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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 May. 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 not be holding a surgery in May but 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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### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

#### HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP

Wed. 1st May 2 pm

#### HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING FIRST RESPONDERS

Thurs. 2nd May 7.30 pm

#### DITCHLING WI

Thurs. 2nd May 2.15 pm

#### OLDLAND MILL

Sun. 5th May 11 am - 5 pm

#### HASSOCKS MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Mon. 6th May 12 - 4 pm

#### FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

Mon. 6th May 2.30 - 4.30 pm

#### DITCHLING DOWNS WI

Tues. 7th May 7 pm

#### HOLY COMMUNION

Tues. 7th May 1.30 pm

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

My Career in Ballet - Alfreda Thorogood

#### Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church Hall

Training Night - New members welcome

#### Old Meeting House, Ditchling

WI Resolutions

#### Oldlands Lane, Hassocks

Event Day - Music and Morris

#### Adastra Park, Hassocks

Flower Festival, Dog Show, Maypole Dancing, Stalls etc

#### Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Cream Tea afternoon. Tickets Pavilion Electrics

#### Old Meeting House, Ditchling

Alaskan Adventure & Meeting Grizzly Bears - Heather Hook

#### Age Concern, Hassocks

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## HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Wed. 8th May 8 pm History, plant-hunters & highlights of Borde Hill Garden - Andrew Stephenson Clarke

## MID SUSSEX ASSOCIATION NATIONAL TRUST

Thurs. 9th May 2.30 pm Unexplained Mysteries and Cover-Ups - Andy Thomas

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLAYTON & KEYMER WOMENS SECTION

Thurs. 9th May 3 pm Women's Royal Voluntary Service - Helen

## BURGESS HILL HERITAGE AND HISTORY SOCIETY

Fri. 10th May 8 pm Crawley Museums, past present and future - Helen Poole. Visitors welcome

## reMEMber

Sat. 11th May 2.30 pm ME/CFS Awareness Conference - Dr Charles Shepherd/Nina Muirhead Tkts 01273831733

## ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE

Sun. 12th May 2 - 5.30 pm 7 Acre Open Garden, refreshments and home made cakes

## HENFIELD ARTS SOCIETY

Mon. 13th May 2.30 pm The Story of English Country Parks - Paul Rabbits. See article

## HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Tues. 14th May 7.45 pm Wakehurst - Kew's Wild Botanic Garden - Iain Parkinson

## HASSOCKS EVENING JAZZ

Tues. 14th May 8 pm Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

## PYECOMBE CHURCH

Sun. 19th May 2 - 4 pm Plant Sale - Bedding & shrubs donated by local gardens centres & nurseries

## HASSOCKS JAZZ BRUNCH

Sun. 19th May 11.30 am Julie Roberts & Michael Hinton. Sunday lunch avail. Tkts [www.julierobertsmusic.co.uk](http://www.julierobertsmusic.co.uk)

## DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Tues. 21st May 9.45 - 11 am Coffee Morning run by Ditchling Orchard Group - HKD Transition-

## HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET

Sat. 25th May 9 am - 1 pm National Tyres Forecourt

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## CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sat. 25th May 10 am - 12 pm

Messy Church - Activity morning for adults and children with refreshments

## AD~ASTRA BEACON OF LIGHT SPIRITUAL CENTRE

Sun. 26th May 10 am doors open.

Meditation Group 10.10 to 10.30 am Divine Service at 11 am

## HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

Tues. 28th May 2.30 pm

Age Concern, Hassocks

## HASSOCKS JAZZ LUNCH

Tues. 28th May 11.30 am

Trad Jazz and Lunch. Bookings only call 01273 842113. All welcome

## ADASTRA BOWLING

4th, 6th, 11th, 18th May 10 am - 12.30 pm

Open morning, come and try bowling, equip. provided

## DITCHLING PLAYERS

15th - 18th May various performances

How the Other Half Loves by Alan Ayckbourn. Tickets from the Larder

## DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT

Wed. 8th May 2 - 5 pm

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

Fri. 31st May 7.30 pm Ditchling's World War II Secret Installation - Rob Thornton. See article - info & tickets

## DITCHLING SINGERS

Sun. 12th May 4 - 6 pm Keymer Church Hall

Rehearsals - open to all more info 01273 844818

Sun. 26th May 4 - 6 pm Keymer Church Hall

Rehearsals - open to all more info 01273 844818

## DITCHLING VILLAGE

Sun. 5th May 5.30 pm

Three Villages Chase

Mon. 6th May 1 pm

Sports Day - See article

## HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

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

## ST PETER AND ST JAMES HOSPICE

25th - 27th May 10 am - 5 pm

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### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

**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 Fourth Wednesday of the month 2 - 4 pm. www.csrff.org.uk

**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

**GERRY DUNSTER** Sadly, my husband Gerry passed away on 28th February. Gerry was known for his laughter, kindness and participation in village activities. Thank you for all your cards, thoughts and support. He will be remembered fondly and greatly missed.

*Jean Dunster*

**THANK YOU** While out walking our little dog Brodie, late afternoon 4th April, my husband David tripped and fell at the junction of Clerks Acre/Keymer Road. He was

shaken but luckily not badly hurt. I would like to say thank you to all those people who came to his help one way or another, including a cyclist who was passing and the lady who reassured David (and stopped him getting up). Steve for the use of his phone and the lady who provided covering and a pillow. Thanks to all of you for waiting till the ambulance arrived and took over, after checking David out making sure he was OK they delivered us safely home.

*Wendy Hawkins*



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

Lunches served daily – please call us to book, we can also help you get here on our bus! Do you know anyone who is lonely at home and could do with a nice lunch and some company? Refreshments for sale each morning and there is always cake to go with your cuppa.

Hearing Aid Maintenance checks/batteries are held here by Action for Deafness on the first Tuesday of each month 9.30 am, but only that day per month – NHS Only – just turn up and a waiting system is in place. On other days we do not hold batteries here, you do need to contact your supplier for these.

We have a Chiropodist and a Hairdresser here at the centre with appointments here Monday to Friday. Please do call us to book your appointment.

We have Scrabble, German 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. At our Knit and Natter mornings we knit squares to make into blankets to send to Syria, and we have been

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asked can anyone knit premature baby bonnets? These need to be almost doll size with white, pink, blue or yellow soft baby wool. If you would like to help please just drop them into us and we will distribute to the hospital. I Pad training - From April we have I pad training on the first and third Thursday afternoons of the month, please do call us to book your place.

Our Charity Shop is open every day and also Saturday mornings, we now take credit, debit and contactless cards for payment! Are you an avid reader and like a puzzle or two? We have a very good selection of second hand books and jigsaw puzzles in our main hall for sale – do pop in and take a look.

Do you sing in a choir or play a musical instrument? Our members here would love to hear you! If you or you know anyone that would be happy to come in and play to our members just after lunch for half an hour (or any other time!) please do contact our office. We do have an electric organ if anyone would like to come and play it for us!

