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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 not be holding a surgery in April. 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) will be holding a surgery on Tuesday 2nd April 10 am - 11 am. Sue can be contacted on 07821 351411 or email [suehatton@midsussex.gov.uk](mailto:suehatton@midsussex.gov.uk) Kirsty can be contacted on 07952 643623 or email [kirsty.lord@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.lord@westsussex.gov.uk)

**HASSOCKS PARISH CENTRE** Council Office in Adastra Park, Keymer Road - telephone 01273 842714 (answerphone out of hours) Website: [www.hassocksspc.net](http://www.hassocksspc.net)

**Parish Clerk - Ian Cumberworth** Open Mondays to Thursdays 10 am.- 2 pm and Fridays 10 am - 12 pm.

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*We thanks Jacquie Whatford for sending this photo:-* I think it was taken about 1963 at the Adastra Hall in Adastra Park. The local children are modelling Ladybird clothes on behalf of a shop in the village called Mary Wool which was I think where Indigo is now?

Left to right back row children - Sue Bere, Carolyn Dunk, Lynne O'Meara, ?, ?, Gillian Harmer, Christine Harmer  
2nd row children - Gillian ?, ?, ?, ? A....., Judith

3rd row children - ?, Christine Hewitson, Lynne/Gillian O'Meara, ?, ?, ? A....., ? Judith Poynter, ?, ?, ?

4th row children - Susan Webb, Patricia (Patty) Webb, ?, Gillian Tessier, Judith Poynter, Jacqueline Pitt, Alexander Green.  
The 2nd mum on the left Mrs O'Meara & on the right the 2nd mum Mrs Tessier & to her left Joyce ?.

I recognise most of them but not sure of names and would like to know if I'm right & put a name to those I can't remember. Please either write or email info on the inside front cover.

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### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

#### **DITCHLING DOWNS WI**

Tues. 2 Apr. 7 pm

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Tues. 2nd Apr. 1.30 pm

#### **HASSOCKS CROQUET CLUB**

Wed. 3rd Apr. 10.30 am

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

Thurs. 4th Apr. 7.30 pm

#### **HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP**

Thurs. 4th Apr. 2 pm

#### **WOODLAND, FLORA & FAUNA GROUP**

Thurs. 4th Apr. 7.30 pm

#### **DITCHLING WI**

Thurs. 4th Apr. 2.15 pm

#### **HEBER OPERA**

Sat. 6th Apr. 10 am - 2 pm

#### **FRIENDS OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY**

Sat. 6th Apr. 10 - 11.30 am

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

Silversmith - Barbara Ehlers

#### **Age Concern, Hassocks**

Conducted by one of the local Church of England Clergy

#### **The St. James Montefiore Cricket Club, Keymer Road, Hassocks**

Coffee Morning and Open House

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

Training Night - New members welcome

#### **The Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint**

RNLI - Jo Kaddish

#### **Hurstpierpoint Village Centre**

The Glorious Countryside of the Sussex Middle Weald - David Bangs

#### **Ditchling Village Hall**

Arrange an Easter Basket of Flowers - Sheila Rawlings

#### **Hurstpierpoint Village Centre**

Spring Craft Fair

#### **Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hassocks**

Annual Coffee Morning and Mini Market



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**PAWS AND CLAWS**

Sat. 6th Apr. 10 am - 12 pm Spring Fair - Homemade cakes, jewellery clothes, Easter Cards, Books, tombola etc.

**OLDLAND MILL**

Sun. 7th Apr. 2 - 5 pm

**MOBILE REFUSE**

Sun. 7th Apr. 10 am - 12 pm

**HENFIELD ARTS SOCIETY**

Mon. 8th Apr. 2.30 pm William Kent, Artistic Genius of Palladian England - Christopher Rogers. See article

**HASSOCKS EVENING JAZZ**

Tues. 9th Apr. 8 pm

**HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Tues. 9th Apr. 7.45 pm

**DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT**

Wed. 10th Apr. 2 - 5 pm

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

**HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Wed. 10th Apr. 8 pm

**MID SUSSEX ASSOCIATION NATIONAL TRUST**

Thurs. 11th Apr. 2.30 pm

**DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION**

Tues. 16th Apr. 9.45 - 11 am

**MID SUSSEX OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

Thurs. 18th Apr. 10 am Annual Conference - Katie Bourne, Police Crime Commissioner. Tkts 01444 242760

**CAREMARK MID SUSSEX & CRAWLEY**

Sat. 20th Apr. 4 pm Easter Fun - 4.30 pm Egg Hunt, 6 pm Fancy Dress Comp., Childrens Entertainment, Disco

**HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD**

Tues. 23rd Apr. 2.30 pm

Churchill's S.O.E Special Operations Executive - Gilly Halcrow

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**Hurstpierpoint Village Centre**

Gardening for Pollinators - Amanda Millar

**The White Horse Restaurant, Ditchling**

**Adastra Hall, Hassocks**

Tools of the Trade - Russell Bowes, Garden Historian

**Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath**

The Medieval Art of Love and Life - Patricia Wright

**Ditchling Village Hall**

Coffee Morning run by Ditchling Players

**Clair Hall, Haywards Heath**

**Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East, Hassocks**

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### HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fri. 26th Apr. 8 pm

### HURST, HASOCKS & DITCHLING U3A

Fri. 26th Apr. 2 pm

### HASOCKS AND HURSTPIERPOINT LABOUR BRANCH

Fri. 26th Apr. 2 - 3 pm

### BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Fri. 26th Apr. 7.45 pm

### CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sat. 27th Apr. 10 am - 12 pm

Godly Play - For Adults & Children to hear Bible stories with craft activities

### CLAYTON WITH KEYMER CHURCHES

Sat. 27th Apr. 7.30 pm Roaring Twenties Evening, 3 course meal & entertainment. Tickets Hassocks Hardware

### HASOCKS VILLAGE MARKET

Sat. 27th Apr. 9 am - 1 pm

Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc

### ADASTRA BOWLING

Sat. 6th Apr. 10 am - 12.30 pm

Coffee Morning in the Club House, chat to members, look at our facilities

Sat. 27th Apr. 10 am - 12.30 pm

Open Morning in the Club. Come and try bowling, all equipment provided

### DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY

Thurs. 4th Apr. 7.30 pm

### Ditchling Village Hall

Film - Blackkkiansman

Thurs. 25th Apr. 7.30 pm

Film - Cold War

### DITCHLING SINGERS

Sun. 14th Apr. 4 - 6 pm Old Meeting House, Ditchling

Rehearsals - open to all more info 01273 844818

Sun. 28th Apr. 4 - 6 pm Keymer Church Hall

Rehearsals - open to all more info 01273 844818

### HASOCKS FIELD SOCIETY

Mon. 8th Apr. 7.45 pm

### Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Shepherds of the South Downs - Ian Everest

Mon. 29th Apr. 7.45 pm

Plastic, Turning the Tide - Ray Hale. All welcome

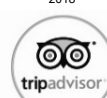


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### HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB

**Wed. 24th Apr.** 6 pm Taster Sessions - sign up for free six week membership, coaching and use of equipment

**Sat 27th Apr.** 11 am Taster Sessions - sign up for free six week membership, coaching and use of equipment

### HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS

**2nd - 6th Apr.** Various shows Rope - chilling & spiningtingly gripping thriller - Patrick Hamilton. See article

### HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

For films and showing times visit [hurstfilms.com](http://hurstfilms.com)

### KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB

**Mon. 1st Apr.** 7.30 - 9.30 pm

**Mon. 15th Apr.** 7.30 - 9.30 pm

**Mon. 29th Apr.** 7.30 - 9.30 pm

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLAYTON & KEYMER WOMENS SECTION

**Thurs. 11th Apr.** 3 pm

**Sat. 13th Apr.** 9.45 - 11.45 am

### SUSSEX VALE ROTARY

**Mon. 1st Apr.** 7.30 pm

**Mon. 8th, 15th Apr.** 7.30 pm

**Mon. 29th Apr.**

### ST PETER AND ST JAMES HOSPICE

**27th/28th Apr.** 11 am - 4 pm

Open Gardens - Raffle, Tea/Coffee, Cake, Jams, BBQ & short bluebell walk

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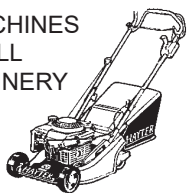
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Coffee Morning at Age Concern, Hassocks

Email [secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk)

Business Meeting

Meeting with guest speaker at Mid Sussex Golf Club

Visit to Lewes Castle Rotary

### The Old Coach House, Sayers Common

**THANK YOU** We would like to say Thank You to Tony Baldwin for delivering the Hassocks Talk About in Hassocks Road and Station Approach West for many years it has been much appreciated. *Editors*

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**TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON** - and the audio version of Talk About has come to the end of its season. This April edition will be the last one to be recorded for visually impaired readers. Sixteen years ago, a blind man suggested that an audio version of such a useful source of local information should be included in the Village Action Plan. As a result, a group of volunteers without funds, but rich in enthusiasm and ingenuity, launched 'Talk About on Tape' in time for the Queen's Jubilee. Dennis Walmsley fitted up a studio mainly from equipment salvaged from skips, and he and Simon Brown became responsible for the monthly recording sessions. Friends and Neighbours provided the cassettes, the Yews Talking News in Haywards Heath gave Simon access to their expensive copying machine, and a rota of volunteer readers was quickly formed. At its zenith, Talk about on Tape reached the great majority of registered blind and partially sighted people in Hassocks and Ditchling and later, Hurstpierpoint.

Why then, are we closing down? The reason is simple: we have been overtaken by technology. All talking newspapers are having the same experience. Although we now record on memory sticks as cassettes are obsolete, there is little demand for the service. The range of audio services is vast compared with 16 years ago. Happily there have also been significant medical advances. More people are retaining useful vision so all the enlarging facilities on tablets and PC's are open to them as well as audio. Talk About itself went on line at the beginning of this year so our listeners can access it direct.

**Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha**  
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Sixteen years is a long time, and not a single deadline has been missed. Our thanks go out to so many people, not least to Talk About staff who provided copy in good time for it to be recorded and delivered by the 1st of the month, and the Parish Council for acting as a postal receiving centre. Our readers and editors have never failed us, though there have been many occasions when their laughter has caused our sound engineer to throw all his switches. Recording sessions seem to be therapeutic. The Talk About on Tape or, more recently, Talk About on Memory Stick, teams will miss them.

*Margaret Ford*

**HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB** We are looking forward to spring & summer & another enjoyable season of bowling so why not come & join us. Your local Bowls club is in South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint & we are holding "Taster Sessions" on the following dates; Wednesday **24th April** at 6 pm & Saturday **27th April** at 11 am. We are offering free six week membership, free coaching & free use of equipment & Bowls. Please wear flat soled shoes (trainers are fine). If you are interested in learning to bowl at a friendly & socially active club, then we would like to meet you. Contact me on **01273 842770** or just turn up. *Anne Clifford*

**OPEN GARDENS** The Old Coach House, Sayers Common **27th/28th April** 11 am to 4 pm in aid of St Peter and St James Hospice. Small entrance fee, raffle, tea, coffee, cakes, jams, BBQ sausages and short bluebell walk.

*Mr Lower*



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**WINDMILLS SCHOOL** March saw staff and pupils at The Windmills Junior School marking World Book Day in style; one whole week was devoted to celebrating our love of reading and storytelling with lots of exciting events and activities! The week began with Mrs Murray sharing one of her favourite stories with the children in assembly – The Hobbit – and during the week other members of staff spent time with the children in a quiet area of the playground to read extracts from their own choices of children's books. As a change from dressing up as a book character, this year the children were invited to bring in a box or bag of 'character clues' based on a well-known children's book so that others could try to guess the identity of the character! The children came up with some very imaginative clues – characters included Roald Dahl's Matilda, Gangster Granny – the David Walliams character and Winnie the Pooh! Another activity which gave everyone the chance to write their own reviews on books was 'Never judge a book by its cover'. Areas were set up around the school with books wrapped in brown paper on which a short blurb had been written. Classes chose a book to read each day based on that blurb and then added their own review to the cover to help others to make their selection! The highlight of the week, however, was a visit by the well-known children's author Liz Flanagan. Liz spent a day with us which began with her leading an interactive whole school assembly focused on ways to have fun with characters and words when writing. For the rest of the day Liz ran workshops with our

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Year 5 and 6 children which provided them with inspirational insights into her own writing techniques. We are particularly grateful to our parents association, FoWS, for funding this fantastic experience for the children. It will be interesting to see if Liz's passion for writing will encourage any of our pupils to follow in her footsteps in the future!

*Sue Bandy*

*We thank Lyn Bond of Hassocks for the following article:-* I would like to thank Windmills School for giving me the opportunity to accompany 70 children to the 2019 Young Voices Concert at the O2 in February. Under the excellent direction of Mrs Sinclair, the choir had prepared 15 songs off by heart. This involved two practices a week since September starting at 8am....an extra thank you to such supportive parents. This was supported by very detailed organisation and preparation in the school office.

We joined other schools from across the country to become a choir of 7000 very enthusiastic children. The whole experience was quite magical - such professional leadership from the conductor, the instrumentalists, the dancers, the lighting and the sound. Everything to inspire our children. It was a long day 10 am until midnight - but how wonderful to be able to say that our children's behaviour was exemplary.

**THANK YOU TO THE GENTLEMAN** who found my glasses outside the Royal Mail in Downsview Road. I can see now.

*Graham*

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**THE LADIES OF THE TOWNWOMEN'S GUILD** met on the 26th February for their monthly meeting at the Pauline Thaw centre, on this occasion to welcome our speaker for the afternoon, Mr John Withall who gave a most interesting account on the history of Wakehurst Manor and all the people who had lived there.

Edward Culpepper, a distant relative of Thomas Culpepper the famous herbalist commissioned the mansion in 1590 on land previously purchased by William de Wakehurst which evidence has been discovered of Stone Age and Iron Age activities (charcoal burning) and Roman (iron smelting). The mansion was then sold on to Dennys Lydell, Commissioner for the Navy in the reign of Charles II for a purchase price of £9,000. The sale being necessary to cover a Culpepper family member's gambling debts. Over the years the mansion was taken over by other incumbents, each putting their own individual mark on the property, the last being Sir Henry Price (the 'Fifty Shilling Taylor') and his wife Lady Eve, who in 1965 bequeathed the manor to the National Trust.

The manor played it's part in WWII, having been taken over by the War Office in 1939. It then became the HQ for the Canadian Army and HQ for the planning of the D Day landings. Recently an underground radio station and several relics from WWI have been located in the gardens.

Wakehurst is now managed by Royal British Gardens with the Millennium Seed Bank opening in 2000, now holding approximately 25% of the world's species and by contrast a yew tree is still standing in the garden which has been



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dated to the year 1391!

Very many thanks to Mr Withall for this insight - in addition to being a lovely place to visit, what a fascinating history Wakehurst Place has to offer.

