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COUNCILLORS SURGERY, Held in Hassocks Parish Centre. Sue Hatton(MSDC) & Kirsty Lord (WSCC) will be holding a surgery on Tuesday 16th July 10 am - 11 am. No appointments necessary. Sue can be contacted on 07821 351411 or email suehatton@midsussex.gov.uk Kirsty can be contacted on 07952 643623 or email kirsty.lord@westsussex.gov.uk

HASSOCKS PARISH CENTRE Council Office in Adastra Park, Keymer Road - telephone 01273 842714 (answerphone out of hours) Website: www.hassockspc.net

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Can anyone help?

Michael Alford from Stoneywish Nature Reserve has been given the above photograph dated 'Ditchling 1908 - 1917' does anyone know where this is/was?

Please email or write to OD Stationery both addresses on the inside cover.

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#### **LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

DITCHLING DOWNS WI

Tues. 2nd Jul. 7 pm HOLY COMMUNION Tues. 2nd Jul. 1.30 pm

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP

Wed, 3rd Jul, 2 pm DITCHLING WI

Thurs. 4th Jul. 2.15 pm

HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING FIRST RESPONDERS

Thurs. 4th Jul. 7.30 pm DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY

Thurs. 4th Jul. 7.30 pm

HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB

Sat. 6th Jul. 12 - 5 pm

HURSTPIERPOINT GYM CLUB

Sat. 6th Jul. 9 am

ST. LAWRENCE FAIR

**Sat. 6th Jul.** 12 - 5 pm

Old Meeting House, Ditchling Murders & Misdemeanours - Paul Green Age Concern, Hassocks Conducted by one of the local Church of England Clergy The Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint District Councillor - Colin Trumble

> Outing to Firle Place - Free Transport Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church Hall Training Night - New members welcome

**Ditchling Village Hall** Film - The Big Sick. Cert. 15

South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint Open Day on Fair Day for visitors to have a go. All welcome

**Hurstpierpoint Village Centre** Annual Championships

South Avenue Rec, Hurstpierpoint

Fair Day. Other Events will be taking place during the month. See article

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Sun. 7th Jul. 2 - 5 pm

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HASSOCKS EVENING JAZZ Tues. 9th Jul. 8 pm

Trad Jazz Evening. All welcome

DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT

The White Horse Restaurant, Ditchling

Wed. 10th Jul. 2 - 5 pm HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Come along and share your knowledge of Ditchling and ask any questions Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Wed. 10th Jul. 8 pm

Summer Flower and Vegetable Show

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLAYTON & KEYMER WOMENS SECTION Thurs. 11th Jul. 3 pm

Legion HO, Woodsland Road Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers - Anthony Devaney

BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY ASSOC.

Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill RH15 8DX

Fri. 12th Jul. 8 pm Members of Ditchling History Project share the story of their village. Visitors welcome

HASSOCKS WI

Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Mon. 15th Jul. 7.45 pm

Oh I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside!

DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

**Ditchling Village Hall** 

Tues. 16th Jul. 9.45 - 11 am

Coffee Morning run by Ditchling Society

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint

Sat. 20th Jul. 8 pm

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**Sun. 21st Jul.** 10 am – 12 pm THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY Any queries contact the Parish Office 01273 842714 **Keymer Church Hall** 

Sun. 21st Jul. 11 am - 12 pm

Small change and collection box emptying. All welcome. Refreshments avail.

HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

Age Concern, Hassocks

Tues. 23rd Jul. 2.30 pm

The Magic of Scarf Tying - Michaela Wynne - Jones

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Tues 23rd Jul. 7.30 pm HASSOCKS JAZZ LUNCH

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Tues. 23rd Jul. 11.30 am

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Sat. 27th Jul. 7 pm

United Reformed Church, Hassocks

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sat. 27th Jul. 10 am - 12 pm

Messy Church - Activity morning for adults and children with refreshments

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Sun. 28th Jul. 10 am doors open. HURST, HASSOCKS & DÎTCHLING U3A

**Fri. 5th Jul.** 7.30 pm

Concert at St Cosmas & St Damian Church - Thanks for the Memory. Free Admission

Unexplained, Mysteries & Cover Ups - Andy Thomas www.hurstplayers.org.uk. Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint The Killing of Sister George by Frank Marcus. Tickets see website

**Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre** 

**2nd - 6th Jul.** 8 pm HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

For films and showing times visit hurstfilms.com

PYECOMBE VILLAGE 6th - 7th Jul. 11 - 4 pm

Fri. 19th Jul. 2 pm HURST PLAYÊRS

**Pvecombe Church** 

Pyecombe Fayre & Flower Festival - See article

#### **REGULAR ACTIVITES**

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

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HURST VILLAGE CINÊMA

**Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre** 

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MID SUSSEX CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP King Centre, Victoria Rd, Burgess Hill Every Fourth Wednesday of the month 2 - 4 pm. www.csrf.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

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**GRACE FRY** a familiar face for the last 43 years around Hassocks sadly passed away on the 7th June at the age of 93.

She ran and organised the Christmas Day Dinner at the United Reformed Church for 10 years finally handing it over at the age of 90. She has been seen street collecting for charities wearing a large colourful hat and for most of her life has been seen walking many dogs she adopted over the years. It will not be the same without her. Service was on Friday 21st June at 2 pm.

Richard Fry

**FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS** We met together to finalise the disbanding of Friends and Neighbours and to discuss the question of the monies in our bank. It has always been necessary to keep a fair amount in hand for the advance payment of hiring the Adastra for our shows and also our weekly rehearsals at Keymer Church Hall - neither cheap these days!

We all agreed that £500 be given to each of the following:- The Burgess Hill and District Lions who have supported us many times to enable us to give reasonable donations to our chosen charities. To St Peters and St James Hospice who have cared for several of our past members of the group and also to 'Light up Hassocks' towards future expenses here in Hassocks.

Our final parting gift to our Communities will be to repair and repaint 'Bunty's' seat outside the Hassocks Health Centre which we donated in 2006 in her memory.

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The extra cost of "repair" thanks to the sad and mindless person/persons who knifed a fair chunk out of one of the arms. Did you enjoy doing that?

On a brighter side, we thank you all once again for your support and generosity over the 41 years that we have been entertaining - life is certainly not the same for us now and - we are going to miss you! We are so very sad to disband but, as the saying goes, "all good things come to an end".