*Kirsty Hunnisett*

**PYECOMBE CHURCH PLANT SALE** at Pyecombe Church, Sunday **19th May** between 2 pm and 4 pm Beautiful bedding plants and shrubs donated by garden centres and sourced from local nurseries. All sold at reduced prices along with Teas, cakes and a raffle. All proceeds go to Pyecombe Church.

*Karen Lewis*



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

Don't miss out in the fun! Join in a traditional dance round the Maypole. We have two very exciting new activities to offer you this year: a Flower Festival, applications from Bella June Flowers, and Hassocks Community Fun Run, entry on the day; running at 12 pm and 2 pm, organised by Hassocks Community Runners. Our very popular Dog Show will be returning at 1pm, along with Owls Out & About, 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. What about trying some Egyptian street food from Cairovan.

Burgess Hill Community Radio will provide the tunes. Lots to see and do. Look forward to seeing you there! Follow us at [www.facebook.com/hassocksmayday](http://www.facebook.com/hassocksmayday).

Save the date – DownsFest 2019, Saturday 7th September. A new music festival for Hassocks. Raising money for St Peter and St James Hospice. Holding "Battle of the Bands" and headlining a tribute band, Queen II. If you would like to take part, please contact me on [michellebinks5@outlook.com](mailto:michellebinks5@outlook.com) Watch this space for more information!

*Michelle Binks*

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**DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL** Are you interested in the education of children in our local community? Have you ever thought of being involved in supporting one of our local schools?

The Governing Board of Downlands Community School in Hassocks is looking to recruit co-opted governors at the beginning of June 2019. All governors are volunteers and no formal qualifications are required. However as a co-opted governor you may be able to use your professional skills in the role. At present, we are particularly looking to recruit those with building and financial expertise but we would also be glad to hear from those who have other skills to offer.

Coming from a range of different backgrounds, our governors have a wide variety of skills and experience but all share a common interest in their commitment to the education of children in our community.

To become a school governor you must be over 18 years of age. Those in employment are entitled to "reasonable" time off work to carry out their governorship duties.

The governing board exercises its authority collectively rather than as individuals.

If you are interested in joining us, and would like further information regarding the roles and responsibilities of a school governor, please contact the Clerk to the Governors, by emailing him at [mhill@downlands.org](mailto:mhill@downlands.org).

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We thank Harold Rowling for the following letter:-  
 Global Warming? – Forget it! Forget it, because there is nothing we can do about it. The term Global Warming is a cosmetic disguising the real problem. Planet Earth is in the throes of the fundamental problem of Over-Population.

Every year - yes every year, Earth's population increases by 80,000,000 inhabitants (UN figure). The result is climate change, melting of the ice-caps, deforestation, famine, tribal warfare, migration pressures (think of President Trump's Great Mexican Wall) and extinction of the world's wild animal species. (Goodbye to the Orangutang).

And we can make it worse! Organisations like Oxfam, Save the Children, Red Nose collections and many others aim to increase the populations of the Third World where the problem is greatest. Procreation is a very powerful force.

So forget the Global and take a look at the Local - i.e. Hassocks and its neighbourhood instead. As we turn the pages of The Hassocks Talk About we can see what a large number of helping organisations of various kinds we have - all working to help local inhabitants. And there are many more.

These organisations of course do not run themselves, they are all initiated and operated by local volunteers. We should do what we can to help them, even if it is just

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dropping some coins in the many collecting boxes. The Ditchling Charity Ball is an outstanding example of what a community can do to raise (lots of) money for local projects and at the same time enjoy themselves. And don't forget the essential role played by The Talk About in providing the means of communication about these activities to all inhabitants.

### NEWTIMBER VILLAGE COUNTRY AND VINTAGE FAYRE Sunday 23rd June

We are hosting a traditional Country and Vintage Fayre in the picturesque village of Newtimber on Sunday **23rd June** at the Church Field, Church Lane, Newtimber, BN6 9BT, off the A281 near Poynings, A23 Tate's turnoff from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.

A wide range of stalls ranging from hog roast, crepes, delicious street food, vintage ice cream van, flowers, blacksmith, target shooting with Plumpton College, vintage brocante, afternoon tea, plants, tombola, lots of children's stalls, local arts and crafts and so much more. Dogs are welcome on leads. Fun for all the family and children under 16 free of charge.

We are raising money for The Martlets Hospice and Newtimber Church.

For more information call me on **01273 831877**.

*Lucy Dalrymple*




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At present I teach Maths in a local secondary and primary school. References and testimonials are available if required. So whether you require a short term input only, coaching for exams or continuous support, please call me for an informal chat and basic assessment.

*Fran Rabin*

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**JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP** As the Spring Term comes to an end, and the sun begins to shine, Jack and Jill Playgroup wanted to let you know what the children have been doing - Celebrating Burns Night - tartan pattern pictures, making and tasting shortbread - Australia Day - creating flags using different textured craft bits Chinese New Year - paper plate pigs (Year of) and food tasting - Pancake Day - tasting pancakes and pancake races - World Book Day - children dressing up as favourite book characters - Holi Day Festival of colour - lots of art & craft activities using bright colours - Mothering Sunday - making cards and a surprise - Egg decorating competition - prize for best as voted by local resident.

We are now looking forward to an exciting sunny and fun packed Summer Term.

Looking for a local playgroup for September 2019 - for information and to arrange a visit please contact us on **janet.jandj@gmail.com** or **07729 431473**.

*Emma*

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** One of the joys of this time of year is seeing the ponds and ditches full of fresh water on the Reserve. The leaf-spikes of yellow iris and the furled leaves of marsh marigold emerge from the depths, with the promise of new life. Damp margins everywhere are buzzing already with insects: bee flies, shiny beetles, ladybirds and sulphur butterflies, startled out of hibernation by the warmth of the sun. This is a time of year traditionally much concerned with water, for as the earliest farmers knew, water means life itself. For thousands of years, Spring dances and festivals across Europe called on the forces of nature to yield enough water for crops to grow. Rivers were gods. Every well and spring had its dedicated saint or water spirit which demanded respect. The water nymphs had power over life and death between Spring (when they emerged from their winter hibernation) and Harvest (when the crops were ripe). They haunted the fields and woods, dancing and combing life-giving moisture from their watery locks, and woe betide the foolish man who stumbled across their revels, for they represented the feminine principle of fertility and would not tolerate interference in their affairs. These water spirits, known as Willies in the Balkans (as in 'having the willies'), as Nereids in Greece and by a variety of local names in other countries, were held in honour and dread. All watery places