Our next meeting is on the **23rd April** commencing 2.30 pm at the Pauline Thaw Centre when our speaker for the afternoon will be Gilly Halcrow whose talk is entitled 'Churchill's S.O.E. Special Operations Executive'. For further information please contact Mrs Sheila Southwell **01273 841106**.  
*Avril Williams*

**OPEN GARDEN** Sunday **12th May** Birchanger Gardens, Handcross RH17 6JY. 2 pm to 5.30 pm.

The Worrall family are again kindly opening their garden for charity, and on Sunday 12th May it will be in aid of St Catherine's Hospice. This is a beautiful 7-acre garden with magnificent displays of azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias. There is a grassy avenue, lake, lily pond, pergola, Etruscan-style temple and much more. This lovely garden is only open to the public for a few weekends each year, so make sure you don't miss it.

Children free, dogs on leads, Free car parking, Refreshments with home made cakes (closes 5.00 pm), 2 miles east of A23 at Handcross on the B2110, 2 miles north of Balcombe, Signposted on the day. Further details from Marian Erritt on **01444 413391**.

Check St Catherine Hospice's website **www.stch.org.uk** for details of other gardens that will be opening this year to raise much needed funds.  
*Joan Moon*

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**ADASTRA JUNIOR STOOLBALL CLUB** The new season is fast approaching - light warm evenings, out in the fresh air and enjoying an Olde Sussex game of Stoolball.

We have held a junior girls club for 30 years. During the past 4 years we formed a new section for younger girls 8 to 10 years and called them our 'Cherries'. They meet for 1 hour and learn the skills of catching, throwing and being part of a team. The older Juniors from 10 to 16 years have practise sessions and then have League Matches against other neighbouring village clubs. We hold a tournament every Summer in June in Adastra Park, preceded by a fun raising event - for the general club funds (pitches, refreshments and trophies). New members welcome.

The first meeting will be to register and clothing advice. For Cherries, 5 pm at the Sports Pavilion on Wednesday **17th April** and for 10 to 16 years at 6 pm.

For more information, for Juniors please ring me on **01444 236782** or **07986 584228** or senior ladies (meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30 pm) ring Jenny Hanley on **07968 956924**.

*Joy Mans*

**HENFIELD ARTS SOCIETY** Monday **8th April** at 2.30 pm. William Kent Artistic Genius of Palladian England. Christopher Rogers, formerly head of geography at Downs School, Newbury, and with a wide knowledge of architectural matters, will describe how Kent's genius translated the style of Andrea Palladio to the British countryside. The Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield, BN5 6DB. Guests



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welcome to attend for a fee. **01273 494633**.

*Stephen Wyman*

**HEAPS OF FUN AND LEAPS IN LEARNING** The Acorns Nursery and Forest School is very excited that so many children are enjoying and benefiting from the opportunities we offer.

Our two established nurseries at Westmeston Parish Hall near Ditchling and in Denmans Lane Lindfield are run by Janet Irwin, a qualified and experienced teacher. They set firm early years foundations in place, develop independence skills and provide an excellent preparation for school. They offer children wonderful opportunities to explore, discover and learn in different environments according to their individual interests and styles of learning. The Summer Term beckons and with it hopes of warm sunny days, growing and enjoying fruit and vegetables, wonderful walks and forest school adventures and lots of indoor and outdoor fun and learning.

Enjoy taster sessions for children aged 2+ considering joining The Acorns. 'Stay and play' sessions for toddlers with their parents or childminders and forest school adventure days for home-educated children.

To visit Westmeston or Lindfield to see us in action, please phone us on **01444 455081**.

Please do come and see us and discover the magic that is The Acorns.

We are currently recruiting. Please contact us for full details.  
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*Janet Irwin*

**CLAYTON WITH KEYMER CHURCHES** are having a Roaring Twenties Evening with a three course meal and entertainment on Saturday **27th April** at Clayton Church Hall at 7.30 pm.

Tickets available from Hassocks Hardware. Dressing Up encouraged but not compulsory! Prize for the best outfit!

*Juliet Strange*

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**HASSOCKS WI** Our February meeting was rubbish! Literally! Who would have thought an evening on waste management and recycling could be so entertaining and enlightening.

A year ago the WI passed a resolution to reduce 'plastic soup', the plastic pollution in our waterways, and partly this meeting was intended as a practical follow-up to that. Firstly, Gerry reported on a WI conference on how washing our synthetic clothes is contributing to microplastic pollution, and showed us a Cora Ball, one of the devices produced to collect the microplastic fibres before they enter the waterways. Then Matthew Bird, from Mid Sussex District Council, gave us an overview of how our waste collections are managed. Even our black bins are screened for recycling, and much of the contents is burnt to produce heat and power, so less goes to landfill. Colin McFarlane is a West Sussex Waste Advisor, and in a lively presentation tested our knowledge of recycling and food storage. Being WI, of course we did quite well, but all of us learnt something, and we left with a new determination to reduce our use of plastics of all sorts, and waste in general. We will be examining labels to avoid buying products containing microplastics - why would hair conditioner or shower gel need microplastics? - and trying to buy less and reuse and recycle more. A group of ladies shopped at Tesco, then (with the knowledge and approval of the manager) removed all the unnecessary packaging, most of which went into the store's collection skips for plastic waste. This is an on-going concern, and we



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hope to continue to raise awareness of the ways that we pollute our planet, and what we can do about it.

Something completely different this month. On **15th April**, you will have the opportunity to try a variety of games, all prepared by Marie. Hope that Lady Luck will be on your side, with no danger of losing any money. 7.45 pm, at Adastral Hall. As ever, more information is available on the website [wihassocks.org.uk](http://wihassocks.org.uk).

*Maureen Dodd*

**FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS** It's delicious! - it's delightful! — it's delovely!! Come and join us at our Cream Tea afternoon on Bank Holiday Monday **6th May** at the Adastral Hall Hassocks from 2.30 pm until approx 4.30 pm. Doors will open at 2.15 pm for an 'early cuppa' before the first Cream tea at 2.30 pm. Last tea will be served at 4.15 pm. Tickets go on sale from Monday **15th April** at Pavilion Electrics in Keymer Road, Hassocks at the usual very reasonable cost and there will be a raffle to add to the excitement of the occasion.

Four weeks later, on 6th June sees the 75th anniversary of 'D.Day' and, in true Friends and Neighbours style we shall be wearing red, white and blue to commemorate that famous date during World War Two. Why not sport any of those colours that you may have in your wardrobe to join us!

A donation from the proceeds of the afternoon will be given to the Crohn's in Childhood Research Association so please come along for a friendly and enjoyable afternoon to support us. Don't be alone on Bank Holiday - we look forward to your company!

*Friends and Neighbours*

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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** On Thursday, **4th April** our film will be **Blackkklansman** – from visionary filmmaker, Spike Lee, comes the incredible true story of an American hero who sets out on a dangerous mission to infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. Set in the early 70's, Ron Stallworth (John David Washington), is the first black American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a name for himself, he poses as a white bigot over the phone whilst sending in white officers for face to face work. Together with a more seasoned colleague, Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver), they proceed to take down the extremist hate group as the organisation aims to sanitise its violent appeal to the mainstream. This stranger-than-fiction story lights up like a bar room pinball machine and slips seamlessly from borderline absurdist humour to all-too-real horror.

Director: Spike Lee English 2018 128 minutes 15 Cert.

