



Magazine published by Q.D. STATIONERY& SERVICES LTD 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR. Tel/Fax 01273 846978. 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 7th February 2 pm - 3 pm. No appointments necessary. Gordon can be contacted on 01273 843643 or email gordonm440@btinternet.com Michelle can be contacted on 07505 123149 or email michelle.binks@midsussex.gov.uk

Sue Hatton(MSDC) & Kirsty Lord (WSCC) will be holding a surgery on Saturday 16th February 10 am - 11 am. Sue can be contacted on 07821 351411 or email suehatton@midsussex.gov.uk Kirsty can be contacted on 07952 643623 or email kirsty.lord@westsussex.gov.uk

HASSOCKS PARISH CENTRE Council Office in Adastra Park, Keymer Road - telephone 01273 842714 (answerphone out of hours) Website: www.hassockspc.net Parish Clerk - Ian Cumberworth Open Mondays to Thursdays 10 am.- 2 pm and Fridays 10 am - 12 pm.

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We thank Judith Jenner for this photo taken at Hassocks School in 1960

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DITCHLING DOWNS WI **Old Meeting House, Ditchling** Tues. 5th Feb. 7 pm The Samaritans - Dorothy Porter HOLY COMMUNION Age Concern, Hassocks Tues. 5th Feb. 1.30 pm Conducted by one of the local Church of England Clergy HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP The Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint Wed. 6th Feb. 2 pm Anglo Saxons History - Mak Norman Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church Hall HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING FIRST RESPONDERS Thurs. 7th Feb. 7.30 pm Training Night - New members welcome HASSOCKS EVENING JAZZ Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks Tues. 12th Feb. 8 pm Trad Jazz Evening. All welcome HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre The Evolution of a Formal Garden to a Nature Reserve - Peter Lovett Tues. 12th Feb. 7.45 pm HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks Wed. 13th Feb. 8 pm Improve your Photography - Charles Hobley & Alan Farrant HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks Wed. 13th Feb. 8 pm Improve your Photography - Charles Hobley & Alan Farrant DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT The White Horse Restaurant, Ditchling Wed. 13th Feb. 2 - 5 pm Come along and share your knowledge of Ditchling and ask any questions HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks Mad Jack Fuller - Geoff Hutchinson Fri. 15th Feb. 2 pm

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLAYTON & KEYMER WOMENS SECTIONLegion HQ, Woodsland RoadThurs. 14th Feb. 3 pmMy Favourite Cuddly Toy - Anisah RaniSat. 16th Feb. 9.45 - 11.45 amCoffee Morning at Age Concern, Hassocks

REGULAR CLUBS

BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY United Reformed Church Hall, Junction Road, Burgess Hill Every Monday 8 - 10 pm new members welcome. See www.burgesshillchoralsociety.org.uk **BURGESS HILL & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB** Mid Sussex Golf Club, Ditchling First Thursday of every month. 12 pm. Lunch and talk. Fred Reynolds 01444 236661 **HASSOCKS DANCING FOR THE OVER 50S** Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East Every Monday 10 - 11.30 pm. Brenda Kelly 07496 666046 HURSTPIERPOINT SINGERS Methodist Church, Cuckfield Road Every Monday 7.30 - 9.30 pm HURST VILLAGE CINEMA **Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre** For films and showing times visit hurstfilms.com MID SUSSEX CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP King Centre, Victoria Rd, Burgess Hill Every Wednesday 2 - 4 pm. www.csrf.org.uk JOY OF LIVING MEDITATION GROUP **URC Rear Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks** Mondays 7.30 - 8.30 pm. We are a non-profit community group open to all. tergar.org/hassocks THE HARMONY CORPORATION The King's Centre, 33-35 Victoria Road, Burgess Hill RH15 9LR Monday Evening 7.15 pm. Mid Sussex's new ladies a cappella chorus. THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE SUSSEX VALE Mid Sussex Golf Club, Spatham Lane, Ditchling Every Monday 7.30 - 9.30 pm. www.rotary-sxvale.org.uk Secretary 07546 111996 VIVACE! **Old Meeting House, Ditchling** Every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Mark Lambert 01273 842994 LOST PROPERTY the following items have been Concern. A pair of glasses and some clothing in Clayton handed in to us at QD Stationery: A Watch outside Age Avenue. A ring in Orchard Lane. A hat in Adastra Park one-nine JB FENCING **ALL TYPES OF FENCING & GATES Private Hire**

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ENA NEWMAN passed away peacefully in her sleep on the 26th November at the age of 105 years. Ena lived in Hassocks for 25 years and made many friends in the Village and at Age Concern.

Thank you to all the caring staff at Rookwood Residential Home and to all our friends and neighbours for their cards and letters of condolence.

Janet Tinson

MID SUSSEX HEALTH CARE PATIENT PAR-TICIPATION GROUP Annual General Meeting Wednesday 13th March.

This meeting will be held in the United Reform Church, Keymer Road, Hassocks at 7 pm, with refreshments available from 6.45 pm.

We are pleased to have Dr Terry Lynch GP as our guest speaker. The subject of his talk will be 'Managing Our Local Health Needs'

The meeting should be of interest to everyone and all registered patients of the Mid Sussex Health Care Practice are welcome to attend. There is no admission charge as we would like to welcome as many local people as possible. If you are not a patient of the Practice but have a particular interest in attending please contact **celia.lindsay@icloud.com**.





The Patient Group welcomes new members, as providing up to date information to patients and having your views on our local services is very important in meeting local health needs.

We look forward to seeing you on **13th March**. Celia Lindsay

NEW IDEAS FOR YOUR FRUIT AND VEG-ETABLE GARDEN An illustrated talk by Steve Millam from Brinsbury College on new methods of cultivation and some different crops to try.

Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society 7.45pm on Tuesday **12th March** in the Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Hall.

Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society Spring Show at 2.15 pm on Saturday **16th March** in the Village Hall. There will be Daffodils, spring flowers, cookery, photography, children's and Pre-School Playgroup sections.

Tea and home-made cake, raffle and auction at end of show. Exhibiting is free to all. For details pick up a schedule from Gibsons in Hurstpierpoint High Street. *Kathy Green*

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Have you thought that perhaps you don't need to rip out the whole kitchen?

A thoughtful and considerate refurbishment may be the answer. There are many ways we can make your kitchen look new and work like new without changing everything. It is more cost effective and much less messy!

Now! We could talk about the amazing range of replacement doors that we have on display at our Ditchling showrooms or the wonderful solid oak dovetailed drawers that we make but we are going to start by describing something more mundane.

Let's start at the beginning. Perhaps you need new doors or a tall oven or an eye level fridge or new worktops. Perhaps some things need repositioning and some appliances need replacing. There are many different reasons people want to re-arrange their kitchens.

The first thing we do is come and give you some sensible intelligent design ideas. How can we change/sort/move around or replace the minimum elements of your kitchen to give you a refurbished kitchen that really works?

We do not try to sell you lots of new cabinets. We come and discuss how we can transform your existing kitchen with the minimum of fuss and expense.

Yes, we have a fantastic range of doors and worktops and sinks and taps and appliances and that is important but we are building our reputation on service and attention to detail.

So firstly, we simply come and discuss what you want or need. You will have your own thoughts. You may have lived with some real irritations but can't see a way to sort them out. We can add a professional designers eye. You might well be pleasantly surprised how inventive we can be at resolving difficult kitchen problems. We will do some sketches and scribble some plans and discuss costings and budgets. Then we will leave you with these ideas and let you mull them over at your leisure. There is absolutely no pressure. We are not sales people; we are kitchen designers, cabinet makers and kitchen installers offering an exceptional service to the local community at a sensible price.

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 - 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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<u>HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP</u> Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint from 2 pm - 4 pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

The first 2 meetings are free.

Do join us on the **6th February** where Mak Norman will be speaking to us on Anglo Saxon History - I understand he dresses the part!

On the **6th March** Ian Gledhill will be giving a talk with fully illustrated projected pictures on Art Deco the style that defined the jazz era & the golden age of pre-war Hollywood musicals. Art Deco built a thousand cinemas (& the Hoover Factory) & is still influential today.

For more information please contact Dianne 01273 835284 or myself 07806 670359. We look forward to seeing you.

Ann Tranter

HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY will meet at 7.45 pm in the Club Suite of the Village Centre, Hurstpierpoint on Tuesday **12th February** when Peter Lovett will give an illustrated talk entitled 'The Evolution Of A Formal Garden To A Nature Reserve'. All welcome.

Kathy Green





At Westmeston Parish Hall nr Ditchling Janet Irwin: 01444 455081 www.theacornsnurseryschool.com

THE ACORNS The frosty mornings bring untold joy, as Acorns children look for spider's webs which glisten and sparkle like Xmas decorations. The countryside is putting on its early Spring coat. It excites and delights us with its fresh, vibrant colours and sunshine yellow daffodils. Taking Acorns nursery children on Forest School adventures from Westmeston and Lindfield to the woods, fields, parks and nature reserves, excites them too, as the squishy, squelchy, boggy ground becomes firm underfoot. They run and jump with glee as they explore and discover all manner of things in the natural world around them. What makes The Acorns special? Learning through playing, exploring and doing. What else? Our Forest School adventures, mud kitchens, riding bikes and scooters, playing indoors and outside, combining fun and excitement with an eagerness to learn. A thirst for knowledge, an integrated reading scheme and all the core traditional nursery activities.

Janet's 'Stay and Play' sessions for toddlers are back again on Mondays and she has a few spaces for her private tutoring in English, Maths and French for children and adults.

The Acorns has had a very busy time recently welcoming new children and staff, but we still have room for more. Thank you to those who contacted me about job prospects, as we are very keen to include local people in our team.

All enquiries to Janet Irwin 01444 455081, Email janetirwin@janetirwin.com, www.theacornsnurserysandforestschool.com

Janet Irwin





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. continued from January issue. We went forward to be formally presented. I recall being surprised how small Lloyd George was. And I recall the mischievous twinkle in his eye as he shook hands.

"Good to see you again, Mister Randell," he said, in a very musical voice. He bowed slightly over my mother's hand and grinned at us girls. "Very charming daughters. Very charming." Then we had moved on. There were other introductions. People who were simply names from the newspapers: Balfour, Bonar Law, General Sir Henry Wilson and Admiral Sir Arthur Wemyss. I have lost count of them.

More importantly for a girl of twenty-one, there were numerous young men, officers in uniform mostly, who came seeking dances. Each lady was presented with a little book to mark off the dances. I always enjoyed dancing. It was a happy occasion. Perhaps unreal as I think about it now for here we were, in the midst of a frightful and cruel war, and yet, here we were enjoying ourselves as if the war didn't exist, chattering, laughing and dancing.

And in the interludes Miss Muriel Hardwick and Mrs

OUT OF HOURS CHEMIST DISPENSING ROTA Monday - Friday 5.30 p.m. - 6 p.m. covered by either Day Lewis or Boots in Hassocks. Please see chemist doors Sundays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. covered by Boots Burgess Hill Bank Holidays Please see chemist doors Urgent prescriptions call Sussex Police 0845 6070999

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Bartlett sang a medley of popular, patriotic songs to entertain us.