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received their protection. And a calendar of 'superstitious' practices dedicated to them, persisted in many of these countries until enlightenment and science drove them, together with much of their water, underground. Today we put our faith in water companies. The marshes have gone and with them the midges and malaria which struck down those who wandered into them. Our water is safely sanitized, piped, and delivered directly to our homes without any terrors beyond the quarterly bill – but it seems the Willies have not quite finished with us. The Head of the Environment Agency last week warned of the 'existential threat' of a water shortage, which in 25 years, at our current rate of consumption, will expose the UK to catastrophe. At Stoneywish, we have seen this water problem developing for years. Water comes to our ponds already polluted and dries up in the summer. Alas, we have no spring here, though Michael's father dowsed for one, years ago. The wildlife, so abundant when groundwater is high, is inevitably affected. We look to government for a fix. More pipes. More reservoirs. More treatment works... But are we missing something? That water is not a commodity, after all, but something more miraculous, the life-giver venerated by our ancestors. What a disaster for a culture to think water's primary function is to be dirtied by humans and end up in a sewer, bypassing the environment altogether, or that we

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should fight a war against climate change with ever more invasive mechanical solutions. Water is the life-blood of our world – and the tiniest puddle, given half a chance will become a world in microcosm. All the lessons for our survival are being acted out in our local ditches. We overlook them, seeing the wider vista, but these are the capillaries of our world and when they are disrupted, sure as eggs is eggs, trouble follows. Perhaps we should install a patron saint of taps before it is too late!

Whew! Has she finished? Our next season of History Mornings have begun for details of all our talks please see the website: [www.stoneywish.com](http://www.stoneywish.com) or telephone **01273 843498** for a brochure.

Now, like one of those demented Willies, I'm off back to my ditch to look for frogspawn! *Rosemary*

**CHAILEY TRACTOR CLUB** Lots and lots of good things happening, so please take a few moments to digest the following....

Tinkers Park Events: We have teamed up for several event with Tinkers. Their own primary events are their steam rally weekend **1st/2nd June**, model railway and bus rally weekend **3rd/4th August** and Tinkers open day Saturday **28th September**.

Chigley's Summer tractor run is on Saturday **29th June**, route and timings to be advised shortly.

Pig and Butcher, Saturday **24th August**, Chigley's sum-

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mer barbeque comprising an early short run arriving Five Ash Down 1 pm until 4 pm. Basically a gathering of tractors and steam, static with bar, barbeque, live folk music and Morris dancing. Bring kids, friends and family.

Oakwood Vintage & Classic Car Festival is on Sunday **26th May** at Oakwood Farm, Wivelsfield 10 am onwards. *Howard*

**JULIE ROBERTS AND MICHAEL HINTON** The next Sunday morning Hassocks concert with Julie and Michael will be a programme of "dinner jazz" at the Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks, from 11.30 am till 1 pm on Sunday the **19th May**. Tea, coffee and bar drinks available. The Hassocks food, including Sunday roast lunches, may be ordered in advance ready to be served immediately following the concert. There is more information about tickets etc, on Julie's website [www.julie-robertsmusic.co.uk](http://www.julie-robertsmusic.co.uk)

*David Roberts*

**MID SUSSEX RAMBLERS** 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](http://www.midsussexramblers.co.uk) along with information about the group.

*Jo Mitchell*

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**HURSTPIERPOINT OPEN GARDENS** on Sunday **2nd June**. The buzzing Hurstpierpoint Open Gardens event will be held on Sunday **2nd June** this year from 1pm to 5.30 pm. - please put the date in your diaries as the event promises to have lots of variety and something to please everyone - from lawns, to beds to veg. galore. Around 8 gardens will open for charity – and, as before, we'll be raising money for our local St Peter and St James Hospice - we can't think of a better cause which has touched most of our lives at some time and which so depends on our support.

Would you be willing to open your garden this year? We are still looking for two or three gardeners who would be willing to open – especially those in the College Lane, Hurst Road to Langton Lane areas. It doesn't have to be perfect or weed free – it just has to offer something interesting for people to look at!

We would also very much welcome donations of plants to sell on our plant stall and, of course, cakes galore.

There will be some gardens selling teas, coffees, cakes and plants, also one with live music and items to buy made my local artisans.

You can contact the organisers by email – [prue.heron@btopenworld.com](mailto:prue.heron@btopenworld.com) or phone **01273 835064**. And please take a look at our website - [hurstpierpointopengardens.org.uk](http://hurstpierpointopengardens.org.uk) *Prue Peters*



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## SUMMER TERM AT THE ACORNS NURSERY AND FOREST SCHOOL

is well under way, with lots of exciting activity and adventure in each setting. Please give us a ring on **01444 455081** if you would like to come along to our Open Day in Lindfield at 59 Denmans Lane on Sunday **12th May** from 10.30 am to 12 noon. The children will give a short concert at 10.45am and Janet Irwin will be there to tell you all about opportunities at The Acorns in Lindfield and Westmeston near Ditchling. Children access the early years' curriculum through indoor and outdoor pursuits in the magical landscape of The Acorns. Please contact us for a place now and/or in September. Forest School Adventure days for home-educated children are available on Tuesdays and Fridays. Warm sunny days now beckon and we look forward to lots of learning through indoor and outdoor activities, bike riding, lovely walks and playing in the woods.

To discover more about The Acorns, please access our free taster sessions for children aged 2+ and 'stay and play' sessions on Mondays for toddlers with their parents. To visit Westmeston or Lindfield please phone us on **01444 455081**.

[www.theacornsnurseryandforestschool.com](http://www.theacornsnurseryandforestschool.com) Please do come and discover the magic that is The Acorns.

*Janet Irwin*

**MESSY CHURCH** is a morning of activities for adults and children with refreshments and food for thought. Why not come along and try the activities or just pop in for coffee, tea, cake and a chat. Organised by Churches Together in Hassocks the next Messy Church will be on Saturday **25th May** between 10 am and 12 noon at Hassocks United Reformed Church. There is no charge and all are welcome.

*Darryl Sinclair*

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## **DID YOU KNOW THE WINDMILLS HAS THEIR OWN PET AS THERAPY DOG?** Her name is "Poppy"!

Poppy is a three year old Schnoodle. She has been visiting us on a weekly basis for just over a year.

Her main job is to help improve the literacy of our children by developing their confidence and interest in and enjoyment of reading through the read2dogs scheme. PAT Dogs provide comfort, encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem, motivate speech and inspire young people to have fun.

You will see from the comments made by some of the children who have weekly reading sessions with Poppy the positive experience this provides:

"I look forward to seeing Poppy every week and love reading to her".

"I enjoy reading to Poppy - I think she's cute!"

"I feel happy coming to see Poppy. It makes me feel good".

"I like reading to Poppy because she makes me happy".

Pets As Therapy is a national charity and was founded in 1983 by Lesley Scott-Ordish. They enhance health and wellbeing in the community through the visits of trusted volunteers with their behaviourally assessed animals. If you would like to find out more or are inter-



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ested in becoming a volunteer please visit [petsastherapy.org/join-us/join-pat-dog/](http://petsastherapy.org/join-us/join-pat-dog/)

Another charity organisation - Little Life Savers - has also been into school to work with our Year 5 children whose topic in the spring term was all about Exploring. The children were given the fantastic opportunity to practice basic life support skills - which are of course extremely important when you are out and about in the wild!