We do apologise but our May film is now being on **25th April**. **Cold War**, our film is based on the Director's own parents' relationship and highlights the hardships experienced by people living in exile. Set against the backdrop of the late 1940's Cold War in Poland, two people from differing backgrounds and temperaments Wiktor and Zula, embark on an almost impossible and destructive romance. As performing musicians, they are forced to play into the communist propaganda machine but dream of escaping to the creative freedom of the west. Shot in shimmering black and white, it is an artfully crafted and flawlessly acted film

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which is visually stunning, passionate, wistful and thoughtful in equal measure.

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski Polish 2018 84 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 for a small sum payable at the door. *Rowena and Melanie*

## **ANNUAL QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP.**

On Friday **24th May** we will be holding a Quiz and Curry Night at the Hassocks Hotel at 7.30 pm.

Jack and Jill Playgroup is the only charity run playgroup in Hassocks. Judy will return as the quiz mistress. Quiz teams of up to 8 people (please arrange your teams before the night). There will be a pudding auction after the curry. To book a table please contact me on **07799 383481** or by emailing **helenpalmer@live.com**. *Helen Palmer*

**STAR CINEMA** There are 6 film nights a year - Jan/Feb/Mar and Sept/Oct/Nov. Thank you for your support for the first 3 months of the year, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September, hopefully with Stan and Ollie.

For your diaries, the next dates are **20th September, 18th October** and **15th November**. See you then. *Liz Edmunds*

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**MALE CANCER AWARENESS WEEK – 8th April** The eleventh Orchid Male Cancer Awareness Week will take place from the **8th to 14th April**. This important annual campaign raises awareness of male specific cancers – prostate, testicular and penile cancer – providing practical advice, support and information on the detection, diagnosis and treatment of these diseases.

Many men who develop prostate cancer don't develop any symptoms at all. But getting up at night as well as going very frequently and perhaps rushing to the loo, those are all the common symptoms of any prostate problem. Prostate Cancer is a very serious disease and in fact it's the second most common cause of men dying from cancer in the UK. If men do have symptoms it's very worthwhile having this sort of problem excluded. It comes as figures show more than half of men don't actually know where their prostate is. It's the second biggest cancer killer in men.

Most men's testicles are about the same size, though it's common for one to be slightly bigger than the other. It's also common for one testicle to hang lower than the other. The testicles should feel smooth, without any lumps or bumps, and firm but not hard. You may feel a soft tube at the back of each testicle, which is called the epididymis. If you notice any changes or anything unusual about your testicles, you should get checked out.

If you're a guy who puts off going to see the doctor, you're not alone but sometimes it's good to talk. It's a common

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problem among men...a reluctance to talk about health and more specifically, the prostate, penis or bladder. It's understandable really, problems 'down there' don't exactly make us feel our most masculine and talking about any type of health issue isn't easy. For more information visit [www.westsussexurology.co.uk](http://www.westsussexurology.co.uk) Janet Francis

**DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT** group has announced plans for the latest major research topic – a study of the shops, pubs, farms and other commercial businesses in the village. The study will have a "now and then" element as the idea is to look at the premises as they are today and then take them back in time through this and the last century, the one before and as far back as any records can be traced. So it's a call to arms to all interested parties – please rack your brains and let us have any information you can recall however big or small: can you remember the names and stories of those who worked in the village/do you have details on the changing use of farmland/have you some pictures tucked away that show the village in earlier times/what do you know about the outlying areas like the brickworks? The hope is to develop an exhibition and a village trail similar to that recently completed on WW1 so please do help contribute to this exciting project with any reminiscences and/or pictures you have. Email: [history.project@btinternet.com](mailto:history.project@btinternet.com).

[www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org](http://www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org).

Lorna Vosper



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**ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB** We have now finalised our entry into two new leagues. The first is the Brighton, Hove and District Men's League played on Tuesday evenings and the second is the Hove Mixed League played on Thursday afternoons. Both these leagues will set us new challenges and give opportunities for experienced and improving bowlers.

Why not think of joining us for some enjoyable lawn bowling? It's a fun and friendly way of getting light aerobic exercise in the fresh air. Age is no limitation, young or old. This is by no means just a sport for retired people. We play both friendly and competitive league matches to suit all standards. We offer an optional trial membership for those new to bowling and this includes four coaching sessions which will take you to a level where you should be confident to compete in friendly matches.

Dates for your diary **6th April, 10 am to 12.30 pm** – Coffee morning at the clubhouse in Adastra Park – entrance at the south end of the car park in Orchard Lane. Delicious home-made cakes will be on sale along with an opportunity to have a chat with members, look at our facilities and maybe pick up an application form.

**27th April, 4th, 6th, 11th and 18th May, 10 am to 12.30 pm** – Open mornings at the club. Come and try bowling for yourself. All equipment provided and coaches will be there to give you all the help you need. All we ask is that you come with light, flattish footwear.  
**www.adastrabowling.club**,  
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*Frank Titford*

**HASSOCKS MAY DAY** – Monday **6th May** 12 pm to 4 pm at Adastra Park.

We have two very exciting new activities to offer you this year: a Flower Festival, application forms from Bella June to raise money for Sussex Cancer and Hassocks Community Fun Run, entry on the day, organised by Hassocks Community Runners. Our very popular Dog Show will be returning, along with Owls Out & About and a football challenge from Hassocks Junior Football Club. Have a go at whittling with the National Trust or signing challenges by Talking Hands? Much more to see and do too!

Or if you prefer to sit and watch, enjoy a cuppa and a cake at the Community Café raising funds for Children's Cancer and PearlPower, or have a pint and burger at the beer festival hosted by Hassocks Keymer Sports and Social Club. Join in a traditional dance round the Maypole. Lots to see and do. Look forward to seeing you there! Room for more; if you would like a stall please email

**michellebinks5@outlook.com**

*Michelle Binks*

**BELLA JUNE FLOWER FESTIVAL** As part of the May Day celebrations at Adastra Park. Fancy your hand at a bit of flower arranging? First and second place prizes in 4 categories to raise money for The Sussex Cancer Fund and bringing our community together.

All abilities welcomed - categories are Under 5's, Under 16's, Amateur, Professional. Application forms from Bella June flowers on the High Street or email

**info@bellaJuneflowers.co.uk.**

*Kelly Leppard*



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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.

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(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.

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Thanks for taking the time to read this.



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#### **KEYMER & HASSOCKS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB,**

in Adastra Park, Hassocks, unveiled a newly installed defibrillator on Wednesday, 13th February. Funded by the Club, the Burgess Hill District Lions and the Rotarians, the defibrillator is sited on an outside wall facing out on to the park so that it can be used 24 hours a day by all of the Club's fellow villagers.

The Club, which raises substantial funds for charities and local sport every year, was prompted to install the defibrillator partly by a late-member, Dan Erssler, who brought the idea forward after losing his brother suddenly, and also because committee members were anxious to fund something that everyone in Hassocks could have access to.

Chairman David Price explained, "We are keen to play our part in improving life in the village and we can't think of a better way than potentially saving someone's life. We have a great location here in Adastra Park, with many people using the park itself daily, while we are a couple of minutes' walk away from the High Street. We hope this never gets

used but we are committed to maintaining it for the village from now on".

He went on, "We're ever so grateful to Burgess Hill District Lions and the Rotary Clubs for their help in this. The Lions not only came up with half of the money themselves but in their officer Tony Parris they brought loads of experience of how to organise and manage the installation. They were absolutely invaluable in helping us achieve this aim"

*Tony Parris*

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There will be a minibus available to pick people up from Trinity Road car park at 2.15 pm before every session, and drop back around 4 pm. For everyone else, please just go to the college reception and you will be shown where to go. There are a few steps up in both the minibus and the college.