Lloyd George often came along the High Street, popping into local shops and several times he paused to speak with my father. What became a Music Hall line, "my father knew Lloyd George", was absolutely true for me. Once or twice I would pass him with a nervous bob and he would raise his hat and smile. His routine, before breakfast, was to climb up Wolstonbury Hill. I used to think he was communing with his ancestors, the Celts who built the hillfort up there, for, of course, Lloyd George being Welsh was very much a Celt.

I do not know what would have happened had there been a German spy in the village for the entire village came to know that Lloyd George was in the habit of taking War Cabinet documents with him on his walks up Wolstonbury Hill, where he would often sit and work on them. On occasion a shower of rain would send him scuttling back for Danny, and he would leave some of his precious documents behind. On such occasions we often saw his long-suffering secretary, Miss Frances Stephenson, grunting up the steep slopes to retrieve them.

It was, as most history books record, on October 13 that the terms and conditions for the Armistice were drawn up in the Great Hall of Danny. I have been there on several occasions to see Mary and Joan Campion when I





MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We have a vacancy for a Membership Secretary which involves on average 4 hours work per week at home. The ability to use computer databases is essential. An honorarium will be paid to the successful candidate.

For more details please contact Fred Maillardet, Chairman of Oldland Mill Trust (a registered charity) on 01273 842342.

was with the "Danny Daisies", and once or twice to dances and receptions escorted by my father, for he was often invited, during the winter months, to house parties given by the Campions for local tradespeople. Many are the times that I have been swirled across the polished oak floor of the hall in the arms of young men, the scions of the village business community. The Great Hall was a beautiful room with a high ceiling and it's believed that it was completed about 1595. The original stone floor was overlaid with oak planking in the mid 19th Century and the pine panelling in the century prior to that. There was a tremendously imposing fireplace. During the dances and receptions a large oak table was removed but it was around this table that the War Cabinet sat to sort out the terms of the Armistice.

There is an irony here that Lt Colonel William Campion, commanding his brigade at Wevelghem in Belgium, had just received orders to go "over the top" to attack impregnable German positions. The scheduled date of the attack was dawn on November 12. The Armistice came into being at 11am on November 11. Perhaps the life of Colonel William and the lives of his men were saved by the decision of men seated at the great table in his own home in Hurst. Sad, too, that their decision on October 13 failed to prevent the death of my brother Arthur in Palestine on October 27.

Richard Burrows



SUSSEX VALE ROTARY The run up to Christmas was a really busy time of the year for us and continues into the new year. The club helped the Link To Hope charity by consolidating the many Christmas Gift Shoeboxes it received, into large cartons for shipping to Eastern Europe, this is the tenth year we have helped the charity. Of course we organised the Light Up Hassocks event on 30th November and were pleased so many came along to enjoy the evening, making it such a success. All being well, we will be arranging it again in 2019, so keep your eye out later in the year. Street collections have taken place in Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint and we would like to thank all those generous people who donated towards our charitable causes. We also collected at Tesco and again were pleased with their customers generosity. On 10th December we helped serve the Cameo Christmas Lunch to 65 guests and entertainment was provided by Rotarian Marcus Martin and the U3A choir. We were pleased to receive help from Round Table members. Moving on to next year, the first social item was our Burns Supper at the Mid Sussex Golf Club. Further events will be announced on our Facebook page, or may be found in our website

www.rotary-sxvale.org.uk.

Sussex Vale Rotary draws its members from Burgess Hill, Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and surrounding areas. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary and how you can help, please contact our club secretary on

secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk, he will be pleased to hear from you. Duncan Honeyman



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AGE CONCERN - Dale Avenue, Hassocks. 01273 844461. Office hours between 9 am – 3.45 pm www.achassocks.co.uk email: enquiries@achassocks.co.uk. Follow us on Facebook Age Concern Hassocks. We have our own Charity Shop – Do pop in and take a look.

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, or pop in and we will show you around our centre. 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.

Hearing Aid Maintenance checks are held here by Action for Deafness on the first Tuesday of each month 9.30am – 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.



107 KEYMER ROAD HASSOCKS BN6 8QL

Email: sales@silverbrookes.co.uk

We have Scrabble, Art, Canasta, Mahjong, Knit and Natter and Craft sessions held here – new members always welcome please do come in and ask us in the office or take a look at our website. We regularly arrange in house entertainment and outings too.

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! *All at Age Concern*

DITCHLING DOWNS WI We all enjoyed our very successful Christmas Party in December, which celebrated our 10 years as a WI. We are now looking forward to our speaker for February, who will be Dorothy Porter speaking about "The Samaritans". This will be held at our new venue in the Old Meeting House in the Twitten, Ditchling on Tuesday **5th February** at 7.30 pm. Doors open 7 pm. Guests will be very welcome.

Sally Willis





FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS We want to thank you all who came along to our Christmas Concert in December and helped make the festive occasion a really special one. It was so nice to have such a large audience and we hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did - your participation throughout the show was superb especially the 'battle' of the 12 Days of Christmas. Well done everyone.

It was nice to be able to thank Gordon Marples, David Tettersell and Paul Bowley who have M.C.'d our shows on various occasions and of course to also welcome David Sachon who has been our M.C. for the past 23 years. How time flies - Steve with Marie (lighting) and Peter (sound) have been with us for 17 and 12 years respectively. We are so fortunate that so many people are willing to give their time to help us entertain. Our folk at Front of House are also very important to us as is Annie who operates the curtains and 'chivvies' them onto stage. Our Guest Artistes Norman Armstrong and Peter Bennett gave extra variety to our programmes with Anesa, too at the recent show.

