Tree House Hospice. We celebrated Children in Need with a non-uniform day in exchange for £1 donation and raised £1348 (with an additional £337 gift aid). The students also dipped into their pockets to raise money for SeeKenya who provide

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lifesaving eye care free of charge to those in need in Kenya. The Geography Department ran two events; a cake sale and crazy glasses day raising over £150.

Just before Christmas each tutor group was asked to make a hamper that would be delivered to a family in need over the Christmas period. We were humbled by the beautiful hampers that were created and hope they brought pleasure to the recipients.

As this goes to print we are planning our Christmas Jumper Day for the end of term which students and staff at Downlands love and which raises a considerable donation for the St Peters and St James Hospice.

Thank you to everyone - the generosity of our students and their families change lives.

*Nicki Burston*



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**DITCHLING WI** Our December meeting was our Christmas party. We enjoyed some games and a quiz. A lovely Christmas tea and, of course, a visit from Father Christmas with his sack of gifts, and a grand Raffle.

Our January meeting is on Thursday **10th January** at 2.15 pm in the Village Hall.

With Dick Morley - Ditchling Boyhood - 'My First Decade'. All are welcome.

*Briony Coomber*

#### **CLAYTON & KEYMER ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL NOVEMBER 2018**

At the close of The Poppy Appeal for 2018 our total amounted to £17,112.26 (yet another increase on previous years!).

We were again able to set up a stall at Southdown Garden Centre for the fortnight of The Appeal, with our own fantastic volunteers, helped by 'The West Sussex Military Trust at weekends.

A big thank you to every shop in Clayton, Keymer and Hassocks for having our collecting tins and Poppy boxes on their premises during the Fortnight of The Appeal.

Grateful thanks must also go to Mrs Stella Jenner for the innovative use she made of her artistic skills in her garden this year and offering tea and cakes to visitors this year to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1.

Proceeds from her labours amounted to £351.26 which she has kindly donated to The Appeal.

We still have a 'collection night' to come with the 'Light-Up-Hassocks' evening at the end of November, put on by our Club Volunteers at this very popular event.

I am so very grateful to everyone who gave up their time to help to achieve yet another increase in The Poppy Appeal funds for Clayton & Keymer Royal British Legion this year.

*Carol White*

**STAR CINEMA** - Friday **18th January** – an important date for your diary!

Here's our heart-warming film for the New Year – a great way to beat those January blues!

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Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm.

*Bob Kenhard*

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## **SOME 200 PEOPLE GATHERED FOR THE REMEMBRANCE BEACON AND WALKED UP CLAYTON HILL TO COMMEMORATE 100 YEARS WAR: BATTLE'S OVER.**

Last Post was performed by Julie from Mid Sussex Brass Band, the Beacon lit by Rob Ganpatsingh retired Captain from Royal Gurkha Rifle Regiment and Cry for Peace recited by Ian Weir from Hassocks Parish Council. The church bells tolled in Remembrance organised by Diana Webley-Ward. We raised £248.12 for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

Thank you to Knight's Budgens of Hassocks for donating the hot dogs and especially to Carol Smethurst for cooking them.

Thank you to Mid Sussex District Council for providing the community grant to fund the event, Gary giving us permission to use his field and Jill Windmill Society for illuminating their windmill.

Thank you Su for designing our poster.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who without them I could not have organised this event with Georgia Cheshire: Dan, Mike, Ian, Reggie, David, Fiona, Julian, my mum and dad and husband Nick, and my bucket collection helpers.

Thank you all for a very poignant and memorable Remembrance Sunday: Lest we forget.

For more information on this national tribute visit



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*Michelle Binks*

**DITCHING DOWNS WI** Our speaker for November was Nancy Strafford on the subject of "Anecdotes of an Air Hostess". She treated us to a lively and amusing description of her many years working for British Caledonian. She had had an ambition to be an Air Hostess since she was 11 years old. Having survived a gruelling interview and selection process, she followed a strict six week training. She displayed the variety of uniforms she wore during her 25 years' service, showing us the skirt with a tiny waist that she wore at the start of her career. She described what it was like for instance, to wear terylene clothes in a tropical country without air conditioning! She had many tales to tell us, such as proposals of marriage from passengers, looking after an abandoned baby, the plane being struck by lightning, and distressing incidents, such as a man in first class committing suicide. She delighted in the chance to visit countries around the world. She described her years with British Caledonian as a wonderful career, and is thrilled that her daughter is just embarking on a similar career.