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*Nicola Brotherton*

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**OUT, STANDING IN THEIR FIELD** For sheep, life is like one long festival. They're either stood crowded together in a muddy field in the rain or running around in the sun trying to find the best grass. Next time you're walking around Lewes town centre look up at Sussex Wildlife Trust's Malling Down nature reserve and you'll see my woolly colleagues living the good life. But don't be fooled. They're actually hard at work on the most important construction job in Sussex; making perfect chalk downland.

You can keep your tropical rainforests and your underwater reefs, for me chalk downland is the world's number one natural wonder. This rare habitat supports an extraordinary diversity of wildlife and it's right on our doorstep.

Paradoxically, wildlife-rich chalk downland is a man-made creation (well, credit where credit's due – a sheep-made creation). Since around 800 AD sheep grazing has created and maintained our county's iconic downland landscape. The short, sheep-nibbled turf is perfect for Adonis blue butterflies, burnt orchids and a multitude of other wonderful wildlife. But, like rainforests and reefs, it's under threat; one of the main issues being neglect. Turn your back on downland and it mutates into long grass, brambles and thorn bushes and the butterflies and orchids vanish under the cold shadows.

Sheep are our best defence against this prickly invasion. Every bite and every hoof print creates downland with an ideal varied structure – impossible to create by uniform mowing. We have various rare sheep breeds in our grazing

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army stationed near Lewes at Southerham: Hebrideans, Wiltshire Horns, Southdowns, but my favourite sheep, baa none, are the Herdwicks.

Like all heroes, the Herdwick's origins are shrouded in mystery. Some folk say they came to Britain with marauding Vikings. There's some that say that the Herdwicks swam ashore after escaping the sinking Spanish Armada. Their ancestral home is the Lake District – it's claimed that 95% of the world's Herdwicks live within 15 miles of Conistone.

They're tough sheep; hard grazin' hell-raisers who are at home in harsh, hilly landscapes. If you like your sheep white and fluffy then you've come to the wrong field. Herdwicks are born black and develop white heads and legs as they mature. Their grey, wiry wool has an insulating undercoat – perfect attire for English hilltops. Feeding amongst thorns and thickets can leave their coats looking torn and tatty but this isn't a cause for concern, just proof that they're hard at work. For Herdwicks, grazing is a passion – not a fashion show.

*Michael Blencowe*

**DOWNSFEST 2019** – Saturday 7th September from 4 pm to 10 pm. A date for your diary. Our very own Hassocks Music Festival raising money for St Peter and St James Hospice. Our headline Queen tribute band is booked. More information to come. In the meantime, if you would like a stall or join the line-up on stage with your performance send your details and video clip to **michellebinks5@outlook.com**.

*Michelle Binks*

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**THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE SUSSEX VALE FRIDAY 26th April.** - a date for your diary. On that evening, Sussex Vale Rotary is pleased to present a special live musical event at 7.30 pm in St Cosmos and St Damian Church, Keymer.

Special performances by Marcus Martin and Vocal Fusion in a fundraising concert on behalf of the Sussex based charity 'Know Dementia'. There is no charge for admission to the concert, although it is hoped a retiring collection will raise a sizeable donation to the charity.

Know Dementia is run by volunteers to build links with the local community to enable a better understanding of the disease. This is achieved through Dementia Friends Training, Dementia Action Alliances and their 'Moments' events, which include 12 Memory Moments Cafés, Sporting Moments, Green Moments and Musical Moments. You can learn more on their website.

Vocal Fusion Acapella, will be performing and is an unaccompanied Male Voice Chorus of around 20 singers, based in Steyning, West Sussex, with a repertoire embracing the styles of American song, swing, jazz, well-known ballads, spirituals, easy beat and up-tempo songs arranged for men's voice and barbershop style.

They will be joined by Marcus Martin who is well known to local audiences in various professional musical roles such as the director of the HHD U3A choir, organist at St Cosmos and St Damian and also for his 17 years of presenting 'Morning Melodies' raising almost £60,000 to date for local and national charities.

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Don't miss what will be an excellent evening of live music, make sure it goes in your calendar today!

The Sussex Vale Rotary Club draws its members from Burgess Hill, Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and surrounding areas. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary International and how you can help or join us, please contact our club secretary on [secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk), who will be pleased to hear from you. Alternatively, you can follow us on our Facebook site. *Duncan Honeyman*

**CABARET COMES TO WIVELSFIELD** Talented local Jazz singer and community musician Lou Beckerman will be joined by friends Sarah Carpenter and Carol Sloman for an intimate cabaret performance as glamorous trio FoxiVox at Wivelsfield Village Hall on Saturday **27th July**. These three talented female musicians will provide a performance of song, story, musical mischief and jazz with a theatrical twist. FoxiVox is an innovative group with their stylish, eclectic and entertaining interpretations of well-loved standards, lesser-known classics and original compositions.

This event has been organised by the Mid Sussex Branch of Parkinson's UK to raise funds for the planned improvements to Wivelsfield Village Hall. Branch Chairman Sue Blunden said "Our group are delighted to host this evening to support the Hall where we hold our meetings and to welcome Lou Beckerman who has become a good friend to our members through leading our group choir. So why not put dress to impress and join us!"

Tickets available from myself on **01444 483504** or Barb **01444 470024**. Doors open at 7 pm. *Sue Blunden*

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** A great cacophony rises from the ponds these mornings, as the geese prepare for mating. Especially vocal are the Canada geese, which take off and circle the farm, honking all the way with their distinctive hiccoughing calls. The jackdaws are pairing too and within their gathered flocks, at dawn and dusk, you can see that the birds are actually flying two-by-two. Our winter redwings and phalaropes are gone, but the blackbirds have found their voices and wagtails, robins, woodpeckers, (green and lesser spotted), tits of all kinds, wrens, thrushes and mistle thrushes have all been making a cheerful din together. The spring weather has hastened the end of the snowdrops here but the Reserve is brightening with warm patches of colour as primroses and daffodils emerge in their place.

Having managed to break my wrist at Christmas I have had a lazy winter, Michael taking over my job of feeding the geese till I can lift the buckets again. Two days ago the fox broke into the hen-run and took our chickens, so we have been feeling sorely aggrieved and mindful that it is the beginning of Lent next week and we shall soon be needing good eggs for pancakes! An old friend has fortuitously offered us some bantams, so we are now busy preparing an impenetrable run for them and hope for better luck.

Michael's new exhibition of vintage photos goes on display when we re-open on 1st March and runs until the end of April at the Visitor Centre in Spatham Lane. This time the villages of Hassocks, Keymer and Clayton are in the spotlight. The room is occasionally let out for private functions so please do ring before you come to make sure you have chosen a day when access is available. (Telephone **01273 843498** Friday - Monday).

Our season of History Talks begins again on the last Friday in April and the brochure, listing all speakers, will be available soon as a pdf on our website ([www.stoneywish.com](http://www.stoneywish.com)). Meanwhile, we hope spring will stay with us and bring us

more birdsong. When our migrants return we now understand that the changing seasons bring them, but our ancestors thought of it was the other way around. We all know that 'one swallow doesn't make a summer', but it was a common thought, amongst country people years ago that birds, especially the first cuckoo 'brought' the warm weather with them. Recently I read that in Russia, countrywomen would traditionally bake little pastry birds and give them to their children to set round their yards and houses as decoys to encourage real birds to come, singing: "Larks, larks, Give us Summer! We'll give you winter - There's no food left for us!" As Lent approached, with the ghastly prospect of a month of gruel and no sausages, the birds, and especially those precious egg-laying hens, held all the hopes for future prosperity.