Our audiences are just amazing and it is thanks to their generosity that Friends and Neighbours are able to give donations to so many Charities, local Groups etc from this recent concert and over the 41 years. There were lists displayed in the hall showing just some of the organisations, Hospices, hospitals, Health Centre, local





Responders etc that have benefited from these donations. Special thanks too to the local businesses that have supported us throughout. The Downlands School, QD Stationery, Pavilion Electrics, Carnabys Estate Agents and Bowley Funeral Services have been there for us at every concert and we have had raffle prizes from many of the other local shops in our village. Thank you all for your loyal support.

We are sorry to say that we are not able to host the 'Lunchtime' event in March but our Cream Tea afternoon planned for Sunday **5th May** at the Adastra Hall is still very much 'on' so please make a note of that date and venue - we shall look forward to meeting you.

From us all at Friends and Neighbours

HASSOCKS GUIDE HALL Are you looking for a venue for a party or maybe a meeting? Have you thought about using the Guide Hall in Semley Road? There is a large carpeted hall (approximately 34 x 20 feet), a fitted kitchen with crockery, cutlery etc. and toilet facilities. Outside there is a large grass area for games and a small paved area that would be suitable in the summer for a barbecue. There are 2 parking spaces adjacent to the hall. If you are interested in using this great community facility please contact me on **01273 842895** or email **clare.brittain@care4free.net**. *Clare Brittain*



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SANTA'S TOY FACTORY DOUBLES FUNDRAIS-ING TOTAL FOR 2018 Santa's Toy Factory at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks has raised more than £22,000 for charity, a massive increase from last year's total of £11,025. The funds raised by The Budding Foundation charity, who run the grotto at South Downs Nurseries, will all be spent on local projects.

Clive Gravett who set up the charity said, "The response has been phenomenal and thanks to a new online booking system, we've been able to increase the number of children visiting Santa this year to almost 3,000. On top of this, we challenged every adult who entered the fac-

tory for free to donate £1 each if they enjoyed them selves so thank you to everyone who visited and everyone who so generously donated to the charity. We have over 40 volunteer elves who have all given up their time and worked so hard to help us achieve this fantastic figure. The team at South Downs Nurseries have been incredibly supportive, building this wonderful factory for us and donating all the Christmas presents!"

Alongside the grotto ticket sales, The Budding Foundation operated other fundraising activities including a prize draw to win a home visit from Santa raising almost £1,000, a giant teddy raffle which raised £550 and Breakfast with Santa raising another £300. The giant teddy was won by 16 year old Oliver Kemp from Has-





socks (pictured) and Santa delivered it just in time for Christmas! Santa picked out the winner of the home visit, and also decided to visit 4 other families, making it a special Christmas for many children. (See photos) The funds raised are already being spent with £1,650 being donated to Burgess Hill Youth to cover the shortfall in funding for their new minibus, and £130 for a group of disadvantaged children to visit the theatre for the first time. For more information on The Budding Foundation Charity and it's work in our local community, visit **www.thebuddingfoundation.co.uk**

Trevor Butler







DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY 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, 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

MATHS TUITION

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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.

On Thursday, **7th March** we will be showing Ice Mother about Hana, a happy and selfless 67 year old mother and grandmother, who experiences a series of life-changing events which changes her relationship with her selfish sons. Whilst looking after Ivanek, her grandson, Hana rescues an elderly swimmer, Brona, which results in an unexpected hobby and romance.

Director: Bodan Slama, Czech 2017, 106 minutes, no UK Certification

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 (payable at the door).

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HASSOCKS WI Our December meeting was party night. Marie had excelled at organising the entertainment, and so we sang, listened to our fantastic choir, and dressed our 'fairy', all with a great deal of chatting, laughter and rushing about. We also enjoyed the most wonderful spread of food contributed by our members. It seemed impossible that we could get through it all, but it was all so delicious that very little was left at the end. Many thanks to all who contributed. Several very lucky ladies also left with a hamper, also put together from contributions from our members, in our now traditional Christmas raffle.

January's meeting was all about selecting which resolution will form the basis of the WI's next campaign. Past campaigns slip from the limelight, but are not forgotten. A recent campaign was to end ' plastic soup', the plastic which ends up in the oceans, harming wildlife. David Attenborough, of course, has also brought this to the attention of many more people, and raised awareness of our need to guard, protect and sustain our planet. This month's meeting will therefore be about recycling and sustainability. We will have experts working in this area to talk to us and answer our questions. Did you know, for example, that more problems arise from airborne plastic particles too small to see with the naked eye than plastic bottles left on the side



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of the road? We want this meeting to be positive, not a counsel of despair and defeatism. Even small changes can make a big difference. Come along with your ideas of things that you do to recycle or avoid wasting valuable and finite resources. It should be a lively meeting. Monday **18th February**, 7.45 pm at Adastra Hall.

Maureen Dodd

BRIGHTON CONSORT'S NEXT CONCERT The

next programme of music from Brighton Consort (director James Dixon) features several glorious choral works from the late 16th century, including the much loved Requiem by Tomas Luis de Victoria. The programme will also include contemporary pieces, based on the music of Victoria, by the Australian composer Joseph Twist.

The concert will take place on Saturday **9th March** in Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased online at www.brightonconsort.org.uk, or by ringing **01273 833746**, or on the door.

If you can't make it to the event in Hurstpierpoint, Brighton Consort will also be presenting the same programme in St Paul's Church, Brighton the following day (at 6 pm).

Mike Clemens





STAR CINEMA - Friday **15th February** - a first for Hassocks not seen before! Hassocks, has been chosen as one of the first places for the premiere preview of a new independently produced British film "Great in Britain: The Movie". The writer and director of the film, Howard Webster, has written this message:

"My movie is a very British musical comedy starring Peter Bowles (To the Manor Born), Jason Fleming (Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button), Larry Lamb (East Enders), Colin Salmon (Prime Suspect 2, 24: Live Another Day, Mortal Engines), iconic British pop stars Right Said Fred and a cast of well known British names. Now here is the big news for everyone living in the area. One of the handful of exclusive UK premiere preview screenings is happening right here in Hassocks at your Village Hall. The premiere preview screenings are courtesy of Barrie Gilbert of Curzon Country Cinema.