Our January 2019 meeting will be held in the Old Meeting House in the Twitten, Ditchling on Tuesday **8th January** at 7.30 pm. Doors open 7 pm. Guests welcome. The speaker is Dai Thomas on the subject "Lowland Rescue".

*Sally Willis*

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**THE WINDMILLS SCHOOL** The autumn term drew to a close with many of the usual events you would expect to take place at The Windmills Junior School. We are so grateful to the enthusiastic team of parents who form the 'Friends of Windmills School' committee – they have worked so hard to organise many things on the run up to Christmas including Christmas card and merchandise sales and a trip to the Ice Skating Rink at Brighton Pavilion. Their attention then turned to the Christmas Fayre! The money raised through this fundraising provides many activities that we would otherwise not be able to offer the children, and therefore very much appreciated by the school. The FoWS team certainly deserved a well-earned rest over the Christmas break!

Year 4 treated fellow pupils and parents to an exciting performance of 'What Christmas Means To Me'. The show even included a guest appearance from none other than 'Rich Clifford' - much to everyone's amusement! Well done to all who were involved!

During the last week of term, children and staff joined together in the school hall for a festive lunch provided by the Chartwells team! The day of the lunch coincided with the Save the Children 'Christmas Jumper Day'. Everyone was invited to take part by coming to school wearing a Christmas jumper - the classrooms were bursting with an array of very colourful and glitzy woollies!

We were proud to send our donations to Save the Children to help give children in the UK and around the world a chance to build a better future.

The last afternoon before the Christmas break was marked with Years 5 and 6 performing a mix of traditional and modern carols to a packed hall; it was certainly a calm and gentle way to end what had been a very busy term.

We would like to wish everyone all the very best for the New Year – we look forward to telling readers more about life at The Windmills during 2019!

*Sue Bandy*

**FROM ALL AT CHILDHHELP - HASSOCKS** A big thank you for supporting us over this year. We have been able to help many needy families and children's causes with your generous support. A bid thank you to Alan from Mid Sussex Flooring for our wonderful new floor.

*Ruth Barrett-Miles*

**THANK YOU** We would like to thank the many people who supported our 100 years of the ending of the war tribute we made in our garden.

The total raised for the British Legion, Hassocks Poppy Appeal was £351.26.

*Derek and Stella Jenner*

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### MESSAGE FROM SUSSEX POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, KATY BOURNE - SUSSEX POLICE FUNDING 2018-2022

Sussex Police have started the biggest intake of new police officers for over a decade. This has been made possible by the increase in police precept of an average £12 for a band D property, and the PCC releasing £17 million from reserves. It means that over the next four years, Sussex will have 200 more police officers on the frontline than it does today.

Although residents are pleased to hear that local policing will be strengthened by these 200 extra officers, they are already indicating that they would like even more. That is why the PCC has opened a survey on her website to gauge potential support for raising more funding locally if the Government lifts the current cap on the police precept.

Please take a moment to make your views known on this link

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=154038317338>

You can find out more about funding for Sussex Police 2018-22 here:

**https:**

[//www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/transparency/sussex-police-funding-2018-22/](http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/transparency/sussex-police-funding-2018-22/)

*Mervin Dadd*

**REMEMBRANCE PARADE - 11/11/2018** A very big thank you to everyone who gave their time to be part of, or support the parade this year. This year was even more special as it was the centenary of the end of World War 1.

The parade was the largest we have seen in recent years as was the number of people who lined the route as we made our way from Woodland Road to St Edwards church in Keymer.

The church was full to capacity with people having to stand. After the church service wreaths were laid at the war memorial in Keymer, the last post played by the Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band buglers and a 2 minute silence observed.

The parade then marched back to the Royal British Legion in Woodland Road, making a short detour via Villa Adastra to play Happy Birthday to Dilys Armistice Fox who was celebrating her 100th Birthday on the day.