The Little Life Saver volunteers spoke to the children about responding to an emergency situation. Together they learnt about how to put an unconscious person into the recovery position; how to resuscitate adults and children using CPR and how to stop someone from choking. The children watched and listened avidly and then gave an impressive display of life saving skills using 'dummies'. It was encouraging to think that these children showed the confidence and skill to intervene in a crisis. We would like to thank both of these charity organisations for visiting The Windmills and introducing us to their fantastic work!

Finally we must tell you about the fantastic 'Bake Off' competition organised by our parents' association - FoWS. Always ready for a challenge our pupils really came up trumps with over 160 entries into the competition which the children themselves had made at home!



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What a wonderful variety of shapes, sizes, designs and flavours – the creativity was amazing! After much deliberation, 5 small and 5 large cakes were selected for each year group. These were then scored for their look and taste to find the ‘Star Bakers’! Once judging had been completed the school drive was transformed into a sea of cakes! What a sight to behold for the parents on arriving to collect their children that day! The cakes were offered for sale and a huge amount of money was raised which will benefit the children throughout the year – so a huge thank you to all involved for your superb effort and support!

*Sue Bandy*

**HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES** by Alan Ayckbourn – **15th to 18th May** It’s appropriate that we’ve selected this play for our Spring production as, during 2019, Alan Ayckbourn will be celebrating his 80th birthday and the 60th anniversary of his professional play-writing debut (his 83rd play is being performed in Scarborough later this year). It’s also the 50th anniversary of the first production of ‘How the Other Half Loves’.

The play revolves around three couples: Frank and Fiona Foster; Bob and Teresa Phillips; William and Mary Featherstone. Frank employs both Bob and William and is considering promoting the latter. Bob is having an affair with Frank’s wife Fiona and is in constant conflict



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with his own wife, Teresa. She feels Bob is neglecting her while she raises their baby and is suspicious of his actions and phantom phone-calls made to the house. When he returns late, she confronts him about his actions and he lies that he has been comforting work associate William, who believes his wife Mary is having an affair. All of this comes to a head over a meal on 2 consecutive nights in two different houses but viewed on the stage at the same time!

The cast are currently busy rehearsing and learning their lines whilst it’s a hive of activity backstage too. We’re pleased to welcome some new faces to the Ditchling stage for this production and look forward to also seeing you in the audience. Tickets are now on sale either online at [www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk](http://www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk) or at The Larder, 2 South Street, Ditchling, BN6 8UQ.

*David Tettersell*

**DITCHLING WI** For our April meeting we had a practical session arranging Spring flowers in a basket. Our President gave us a demonstration of this Easter basket and she provided beautiful flowers and greenery for us each to arrange our own. We had a lot of fun doing this and everyone took home a lovely arrangement. Our next meeting will be in The Twitten and ‘WI Resolutions’ is the topic. Thursday **2nd May** at 2.15 pm.

*Briony Coomber*



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## **BRITISH TOMATO FORTNIGHT, 20th MAY 2019** **YOU SAY TOMATO, WE SAY.... YES PLEASE!**

It's British Tomato Fortnight from the **20th May** celebrating our glorious British Tomatoes containing vitamins, minerals, flavonoids, and natural pigments. These humble superfoods are a tasty and natural snack which, not only taste great, but are also extremely good for you! Why buy British tomatoes? Four out of five tomatoes now eaten in the UK are imported, which is not good news for the British tomato grower. Julie Woolley, of the British Tomato Growers' Association, explains.... 'Protected from the elements in their greenhouse and nurtured by our growers, British Tomatoes are bursting with flavour. However, buying British isn't just about supporting local growers it's about buying the freshest and tastiest tomatoes available and the range is superb! It's useful to know, the redder the tomato when it is picked the higher the lycopene content, so British tomatoes are picked ripe and in the stores within a couple of days. Imported fruit has a longer journey so often ripens on the journey and not on the vine.'

Lycopene helps fight cancer... According to studies, tomatoes contain large amounts of the antioxidant lycopene, that is effective in lowering the risk of cancer, especially lung, stomach and prostate cancers. In order to enjoy a larger increase in lycopene, cook the tomatoes or opt for processed versions such as tomato juice, sauce, soup and puree.

Tomatoes have a number of other health benefits, botanically a fruit, they are still mostly classed as a vegetable! They are a rich source of lycopene, beta carotene and lutein which are powerful phytonutrients and antioxidants, believed to defend our body cells from aging and damage, reduce inflammation, be cardio protective, support liver function and research has shown that lutein can protect the eyes and may slow down macular degeneration associated with aging.

They contain prebiotic fibres, feeding the beneficial bacteria in our digestive system and helping with normal bowel movements. Pectin, a soluble fibre found in tomatoes is believed to bind to toxins as well as cholesterol as they pass through the gut, helping to remove them from the body.'

In short, tomatoes with their cherry red colour are a powerhouse of antioxidants and fibre which can benefit the digestive health and are of great benefit to the diet.

*Janet Francis*

**HENFIELD ARTS SOCIETY** meets Monday **13th May** at 2.30 pm. The Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield, BN5 6DB. 'The story of English Country Parks'. Paul Rabbits, with a passion for public parks and bandstands, will share his enthusiasm and give thanks to the enlightened Victorians who brought nature into deprived urban areas. Guests welcome to attend. Telephone **01273 494633**.

*Stephen Wyman*



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

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

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

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

Thanks for taking the time to read this.



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**BACK GARDEN BEETLEMANIA** On 17th May Peter Hodge stood waiting at Lewes bus station when he noticed an intriguing little black beetle crawling on the brickwork. Peter, being one of Britain's top coleopterists (beetle experts), delicately picked up the little insect between his thumb and forefinger and took it with him. And so both passengers rode the 143 bus back to Ringmer and into the pages of Sussex wildlife history. Because when Peter examined the little beast under his microscope, he realised it was the click beetle *Melanotus punctolineatus* – the first one recorded in Sussex – making it the 3,000th species of beetle recorded in our county.

That little beetle may have been historic but it wasn't much to look at. To be honest, most of the other 2,999 Sussex beetles aren't going to win any Miss Beetle beauty contests either. But if it's good-looking beetles you want my friend then you need to take a trip to Arundel or Lewes this month because those towns are both famed for being a hotspot for the most glamorous beetle in Britain – the rose chafer.

The rose chafer is one seriously gorgeous insect. Each one looks like it's been designed, carefully crafted, coated in the most dazzling metallic green and hand polished. How can I put it? The rose chafer looks expensive. Their resemblance to Egyptian scarabs brings the romance of The Nile to your compost heap – a great place

for their C-shaped larvae to develop. The adult beetles live for just a few weeks.