To see how well our birds are doing, come and share the delights of spring with us at Stoneywish. *Rosemary*

### 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 Woodslane 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 **11th April** our speaker will be Martin Wilcox, his topic "Child Aid". The competition: Child's Photograph.

A Date For Your Diary: Our Coffee Morning is on Saturday **13th April** at Age Concern Hassocks between 9.45 am and 11.45 am. We hope to see you there. Contributions for the Cake, Toiletries, and Bric-a-brac stalls are greatly appreciated. Items can always be brought along beforehand to our meetings, or on the day. If you need to arrange for collection please contact Jenny. Proceeds go towards our benevolent funds; thank you for your generous support.

*Liz Thomas*

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**NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL GARDEN CENTRE** A Hassocks garden centre has come to the rescue for a community bus in desperate need of a parking space.



*South Downs Nurseries Branch Manager,  
Craig Brookwell, with volunteers from  
Bluebird Community Partnership.*

The Bluebird Community Partnership, who operate the Hurst and Hassocks Community Bus, hit a logistical crisis when their arrangement to park their bus at Hassocks Golf Club came to an end because of building work. They contacted South Downs Nurseries, on Brighton Road, who came to the rescue and offered a parking spot for the minibus in their car park.

The Bluebird Community Partnership is a community transport charity, covering administrative district of Mid Sussex, and the area around Henfield in the Horsham District, pro-

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viding dial-a-ride-style, accessible transport within the local community to those who need it.

Pupils from Hassocks Infants School visited a local garden centre to learn how to look after plants.

Some 15 children from the school received a short talk from Kelly Loughlin at South Downs Nurseries, and planted their own sunflower seed to care for at home. They thoroughly enjoyed the exercise and can't wait to see whose sunflower grows the tallest!



*Kelly Loughlin and Jason Anderson from South Downs  
Nurseries, with pupils from Hassocks Infants School.*

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*Volunteers & contributors to the Royal baby's quilt*

Creative Sussex residents have teamed up with local business 'Made and Making' to create the perfect gift for The Duke & Duchess of Sussex's baby, which is due next month.

Sarah Brangwyn from Made and Making, who run craft and sewing workshops from their studio in Hassocks, said: "We thought it would be a lovely idea for the Sussex community to make something for the new arrival. A patchwork quilt

seemed the perfect project as everyone could work on a square and all we asked that it was bright and colourful."

In all, 56 blocks were received including eight which were made by a girls attending the after-school sewing club. Four volunteers, Vanessa, Andrea, Louise and Tanya, then helped assemble the quilt before taking it to The Quilt Room in Dorking where it was professionally quilted using their long arm machines.

"Everyone has really enjoyed taking part in the project" said one volunteer who added: "It has been so lovely to make a small part of such beautiful quilt which will hopefully become much loved".

Sarah Brangwyn, the organiser of the project, said: "I have been so pleased with the response that we have had and the quality of the work submitted has been amazing. Every block received has been included in the quilt and it's a wonderful reflection of the sewing community we have at Made and Making".

For further information on how you can get involved with Made and Making's charity and community projects, please visit [www.madeandmaking.co.uk](http://www.madeandmaking.co.uk).

*Trevor Butler*

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### HASSOCKS OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE SPACE

You may have read in the local press that Downlands Community School were finally granted planning permission for our amphitheatre at the beginning of February. We were of course delighted and hope to move the plan forward very soon.

We have had several large donations but wondered if you would like to help us to raise the rest.

Through West Sussex County Council we have set up a crowd fund raising site on SpaceHive. The idea is that, if you would like to, you can pledge a sum of money (as much or as little as you like - we are grateful for any contribution) which you do not actually pay until we have all the funding in place. It will involve you putting your bank account details into the site but, as I said, you will only notice your pledge disappear from your account once we have raised all the money. The link to the crowd fund raising site is [www.spacehive.com/hassocks-outdoor-performance-space](http://www.spacehive.com/hassocks-outdoor-performance-space) Please pass the link on to anyone else you feel may want to help.

The Wind in the Willows - If only they had stuck to messing about in boats but they didn't! Mole, Rat, Badger and the hapless Toad embark on lots of adventures on stage at Downlands in this year's fabulous drama production 'The Wind in the Willows'.

The wonderful thing about our drama productions is that they allow so many students to take part - from make-up and stage crew through to the actors and the sound engineers. Rehearsals have been taking place since October and

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the performance is amazing. From the stage backdrops to the diction of the actors, Mrs Robertson and her team have produced a play to be remembered.

Year 11 student Henry Godwin is a terrific Toad - completely believable as a rich, jovial, friendly and kind-hearted, but aimless and conceited soul. His latest craze is motor cars which lands him in lots of trouble - even ending up in jail.

In the end all is well as Toad comes to his senses and makes up for his earlier excesses by seeking out and compensating those he has wronged, and Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad live out their lives happily ever after.

Every student who took part was outstanding - their commitment is admirable and the result is a joy to behold - can't wait for the 2020 production!



Photo by Matt Freestone

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If you follow us on Twitter you will have noticed an unprecedented number of tweets yesterday - 30 January. The cause? The Year 11 Football Team were in action. Out of 568 team nationally - and only the really good teams enter - our lads made it to the last 16 of the ESFA Boys Under 16 Premier League Schools Cup. This meant a long trip down to Somerset to face Churchill Academy. It was a cold, sunny day and our boys were definitely up for a battle.

It was a hard match that went to extra time which finished at 2-2. And so we faced the dreaded penalty shoot out. Having dominated play and battled so convincingly it was a cruel way to finish the match. As Franz Beckenbauer said "Penalty shooting is always an uncertain affair because there is a lot of luck involved." It wasn't our lucky day. The Churchill goalie made another terrific save and broke Downlands hearts on the pitch in Somerset and back here at school in Hassocks.

But what an achievement - we are so very proud of our lads. They are still in local competitions so we look forward to cheering them on.

The Downlands Year 11 Football Team is : Angus Hill, Luke Goff, Ollie Charlesworth, Josh Hickingbotham, Ed Turns, Oli Munt, Shay Leahy, Charlie Jones, Sam Wright, Adam Lindo, Tom Roberts, Cam West, Ollie Appaya, Dexter Webb and Logan Lee.

*Nicki Burston*

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**A COUNTRYSIDE TALK BY DAVID BANGS** The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, a volunteer organisation dedicated to protecting local countryside and wildlife, invites you to a talk by the countryside expert and author David Bangs.

It will take place on Thursday, **4th April** at 7.30 pm in the Club Suite at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY.

The talk entitled 'The glorious countryside of the Sussex Middle Weald' provides a fascinating insight into the richness of the land surrounding us from the Sussex Middle Weald to southeast Surrey. It will immediately follow a brief introduction by The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group.

David is a strident campaigner for the protection of our countryside and wildlife and has written 3 books about their value, beauty and the threats facing them. Come and hear his immense knowledge and passion for the natural environment that surrounds us.

He is a very busy person so we are privileged that he has found time to speak to us. If you want to learn more about our local countryside and wildlife and his research into them, this opportunity should not be missed.

Entry is free and all are welcome. There is a car park opposite the building.

*Michael Nailard*

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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.

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*Kirsty Hunnisett*

**reMember**, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society is based in Hurstpierpoint / Hassocks. We provide information and help to patients and carers throughout Sussex and beyond. We also campaign for better services for people who have ME/CFS and support biomedical research into the illness. This year reMember is hoping to work with the NHS and healthcare professionals to set up clinical networks to look into what is being provided for patients and determine what more is needed. We have applied for funding to help us in this task.