Friends and Neighbours



Does anyone in the Chancellors Park area of Hassocks own or know anything about as small, bony 3 legged cat. He/she is tame not ferral. It is hungry and comes into the house in the early mornings through the cat doors to demolish what is left of our cats food and then wants more. Our cats are not impressed and I feel sorry for it. It is friendly to humans but I cannot take it on.

Delia Spink

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#### ST LAWRENCE VILLAGE FAIR EVENTS

Cuckoo In The Nest - 22nd June until 4th July. Our High Street Shop Window Competition is back again for another year. Pick up your entry form from Mishon Mackay and wander around the High Street to look for the item that you don't think would normally appear in their shop window.

Pet & Dog Show - Sunday **30th June**, from 12.30 pm at the Scout Hut. Bring your small pets and dogs to our Pet Show. Small pets 12.30 pm start and dogs 1.30 pm start.

Teddy Bear's Picnic - Friday **5th July**, 12.30 – 2.30 pm. Bring your teddy and a picnic along to South Avenue Recreational Ground. Admission for each child will include a fairground ride, a magic show, do a craft activity and get an ice lolly!

Children's Disco - Friday **5th July**, 6 - 7.30 pm. Come along to South Avenue Recreation Ground for a boogie at the Children's Disco. Tickets available on the door, and it includes refreshments and snacks. Age 4+. Family BBQ - Friday **5th July**, 6 - 10.30 pm. Come along to South Avenue Recreation Ground for hot dogs & burgers and the famous Hurstbarpoint, and listen to some fantastic bands playing throughout the evening. Fun Run Saturday **6th July**, 2.45 pm. Come join the St Lawrence Fair Fun Run! Steeped in history, our fun

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run is a friendly scenic run around the foothills of the South Downs including an ascent (and decent) of Wolstonbury Hill. The circular course takes in local Danny House, beautiful woodlands and bridleways in and around Hurstpierpoint, finishing at the St Lawrence Fair in front of hundreds of spectators. The start is a lap of the main arena to the applause of the crowd. Enter as a family for the short run. You can register online at runbritain.com, or download an entry form www.stlawrencefair.org.uk. You will also be able to register on the day, however, please be aware that as soon as we reach our maximum limit of 200 runners, entries will close.

Fair Day opens on South Avenue Rec at 12 pm with stalls, street food market and Harris's Fun Fair. Procession starts from Marchants Road at 1 pm and arrives at the Rec at 2 pm. Various events will take place in the main arena and fair closes at 5 pm.

BOWLING ON ST LAWRENCE FAIR DAY Have a go at bowling on Saturday 6th July. Hurstpierpoint bowling club will be open on St Lawrence Fair day for visitors to try bowling with some club members. All are welcome, including children for whom we have some small prizes. Hope to see you there. Just turn up!

Anne Clifford

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**HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** What a wonderful afternoon we had with Alfreda Thorogood telling us about her life with the ballet. She certainly had a most interesting time.

Our next meeting is on the **3rd July** where we hope Colin Trumble, Councillor for HPP & Downs Ward of MSDC, will be coming to talk to us.

We meet at the Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint from 2 pm to 4 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

For more information please contact Dianne **01273 835284** or myself **07806 670359**. *Ann Tranter* 

**DOWNLANDS SCHOOL** At The Heart Of The Community, Caring For The Environment.

Visitors to Downlands are often in awe of our fabulous setting. With views to the Jack & Jill Windmills and Ditchling Beacon, the students at our school study against a stunning backdrop.

We take looking after the environment very seriously and have a very active Eco Forum (student voice group) and Eco Club run expertly by science teacher Phil Cole. The Eco Club mark Waste Week, Walk to School Week, Switch Off Fortnight and they hold many events throughout the year to raise awareness of the importance of our environment in school and in the wider world.

Mr Cole accompanied by Eco Forum members Madha-



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van Varadharajan, Alex Savuk, Kimberley Payne, Luca Shanahan, Leah Aldridge, Ruby King and Patrick Bates lead assemblies during Waste Week in May in which they reported on a visit that the Eco Club had made to Haulaway Ltd in Hailsham, where much of the school recycling is taken. The students wanted to know what happens to our waste and recycling and reported back to the whole school about why we need to reduce our waste and what should go in what bin! The students had made a video of the trip and reminded the school community that any waste packaging etc could be placed in the school recycling bins unless it was contaminated with food waste.

The Eco Club is also very pleased that the school canteen has decided to replace plastic cutlery with wooden versions. Many students are bringing in packed lunch items with less plastic packaging. These steps, although small, all help with reducing unnecessary waste at school and we urge parents and carers to continue to make this happen.

Students at school are very conscientious about keeping the school looking neat and tidy – but we are not perfect. Every day after lunch Mr Anthony (Site Officer) takes a small group of students and they litter pick – just to pick up the bits and pieces around school that may have been dropped by mistake.

Every term, however, Mr Cole and around twenty stu-



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dents along with Ms Cutress, Mr Urwin complete a lunchtime litter pick of the wider school site including the car parks and around the ATP. It is amazing how much litter we find under the bushes and behind the bike sheds and we would ask that all users from the community who visit Downlands ensure that they take away rubbish with them after use.

As part of the Great British Spring Clean, the Eco Forum team visited Adastra Park for a litter sweep and collected a surprisingly large number of black sacks full of litter. Eco club in collaboration with the Gardening Club have become guardians for Mason bees. They have caused a buzz at school and have found lots of food and flowers to pollinate in the garden and beyond. Mason bees are solitary and don't sting so they should be perfect for the

The next exciting event the Eco Club will be marking is Walk to School Week which will be in July - we can't wait as there are competitions all week and fun lunchtime activities.

Our school fields are used by our students throughout the summer as a social space at lunch and break time. We have cricket fixtures for all year groups as well as our annual Sports Day. As part of our curriculum we include Forest School (led by Matthew Stokes) which is essentially outdoor, nature-based learning that focuses on the holistic development of the student. It is brilliant

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and takes place down in the woods that run along the stream that crosses our fields. Moreover, local community groups such as the Guides, Brownies and Scouts use our fields for their outdoor activities.

We do have one very serious issue that is becoming very unpleasant for all users of our fields. Please, please if you are walking your dog across our fields – and why wouldn't you, it is a lovely walk – please pick up your dog waste. It is very upsetting for everyone when you accidently step in it, the ball lands in it, you fall or sit in Nicki Burston it – please pick it up!