They're powerful flyers too. Dark, smoky wings extend from under their emerald elytra (wing cases) and with a buzz our Faberge bugs take to the air. Admittedly they do tend to crash into fences quite a bit. I said it was beautiful, I didn't say it was graceful. Recently these beetles seem to have been crashing around in other areas of Sussex.

So this summer I'm starting a campaign to make Sussex the official rose chafer capital of England. I'd like you to look in your gardens and nearby parks for this stunning, shiny green beetle. If you see one, please try to take a picture and email it to my colleague Lois at the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre with details of when and where you saw it ([loismayhew@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:loismayhew@sussexwt.org.uk)). Let's put Sussex on the beetle map! [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk).

*Michael Blencowe*

**30 DAYS WILD** This June, join hundreds of thousands of people taking part in 30 Days Wild, the UK's month-long nature campaign run by The Wildlife Trusts. We're challenging you to do something a little bit wild every day in June – sign up now to receive your free pack of goodies to help plan your wild month [www.wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild) *Charlotte*

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### DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON INTER-VILLAGE SPORTS & PICNIC

Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Inter-Village Sports takes place over two days on the first Bank Holiday in May. It is a historic community event that offers running, cakes and drinks. The three Area Teams are: North Ditchling; South Ditchling and Streat & Westmeston.

Three Villages Chase – Sunday **5th May** at 5.30 pm. The first event is the two and a half mile chase through beautiful countryside. Meet at the Recreation Ground in Ditchling and earn a valuable point towards your Area Team, trophies for the winners! Walk, run or skip - all abilities are welcome. Please arrive 30 minutes before the start to register.

Sport's Day - Monday **6th May**, 1 pm. The following day is the Sport's Day and Picnic at the Ditchling Recreation Ground. Events for all ages and abilities include the egg and spoon race to the 1500m. Teas, cakes and a bar will be provided. Most races have voucher prizes awarded throughout the day with presentation of trophies taking place at 4 pm.

This is a wonderful event and everyone is welcome to participate!

Programme of events and running order from Ditchling Post Office and on the day. For more info email **hannah@tedman.co.uk**, 01273 841334.

*Hannah Tedman*

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**YET ANOTHER SAD END...** we are so sorry to hear that 'Talkabout on tape' (as we know it) is closing down. Friends and Neighbours provided cassettes at the start of the venture and have given other donations as and when needed over the 16 years of recording as Margaret Ford and her team conveyed the monthly news and 'goings-on' in our local Communities to those registered blind and partially sighted - obviously a very welcome and enjoyable service to those less fortunate people. Technology, as clever and useful as it now is, has a lot to answer for but Margaret and her team are to be congratulated and thanked for their dedicated hard work each month. Of course there were other people involved in helping the dead-line be reached for each issue no less than Jo and her staff at Q.D. A sad end to a very important part of our village life. Well done to all.

*From us all at Friends and Neighbours*

**STAR CINEMA** Our March film, Bohemian Rhapsody, was so popular that some people had to be turned away - to those few, our sincere apologies! After a break for the next few months, film night will be back in September. Dates for your diary **20th September, 18th October, and 15th November** - all Friday nights. Hope to see you there.

*Liz Edmunds*

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**WAKEHURST – KEW'S WILD BOTANIC GARDEN** Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society will be hosting this illustrated talk by Iain Parkinson. 7.45 pm on Tuesday **14th May** at the Club Suite Hurstpierpoint Village Hall.

*Kath Green*

**THE RADAR STATION THAT NEVER WAS DITCHLING'S WORLD WAR II SECRET INSTALLATION** Ditchling History Project are pleased to announce that Rob Thornton will be giving his fascinating talk on the deception surrounding the secret wartime post situated in the fields behind North End. Villagers at the time knew of the installation which was heavily guarded but could only suppose it was a secret radar station.

Rob Thornton was in a unique position to unravel the truth. The son of local butcher, Guy Thornton, grew up playing in the fields around the village and was into everything. Later his working life was spent as a telephone engineer and he developed a deep interest in the links between the telephone service and Bletchley Park's work on breaking the Enigma code.

Rob tells the intriguing story of how he discovered what was going on behind the guards in the Second World War. The truth is far from a radar station and concerns matters of national importance!

Come along and hear his amazing story on **31st May**

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at 7.30 pm in the Old Meeting House, The Twitten in Ditchling.

Pre-booking is essential to avoid disappointment. Tickets include a glass of wine are available from Ditchling Post Office and online at

**ditchlinghistoryproject.org.**

For further information email

**history.project@btinternet.com**

*Roma Leon*

### **DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The Summer Show is to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, **22nd June** at 2 pm. Please make a note in your diary and come along and support us.

The Summer Show specialises in Fruit and Vegetables all home grown by the members who compete to win individual classes and one of the seven Trophies for various categories. This is also the Show which has a number of classes for Flowers and Plants including roses etc. We hope the weather is kind and helps our plants to produce their best blooms! The Floral Art also reflects "Summer". We are very pleased that more children are taking part in the Shows and look forward to seeing a variety of "Egg box caterpillars" etc.

Tea and homemade cakes will be available and there will also be a raffle. Look forward to seeing you.

*Mary Holman*

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**HASSOCKS WI** There was a good turnout, including several guests, at our March meeting, to hear a fascinating talk on the history of medicine in Sussex. Our speaker, Dr Hilary Morris, a medical historian attached to both Brighton and Sussex and London Medical Schools, concentrated on the many women who have contributed to the development of medical provision in Sussex. Traditionally, the sick were treated by 'wise women', who had a wealth of knowledge of medicinal herbs. At a time when a trained physician, if you could find one, would charge the equivalent of £600, these women were very important. However, in the 15th Century Archbishop Thomas Arundel made witchcraft illegal, resulting in many of these wise women being eliminated, often for ulterior motives. Women have traditionally been involved in nursing, but Sussex women such as Alethea Howard, wife of the Collector Earl of Arundel contributed greatly to scientific research in the early 17th century, Sarah Wardroper in the 1860s became Superintendent of the nursing school founded by Florence Nightingale, and in the early 1900s Octavia Wilberforce and Louisa Martindale became amongst the first women to train as doctors, and went on to found the

New Sussex Hospital for Women. We have many women to be thankful for, not least in recent years Lady Sarah Clutton who gave land for Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.