Great in Britain: the movie is the heart warming story of three old school friends and what really matters in

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the end. Be prepared to be cheered up in 2019!" Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. The film for **8th March** will be The Children Act starring Emma Thompson.

daniel@jbarenas.co.uk

Liz Edmunds

DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT'S new publication, 'World War I, Street by Street: the Impact of the Great War on Ditchling' is now available. It was published following the extremely successful trail around the village during November, which told the stories of Ditchling people involved in serving their country, working in shops and on farms, nursing in the Red Cross Hospitals or keeping families going under long, anxious absences of loved ones. The book can be obtained through our website **ditchlinghistoryproject.org**, by emailing

history.project@btinternet.com via our Facebook page or calling me on 01273 965473.

Penny Worth



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JANUARY BRINGS THE SNOW, MAKES OUR FEET AND FINGERS GLOW'. Well, it didn't, did it? In my garden, the first daffodil was in bloom. Is that a local example of global warming? Hard to say, but we are all noticing a change in the seasons and short, sharp rain falls seem to have increased. This was first noticed two years ago, and as a result a public meeting was held and a working group was formed from members of HKD Transition and Hassocks Amenity Association (now Hassocks Community Organisation). Its remit was to research the flooding risk (if any), come up with 'natural' solutions and engage the whole community.

The group soon discovered that Hassocks had been identified by West Sussex County Council as a 'wet spot', particularly subject to surface water flooding. This happens when rainfall is so sudden and heavy that it cannot be absorbed or overwhelms the drainage system. In addition, the chalk South Downs act as a sponge. Prolonged rain fills them to capacity, and a quite minor rainfall can then trigger heavy run-off into our village streams, again resulting in flooding. WSCC, the Lead Local Flood Authority, estimates that 525 properties in Hassocks have an 0.5% risk (a 1 in 200 year rain fall event) of surface water flooding, and 55 are at risk from river (stream) flooding. Climate change would increase the frequency.

'Slow the flow' therefore became the group's watch-

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word. Reduce the rushes of rainwater into the drainage system by water butts, garden ponds, more trees, more greensward and less tarmac. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) had arrived in Hassocks. More public consultation followed. Village walks and a mapping morning helped update the official Surface Water Flood Risks maps with local knowledge. The Infants School and Community School both built rainbox planters, linked to down pipes, which released water gradually into the drains. D-I-Y leaflets were circulated widely and volunteers built two planters for the Parish Council and Adastra hall. In the countryside, volunteers mimicked beavers and built 'leaky dams' in Lag wood to slow the flow into the Herring stream. A grant from WSCC Operation Watershed, funded two rain gardens in Adastra Park with plants generously supplied by Garden Sage Nursery. Despite a disastrous start, ironically caused by a sudden exceptionally heavy rainfall, remedial measures mean that it is now working well, and much of the rain falling on Adastra Hall is now filtered through the rain gardens, slowing the flow into the Herring stream. There is every hope that it will become a feature that will interest and attract children and adults. That the planting survived being almost engulfed in the sea of mud, augurs well. The hellebores should be congratulated on continuing bravely to bloom!

The SuDs and Floods Group is now planning for 2019.

Downlands Community School - Drama Production "Wind in the Willows"

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> rocate by inviting our French friends to stay in our homes. The Association organizes a variety of events for all ages. These events could have a sporting theme (golf, tennis, cycling, walking etc.) a cultural theme (art, concerts, visiting historical buildings, gardens etc.) or an educational theme (student exchanges, pen friends). They all involve much socialising and meeting new friends.

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Get involved - We are always looking for new members and ideas. If you are interested in joining or finding out more please contact me the Chairman on 01273 833195. Mike Shute

MID SUSSEX RAMBLERS As the Ramblers' group for the Mid Sussex area we offer a varied programme of walks throughout the year to suit all ages and abilities. Our walks programme is available on our website: www.midsussexramblers.co.uk along with information about the group.

Walks are arranged on Tuesdays and weekends throughout the year and vary in length from 4-12 miles. During the summer there are short walks on Wednesday evenings, whilst in the winter there are pub socials and a talks programme covering a wide range of subjects.

New and experienced walkers are both very welcome and if you would like to try one of our walks please get in touch via the Contact Form on our website, email msrpublicity@gmail.com or telephone our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Sue Blandford, on 01403 255654.



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A rain garden for Adastra Avenue is a possibility with associated wild flower planting if funds can be found. More public consultation is planned, stream clearing will continue, and we will be actively supporting the WSCC Ditch the Problem campaign, of particular interest to householders who have one of our many streams running through their property. Keep an eye on the HKD Transition website (www.hkdtransition.org.uk) for current details - and if February lives up to its traditional rainsodden role, remember we badly need photographs of flash flooding. Just email them to us at info@hkdtransition.org.uk or Instagram users can follow us at hkdtransition and add #Hassocksfloods to their images.

Margaret Ford

DOMESTIC INSTALLER

HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON TWINNING ASSOCIATION Programme for 2019. The Committee are open to suggestions for this year's programme. Suggestions please to Mike. A happy New Year to all our members.