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

Please note change of date for drop in I Pad and Phone lessons. This will now be held on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 am until 11 am (not school holidays).

Knit and Natter is held on Wednesday mornings from 9.15 am. We are now making the blankets for the Salvation Army, which are sent to the headquarters in Brighton and are distributed to families that are in need. We are also still knitting premature baby blankets which we send to the Royal Sussex County and Haywards Heath. Thank you to everyone at home who are knitting for us! Please do come along on Wednesday morning to meet others knitters and have a chat and a coffee!

Instead of our summer Picnic this year we will be having a Ploughmans Lunch held at the centre for our members on Thursday **18th July**, with entertainment by Margaret Watson the Harpist. Please do book in the office.

Wellbalanced Community Falls Prevention Service, in partnership with Mid Sussex Wellbeing and Active House Solutions are holding Balance classes here every Wednesday afternoon. Please call **01444 477191** to book your place.

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 at 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. Our Charity Shop is open every day and also Saturday mornings too - do pop in and have a look, refreshments and cake available to buy! We are looking for more Volunteer Escorts to help assist our members on and off our mini bus safely, this could be just to help with our rotas to cover holidays or a regular weekly or fortnightly slot when available – do contact me for more information.

Kirsty Hunnisett

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

We meet at 3 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at our headquarters in Woodsland Road, Hassocks. We are a friendly group and visitors are very welcome. For further information about our activities, please contact our Chairman, Jenny Budd on 07719 922326. On 11th July our speaker will be Anthony Devaney about "Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers". The

competition is Something beginning with 'G'. At a recent branch meeting Celia Dennis spoke about the history and activities of the Royal Volunteer Service.

Celia started off with a few hours volunteering, and now spends three days a week travelling all over West Sussex and neighbouring counties, making initial contact to assess prospective service users. The ethos behind the R.V.S. is to help people to help themselves. The service is free but time limited to 6 weekly visits, while needs are addressed and plans made to meet them; often by linking up with other organisations and services.

Needs can be varied; everyday things that aid independent living, such as daily meals, shopping, library services, transport, social activities, access to clubs, hobbies, and

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new interests, and importantly in these modern times, help with I.T. and social media. The list is endless. Volunteering is rewarding, and can be for as little as a few hours a week. If this interests you or you need assistance to live life the way you'd like to, just call **01293 228 060**.

A Date For Your Diary: Our next Coffee Morning is on Saturday **7th September** at Age Concern Hassocks.

Liz Thomas

OPEN GARDENS Sunday 7th July. 10 gardens in Hassocks and Keymer will be open from 2 pm till 5 pm in aid of St Peter & St James Hospice. Refreshments available. Look out for the signs or start at 2 Ockley Lane, Keymer, BN6 8BA or 6a Woodsland Road, Hassocks.

Simon Amey

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 27th July between 10 am and 12 pm at Hassocks United Reformed Church. There is no charge and all are welcome.

\*\*Darryl Sinclair\*\*

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH The first summer flowers are appearing in the hedgerows. As May blossoms fade, they are replaced by a froth of elder flowers, honeysuckle, and briar roses, which fill the evening air with their fragrance. The lambs are growing; the high tseet tseet of fledglings resounds from tree to tree. Two days ago I heard the first scream of a swift hunting high above the Black Pond. One might be tempted to think of this idvllic world as something eternal and vouchsafed to us by the millions of years of its evolution. But today the talk is not of continuity but of cataclysmic change. There are silences in the score of our hereditary soundscape: no chatter of swallows today; no whirr of snipe wings; no peewit cries. Within the past twenty years, these birds have abandoned their traditional haunts. The once insistent call of the cuckoo is now a rarity. It is tempting to blame the exodus on global issues – things belonging to the realm of international politics and science, to which we turn, seeking a 'fix' for every ill. The best of us are trying to save the planet. We monitor, measure and manipulate everything around us so as to



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maintain our own fixed purposes, as though we alone have outgrown the vital process of evolution. Is a species threatened with extinction? Someone must preserve and rescue it. Is the weather out of control? Mankind can cure it. We will do whatever it takes to ensure our immunity from harm and secure the boundless supplies of energy and food we need to maintain our chosen way of life. And if this means rewiring the whole of the rest of the planet, many are now saying, 'so be it.' Am I alone in experiencing a sinking feeling? I recently came across a which seems more interesting each time I think about it. Question: "What is the time?" Answer: 'Eternity'; an all-embracing concept which puts us back at the heart of any global issue. In other words, everything is both particular in the here and now, and yet universal. As humans, we are so powerful it is hard for us to turn around and feel overwhelmed by something bigger. Yet this might be the most helpful thing we can do. Man is the largest soil-mover on the planet. The statistics staggering. We only have to look around us to see it in action. Man literally moves mountains and at a stroke

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dismantles the slow and intricate architecture of the web of life. Wherever homo disruptor is busy digging things up, local populations are extinguished and with every minor extinction, a cascade of loss ripples through the wider environment. And it's not just industrial schemes which are to blame. In our own backvards we are forever paving, clearing, rooting things out. With every hedge goes a family of sparrows. And what use is a nest-box on a wall if there are no trees nearby for fledglings to hide and forage in? What use is a butterfly garden, if the caterpillars have no weeds to eat? Such connections are minute but critical. At Stoneywish there are pockets of land which have been 'rewilding' for 25 years. And to go into these areas now is to see the connections at work. The soil is laced with fungal strands which break down spent vegetation, releasing nutrients for new growth. Communities of plants, sharing common ground, sustain a humming wealth of insect life. There is good hunting for birds; damp cover for amphibians. The air is different. But Nature does not require a whole nature reserve. A of brambles will do, or any forgotten corner. An anthill is a world spacious enough to sustain its own unique ecology. When global issues seem overwhelming perhaps it could help to rephrase the eternity joke and say in reply to the question. "Where are we?" Simply: "Everywhere." A grassroots revolution might then replace the urge to 'move mountains' with something gen-



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tler, something truly radical; a kind of graciousness holding back, moving up a little, simply to make room for others, and by the same token, making room for a new humanity in ourselves. Given half a chance, Nature heals itself; and watching what happens, rather than contriving what happens brings the spectator a delightful sense of enlargement. "No man is an island, entire of itself," wrote John Donne almost 400 years ago, speaking of the community of man. Today the words carry a new relevance. In the community of Life the loneliness of a depopulating world need not be ours. Extinctions do not know that they are global. Each, wherever it occurs, is uniquely intimate and provincial. This is perhaps the pity. Creatures do not ask to be spared because they are useful or beautiful to us, but because they carry secrets important to themselves, a shared intelligence which modern man hardly recognises, but which alone sustains the mantle of life on earth. When we humans act as disruptors, dismantlers, we damage an essential part of ourselves. But when we remember our wider existence, cherish here as everywhere, and work within systems which permit a sense of connectedness we can find ourselves blissfully participating in a global 'joie de vivre'. Here endeth...