Thank you once again to our Parish Council for their support and sponsorship of the parade, all our councillors for their support and participation at both the morning and afternoon services, our local businesses and youth organisations but most of all our community - it is important we continue to remember and pay our respects.

*Paul Kirkdale*

**Lucy Locksmith.**

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**BURGESS HILL RESIDENTS  
BRENDA, PAT & JEAN MET WITH  
PAUL YOUNG FROM BRIGHTON  
BASED CHARITY OFF THE FENCE  
AT SOUTH DOWNS NURSERIES IN  
HASSECKS LAST WEEK**

They, along with many other customers of the Brighton Road outlet have been busy knitting woolly hats, scarves and gloves for the homeless living on the streets of Brighton & Hove. Brenda, Pat & Jean asked to meet Paul, the charity founder, to find out more about the work he does with some of the most vulnerable in our society. Paul explained that there are currently more than 3,000 homeless in Brighton & Hove, although the number actually living on the street is much lower. He added that his team were busy this week with the changeover to military sleeping bags, designed to keep people warm as temperatures plummet to freezing. The much needed hats and scarves were due to be on the street by 6pm the same evening they were fashioned. Off The Fence offers people hope, a way forward and the opportunity to live a transformed life. For more information, please visit: [www.offthefence.org.uk](http://www.offthefence.org.uk). If you'd like to donate hats, scarves or warm socks, please



drop them off to the collection point in The Barn Coffee Shop & Restaurant at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks.

*Sarah Mead*

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**ADASTRA HALL** Christmas came and went and now January seems rather flat. Have you made a New Year resolution yet? No, well how about saying you are going to do something different in 2019 – come along to Adastra Hall to see what is going on there? Scrabble is held every Monday afternoon (not Bank Holidays though) from 2 pm to 4.30 pm. It is held in the Committee Room. It is a friendly atmosphere and not too serious or competitive. You can have a chat with a cuppa and a biscuit too and make new friends. Contact me on **01273 846763** email [sylvia-howard21@gmail.com](mailto:sylvia-howard21@gmail.com) or Judy Brown on **01273 842464** email [jbrown60@hotmail.com](mailto:jbrown60@hotmail.com).

If you are feeling more energetic, Table Tennis is also held in the main hall on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm. At the moment there is a waiting list, so if you are interested in joining there is a form on the notice board to put your name down. Contacts are Phil Dunk **01273 844709** email [phildunk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:phildunk@yahoo.co.uk). There is also Table Tennis on Monday evenings in the Green Room from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm but with limited players due to space. Contacts are Rosemary and Tony James at **01273 845343** and [aejames@talktalk.net](mailto:aejames@talktalk.net) or Valerie Dummer on **01273 845143**.

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Also Short mat Bowls takes place every Tuesday morning in the main hall from 9.30 am to 12 pm and afternoon from 2 pm to 4 pm. Again it is very friendly and not too serious. Here again you can have a chat with a cuppa and a biscuit. Contacts are Roy Brown on **01273 842741** [1932@gmail.com](mailto:1932@gmail.com) or Brian Johnson on **01273 842307**.

These activities are not official clubs so no joining fees or yearly subscriptions are payable.

There is no commitment to attend any of these activities every week, just whenever you want to – they are all on a ‘drop in’ basis. The Adastra Hall organises these three activities for the community at a reasonable charge for each session.

Maybe you have just moved to Hassocks or taken retirement and want something to do, so do come along and give us a try – you having nothing to lose – just turn up.

If you require any further details about all three activities, please contact me on **01273 846763** or [sylviahoward21@gmail.com](mailto:sylviahoward21@gmail.com)

*Sylvia Howard*

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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Our first film in the New Year will be on Thursday, **10th January** and is called *Loveless*, a drama structured like a crime thriller about a lost boy in a toxic world. Set in Russia, the film is about an estranged couple going through a brutal and hostile divorce. Both husband and wife have acquired new partners and are impatient to embark on their new lives until their 12-year old son, Aloysha, disappears after overhearing a particularly distressing argument between them in their cramped flat. We see the utter despair in the boy's face and a silent scream of tears. It would be good to recount that his warring parents unite and pool their resources to find him but sadly they are quite incapable of acting in such a selfless way. *Loveless* uses a toxic marriage to paint a larger portrait of decay, dereliction and moral detachment.