What we do - The Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Twinning Association is twinned with St Martin-de-Boscherville, a delightful village on the banks of the Seine just north of Rouen. St Martin is famous for its historic Abbey which has recently celebrated its 900th anniversary. Travel is normally on the Newhaven to Dieppe ferry followed by a pleasant 50 min drive to St Martin. Accommodation is with our hosts and we recip-



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CHAILEY TRACTOR CLUB Having been lucky and blessed with sunshine on the last three occasions, the weather decided that the Chigleys were pushing their luck and this time refused to cooperate for Chailey Classic & Vintage Tractor Club's annual Christmas charity run, this year in partnership with Tinkers Park (Steam Charitable Trust) and those who participated endured somewhat inclement conditions.

Nevertheless, the heavy rain failed to dampen or diminish the spirits of the many who turned out, suitably attired, to participate in and enjoy a road run of vintage and classic tractors (and cars) all in support of St Peter

and St James Hospice. The 20 or so tractors consisting of various makes and models, assembled at the Sloop Inn (Scaynes Hill) where Maria Caulfield, MP for Lewes, endured the damp and cold to wave them off.

With pit stops at the Bent Arms, Snowdrop and Farmers Inn, the convoy of tractors and vintage vehicles travelled through Haywards Heath via Lindfield, to the bemusement of Christmas shoppers and many smiling children.

The Chigleys returned to the Sloop, albeit somewhat drenched, at which time the evening Christmas celebrations com-



menced with live folk music courtesy of Newick Folk. Local producers consisting of Nose to Tail Butchers Piltdown, Fletching Village Shop and Cottage Bakery Newick, kindly sponsored and provided the barbeque with local produce supplied by local suppliers to a local club in support of a local charity, entirely consistent with the ethos of the occasion.

Local musicians "LOKI" provided further musical entertainment and an auction of promises, coupled with a raffle and donations from the day will result in a contribution to St Peter & St James Hospice in excess of £1800. www.chaileytractorclub.org Liz Venters











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MAKE A CHANGE, BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR Hassocks Parish Council is calling on residents, who care about our community to stand in the local elections in 2019.

Our Councillors champion the interests of the local community and give residents a voice on the decisions the council makes. Becoming a councillor will allow you to make a real difference in the community by engaging with residents, local groups and businesses to find out their needs; making decisions on which services and projects the council should take forward; and getting involved locally to ensure the District and County Councils are meeting our community's needs.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Local Councillor Census Survey found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. This often includes attending meetings, engaging with residents and speaking on behalf of the council to other bodies.

To stand for election -. You must be a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union – Be 18 years of age or older and - Live in or near to Hassocks Parish

Nomination Forms have to be submitted by end of March so to find out more please contact the Parish

Clerk - Ian Cumberworth at the Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks BN6 8QH Telephone: **01273 842714** -Email: **info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk**

Ian Weir

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEO-GRAPHICAL SOCIETY It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our treasurer, Amanda Geel, on 31st December. Amanda had managed our accounts beautifully since taking over as treasurer in 2015 and she fully supported all our activities. She will be greatly missed.

We are always looking for new members. We meet on the last Friday of each month at 8pm in the Guides' HQ, Trinity Road Car Park. At each meeting we have a presentation, by an expert speaker on a subject with a historical or geographical flavour.

Our next meeting will be on **22nd February** when Kevin Newman will give an illustrated talk on Literary Figures of Brighton and Sussex, including of course Hilaire Belloc and Rudyard Kipling. Come along and join us. Further information from the Chairman, Bill Kent, telephone **01273 832280**.

Bill Kent







OTTER - THE RETURN OF THE CELLULOID HEROES Sleek muscular physique. Dynamic aquatic killer. Mysterious enigmatic loner. You can see why otters shared the cinema box office with James Bond in the Sixties and Seventies. Otters are natural film stars, the Sean Connery of British mammals (with a slightly hairier chest).

I remember two otter-based films from my childhood. I caught 'Tarka the Otter' at the local Odeon and the superior 'Ring of Bright Water' always won over 'Goldfinger' on the TV at Christmas. From the opening man-meets-otter sequence (both the greatest and silliest scene ever committed to celluloid) through to Val Doonican's closing credits crooning - it's a classic!

But behind the otter's silver-screen celebrity status lies a darker, sadder tale. Wild otters in Britain were in trouble. Throughout most of the last century our rivers and wetland habitats were in a shocking state – polluted, drained and destroyed. Otters were forced into exile in the far flung corners of Britain. The last Sussex otters struggled on until the 1960s.

And with our heroes out of the picture the bad guys muscled in. American mink, which escaped or were 'liberated' from fur farms, rose to the top of the food chain and terrorised our waterways. These voracious predators attacked our native wetland wildlife, wiping out entire populations of water voles across Sussex.

But this screenplay has a happy ending. Over the past

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decades we've cleaned up our act and a lot of work has been undertaken to improve rivers and wetlands in Sussex. Otters are wandering, territorial animals – each otter needs 40 km of river to make its home - but projects undertaken by conservation groups such as Sussex Wildlife Trust working with local landowners have provided these connected, wetland habitats. And what is good for the otter is good for us too. By undertaking wetland habitat improvements for wildlife - such as planting floodplain woodland or creating water meadows - our countryside regains its powers as water purifier, erosion controller and flood regulator.

Over the past years footprints, droppings and fleeting glimpses have given tantalising evidence that these mammalian movie stars are attempting a comeback in Sussex after half a century. Recently, night vision trail cameras were rolling and filmed a female otter as she made her Sussex small screen debut - possibly the first time a wild otter has ever been filmed in our county. But the real showstopper came when these cameras later captured footage of one - or possibly two - otter cubs; evidence that otters are breeding again in Sussex. With this dramatic plot twist there is plenty of potential for a sequel. The dream that one day we could see these incredible animals swimming in all the restored and vibrant rivers of Sussex is a step closer to becoming a reality.