This month's History Talk takes place on Friday, **28th June**, and is entitled: 'Edwardian Lewes Through the Camera Lens.' Collector and local historian, Bob Cairns,



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shares over 100 views of Lewes from his photographic archive, with tales to bring the Edwardian era to life. Photography provided a popular and affordable way to record moments in time and picture postcards soon became the 'emails' of the day. Some images will be familiar, while others, the gems of Bob's 40 years of collecting, show hidden corners of the town and will have you puzzling... Talks are held at the Stoneywish Visitor Centre and begin at 10.30 a.m. As ever, there will be coffee and fresh-baked cake to follow, all included in the ticket price and an exhibition of pictures from Michaels local history archive. Further details on **www.stoneywish.com**. Please phone **01273 843498** to reserve a seat.

Now for breakfast. Hunger certainly makes the moment seem eternal and this early bird is in need of a worm.

Rosemary

#### A SUMMER'S EVENING CONCERT AT DANNY

<u>HOUSE</u> in Hurstpierpoint prepares Vivace! for another decade of raising funds for local charities.

In a continuing climate of funding cutbacks, many charitable organisations are finding it very difficult to maintain income streams. We all know that fundraising is a challenge - even for the biggest charities - and that is where Vivace! can help.

During the last two decades, Vivace! has raised well over £100,000 for Sussex charities of all sizes. We are a

mixed 'a cappella' choir (singing without accompaniment) based in Ditchling. In order to promote our choir and its ethos, we are holding a 'Summer's Evening Concert' on Saturday **3rd August** at the beautiful location of Danny House in Hurstpierpoint. The grounds will be open from 5.45 pm if you wish to bring a picnic to enjoy before the concert which will take place at 7.30 pm in the historic Great Hall.

It should be a memorable evening - tickets are available from mid-June. To reserve your tickets please phone Sharon Flower on 07900 698751 or email sharon.c.flower@btopenworld.com.

Tickets will also be available from the office of Estate Agent, Marcus Grimes at 151, High Street, Hurstpierpoint. We look forward to seeing you!

Karan Hollamby

#### JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP QUIZ AND

CURRY NIGHT Thank you to everyone who took part in this fun evening. We raised over £1000 and with the Helen Palmer who works for Barclays Bank, which kindly match fund the event, we raised over £2000 for the charity run playgroup.

The pudding auction as always was the highlight of the evening. Thank you to Nick Palmer for being the auctioneer, Judy and Maureen who organise the quiz, Chris from the Hassocks for the lovely curry and my staff at QD Stationery who organised the publicity, posters and tickets.

Jo Lambe

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SUSSEX VALE ROTARY Another busy time for Sussex Vale Rotary over the past month or so, with a number of social events and fundraising efforts for various charities we support. A boat trip was arranged to the Rampion offshore wind farm, which is named after a Sussex Flower. The 116 wind turbines it contains will generate enough electricity to run 350,000 homes for the next 25 years. The trip, organised by Channel Diving, left from Brighton Marina and went the 8 miles out to the wind farm on a wonderful calm evening. After sailing in and out of the turbines and base station the boat returned and sailed along the Brighton seafront back to the marina.

sailed along the Brighton seafront back to the marina. Prior to that, members and their guests visited the Ditchling Museum for a social evening and private viewing. There has been a museum in Ditchling since 1985 when the Bourne sisters purchased the old school building and turned it into an Arts and Crafts Museum. Between 2010 and 2013 the museum underwent a major £2.3 million refurbishment to provide a home for the many local craft exhibits. In addition to a grant from National Heritage, many local groups provided support to raise the funds needed and we were one of those who contributed. Rebecca Drew, from the Museum, gave an interesting talk on the history of the museum and the many famous artists whose exhibits are displayed there.

On 11th May Rotarian Russell Taylor abseiled from the top of the i360 in Brighton on behalf of St Peter and St James Hospice and raised just under £1,000. Russell said afterwards, 'The seriously scary part was dropping

out backwards and then swinging underneath the pod at 450 feet up in the air'!

Five runners representing Sussex Vale Rotary Club took part in this year's Burgess Hill Bank Holiday 10k Run. The team were running to raise awareness of the Rotary end polio now campaign and wore the very distinctive Rotary Purple for polio tops.

The team consisted of Russell Taylor; Hilary Scott; Blair Drummond; Joanne Baker & Scott Drummond. Well done to all of them.

In addition to all these efforts, Rotarian Marcus Martin held a 'Musical Moments; performance in Worthing on behalf of the Blood Runners of Sussex, who provide a voluntary service carrying urgently needed blood and other emergency medical supplies between hospitals.

Our Charity Golf Day took place on 30th May at the Mid Sussex Golf Club when we raised some significant funds for the benefit of local and international charities.

It is with great pleasure that we can announce the opening of a memory moments café in the Court Bushes Community Centre, in Hurstpierpoint on Thursday 20th June. The project is supported by Sussex Vale Rotary, Know Dementia and Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council. The café will then operate on the first Thursday of each month from 2 pm to 5 pm.

All our activities are reported on Facebook. For more information about Rotary, contact us on **www.rotary-sxvale.org.uk** or message us at **secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk**. Duncan Honeyman



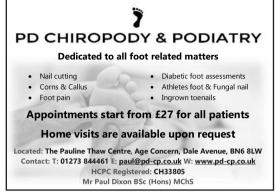




DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Our last film of the season on Thursday 4th July, will be The Big Sick which, despite its slightly off-putting title, is a cleverly written, beautiful film produced by Judd Apatow based on a true story. Although primarily a romantic comedy as well as a family drama, it details the unusual courtship between Kumail, his girlfriend and her parents. Kumail (played by Kumail Nanjiani) is a Pakistani comedian who meets and falls for an American graduate student called Emily (played by Zoe Kazan) at one of his stand-up shows. As their relationship blossoms, he becomes worried about how his traditional Muslim parents will react, particularly as they have been instrumental in setting up meetings with a series of potential brides in their eagerness to engineer an arranged marriage for him. When Emily comes down with a serious illness that leaves her in a coma, Kumail finds himself developing a bond with her deeply concerned parents, Terry and Beth. Beautifully and sensitively acted, it is a charming, multi-faceted film which is both edgy and hilarious.