Director: Andrei Zvyagintsev Russian 2017 127 minutes. 15 Cert.

We have two films in February with the first on Thursday, **7th February** entitled *The Heiresses*. Chela and Chiquita, both from wealthy families, have been together for over 30 years but recently their financial situation has worsened forcing them to begin selling off their inherited possessions. When their debts lead to Chiquita being imprisoned for fraud, Chela is forced to face a new reality. Driving for the first time in years, she starts to provide a local taxi service to wealthy elderly ladies. Chela then encounters the much younger, sensual Angy,

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forging a fresh and exciting new connection. As a result Chela begins to break out of her shell and engage with the world embarking on her own personal intimate revolution.

Director: Marcelo Martinessi Spanish 2018 95 minutes, 15 Cert.

Our second film on Thursday, **21st February** will be *Lady Macbeth* a compelling psychological drama based on the short story, *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* by Nikolai Leskov. In 19th Century rural England, Katherine has been married off to Alexander, the morose and sexually inadequate son of a wealthy mine owner called Boris, who rules the roost. Trapped in this loveless marriage to a man twice her age, Katherine begins a passionate affair with Sebastian, a much younger, truculent worker on the family estate. The affair unleashes in Katherine a force inside her so powerful that she will stop at nothing to get what she wants.

Director: William Oldroyd English 2016 89 minutes. 15 Cert.

The films will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. The films start at 8 pm. Doors open at 7.30 pm. Free coffee, tea and biscuits are available and wine can be purchased by the glass beforehand. There is ample free parking behind the hall. Guests and temporary members are welcome - a fee is payable at the door.

*Rowena Cager and Melanie Samuel*

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**DAISY: GROWING UP IN A SUSSEX VILLAGE 1897 – 1919 – AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY EVA DAISY ELLIS (NEE RANDELL), EDITED BY PETER BERRESFORD ELLIS AND PUBLISHED BY THE HURST HISTORY STUDY GROUP IN 2003.** Extract, Page 183 to 186

But it was now the turn of the village to become a central part of the history of the war. Hurst was to become a “centre” of the war’s direction, at least from the British viewpoint, during that last year of 1918.

How it came about, I do not really know, perhaps it has already been recorded in some history book or in some memoir. So far as the people of Hurst knew Lord Riddell, the owner of The News of the World and a close personal friend of the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, had arranged to rent Danny Mansion from the Campions. What no one knew initially was that Lord Riddell had rented it on behalf of Lloyd George as a country “retreat”. Why this was is, perhaps, something of a mystery. I have never seen any explanation.

Only a few months before (October 5, 1917) Sir Arthur Lee had given a house and estate near Great Missenden, 35 miles from London, called “Chequers”, to the nation in perpetuity for the use of the incumbent Prime Minister as a country residence. Why then had Lloyd George decided to rent Danny Mansion in Hurstpierpoint? Was the refurbishment at “Chequers” incomplete or was it for se-

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curity measures? I think it probably was [the latter] for there was absolutely no mention of the fact even in the local newspaper and I know that Harry Beal, who used to be the local reporter, cycling into Hurstpierpoint every week on his bicycle from Burgess Hill to pick up the news, actually knew that Danny had an “eminent personality” staying there.

At no time was there any mention of Lloyd George’s presence there, save once. I heard afterwards that the one “slip” created a furore. In a report of the village whist drive to raise funds for a war charity, Lloyd George’s name was listed. The local newspaper was, I am told, “hauled over the coals” about this. So I would say that the “authorities” did not want it generally known that Lloyd George was in residence at Danny. The Campions, so far as I recall, had moved to a house on the estate, and it had been put about that Danny Mansion was “empty”. That was a story repeated in the local newspaper with George Beal adding, slyly, that he had, however, noticed some “eminent persons” on the lawns of the house.

Anyway, Danny Mansion and the village were chosen to be Prime Minister David Lloyd George’s country home from July until November, 1918.