We now have a second, afternoon, book group. Regular groups have continued to meet, walking, singing, creative writing and baby station. The craft group have made many more heart-shaped cushions for ladies following breast surgery - we are told they are very much appreciated, and sadly there is always a need. We had a most informative talk on Powers of Attorney from Fiona Dodd, and by the time you read this, a visit will have taken place to Farley Farmhouse. This month we are looking forward to participating in the Hassocks May Day celebrations and some members are going to an Abba Concert at the Albert Hall followed by the Sky Garden. Preparations are also well under way for the South of England Show WI Craft entries in June. Best of all, this month we are 10 years old, and in true WI tradition we will be celebrating with a party. So much happening. Don't you want to be a part of it? We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7.45 pm at Adastra Hall.  
*Maureen Dodd*

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**DITCHLING DOWNS WI** Dr Anne Weaver was with us to speak on the subject "Emergency Medicine". She is a Consultant at London's Air Ambulance, and has had many years of experience. In 2004 she became the first female Consultant in Emergency Medicine and Pre-Hospital Care in the UK. In 2007, she became Lead Clinician for London's Air Ambulance, and co-founded the first Pre-Hospital Care Programme in the UK for medical students. She led the "Blood on Board" initiative that brought pre-hospital blood transfusion along the lines of battle fields to civilian medicine. Not only was this precedent set in London, but Anne also led the development of protocols on efficient blood storage and safe administration of blood transfusion for patients who are not yet in the hospital environment. This means that this innovation is available to any air-ambulance team, so that the same standards of care can be given to patients as they would get in hospital. The logic now is to get to a seriously ill patient as quickly as possible, with all the facilities that they need. In cities, there has been a dramatic reduction of seriously injured people bleeding to death, on the basis that the medical team can treat patients in the actual vicinity of an accident, in situations when patients would previously have died before reaching hospital. Such prompt treatment has saved a great many young lives in the re-

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cent tragic spate of stabbings and shootings. Our speaker for May will be Heather Hook on the subject "Alaskan Adventure and meeting Grizzly Bears". Guests are always welcome to come along to our meetings in the Old Meeting House, Twitten, Ditchling, and attend up to 3 meetings before becoming a member. It is suggested that they make a donation.

*Sally*

**FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS** Please Join Us... at our Cream Tea afternoon on Bank Holiday Monday **6th May** at the Adastra Hall in Hassocks. Doors will open at 2.15 pm, for an early 'cuppa' with the first tea served at 2.30 pm. The last tea will be served at 4.15 pm. Advance tickets are now on sale at Pavilion Electrics in Keymer Road, Hassocks at the usual very reasonable price and a bumper raffle will add to the excitement of the Bank Holiday. Proceeds from the afternoon will fund research into the serious illness of Crohn's Disease.

Are you able to join us by wearing something red, white or blue to help us commemorate the 75th anniversary of D.Day - let's show that we remember. We look forward to your company for an enjoyable afternoon together.

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**ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB – HAS SOCKS** The new season is finally upon us. This is where all the winter long hard work of our volunteer ground staff can be appreciated. They have tined, scarified and reseeded the green as well as maintaining the surrounding areas. Work has also been underway to improve facilities in our clubhouse. By the time you read this some of our members will have been on the green, trying to get used to the challenges of grass after a winter playing on indoor surfaces.

This is one last reminder of open mornings on the dates below. Come and join us, learn a new skill and enjoy yourself at the same time. 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.

Don't forget we offer an optional trial membership for those new to bowling which includes four coaching sessions, by qualified coaches, which will take you to a level where you should be confident to compete in friendly matches.

Dates for your diary - **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. For more information and a membership application form follow the links below.  
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*Frank Titford*

### **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](mailto:helenpalmer@live.com)**.

*Helen Palmer*



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**CROHN'S DISEASE RESEARCH** I hope very much that you are planning to come to the Cream Tea at the Adastra Hall in Hassocks on Bank Holiday Monday **6th May** from 2.30 pm until approx. 4.30 pm. Last tea will be served at 4.15 pm. Come for an early 'cuppa' when doors open at 2.15 pm before the first tea is served at 2.30 pm. Advance tickets are now on sale at Pavilion Electrics in Keymer Road, Hassocks at the very reasonable price Who knows... you may even be a lucky winner in our bumper raffle. Please come along to support the afternoon with proceeds for Crohn's Disease Research. I look forward to seeing you there.

My thanks to you all for continuing to put your 'change' in the CICRA collecting tin on Andy Twine's butchers counter here in Hassocks.

Thanks also to Kevin Thorne who also houses a tin in the Market Place in Burgess Hill. Isn't it nice to see those tempting selections of fresh meat when shopping. Thank you Andy, Kevin and your staff. *Dorrie*

**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 we support biomedical research into the illness. We are delighted to announce that we have just received a grant through the Sussex Community Foundation to help healthcare professionals learn more about this long-term illness and to help establish a service for children who have ME/CFS.

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](http://www.remembercfs.org.uk) or contact the Director, Janice Kent, on **01273 831733**, e-mail [me\\_cfs@hotmail.com](mailto:me_cfs@hotmail.com). *Bill Kent*

**CLAYTON & KEYMER POPPY APPEAL 2018 / 2019** My very grateful thanks to Clayton & Keymer Royal British Legion Women's Section for their very kind donation of £102.00 to the Poppy Appeal this year, raised from a special raffle at their Christmas lunch. This brings the total to date so far for 2018/19 to £17,204.26.

Your help and support is very much appreciated.

*Carol White*

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We meet at 3 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at our headquarters in Woodland 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 May 9th our speaker is Helen from 'The Women's Royal Voluntary Service'. The competition is for 'Something Wooden'. Talking of Voluntary Services, recently Val Upton, a very busy lady who wears various voluntary hats in the local community, came along to tell us about the work of the 'Mid Sussex Older People's Council'. Val thoroughly recommends volunteering as the personal returns are great. Satisfaction from a job well done, or just knowing you've helped to brighten someone's day, plus the added bonus of lasting friendships and plenty of fun along the way.

The MSOPC have compiled a comprehensive directory of resources available to help older people with problems that may be troubling them. Advice and support can be found for issues such as health, money, safety, transport,

etc., etc., even bewildering modern technology!

A Date For Your Diary: Our next Coffee Morning is on Saturday **15th June** at Age Concern Hassocks between 9.45 am and 11.45 am. Your support is always welcomed.

*Liz Thomas*

**ANNUAL FARM OPEN DAY** On Saturday **1st June**, The Oaks Poultry Farm, Common Lane, Ditchling Common, BN6 8TN will open their gates for their annual Farm Open Day from 10 am to 3 pm.

It offers a fantastic chance for all ages to discover real farming at first hand and see for themselves how their food (and much more besides) is produced. There will be a chance to see and cuddle small chicks/goslings, visit our donkeys, goats, pigs, cows along with tractor rides, BBQ (sample our home produced sausages/burgers with home reared animals), cafe and many more fun activities for all ages. Please do come and join us. Free Entry. [www.theoaksfarm.co.uk](http://www.theoaksfarm.co.uk).

*Ed Perret*

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**HASSOCKS BEST KEPT SECRET** Every Monday an elderly horse box chuggs up Station Approach and parks near the Hassocks Hotel. The driver, Ed Johnstone, leaps out, opens it and reveals a walk-in mobile farmers' market, stocking meat, fish, cheeses, breads and cakes, as well as a large array of organic fruit and vegetables. At 2 pm he is open for business, and will be there until 7 pm. Everything has been supplied by local farmers and growers: local food, farmed well, for local people.