Director: Michael Showalter English & Urdu 2017, 120 minutes, 15 Cert.

The film will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. The film starts 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 the sum payable at the door.

Rowena Cager and Melanie Samuel

HASSOCKS WI is 10 years old! Members turned out in all their finery for a fantastic evening of celebration. Stella and her wonderful team had prepared a delicious meal of Lasagne, which was served with wine, and with salads provided by our members. This was followed by an impressive array of desserts, also supplied by members. We welcomed visitors from surrounding WIs and also West Sussex Federation Adviser Yvonne Bee.

After eating more than any of us thought possible, we were entertained by Marco the Magician, who amazed us with his sleight of hand. No matter how hard we tried, and how close we were, we couldn't work out how he did it! Yvonne then cut our beautiful cake, made by Lorraine and decorated by Barbara. As you would expect from a WI cake, it tasted absolutely superb. Altogether it was a wonderful night, celebrating in real style.

For our meeting on **15th July** we will be getting into the summer spirit with a talk from everybody's favourite, Ian Gledhill, on 'Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside'. Visitors welcome. 7.45 pm in Adastra Hall.

\*\*Maureen Dodd\*\*



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**HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS** next production is The Killing of Sister George by Frank Marcus, running from Tuesday **2nd July** until Saturday **6th July** and starting at 8 pm.

This is a scathing examination of the public and private lives of so-called 'cultural icons'.

'Sister George' is a beloved character on a popular BBC radio soap opera, a cheerful nurse who rides her scooter about the countryside singing hymns and doing good. In private life, June Buckridge, the actress, is a foul-mouthed, alcoholic lesbian in a long-term relationship with Alice 'Childie' McNaught.

Due to low ratings, cut-backs and June's own bad behaviour, the BBC, in their wisdom, decide to kill off this character and we follow the impact it has on the actress's life and the lives of those around her.

There are a lot of laughs, a lot of hurt and a fair dollop





of tragedy.

Tickets, are on sale via the Hurst Players Online Box Office **www.hurstplayers.org.uk** or in person from Hurst Players Box Office (147 High St. Hurstpierpoint) Saturday mornings between 10 am and 1 pm.

**Bob Sampson** 

HELLO FROM HURST FESTIVAL 2019! This year the programme is full to bursting and the website and brochure will launch at the beginning of July. Early booking opens for Friends on 8th July – for everyone else its 22nd July – it's not too late to become a Friend – just visit www.hurstfestival.org.

This year our theme is 'Love Local'. Much of the talent and skills of Hurst Festival is found locally. Local food, drink, acts, services, venues, suppliers etc which makes our footprint small and sustainable. Celebrating the talent on our doorstep whilst also welcoming national and international acts ensures we offer a diverse and creatively exciting programme.

Heber Opera returns, as does the James Wilton Dance Company, local legend Herbie Flowers will perform, Tim Pope and Barry Adamson will share their incredible stories working in the music industry, Ben Ottewell (from Gomez) features and The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams opens. Enjoy beautiful walks around the Sussex countryside, cream teas, lively workshops and talks to expand your mind: Interior Design, Living Plastic Free, Keeping Bees, Sussex Lives and Hedgehogs – how we can help and why we should care. For now, block out Saturday 14th – Sunday 29th September and look out for the brochure coming soon!

Kate Cowan

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#### PYECOMBE FAYRE AND FLOWER FESTIVAL

**6th and 7th July**. Pyecombe Village puts on its everpopular annual celebration.

The theme of the floral displays this year is "Love is.." and you can be sure of a feast of stunning displays! The church will be open from 11 am to 4 pm.

Teas and cakes will be served in the tea tent and a licensed bar will be selling drinks. You can also enjoy a ploughman's lunch with a glass of wine in the delightful setting of our beautiful South Downs village.

We will be repeating last year's popular Scarecrow Competition in which people try their hand at making their own scarecrows. These will be exhibited along the church wall and prizes given to the smartest, the craziest and the scariest!

The fancy dress dog competition is another major draw from previous years so will definitely be repeated. Bring your pooch and join in with the fun.

We have invited back the Lewes, Glynde and Beddingham brass band and they will play their appealing repertoire at lunchtime on Saturday. So, clear your diaries! Other attractions include various arts and crafts displays and the "Good as New" table if it is bargains you are after.

What better way to enjoy a summer weekend!

Tim Cullen

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HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEO-GRAPHICAL SOCIETY On 20th July we will be given a guided tour of Danny House by the owner, Richard Burrows. The fee includes a slide show and afternoon tea. There are a few places left. If you haven't yet signed up and wish to join us please contact me the Chairman on 01273 8332280 e-mail w.kent123@btinternet.com or the Secretary, Lynn Pink on 01444 453474 e-mail lynnpink9@aol.com.

Bill Kent

GREAT NEWS ABOUT THE ADASTRA SKATEPARK The planning for the Official Opening of the new skatepark is underway and the provisional date is Saturday 13th July from 12 to 2 pm. Once the event plan and date have been finalised the details will be posted on the Parish Council website, www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk, and advertised locally.

Meanwhile as I write in early June, we expect the construction of the skatepark to be completed by around **14th June**. This will be followed by the official safety checks and the bunds will be grassed over. The turf needs to bed down for a while and in the meantime the fencing will remain.

And yes, no matter your age, you can use the skatepark once the fencing has been officially removed.

The Parish Council hopes you will enjoy this new facility in Adastra Park.

Ian Cumberworth

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A HASSOCKS GARDEN CENTRE has donated hundreds of plants to their local hospice to raise much needed funds.

St Peter & St James Hospice at Chailey, took delivery of the plants for their plant stall on their annual Open Day. The 200 plants, which were grown by family-run garden centre South Downs Nurseries on their Hassocks nursery, were sold during the Open Day to raise money for the hospice. Students At St Paul's Catholic College in Burgess Hill have a new timber building in their conservation area which will become the hub of their nature project, housing among other things a monitoring station and screens to view their new wildlife cameras.