My father was “over the moon”. In the heart of the Conservative controlled county, he was one of the stalwarts of the local Liberal Party. Indeed, the Randell family was, as I have explained before, very much Liberals of

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the late Victorian tradition, pledged to radical social and electoral reform and "Home Rule" for Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Cousin David Randell, who had been Liberal Member of Parliament for Gower, had been one of our family icons.

Well, Lloyd George was my father's political idol. In July, 1917, Lloyd George had stayed for a few weeks at Great Walstead, about a mile-and-a-half from Lindfield, which was not far away from Hurst. My father was one of the leading Mid-Sussex Liberals who had been invited up to some garden party held at the house and had met his "hero". Therefore, when Lloyd George arrived in Hurst in July, 1918, and gave a private reception to the party faithful, which was given at Danny, my father received his invitation and off he went in his best suit to meet Lloyd George. I remember how happy he was when he came back. He said that the Prime Minister had remembered him from the previous year. Perhaps Lloyd George's aide had given him a good brief on village Liberal supporters. Father said that he had been able to have a long talk with him.

Well, soon after came another invitation for him to attend a grand party at Danny. This was during the first week in August and this time the invitation included my mother and "family". Well, at the time, there was only me at home. However, it was too good an opportunity to pass by and even Elsie decided to come up from

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Brighton to join us. The invitation plunged both Elsie and I into a fever. We would have to have new dresses. We had absolutely nothing to wear! I can remember how we dashed around in a panic seeking something suitable. Eventually we had our new dresses. Elsie's was pink and mine was blue. We had large "Dolly Varden" hats with ribbons hanging down the back and small bunches of forget-me-nots, lace gloves and parasols and "dolly bags" for our handkerchiefs. We spend hours sewing the accessories to make sure they were perfect. It is strange but I cannot remember what my mother wore though I can recall father in his grey flannel suit, white shirt and grey cravat, with pin, and his top silk hat.

There was a band playing on the lawn outside Danny, the Sussex Yeomanry Cadet Band from Brighton. There were large marquees, an area for dancing, refreshment tents and countless people, many in uniforms of all colours and sizes. The noise of voices and laughter often drowned out the band. I recall Mrs Arthur Weekes fussing around the stalls and Mrs Anscombe running refreshments.

Reverend Finch was apparently in charge of the fete, and there was a sale of work to help the wounded soldiers, many of whom were allowed to attend. Colonel and the Hon. Mrs Campion were there, waiting attendance on the Prime Minister.

*to be continued next month...*

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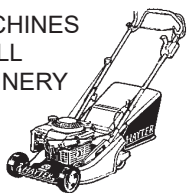
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**SHORT-EARED OWL** - They came from the land of ice and snow. On soft, silent wings they came. Gliding over forests and skimming across the lowlands until the seemingly impassable dark sea stretched out ahead of them. But still they flew on.

The first signs of this Nordic invasion came in October. Observers stationed on the Norfolk coastline watched the first of them glide overhead. Another followed. Then another. Elsewhere along our eastern seaboard, more silent invaders were arriving.

Short-eared owls are scarce winter visitors to Sussex. Swiss ornithologist Paul Geroudet described them as 'nomads who camp where the table is laid'. This winter dozens of these wandering diners were reported in Sussex and small parliaments (the collective term for owls, pub quizzers) lingered around the meadows along the county's river valleys where they have tucked in to a bountiful rodent buffet.

In Sussex we have four breeding owl species. The most familiar will be the tawny owl – whose hoots and two-to-woos can be heard in our woodlands. The barn owl is that pale spectral spirit that may be glimpsed in the headlights along country lanes at night. The long-eared owl is our rarest, most elusive species. The little owl was introduced here in the 19th century. It eats worms. So when short-eared owls arrive it's an extra owl to get ex-

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cited about. The meadows around the Ouse, Arun and Adur become popular destinations for owl watchers to observe these graceful daytime hunters.

And a hunting short-eared owl is a sight to behold. It's a large bird - with a one metre wingspan - but agile. It twists, weaves and glides low over the ground before dropping hard on its prey. Its 'short ears' are just feather tufts. Its bright yellow eyes are set in a face which seems fixed in a permanent impatient, angry expression.