Our annual ME/CFS Awareness Conference will be held this year at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath on Saturday **11th May** starting at 2.30 pm. Our key speakers will be Dr Charles Shepherd, medical advisor to the ME Association and Nina Muirhead, a surgeon, both of whom have ME. Light refreshments will be provided and admission is by ticket only. For more information go to our website, **www.remembercfs.org.uk** or contact the Director on **01273 831733**, e-mail **me\_cfs@hotmail.com** *Janice Kent*

**OLDLAND MILL** 7th April 2 pm to 5 pm. Our first Open Afternoon of the year. Come and see inside the oldest regularly working windmill in Sussex. Refreshments, memorabilia and our own flour available. No vehicles allowed at the Mill. Please park in Grand Avenue or Ockley Lane near the Thatched Inn and walk up Oldlands Lane. Information from Fred Maillardet **01273 842342** or **oldlandwindmill.co.uk** *Geoff Miller*



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**BETTER BIKING: LINKING DITCHLING HAS-SOCKS & HURST** As you may recall HKD Transition are plugging away at trying to make the main road (B2116) from the centre of Ditchling to the centre of Hurst friendlier to cyclists for getting to the station, to school and to the shops.

The feasibility study of how this could be done has been completed and has been with officers of Mid Sussex District Council since October 2018.

Meantime a further project to improve the B2116 for cyclists is progressing within West Sussex County Council. This would begin at Sayers Common and finish at Downlands School.

Officers and Councillors of the District and County Councils are now engaged in seeing whether the two plans can be brought together. We should have further news about this in May.

Meanwhile you can find out more about the HKD Transition proposal by going to <https://www.hkdtransition.org.uk/better-biking> and following the cycling link.

*Chris Thomson*

## OUTDOOR GAMES



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**ROPE** Hurstpierpoint Players are presenting this chilling and spine-tinglingly gripping thriller by one-time Hassocks resident Patrick Hamilton from **2nd April until 6th April**. The average murder mystery compels you to piece together the clues, then leaves you with a sense of emptiness the moment the detective solves the puzzle. The answer to the riddle is as meaningless as a completed sudoku puzzle. This is a whodunit in reverse, Hamilton's play has the distinction of revealing the murderers from the start.

Two well-bred young men murder a fellow Oxford student just for the fun of it. Audaciously, they have invited friends and relatives of the victim to a party around the chest containing his corpse. Will this daring pair get away with their cat and mouse games?

Inspired by the real-life Leopold and Loeb, who in 1924 attempted to commit the perfect murder, Rope gives us the real pleasure of rediscovering a play with more substance than you might expect.

Alfred Hitchcock's 1948 film made several changes to the play for an American audience but the original stage play remains to this day one of the most tightly coiled of thrillers. Tickets are available from the Hurst Players Box Office, 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint on Saturday Mornings from 10 am until 1 pm or online from [www.hurstplayers.org.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.org.uk).

*Bob Sampson*

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**DITCHLING DOWNS WI** Catharine introduced the speaker, Dorothy Porter who was with us to describe her work with the Samaritans. This is a registered charity aimed at providing support for anyone in emotional distress or at risk of suicide. It was founded in 1953, by a vicar whose inspiration came from when he conducted the funeral of a 14 year old girl who had killed herself, not realising that the bleeding she had experienced was actually perfectly normal menstruation. The movement grew rapidly, now with 201 branches across the UK and Ireland, with over 2,000 volunteers, all of whom have been rigorously trained to be non-judgemental and empathetic. They do not advise as such, but have excellent listening skills; they help people to explore their own feelings and work out their own way forward. They have a strict code of confidentiality. The Samaritans telephone helpline operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. On average, Samaritans receive over 5 million calls a year, one every 6 seconds. Dorothy described some of the work she has carried out in Lewes prison, where prisoners are trained as "listeners", so they can support other prisoners. In some cases, the prison "listeners", on their release from prison, later become trained as Samaritans themselves.

Our speaker for April will be Barbara Ehlers with the title "Silversmith". Guests are always welcome to attend up to three meetings a year before becoming a member and a small donation is suggested.

*Sally Willis*

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**HASSOCKS CROQUET CLUB** Croquet is a sport for everyone. New members welcome. If you would like to learn how to play Croquet or are already an experienced player why not consider joining The Hassocks Croquet Club. We are a friendly local club who play Croquet most weekdays in the daytime during the season (from April to October) at The St. James's Montefiore Cricket Club, Keymer Road, Hassocks (The road from Hassocks to Ditchling). Free parking in large car park. New players are able to borrow the club's mallets.

For further details please contact Jeanette Grant **01273 844836** or email [hassockscroquetclub@gmail.com](mailto:hassockscroquetclub@gmail.com) or visit our Website [www.hassockscroquetclub.net](http://www.hassockscroquetclub.net).

*Tony Bright*

**ILLUSTRATED TALK** Brighton historian and tour guide, Jackie Marsh-Hobbs, will be giving a talk, 'A Passion for Piers!' on Friday **26th April** at 7.45 pm in the Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill. Almost 100 pleasure piers have been built around the British Isles. Jackie's talk will take a nostalgic look at these incredible feats of engineering and our love of seaside entertainments. Tickets include tea/coffee refreshments. Contact me on **01444 245509**.

Event hosted by Burgess Hill Horticultural Society.  
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*Flo Whitaker*

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**HURSTPIERPOINT SINGERS (1950 – 2019)** It is with a sense of sadness that we report the demise of this once-thriving village choral society. Founded in 1950 by a small group of like-minded friends, by the mid 1960's it had a membership of 36, employing a paid conductor and accompanist. Rehearsals took place in the Parish Room. The Singers were a contributory choir of the Lewes Music Festival, coming together with others each year, to sing a major choral work under the baton of nationally known Guest Conductors.

Financial considerations led to the choir becoming part of the local Adult Education Programme, with termly fees going to the District Council and rehearsals re-locating to St. Lawrence School. However, continuing growth in numbers allowed the choir to become independent and self-sufficient again and acquire charitable status with the objective of "educating the public in the art and science of music". Rehearsals then moved to the Music School at Hurst College and in the mid 1980 / 90's, membership reached its peak at just under 80. Thereafter numbers began to decline, in spite of becoming part of the West Sussex Festival Chorus, several recruitment drives and a move to a more central rehearsal venue at Hurst Methodist Church. From 52 in 2004 the membership has dropped to just over 20 – an unsustainable critical mass for the type of music performed, resulting in the decision to disband.

Over the years the choir has sung from a wide repertoire;

from "Jingle Bells" to Handel's "Messiah"; from Hurd's "Hip Hip Horatio" to Haydn's "Creation"; from Bach's "Peasant Cantata" to Britten's "Ceremony of Carols"; from opera choruses to Janacek's "Otcenas"; from Stanford's "Bluebird" to Coleridge Taylor's "Hiawatha" etc. etc. The choir has performed in village halls and the Albert Hall, in local churches and in Arundel Cathedral and abroad. In general, concerts have been well received and in this respect, the Singers would like to record their thanks to the loyal audiences for their support over the years.

It is hoped to hold a wake later this year, when the weather improves, when former Singers can re-unite in a party atmosphere to celebrate the 69 years of Hurstpierpoint Singers' music making.