This donation is courtesy of The Budding Foundation char-

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ity in conjunction with South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks, and is funded by the money raised from Santa's grotto at the Brighton Road garden centre.

"The new shed will help the students working towards their John Muir Award", explains Sarah Mead from the family-run garden centre. "The award scheme encourages young people to enjoy the outdoors and learn about nature, conservation and wild places."

Other equipment donated includes two camera nest boxes, a pair of trail cameras plus a bird feeding station.

Trevor Butler

ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB – HASSOCKS We are your local friendly lawn bowls club. At the time of writing we are busy welcoming and coaching our many new members. If you didn't manage to get to our recent open days but think you would like to give us a try you are always welcome to come along for a taster and to look around the club. Just contact us via our website and we will arrange it. No equipment needed.

Don't forget that for those new to bowling we do provide four coaching sessions, by qualified coaches, which will take you to a level where you should be confident to compete in friendly matches. We can even loan you equipment to get you started.

We have bowling for all standards from internal club rollups to friendly and league level interclub matches for gents, ladies and mixed.

For more information and a membership application form follow the links below. www.adastrabowling.club,

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**2ND HASSOCKS GUIDES** The 2nd Hassocks Guide Unit would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to three amazing leaders who are leaving us at the end of this term: Liz, Sara and Julia.

It takes a special kind of person to run a successful Guide unit for many years, holding fun activities week in, week out at the Guide hut, organising exciting trips and taking part in local and national Girl guiding camps.

Liz has been in Guiding since 2010, first in Brownies and then as a Guide leader. She held the role of District Commissioner for 3 years. Liz has chaired the Guide hut committee for many years, ensuring that Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have a safe and warm environment to meet in.

Sara became a leader when her daughter joined Guides. She injected a fast-paced, fun element into Unit meetings. She is renowned for putting on top water-splash nights and great beach parties.

Julia runs brilliant activities that really get the girls thinking for themselves. We will miss her calm approach and great organisational skills.

Guiding has changed so much in recent years but the core values of friendship, helping others, and respecting yourself and other people are still in place, and it is great to see our girls getting so much out of Guiding. It is also vital to provide inclusive activities for children and young people in our village.

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Rachel Stenning



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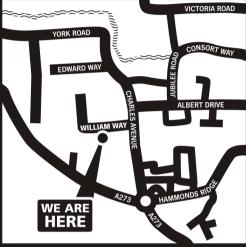
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**THE WINDMILLS SCHOOL** As the school year draws to a close, we would like to share with you a little about just a few of the topics enjoyed by pupils at The Windmills!

Year 6 absolutely loved the rich historical World War 2 and War of the Worlds topics on which they have worked this term. From writing and recording their own news reports declaring the start of World War 2, which really captured the tone of the news readers from that time, to some superb creative writing in a series about the Martian invasion and survival under the control of their war machines, having read and listened to H.G. Well's original War of the Worlds story! To complete their topic, the children spent a day exploring Newhaven Fort where they gathered further information to add to their detailed topic books – their last as pupils of The Windmills Junior School!

As part of our Explorers topic this term, Year 5 explored Brazil and to learn all about plants from that country they went on an exciting trip to Kew Gardens in London. The children spent the day exploring Kew Gardens and wrote some fantastic recounts of their favourite parts. This is Oliver's recollection: "The first thing we did in Kew Gardens was go to the Temperate House. It was a ginormous, glass greenhouse with a raised roof to let the sun in. Inside, it had a variety of plants and decorations such



as waterfalls, grapefruit and a spiral staircase which leads to a balcony." A lot of tired, but happy children returned to school at the end of the long day out full of interesting facts!

Year 4 explored the tragic story of the Titanic as part of their 'Changing States' topic and to immerse them in the topic JK Theatre Arts ran a workshop in school. Each child was given a real name of someone who embarked on the Titanic on that fateful journey. There were people such as the man in charge of the White Star Line, brave people who gave up their seats on a lifeboat and musicians who continued playing right up to the end. During the day, the children were split into the different social classes to experience what life would have been really like, at the time, on board the most luxurious ship ever built. They were welcomed into the drama arena by the Captain, Edward John Smith, and used props to bring their character to life. The children then explored life on the Titanic for their class of travel, such as promenading around the deck, relaxing, reading in the library and The children also explored historical playing games. sources to find out about the daily life on board the ship in the different classes. One of the highlights was learning some dances from that era – each of which were very different depending on which class of passenger you were!

# Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha CHIROPODY - PODIATRY

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In the first half of the spring term, the children of year 3 delved into the world of magic! Using the fantastic and inspiring picture book, Leon and the Place Between, they stepped inside the fabulous circus tent to see Abdul Kazam's famous magic show and held thir breath when the lights dimmed as the show was about to begin. The children gasped when the show began and cheered when Abdul Kazam started the first of his many wondrous tricks, and turned white handkerchiefs into fluttering, white doves. The children then created their own magic show for Abdul Kazam and invented some jaw-dropping tricks for the famous magician to try out. Some unique tricks included: rabbits that changed into kittens, beads that turned into money and cards that magically arranged themselves into the shape of a house! The children used ambitious adjectives and powerful verbs to describe their magic show in great detail. They also played around with their sentence structures, using a mixture of shorter and longer sentences to build suspense and create movement. When the children read aloud their descriptions, you could feel the exciting, enchanting magic floating around the year 3 classrooms! They then accompanied Leon on his incredible journey to the 'Place Where Magic Exists'. The beautiful illustrations from the book were intriguing and thought provoking and were used by the children to invent their own Place Between. They did not disappoint us with their original, creative ideas! From waterfalls made of jewels, castles that grew end-

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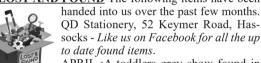
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lessly into the sky and a moon that smiled and talked to you, the children came up with some truly magnificent descriptions that showcased their imaginations.

It has been wonderful to see the children in Year 3 develop during their first year here at The Windmills – we look forward to watching their continuing progress over the next few years!