I recently led a walk to see these owls and our group waited patiently on the Ouse banks. Our first sighting was high, distant and disappointing. But another hunting owl, seemingly oblivious to us, flew closer. And closer... and closer still. There is something eerie about the sound of seventeen people not breathing, but as the owl passed by we were stunned and as silent as its wingbeats. After hunting, the owls will gather and roost, no doubt dreaming of Northern Lights, lemmings and the long journey home.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

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*Michael Blencowe*

**HASSOCKS MUSIC FESTIVAL** A dear friend came to me and said she wanted to put on a Proms in the Park and asked for my help and so was born a new initiative: Hassocks Music Festival. The proposed date for your diaries is Saturday **7th September** and hopefully to be hosted by Downlands Community School. It will be an open air concert as a revival of Proms in the Park which last happened in Hassocks in 2009! The concept is to bring a variety of music under one stage such as pop, rock, classical and opera. Hassocks Community Organisation, HCO, have kindly offered their support. The organisation of this event is very much in the early stages but looking to provide further information early 2019. Ultimately we will be raising funds for St Peter and St James Hospice. Should anyone like to get involved please contact me, Michelle Binks, on 07505 123149.

*Michelle Binks*

**DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT** The World War One trail showing the impact of the war on the village received much positive feedback both from villagers and visitors to the village. The trail told of many Ditchling people and their involvement in the war – the men serving overseas and their families waiting at home, the nurses and VADs, the shopkeepers and farmers - all with a story to be told. Now these stories can be read together in a new DHP publication 'World War 1 'Street by Street: the impact of the Great war on Ditchling.' If you would like a copy please email [history.project@btinternet.com](mailto:history.project@btinternet.com)

*Janet Cragg*

**FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS** At the time of this magazine going to print our Christmas show has still to take place so news on that next month.

We, at Friends and Neighbours, are all finding it difficult to come to terms with the fact that rehearsals are no longer needed at present but we are still keeping everything crossed that a 'pianist' will come along as a New Year present so that we may keep 'variety' alive in our Communities.

Meanwhile there will be details next month re our March Lunch event and we now send our best wishes to you all for a Happy and Healthy 2019.

*From us all at Friends and Neighbours*

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*Jo Mitchell*

**PEMBURY HOUSE SNOWDROP AND HELLEBORE GARDEN. OPEN FOR PRE-BOOKED VISITS** Pembury House, Ditchling Road, Clayton. BN6 9PH "The perfect woodland garden". Visitor quote 2018.

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All proceeds from the garden visits go to the NGS caring and nursing charities.

There have been lots of changes in the garden over the last 18 months but the weather is much the same. So please please wear warm clothes and sensible sturdy shoes.

Website for details. [www.pemburyhouse.co.uk](http://www.pemburyhouse.co.uk)

Parking available at the house. The garden can be reached by bus to the Jack and Jill Pub and from Hassocks station on foot along the Cinder Path (public footpath).

We do hope that you will get in touch and make an appointment to visit our garden.

*Nick & Jane Baker*

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If you like the ideas then we invite you over to the showrooms at Ditchling [just off the beacon road] to discuss your plans a bit further.

Then we come back on site and have another chat...then we will do a neat intelligible plan and a proper quote. Everything is done in a quiet and leisurely manner. We will never pester you. We will try to work within your budget.

We organise everything like the plumbing, gas fitting, moving a radiator or a new power point or making good an old wall right down to the painting and decorating.

When we arrive on the specified day we carefully remove all the contents of each cupboard and place the contents in a plastic storage box which we label. Then we complete the work. At the end of the refurbishment we put everything back in the cupboards...under your supervision. We clean and tidy as we go along. Our kitchen installers wear outside shoes outside and inside work slippers in your house. We try as best as we can to minimise the disruption, dust and the mess. All old doors and worktops are immediately removed. The kitchen doorway is sealed off by a new plastic doorway to keep the dust from the rest of the house.

When we're finished we clean everything from top to bottom and make it sparkle.