Known as the Sussex Peasant, Ed is a man with a mission: to change the face of food retail. Only 1% of the food produced in the Home Counties ends up directly in local kitchens. The rest travels the country with only a proportion returning wearily to its place of origin. Can he do better? Can he renew the link between customer and grower by building up a co-operative of sustainable Sussex farmers and growers?

Starting in a small way through family contacts and then by word of mouth, he now has around twenty local suppliers in West and East Sussex. I visited in March, when the 'hungry gap', that bane of every peasant's life, was still in evidence. Yet there was spinach from Cuckfield as well as green and purple sprouting broccoli, all picked the day before, and, astonishingly, multi-coloured tomatoes from Nutbourne, six weeks early due to the February sunshine. In addition, every root vegetable you can



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think of was on display – even the potatoes were organic. Soon they will be joined by all the salad crops and the soft fruits of summer.

'Pile it high and sell it cheap' is not part of Ed's ethos. He aims to supply local people with 'the very finest local and seasonal produce'. Prices appear to be comparable to those charged by the organic 'vegetable box' suppliers, but with the advantage of 'choosing your own on the spot'. Customers like what they see, for in 2018 their enthusiasm resulted in the Sussex Peasant being one of the finalists in the BBC Food and Farming Awards, an amazing achievement for such a young venture. This year he is a regional finalist for a 'rural Oscar' - the Countryside Awards scheme. He now has a team of five enthusiasts, and another van is on the road. On Fridays and at weekends they have six pitches in Brighton (details on [www.thesussexpeasant.co.uk](http://www.thesussexpeasant.co.uk)). Any surplus is donated to Brighton food bank.

If you are thinking of dinner party menus in May, look no further than the Sussex Peasant. South Down lamb from Barcombe, asparagus (weather permitting), followed by a compote of soft fruits with South Downs yoghurt, what's not to like? But a lovely fresh picked salad with a local cheese would be a treat at a more modest cost. I went home with a treacle tart made in Hartfield. Expensive – undoubtedly, evil – certainly, but gosh – did it taste good!

*Margaret Ford - HKD Transition*



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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY REMINDER - Cold War** (which was to have been shown in May) will now be screened on Thursday **25th April**. This atmospheric 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 which is visually stunning, passionate, wistful and thoughtful in equal measure.

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski, Polish 2018, 84 minutes, 15 Cert.

On Thursday **6th June** our film will be *Let The Sunshine In* – Director: Clare Denis, French 2016, 94 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 payable at the door.

*Rowena Cager and Melanie Samuel*

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**THE LADIES OF THE HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**

met on the 26th March for their AGM at the Pauline Thaw Centre, preceded by a very interesting talk given by Barbara Wilson who provided an insight into the principles and ethics of the Fair-Trade Organisation which helps to empower farmers and producers to market their products leading to a better future for otherwise unenfranchised people throughout the world. Barbara also brought along merchandise from the local Fair Trade Shop, including beautiful hand-loomed scarves, jewellery and many other lovely products. The shop can be found in Brighton Marina Village and is well worth a visit.

The AGM followed, the current committee being re-elected unopposed. Our next meeting will be held on the **28th May** at the Pauline Thaw Centre commencing at 2.30 pm when our speaker for the afternoon will be Ben Crossland on 'Growing Alstroemerias'. We look forward to seeing you there. Any further information can be obtained from Mrs Sheila Southwell on **01273 841106**.

*Avril Williams*

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**20TH ARTS COMPETITION SUCCESS** Looking for an excellent local sports club to join – look no further than Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club. The Club had another successful morning with their 20th Annual Arts Competition. The competition started in 2000 as part of Mid Sussex Arts Festival and has continued every year since, attracting nearly two thousand gymnasts and over a thousand entries. This year over a hundred gymnasts competed for trophies and medals in Rope Pairs, Beam Pairs, Ball Solos and Sports Acrobatic Sixes. Some of the competitors only joined the Club in the Spring term, while some of the Seniors have attended the Club for over ten years. Competitors come from all over the district:- Burgess Hill, Ditchling, Haywards Heath & Cuckfield, Albourne and many smaller villages, Brighton and Lewes, with more still from Hurstpierpoint & Hassocks. The children choose whether to enter, then choose which sections to do, their own music and then create and practise their own routines for performance.

The Beam Pair competition involves mounting the beam

and performing six different skills before dismounting. This year's winners were:- Year 3 – Summer & Alexis Sargent, Year 4 – Sammy Nichols & Fergus Paterson, Year 5 & 6 – Grace Balcombe & Hettie Hodson, Year 7+ – Jasmine Cross & Milly Haward.

The rhythmic apparatus is rotated each year and this year the pairs choice was Rope. The winners were Year 3 & 4 – Hagar Paz & Isla Paterson, Year 5 & 6 – Rosie Nelson & Esther Tedman with the senior section won by Emily Holmes & Molly Harrild.

The Hoop Solo winners were:- Year 3 – Izabella Hunter, Year 4 – Lila Fowler, Year 5 – Hettie Hodson, Year 6 – Evelyn Stainton and Year 7+ – Jasmine Cross.

The last two sections were Sports Acrobatic Sixes, where six gymnasts perform a sequence including agilities, balances and dance. The routines were well choreographed and drew applause during their execution. The Junior Six winning team was Freya Holmes, Charlotte Williams, Alice Henderson, Isabella Doyle, Daisy Clark and Maggie Goodman. The Senior Six competition was won by

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Emily Holmes, Molly Harrild, Chloe Wright, Jessica Bliss, Libby Turner & Charlotte Horning

Adding together the scores from their entries, the Overall Champions were calculated, the winners gaining their titles by just tenths of a mark. Isobel Faulkner won the Overall Junior Championship and the Senior title was won by Emily Holmes. This year a guest Six came from Brighton and tied first in the Senior section. The next opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 36th Annual Championships on the **6th July**. Spectating is welcome throughout the morning. There are a vacancies to join the Club in all groups. For further details regarding the Club please visit [www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk)

The pictures show all the competing gymnasts and the Arts Competition winners. *Andrew Hair*

### HASSOCKS' NEW SKATE PARK IS COMING!

The GREAT news is that we can now confirm that construction for Hassocks' new Skate Park will commence towards the end of April. The facility, chosen from a shortlist of designs by residents during a consultation in January, will take 8-10 weeks to complete (weather permitting). The chosen design will be delivered by Bendcrete Leisure Ltd.

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The new Skate Park will be sited where the current skate ramps are in the south east corner of Adastra Park. The build will be constructed from sprayed concrete which is the most practical and resilient material for builds such as ours. The concrete takes time to cure which means that although the facility may look finished through the fences, until the fences are removed the Skatepark is not ready for use.