Sue Bandy

LOST AND FOUND The following items have been



APRIL: A toddlers grey show found in Grand Avenue, a pair of glasses in Adastra

Park car park, a watch outside McColls, A set of locker & bike keys put through our door, a ring in Adastra Park, another ring in the twitten between Adastra Park and Fir Tree Way, a pencil case in the memorial gardens in Adastra Park, MAY: a pair of glasses and a dog lead in the Thatched fields, another pair of glasses at the top of Grand Avenue, a necklace in Wilmington Close, a set of house keys with key fob in The Quadrant, MAY DAY FESTIVAL in Adastra Park: a scooter, 2 childrens water bottles, a pencil case, 2 purses and a childs sweatshirt, JUNE: A set of keys with a car key and two house keys by Station Garage.

Items will only be kept for about 3 months.



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HASSOCKS MAY DAY The sun shone, dogs' tails wagged, smiles abundant and fun was had by all. With over 2,000 visitors, some 30 stallholders, a dog show, maypole dancing, a display of owls, beer festival, wood whittling and two new activities: a Fun Run and a Flower Festival, Hassocks May Day was celebrated.

A huge overall thank you to all our community and charity stalls who supported us. We hope you all managed to raise your profile. In total the stalls raised over £4,000 for their causes!

Congratulations to all the entrants to the Flower Festival and especially to Olive Laing (4 yrs old) winner of Under 7's, Benin O'Mally Richardson (8 yrs old) winner of Under 16's, and Mrs J Haywood and Loretta winners of the Amateur and Professional categories respectively. Well done to all those dogs and owners who took part in our Dog Show. And thank you for our judges and Burns Dog Food Suppliers who sponsored the prizes.

I would like to thank Su Watts, Kelly Foley, Bella June Flowers, Hassocks Community Runners, Keymer and Hassocks Sports and Social Club, Parish Council, LoneMed, Burgess Hill Community Radio and Hassocks Community Organisation.

So to end with, same place, same time next year on bank holiday Monday, 4th May 2020!

Michelle Binks

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#### HASSOCKS YOUTH CLUB - HELP NEEDED I

have been working with Sussex Clubs for Young People who run the youth club at Adastra Hall on Wednesdays from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. The club is open to anybody in Year 7 up. The club has been running for some time and is now at a point where it needs additional support from our community to continue to flourish. At a meeting in May, some local residents stepped up to be involved in the creation of a management committee, but we need more residents to help us if we are to secure the future of the club. If you would be interested in helping – perhaps on the management committee (no prior experience necessary) or by joining a volunteer rota or by sharing a skill one evening with our young people – then we would love to hear from you. Please contact me for more details on **07952 643623** or

Kirsty.lord@westsussex.gov.uk.

Kirsty Lord

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY If you currently have a collection box for The Children's Society, or are interested in having one to collect your small change and help some vulnerable young people find hope in life, then please come along to Keymer Church Hall Sunday 21st July between 11 am and midday. Refreshments will be available.

If you need your box collecting, can't make that date or would like any more information about The Children's Society please get in touch with me on **01273 844186** or email payntercarolyn@hotmail.co.uk Carolyn Paynter

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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.

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

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

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

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HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL - GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS Hassocks Parish Council has a small budget for grants to assist local community groups or for projects and activities that will benefit local residents. This year the Council will consider requests for funding at its meeting on 10th September and all applications must be received by Friday 30th August. For further information please contact the Parish Council Office on 01273 842714 or email info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk. Full details of how you can apply can also be found on the Parish Council's website www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk.

Ian Cumberworth

THE ACORNS are thrilled to announce that they have retained their outstanding Ofsted rating in their recent inspection in Lindfield. Janet Irwin said, "This is a tribute to staff, parents and children, who work so well together, making The Acorns a very special place. Here are a few quotes from the report.

'The owner, manager and staff build superb relationships



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with all children. Their wonderfully nurturing approach helps children to feel exceedingly happy, secure and settled. Parent feedback is overwhelmingly positive about the 'superb quality of care'. Children have limitless opportunities to explore, investigate and experience new things and make rapid progress from their developmental starting points. Staff ensure all children reach their full potential.'

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The long school holiday now beckons and our much praised month long Acorns Holiday Fun programme starts on Monday **29th July**. Run at Westmeston Parish Hall near Ditchling, it provides lots of fun for 2 - 11 year olds.

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Janet Irwin



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## THE MERCANTILE ADVENTURERS BRINGS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR TO BURGESS HILL, set

alongside the Orion cinema with free parking and WIFI. The Merc has welcomed some new faces for 2019 and is home to six established businesses. A wonderful café 'The Fresh Lunch Company', owned by Lee a trained chef with years' experience. Lee serves an incredibly popular blend of coffee from Lindfield Coffee Works, delicious cakes, mezze sharing plates and local produce. Melinda owns Scissor Sisters, offering a bespoke and very experienced curtain, blind making and interior service. Melinda has a stunning choice of fabric books which she will happily guide you through to help you find your ideal finish.

Re-loved and Rustic has taken up residence in the front



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window with her quirky gifts and painted furniture. Karen enjoys sourcing interesting items and turning them into something unique.

Local business owner Tina Bucknall has a selection of her stylish clothing and footwear. Her Robell trousers are so popular, everyone who has tried them on has bought a pair!

As well as the new businesses, Beyond the Fringe hair salon owned by Karen and working alongside Sally deliver a quality, unhurried, London trained hairdressing service. Using fantastic organic products and both stylists regularly attend training to keep up with emerging trends.

Katie from Pippin Cottage Upholstery has an onsite workshop and manages to transform the dullest piece of furniture into something quite amazing. Pop in and see for yourself.

Kim owns Enchantment Jewellery bringing a tough of glam to the store with her collection of beautiful affordable handbags, jewellery and accessories.

As if all this wasn't enough, Lorna has the best cards and wrapping paper!

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Abigail Lock

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#### HASSOCKS, A BEAUTIFUL MORNING ON 30TH

MAY This morning I was walking in the countryside to the north of Hassocks on the path through land that has been sold for development with permission for building 500 houses. The ridge of the Downs to the south, the wooded railway line along one side, the top of the water tower at Burgess Hill just peeping out to the north and in between a plateau of green fields. On this "unexceptional" piece of land, as the Chair of the development hearing referred to it, between Hassocks and Burgess Hill, there are oak and ash trees, hedges and many different species of wild plants which support the insects, birds and other forms of life.