Michael Blencowe





WINDMILLS SCHOOL It does not seem possible that January has already passed; already we have seen some superb work throughout the school since returning from the Christmas break. One project of which has been particularly exciting has been in Year 3; the children have been studying the history of mangonels and trebuchets, which were used to attack castles during the medieval times, as part of their project on castles. Their work involved some very exciting Design Technology. Using shoe boxes, elastic bands, plastic spoons and wooden doweling, the children set about creating their own mangonels! The children worked in pairs to build a mangonel which they then tested and agreed between them on how their model could be improved - for example, some added an extra elastic band for increased power whilst others decided to strengthen their structure by adding extra cardboard. On re-testing their designs the children were amazed by the results – the mangonels were much more powerful! The class teachers were very impressed by how enthusiastic and responsible the children were, particularly when it came to using saws to cut the doweling! During the DT project the creativity, originality and perseverance of the children really shone through, whilst also having a lot of fun when it came to testing them and seeing how far they could launch an array of ping pong balls, cotton wall balls and pompoms!

The Windmills prides itself on offering the children a



very broad and balanced curriculum, with music playing a key part in our activities. Indeed, after a hectic period at the end of last term our musicians are looking forward to continuing the exciting programme of music learning throughout the year. Year 3 learned the ukulele for a whole term and will continue with the instrument as part of their weekly music lessons. They will also move on to pentatonic scales and playing glockenspiels and xylophones.

Year 4 move away from boom whackers and on to Djembe drumming. They will also be composing around their topic of Titanic. Year 5 will enjoy a musical enrichment day, led by Ollie from 'A beat Goes On' who provides a wonderful opportunity to learn Samba and body percussion. Children will then continue with both of these.

In year 6, it's Stingray class's turn to enjoy the 10 week tenor horn programme! All of Year 6 will enjoy their musical enrichment day when a beat boxer visits and teaches them some skills in beat boxing. They will continue with beat boxing, composing their own and then move on to rap.

We are also offering our Year 3 and 4 children the opportunity to learn the recorder in an after school club which is run by members of the teaching staff.

We look forward to hearing more from our wonderful musicians at events over the coming months!

Sue Bandy





T: 01444 239898 M: 07796 263710 THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL - GOV-ERNING BOARD VACANCY The governing board of The Windmills Junior School is currently searching for a suitable person to join their friendly team to work alongside the headteacher and staff to ensure the school delivers high quality education.

Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in the school.

The current vacancy is for a co-opted governor and the governing board is particularly interested in appointing someone with managerial experience in an HR, legal, education or finance setting.

We are fortunate to have several parents sitting on our governing board. However, under the terms of our constitution we are not able to appoint more parents. We are therefore keen to receive applications from people within the local community; this can include parents of children who attend a school outside Hassocks.

For those of you who are not familiar with The Windmills, we are a 3 form entry junior school in the village of Hassocks; with space for 360 pupils in 12 classes, 3 in each year group. Over recent years the demographic of the village has changed, and continues to do so, with more young families moving into the area.

You will find more information about the school's com-





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munity, its aims, vision and values on the school website: www.windmills.w-sussex.sch.uk/

If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please contact me, the Clerk to the Governors, by email: sbandy@windmillsjunior.org.uk. She will be happy to arrange a suitable time for you to meet the Chair of Governors and Headteacher for an informal chat and to discuss the role in more detail.

Sue Bandy

THE CLAYTON & KEYMER BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

We meet at 3 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at our headquarters in Woodsland Road, Hassocks. We are a friendly group and visitors are very welcome.

For further information about our activities, please contact our Chairman, Jenny Budd on 07719 922326.

On 14th February, we will be welcoming Anisah Rani once again. This time 'My Favourite Cuddly Toy' is her topic. The Competition is for the 'Prettiest Scarf.

Our next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 16th February at Age Concern Hassocks between 9.45 am and 11.45 am.

All help and contributions are warmly welcomed. Your support is appreciated, and we hope to see you there. Liz Thomas





COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH If you have been out and about in Hassocks, you may have seen volunteers from the Community Speed Watch team in their hi-viz jackets, with clipboards and a radar speed gun. Our local group is part of a nationwide initiative aimed at improving awareness around excessive speeding in order to help make our streets safer for all road users. We are supported by Sussex Police, with our equipment funded through one of the annual community grants awarded by Hassocks Parish Council.

Having been trained by Sussex Police in November, with a number of sites risked assessed and approved, we ran a few initial sessions in late December. As a result we found that 65 vehicles were driving well in excess of the village-wide 30 mph limit. Registered owners of those vehicles would have received letters sent out in the post informing them of this.

The scheme is about awareness rather than enforcement, so the data we collect would never be used to issue points or fines. Other than aiming to make our streets safer for all road users, we also want to use the anonymised data collected to demonstrate to West Sussex County Council and the Parish Council where better signage is needed, as well help identify hot spots for Police as to where they should look to do more for-



01273 843576 or 07710 947646

mal speed monitoring.

If you are interested in joining the team you can sign up by going here - https://bit.ly/2L2yXV3 or you can drop me a mail at alickmighall@yahoo.co.uk. Once you've completed no more than 30 minutes online training, I'd meet with you for an hour to cover off a few extra details, and then you're ready to go. The group is entirely self-organising, so the time you volunteer can be as much or as little as you like.

From time to time we'll keep the village updated with progress on the scheme through local magazines, Facebook groups and Twitter.

Alick Mighall

GODLY PLAY is a way for adults and children to hear Bible stories, then have a chance to think about them and take part in craft activities. 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 our next Godly Play will be on Saturday **23rd February** between 10 am and 12 noon at Hassocks United Reformed Church; the story will be told at 10.30 am. There is no charge and all are welcome.