We leave you with a bunch of flowers and a brand new looking kitchen with a twenty year guarantee.

If that sounds like the sort of service you are looking for then please give us a ring.

**TO VIEW OUR WEBSITE PLEASE ENTER - [kitchencarousel.co.uk](http://kitchencarousel.co.uk) - in your address bar**  
(If you just Google our website you will only end up with loads of internet rubbish and other adverts.)

But the best thing to do is call our chief designer and arrange a free design visit.

**His name is Stephen Hamilton. His tel no is: 07565 722055**

Please note our extensive showrooms in Ditchling are only open by appointment!

Thanks for taking the time to read this.



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email: [enquiries@achassocks.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@achassocks.co.uk). Follow us on Facebook Age Concern Hassocks. We have our own Charity Shop - Do pop in and take a look.  
Happy New Year to you all!

Hearing Aid Maintenance checks on Tuesday **5th February** at 9.30 am - NHS Only - just turn up and a waiting system is in place. Chiropody and Hairdressing appointments available Monday to Friday please call to book your appointment.

Do you know someone that could benefit from coming along to our centre? Lunch is served every week day and we serve refreshments each morning. To join us for lunch please give us a call to book a place. We can also help with transport in and around Hassocks if you require a lift. Our Mini bus is driven by volunteer drivers who are assisted by an escort. New members are always welcome.

Do you enjoy Crafts? Come along to Jane's Table on Tuesday **8th and 15th January** 1.45 pm for crafts a cuppa and a chat. Any Scrabble players out there? Do come along to our Scrabble afternoons on Thursday **3rd and 17th January** at 1.45 pm.



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We have a Reflexologist who will be coming here on Friday mornings, please do call the office for pricing information and to book an appointment.

Our Charity Shop is open every day and also Saturday mornings, we now take credit, debit and contactless cards for payment!

*Kirsty Hunnisett*

## AT THE ACORNS NURSERY AND FOREST SCHOOL

in Lindfield and Westmeston near Ditchling, children are treated as individuals. They have the freedom to be who they are, following their own learning journey, guided by caring and nurturing professionals. Some children like to keep moving; they are curious; love to explore and fiddle with everything; collect sticks and treasure; splash in puddles; get muddy and ride their bikes, whereas others are bookworms, watching others, playing in the home corner or with cars and trains and enjoying art and craft.

Janet Irwin, a qualified teacher of many years' experience, still runs The Acorns as she would for her own children. Recently awarded 'outstanding' by Ofsted, she recognises that, independence, resilience and life skills learnt in early years will be key factors in Acorns children's future achievements, success and wellbeing in an ever-changing and evolving world.

Sessions for home-educated children are held at Westmeston on Tuesdays and Fridays, Stay and Play sessions for parents/childminders with toddlers on Mondays and a four week summer holiday playscheme for 2-11 year olds in July/August. Janet offers private tuition for children and adults in her Lindfield home. Please call her friendly team: **01444 455081**

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

email: [janetirwin@janetirwin.com](mailto:janetirwin@janetirwin.com)

*Janet Irwin*



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**DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT** has been kindly loaned the above picture by Michael Alford. It is of 'Old Harry', also perhaps known as Blackie, when he was living in a tarpaulin and scrap metal shack in the woods adjoining Shirleys in 1958.

The residents, whose houses were being built at this time, were so concerned about Harry that they clubbed together and bought him a caravan. It is thought he remained there for the rest of his life. The only clues we have about him is that he may have had family on the Beacon Road at one time and his family name may have been Blackman or similar. He was an intelligent man and it is thought he may have been a bookbinder by trade.

We would love to hear from anyone who might have more information. Please contact DHP either by calling Roma Leon on **01273 843113** or via email at [history.project@btinternet.com](mailto:history.project@btinternet.com)

*Penny Worth*

**HASSOCKS MAY DAY** will be taking place on Monday **6th May**, 12 – 4 pm, at Adastra Park. A family fun day with plenty of entertainment for all. Once again we hope to have our fabulous Dog Show, entertainment from May Pole Dancing, and it would be wonderful if we could entice our Morris Men to dance for us too. We look forward to hosting a variety of community and



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charity fundraising stalls. Should you like a stall please call me on **07505 123149**. Follow us via Facebook 'Celebrate Hassocks' page.