I heard and saw skylarks which was magical. The uncultivated fields were full of "weeds", white and yellow daisies, tall thistles, plantains. The grassy rough field had many clumps of tall, flowering grasses. The clear spring that flows across the path was full of lush reeds and I am sure many animals invisible to me. Chelsea flower show eat your heart out!

It was gorgeous, a little piece of heaven and I felt heart broken that it will all disappear. I felt moved to protest about the loss. This is environmental vandalism, to destroy a green, bio rich resource and replace it with a suburban desert. Once this is covered with houses, roads and cars all this life will be gone, lost forever. I urge you all to walk down there soon and appreciate it while you still can.

Dawn McHale



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**DDWI** We were very grateful to Roma Leon, of the Ditchling History Project, for rescuing us at short notice, by stepping in as our speaker for our DDWI May meeting.

Roma chose the title "Ditchling Bird Lady" for her talk. Gwendolen Howard (known as Len Howard) was a British naturalist, author and musician, animal psychologist and passionate bird lover. She was born in 1894 and died in 1973. In 1938 she bought a plot of land in Ditchling, and had a house built on it, which she later called "Bird Cottage". She devoted the major part of the rest of her life to an intimate relationship with the wild birds in the neighbourhood. She protected them from predators, fed them (including her own war rations), repaired their nests and allowed them to fly and roost around the house. She had her own way of communicating with them; Roma told us about an occasion when Len knew that a blue tit was calling her for help. She investigated and realised that a cat had got into a nesting box, and the eggs were balanced precariously on the edge, and were about to fall off. Len had a notice on her front door saying "No visitors at nesting time." Birds demonstrated that they had total trust in her, and she regularly walked around Ditchling with a wild bird on her shoulder.

Sally Willis

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## PRIVATE LIVES BY NOEL COWARD (27th to 30th November)

I do hope you managed to get along to see our production of 'How the Other Half Loves' and enjoyed the play as much as we did staging it. We have had some really good feedback from the audiences including one unsolicited e-mail saying that the writer felt it was as good as a professional production, high praise indeed! Both the cast and back stage crew should all be proud of the part they played in this excellent production and congratulations to the director, Penelope Bennett.

So, now on to our Autumn 2019 production which is 'Private Lives' by Noel Coward. One of his most famous plays it was conceived during a 1930 tour of the Far East when Coward was staying at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo. He had a restless night struggling to sleep and was visited by the vision of his muse, Gertrude Lawrence. This image was expanded into the play itself which he wrote as he recovered from a bout of influenza in Shanghai. If you're not familiar with the play, it charts the interaction between a couple, Elyot and Amanda, divorced for five years, who find themselves honeymooning with new younger partners, Victor and Sybil, in the South of France and unfortunately, or not, in adjacent suites of the same hotel. From the moment that Elyot and Amanda rediscover one another, on neighbouring balconies, we understand that theirs has been a volatile and often acrimonious relationship and yet...

Ditchling Village Hall. So if you'd be interested in a part or would like to be involved behind the scenes of this production do come along and find out more. If you can't make the audition or would like more information about the parts etc. you can either contact the director, Sara Fisher, at sara.m.fisher64@gmail.com or go to our website: ditchlingplayers.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you.

THANK YOU We would like to say thank you to Anne

Relaxed and friendly auditions for this production are

due to take place on Monday 5th August at 7.30 pm at

THANK YOU We would like to say thank you to Anne Ladd who has been delivering your magazines in Orchard Close ad Ockenden Way for many years. Thank you for all your help.

Editors

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join or over the phone on 01273 497532.



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Before I start on the local news I'd just like to mention something that one day will affect a lot of us and that's this £65,000,000 redevelopment of Burgess Hill town. I'm not sure how far they've got with it now but a few months ago it was a right old mess, with all the big name stores closing branches, not opening new ones, it's going to be interesting to see who exactly has the balls to open any new retail store these days no matter where it is, and who exactly is stumping up the money for this dinosaur? Tell me how many of you have visited a large retail park and found it busy? Now I may be wrong and large businesses will be falling over themselves to open new stores in a place like Burgess Hill Town Centre - after all is it such a business hot spot?

Anyway enough of that, back to local news, and it's good to see the green shoots appearing on those trees at the top of the high street. Whoever cut them back came very close to killing them off - mind you it's still going to be a while before they actually resemble trees again instead of stick men. Staying at the top of the high street I've spoken to a couple of people who have looked at the old Lloyds Bank and you're going to need very deep pockets indeed if you're thinking of doing anything with it, at the very least £60,000 just to make it habitable and then you've got to fit it out so don't expect to see that building turn into anything except the eyesore it is very soon. Now I would run from here to the next place I want to talk about but I tried that last week when I had a call about a very sick young fox which I raced to pick up and then parked the car and ran with it to the vets now there's two things here. Firstly I am not fit, I thought I was going to die of a heart attack when I eventually got to the vets and secondly when I entered the building with a sick animal I want to be met by people who actually look like they care not that can't be bothered attitude – Oh it's a wild animal we'll have to put it down, well it would help if you'd look at the injury first and it's not just a wild animal, it's an animal like any other that needs help. Now needless to say we didn't get on so horror of horrors, I had to run again, please bear in mind I'm doing this without any ultra-tight pants, fluorescent top and ear phones but I survived and got the fox to a much better place where it had immediate treatment and did very well, some good news at last! Some other good news is we've got a new landlord at The Greyhound pub and it's someone I've known for a very long time his name is Shaun Hole. He's a very good chef and a very nice man. He and his partner will do an excellent job breathing life back into what was a very run down business. I've noticed as I drive past in the evenings the car park is much fuller alre

A little further on in Ditchling the Bi-annual ball was held a couple of weeks ago and once again Nicky Chapman – The Golden Girl of Ditchling – (part of that title is a reference to THE dress she wore on the night) did an excellent job with her posse of helpers organising this huge charity event which for the very first time was held at the Ditchling recreation ground with proceeds supporting 9 local charities. Perhaps next time it's held I'd quite like to see a return to the good old disco with a DJ to give a more magnetic appeal to the dance floor - sometimes these live bands aren't to everyone's taste. Mind you the food was to die for - I did an Oliver Twist and went to the kitchen to ask for more but sadly there were no leftovers, hardly a surprise.

Anyway I've got loads more to talk about but out of space, hopefully see you next month, keep supporting your local businesses - we need you.

Love you all, Steve & his furry friends,

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