Darryl Sinclair



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HASSOCKS GARDEN CENTRE JUDGES WERE IN-TRIGUED WITH THE ENTIRES FOR THEIR COLOURING COMPETITION when they came across

two of the many entries: one was for Lucie, aged four, and the other labelled grandad $71\frac{1}{2}$.

We do love a family effort here at South Downs Nurseries, explains Rebecca Houghton-Knapp from the Brighton Road business, so we contacted 'Grandad', who turned out to be Colin Bailey from Hassocks.

Lucie had just gone back to school that day so couldn't come with him, but Grandad was more than happy to collect her goodie bag for her, as well as receiving a delicious cream tea for two for his colouring efforts as well.

Trevor Butler

This magazine is now available to view on www.villagemagazines.co.uk

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Grandad Colin Bailey collecting prizes from Ady O'Brien at South Downs Nurseries



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LET'S DANCE! (HASSOCKS) On Friday 16th November for the 30th year running Let's Dance! (Hassocks) held two Sponsored Tap Dancing Sessions for the BBC Children in Need Appeal.

In the afternoon younger pupils from 3 years old tapped away for an hour followed by our older pupils and adults enjoying $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours of dance.

We were pledged in excess of $\pounds 2,035$ taking the total raised by the school over the years for various Children's Charities to over $\pounds 72,000!$

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, supported and helped at the event and to Sally-Ann and her 'big' girls for leading the sessions.

Email robin@letsdancehassocks.com.

Robin



Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha CHIROPODY - PODIATRY Home Visits • HPC reg. no. CH22014 Tel. 01273 831237 or 07802 756567





WAITING FOR SPACES? Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club's waiting list have all but disappeared.

If you think you are on the waiting list for girls Preschool or school age classes, or Junior boys, please enquire because the waiting lists are empty. There are a just few spaces in each class.

There are only a few boys waiting for Pre-school classes and for the boys Reception class.

More details about the Club are on its website www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk. Andrew Hair

<u>DITCHLING SINGERS</u> New members are always welcome! We are a friendly choir who enjoy singing popular songs together. No auditions and the first session is free.

Our February rehearsals are on Sunday, **3rd February** from 4 pm to 6 pm, in The Old Meeting House in Ditchling, and Sunday, **17th February** from 4 pm 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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I have to be honest I did think what I had written in last month's Talk About was a bit down beat and depressing so I thought come on Steve this month be all light hearted and amusing – Sorry no chance of that. When I arrived at the shop early Christmas Eve morning and found my beautiful old Freelander car had been stolen from the back of the shop I was absolutely devastated, we'd had so many adventures together rescuing a whole assortment of wildlife and using her to take Miss Snooks out for her walks in the countryside, I couldn't believe she just wasn't there where I always left her. By now my head and out for her walks in the countryside, I couldn't believe she just wasn't there where I always left her. By now my head and heart were about to explode, I remember crashing through the back door trying to grab the phone to call the police which I managed to do, but what was weird when they asked for the registration number I couldn't remember it, it had disappeared from my brain cells. I must have sounded a right idiot but eventually I pulled myself together to provide the relevant information – what was strange as I was about to hang up the phone she suddenly said to me "oh yes I can see what direction it's driven off in" how did she know that? Anyway by now shock had turned into grief, I remember sinking to my knees with my hands over my face screaming Happy "BLEEP BLEEP" Christmas and what next? Perhaps it's the work of the landlords trying to push me over the edge, crazy things go through your mind at times like this, then all or a sudden I could feel these off little bodies rubbing against me as L remender from my fee all U could case ware a lot of worried little force. I soft little bodies rubbing against me, as I removed my hands from my face all I could see were a lot of worried little faces, I soft http: bound see Were a fot of worred inter as Freinoved in y hands non my face and could see were a fot of worred interfaces, i was surrounded by my wide eyed cats looking quizzically at me and wondering why I was down on the floor with them. Once they could see I was alright they all moved in purring and rubbing themselves reassuringly against me as if to say don't worry dad, it'll be alright, we all love you – what more could you want? You can always count on animals to make you feel better, so I pulled myself together gave them all a stroke or cuddle and got on with my Christmas Eve. Just after Christmas I had a communication from the police which read 'Case Closed' which once again upset me but prompted me to write a letter to the Chief Constable of Sussex voicing my concerns about how Hassocks is turning into little London with a huge increase in crime and anti-social behaviour, it's very worrying and will only get worse as more and more houses are built in the area, what's the answer? I don't know, certainly CCTV would be a start, tougher laws to deal with anti-social behaviour and more police presence, personally I think the parents should be held more accountable for the actions of their children - after all if your dog attacks anyone you're to blame, if it's not raised and trained properly they become out of control, then as we've seen happen all too many times tragedy strikes and it's the owner who is prosecuted. Anyway, I did get my reply from the office of the Chief Constable reassuring me that my concerns had been passed on to the relevant departments. As for my car bless her, who was 18 years old and full of my rescue equipment – was last seen being driven around Brighton and that's the last I've heard. A little bit of local news which I am sure most of you know – The Greyhound has been bought by the owners of The Plough in Pyecombe, South Downs Garden Centre is spending 15 million to extend the car park and put up bigger buildings to sell. what more plants? And a burger bar is considering opening up in the empty shop next to me – what do I think about that? Just one word YUCK! I do hope that next month I'll be here and able to talk about some good news but we won't hold our breath on that one. Thanks for all your good wishes and offers of help I feel very humbled and emotional. My thanks to QD for letting me go over their deadline – just to let you know briefly my car was involved in a police incident.

in Brighton which ended in a chase and sadly my car was very badly damaged and hence written off, that at the moment is all I know – Typical Eh! Love you all, Steve



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