(For any queries regarding a future gathering of the Singers, contact David Redd, Secretary on **01273 831801**)

*Pam Graham*

**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 **27th April** between 10.00 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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**HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON TWINNING ASSOCIATION** Association members have been invited by the Twinning Committee in S Martin De Boscherville for the weekend of **14th to 17th June** to watch the Tall ships that visit Rouen every four years. Members will have the opportunity to visit the ships in dock in Rouen and then later in the weekend to view the ships from the banks of the Seine as they sail down river to their next destination. They will also be able to meet members of the Twinning Association in France and enjoy their hospitality.

Please contact Mike for more details and to book a place. There will also be a golf competition again this year. Any golfers out there please get in touch for more details. I am looking for suggestions for events in Hurstpierpoint and Sussex that we could invite our French counterparts to as part of our programme for this year.

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*

**DITCHLING SINGERS** We are a friendly choir who enjoy singing a variety of great, popular songs and always love to welcome new members. No auditions and the first session is a free taster.



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We rehearse on alternate Sundays from 4 pm to 6 pm. Our April dates are: Sunday **14th April** at Old Meeting House (The Twitten) in Ditchling and Sunday **28th April** at Keymer Church Hall (Churchmead). Just come along or contact Julie on **01273 844818** or Christine on **01273 846098**.

*Julie and Christine*

**HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** It was lovely to see so many people at our first meeting, in February, to hear Mak Norman's interesting & informative presentation on the Anglo Saxons.

Our next meeting is on the **6th April** when Jo Kaddish will speak on the work of the RNLI.

We meet at the Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint from 2 pm to 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information please contact Dianne **01273 835284** or myself **07806 670359**.

*Ann Tranter*

**PAWS & CLAWS ANIMAL RESCUE** Our Spring Fair will take place on Saturday the **6th April** at Adastra Hall from 10 am to 12 noon. There will be homemade cakes, jewellery, clothes, Easter cards, books, dvds, cds, toys, jigsaw puzzles, household, tombola with a prize every time and an Easter Raffle. Refreshments will also be available so do come along and pick up a few bargains!

*Rosemary*

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**BE AFRAID, BE VERY AFRAID** This horror film warning means a dreadful disaster is imminent. The only reason that it was not heard at a crowded meeting of environmental groups in Horsham in February was that it was too close to the truth for comfort. They had met because of grim reality: time was running out for the human race. Climate change was rapidly becoming climate breakdown. Only by reducing carbon emissions could we prevent 'runaway and irreversible climate change'. We had only eleven years left to achieve this. Scientists predicted that 2030 would be crunch year.

The meeting was called by Sussex Green Living. The audience was packed with people responsible for an astonishing range of 'green' activities across Sussex and Surrey, ranging from Kinder Living Home Shows, community green space projects, kinder tech events (repairing lap tops and PC's) and a community fridge scheme to reduce food waste. Our Mid-Sussex villages, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Keymer and Ditchling, were represented by HKD Transition. Alistair Whitby listed our solar energy projects with Network Rail and at Downlands School, our rain gardens, our food directory – there wasn't time for everything! All good and useful ways of reducing our carbon footprint, and replicated across Sussex, but rather resembling David and Goliath – though we all know who won in the end.

In break out groups members tried to identify how else we could press the urgency of the situation. – 'create action' was the buzz word. There was complete agreement that pressure must come from us – the 'ordinary people'. We dare not rely on central government. We must tell the truth about climate change clearly, calmly and frequently. There was a place for active, non-violent action. An increasing



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number of towns and councils were marking their determination to 'create action' by declaring a climate emergency. Surely this could happen in Sussex?

With the May local government elections in the offing, there was opportunity to raise these issues with Councillors and candidates. It was agreed that we should demand that our councils should declare a state of climate emergency and undertake to review their activities with the aim of reducing carbon emissions. It was further agreed that the many groups represented should unite to achieve this and a steering committee was appointed to take this forward.

Swift action has followed. The South East Climate Alliance (<https://seclimatealliance.uk/>) has been formed representing 'green' groups across Sussex. We already have five Climate Reality Leaders in West Sussex, people trained under the Al Gore leadership scheme, qualified to speak on climate change and look at solutions, so we are off to a flying start. West Sussex County Council has been approached and a Motion laid which will be debated in April. In preparation, Councillor Kirsty Lord, our Hassocks representative on West Sussex County Council, is meeting with a group of HKD members in March.

High on the agenda will be ways in which we 'ordinary people' can influence the decision-makers. Should we be pressing for 'citizen's assemblies' where politicians, the public and experts meet on equal terms to assess evidence and agree targets? How can local authorities support local groups wishing to set up a repair café or to appoint 'Ditch wardens' to advise and help solve local flooding issues? We hope that our meeting in March will be the beginning, not the end, of the debate. Your ideas are welcome. Mail us on [info@hkddtransition.org.uk](mailto:info@hkddtransition.org.uk).  
 Margaret Ford

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Before I launch into another tirade of what's bad and sad in my life at the moment shall we first take a leisurely trip round to see what's going on locally. There's been a bit of a switcheroo of shops in Ditchling – Poison Ivy has now moved into the old Clifford Dann building so that The Nutmeg Tree can expand even further into their old shop and make their tea rooms even bigger. So with that and its formidable competition The Green Welly opposite, Ditchling residents and visitors are spoilt for choice for quality places to stop for refreshments and I do believe both are dog friendly. Incidentally Poison Ivy is a florist and gift shop which to be honest I've never been in but I did peer through the window the other evening on the way home and it does look incredibly attractive and inviting, the floral displays are magnificent – I do hope she is busy she deserves to be. Anyway heading out of the village towards Westmeston I hear on the grapevine there going to knock down the old garage and cycling café and build even more houses, I'm not sure when this is all meant to be happening, but I find it sad – I always used to get my petrol there when it was Glynn's and have great memories of the people who used to work there.

Heading back to Hassocks through Keymer, wasn't it sad news about the new owner of the Greyhound Pub, very tragic, just goes to show you, you never know what is round the corner. Interesting note on Keymer Fish and Chip shop "Closed until further notice for refurbishments" refurbish what exactly? I see Orion News has changed hands again – apparently the new owners already have a newsagents in Burgess Hill so it'll be interesting to see what changes, "if any", they decide to make, to be honest I've found the new décor a bit cold and uninviting but that's just my opinion.

On the opposite side of the road the shop next to me looks like it's about to get a new occupant. It's not going to be a burger bar or anything retail but it's maybe an office for some type of legal business like a solicitors – you know the ones you put your trust and sometimes your life in their hands hoping that they know what they are doing. I did just such a thing recently and the result has been catastrophic. When you rent a commercial business with a lease you get protection from the 1954 Landlords and Tenant Act, this ensures you can apply for a new lease and it gives you security of tenure, it also means you can go to a third party if you aren't happy about the new rent amount you're being offered. It is the Holy Grail for tenants like me in a commercial property, the last thing you need is to lose it that would be like watching sharks swimming around you while you have the protection of the shark cage to watch them from then all of a sudden the cage collapses and you are at the mercy of the great whites and probably eaten alive (metaphorically speaking). Guess what? Yep you've got it the people I employed to look after me and make sure I didn't lose the one thing that protected me – Lost It – it seems through no fault of my own, I'm doing rather well at losing things that matter a lot in my life, first the Freeland and now this, so that's it I have to accept the terms offered to me or get out and once this protection from the act is gone you can't get it back. So thank you to that firm of solicitors I employed to do one simple job you've made the last 45 years of hard work seem almost pointless but still I'll carry on hoping that things can only get better!

*Thanks for listening to me it's good to talk. Love to you all Steve and pets xxx*



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