We will be operating a building site and access will be prohibited. Therefore whilst the build is in progress and the area fenced off, we would recommend that skaters use the nearby facilities in Burgess Hill, Lewes, Haywards Heath, Henfield and Brighton.

To keep everyone up to date with how the build is going, photos will be uploaded on the Council's website ([www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk)) showing the progress. Once completed, to celebrate the opening of the Skate Park there will be an official opening "Skate Jam" event, and details will be available soon.

Development of the Skate Park is just one of several initiatives that Hassocks Parish Council is undertaking in Adastra Park. Further information on the range of projects can be found online at <https://www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk/news/adastra-park-masterplan/>.

*Jane Barker*

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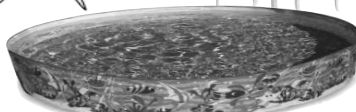
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**WE WILL, WE WILL ROCK YOU! SPRING CONCERT WAS A HIT!** Every year we look forward to our Spring Concert and the range of musical talent we have at the school. This year was no exception. With over 80 students taking part from Years 7 to 11 we enjoyed a fantastic showcase of music – from the Downlands orchestra to Doods & Toots to Queen rock to Double Bass to cajon to fantastic singing.

The first act was a variety of music with the Downlands School Orchestra opening proceedings with a great performance of Star Wars. We enjoyed original pieces as well as old favourites. The second half was dedicated to the music of Queen – finishing up with We Will Rock You and Radio GaGa.

The best thing about the Spring Concert is that everyone gets to play or sing – all you need is a love and an enthusiasm for music – it was a joy!

*Nicki Burston*

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**DITCHLING SINGERS** Come and hear us sing! Our next local performance is on Sunday, **5th May**, from 2.30 - 3.15 pm at Oldland Mill's Special Event Day. Come and hear us sing a selection of our favourite, popular songs - it might tempt you to join our friendly choir! New members are warmly welcomed, no auditions and the first session is a free taster.

We rehearse on alternate Sundays. Our May dates are: Sunday, **12th May**, 4 - 6 pm, Keymer Church Hall and Sunday, **26th May**, 4 - 6 pm also at Keymer Church Hall. Just come along or contact Julie on **01273 844818** or Christine on **01273 846098**. *Julie and Christine*

**HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** Firstly I would like to apologise for the confusion re dates in the previous issue of this magazine and hope it did not cause any problems.

The meeting in March was most enjoyable. It was great to see some more 'new' people. Ian Gledhill gave a most informative presentation on Art Deco which has made me look up at buildings a lot more when I am out & about.

At our next meeting, on Wednesday 1st May, Alfreda Thorogood will be telling us about her varied career with the ballet.

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

## OUR OFFICE IS MOVING!

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**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - DITCHLING AND DISTRICT BRANCH** To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day the Branch will be holding a D-Day Afternoon Tea on Saturday **8th June** at the Barn on Ditchling Village Green, from 2 pm - 4 pm. Herbie Flowers, Michael Hinton and Rebecca Milford will be there to entertain you and Herbie has promised there will also be some surprises. Of course there will be delicious homemade cakes, homemade scones with homemade jam and cream with plenty of freshly brewed tea. This event is open to everyone so please come along with your friends and family for a lovely afternoon. For more information please contact me on **01273 845319**. *Margaret Bovill*

**OLDLAND MILL 5th May**, 11 am to 5 pm. Join us for our first Event Day of the year 'Music and Morris'. Featuring Ditchling and Hammersmith Morris, Punch and Judy, Animal School, a Hog Roast and live music provided by The Millers Blues Band, Ditchling Singers and Kevin Russell. Plus, 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 near the Thatched Inn and either walk up Oldlands Lane or make use of the complimentary minibus. Further details on the website: **www.oldlandwindmill.co.uk**.

*Rebecca Street*

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In last month's edition I wrote about a couple of things that have caused a lot of people to come in and see me. Firstly the new owner of The Greyhound pub was tragically killed in a car crash on the Clayton/Ditchling Road which involved no other cars, how it happened that wet evening will it seems always remain a mystery but I hope that answers the question that I omitted last month, as always our thoughts are with his friends and family.

Also the proposed site of the new houses they want to build on where Glynn's old garage used to be isn't going to happen for at least 18 months to 2 years so please do not stop using your favourite Charity Cycling Café or Garage, they are there for a while yet and need your continued support.

Heading back to Hassocks I'm pretty sure The Foot Nurse has now gone mobile, her shop in Keymer does have a note on the door to that effect, I knew ages ago that's what she planned but asked me not to mention it until she was sure that's what she wanted to do? I think it's a great idea and wish her all the best.

I'm gobsmacked at the amount of money being thrown at Orion News lately, it's had more facelifts than Katie Price, whether it will attract anymore customers is another story but long live progress. Talking of which it's finally open Adastra Market and Delicatessen is now serving up delicious food, mind you before I start I will just say I've always had an issue with the name. I have mentioned it to Matteo what and where is the market? He did kind of explain to me but I still didn't get it, my vision of a market is what we have once a month on the garage forecourt, personally I would have called it Adastra Café and Delicatessen which having been on the premises is exactly what it is. Still that by the by what matters most is are you happy with the result and that seems to be a resounding "YES" well worth the wait people have told me, great coffee and great food. I know at the moment he's only taking baby steps and letting it grow slowly as he gets a feel for what the public are looking for from his shop, very sensible in these highly fragile trading conditions on our high streets.

I'd like to thank all the people who have come in and offered advice and sympathy with our ongoing lease nightmare, you know in all my years I don't think I've ever been in a situation as stressful and worrying as this is, I wouldn't wish it on anybody. The latest development is basically they want the flats back which is kind of difficult because they've got animals in them anyway to try and find a way out of this we've agreed to hand one of them back which they seem to be ok about but it's a big BUT – they won't accept it until it's been redecorated and rewired electrically, how quite we are going to manage that I haven't got a clue, apparently the lease we had was commercial not residential but it still applies – so that's the latest bombshell, Can anyone match that?

However it's not all doom and gloom because approximately once a fortnight we get a mini bus turn up from a care home in East Grinstead with about half a dozen little old ladies, some in wheelchairs and others aided with sticks to spend about an hour just sitting and stroking the cats. To watch them talking to the cats and hear them laughing does transport me briefly away from everything else that is going on and as the carers regularly tell me there is no-one else around that they can go to which gives them so much pleasure, that in itself makes all this worthwhile.

Please keep using us while you can so we can stay and keep providing so much happiness, just before I shoot off to feed my beautiful foxes and badgers which do seem to get less and less each year and we all know the reason for that – HOUSES!

Can I just say thank you to the gentleman from 'Wheels are us' who regularly cuts the grass out the front of my shop and does it for nothing – a real local hero.

*Thanks for listening – Steve and Furry friends*

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