*Michelle Binks*

**MID SUSSEX HEALTH CARE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP** is holding an afternoon event on **26th January** at the Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint. The Mid Sussex Older People's Council will give an illustrated presentation titled 'New Year, New Things To Do'.

The event will be open from 2.15 pm, with the presentation at 2.30 pm followed by refreshments including cakes, tea and coffee. Please come along with your questions and suggestions. All welcome. Admission free but donations welcome.

*Celia Lindsay*



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As this year draws to a close you tend to look back and reflect on what's happened and how it will impact on the New Year to come.

On a personal basis I think it's going to be a tough one, my wife Nola's elderly parents who have been brilliant are now starting to worry her, her dad who's just celebrated his 90th birthday has just started to show signs of dementia but at 90 a bit of forgetfulness can be forgiven, even so I can tell it's preying on her mind as to what the future holds and how best to cope with it when the inevitable happens. Obviously I do my best to support and help but they live in Hampshire and my life is here in the shop – which brings me on to the other personal battle – greedy landlords – they are trying to put our rent up to £32,000.00 a year which is ridiculous and can be a death nail to any business, obviously we're fighting it but we all know how expensive legal fees are these days, so if I look a bit away with the fairies and distracted sometimes now you know why. These things do weigh heavily on your mind along with everything else but it's not just me who seems to have landlords that don't live in the real world or understand the decline of footfall on our high streets. Whilst on the subject of high rents you remember Rick Farmer who sadly passed away earlier this year, well they are trying to re-rent his flat above the charity shop for £725.00 per month, that much for a small one bedroom flat seems ridiculous to me, add on the rates and that's about £200.00 per week without all the other living expenses. So we've got a new owner of the Deli, it takes a very brave man to take on a retail business these days but I've known Matteo quite some time now – his soup stand at our monthly market was always very popular and sold out very quickly and when he wasn't doing that he played a big part in providing the excellent food and service at Pangdean Barn in Pyecombe. If you were married there or attended any of their functions chances are he prepared the wonderful food you tucked into so he has the credentials to make the deli great again but what he doesn't have is the reassurance of the local people that they'll patronise and use it, regular footfall is very important when you're dealing in perishable goods such as food. I hope everyone gets behind him and makes it a success because you're only as good as the customers coming through the door. But if anyone can do it Matteo can.

Now please listen to this very carefully because for some extraordinary reason people have stopped feeding Bread to ducks, swans etc and they are dying from starvation or getting killed wandering on to the roads looking for food, the Queens Swans marker David Barber says bread has been part of a swans and ducks diet for centuries and is not harmful and if the public don't feed them then we are in serious trouble, so please forget what you've seen on the internet or wherever these stupid rumours originated from and go back to chucking bread out to whatever wants to eat it trust me the stuff is harmless.

I thought Light Up Hassocks was quite successful, the new organisers did a good job. I do remember at previous light up events we did have a police presence which when you've got such a large amount of people plus a disruptive element somewhere in the crowd that means the inevitable is going to happen if trouble breaks out. Although they weren't visible this year I understand they were parked up a side road ready to respond to any trouble that occurred that evening.

A lot of people who used to live in Hassocks and have now for some reason moved away like to have the Talk About posted to them, one such gentleman is Ian Crawford who moved to Plymouth, he came and saw me when he was last up visiting old friends to say how much he enjoyed the publication and looks forward to it every month, so Ian, thank you for your kind words and I hope you and your family had a great Christmas and here's to a Happy & Healthy New Year.

As I've said before I pay for this space on the back page so I'm always trying to raise money to help pay for it, I've mentioned wellie boots, boarding pets and converting films. We also do Gift Vouchers which can be used for absolutely anything – even the Cat Café, so make a useful gift to anyone that has pets and horses, our horse bedding prices are still pretty amazing I reckon £6.50 for a bale of shavings is awesome so please keep our high street alive and use your local shops or we will disappear.

P. S is Tim Fai open yet?

*Love from Steve and everyone and everything at Hassocks Pet Centre*



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