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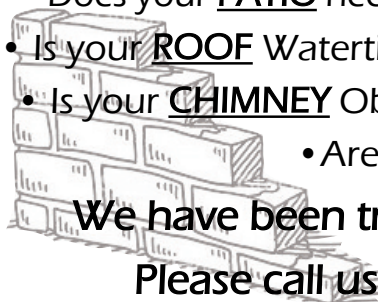
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Useful Information

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
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OLDLAND WINDMILL MILLER PHOTOGRAPH Hi folks, I have been trying to identify the family lined up in the image outside of Oldlands Mill House, behind Oldland Windmill in Keymer. It's a wonderful picture, and we felt it may have been shot on the date of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. We live at the mill house and have an interest in our local history.

The volunteers who maintain Oldland Windmill have also been trying to identify the family in the photograph but are unable to know for sure, so the mystery continues.

We know there are a number of local residents who are descendants of the various millers at Oldlands. A list from Wikipedia of the millers from the 1800's are George Bennett 1819 – 1828, Joseph Roots Beard 1828 – 1840, Joseph Winchester 1839 – 1860, Thomas Ashdown 1860 – 1869, Jesse Washington White 1869 – 1891, John Turner 1878 – 1895, John White 1894 – 1904 and David Driver 1891 – 1912.

The mill was built in 1703 so clearly there would have been earlier millers too.

Please email QD Stationery ed@villagemagazines.co.uk if you have any info.

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LOCAL ACTIVITIES

~~ Clubs with single Events ~~

MIGHTY MAGNUS MEDICINE FUND

Sun 5th Jan 3 pm Herbie Flowers plus local and international musicians in Concert. Tickets 01273 845361

BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY

Mon 6th Jan 7.30 pm URC Hall, Junction Road, Burgess Hill
 Spring season begins. New members welcome

DITCHLING DOWNS WI

Tues 7th Jan 7 pm (Almost) Death in Paradise: The Caribbean, Pirates and Rum - Neil Sadler

DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT

Wed 8th Jan 2 - 5 pm Come along and share your knowledge of Ditchling and ask any questions

HAS SOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Wed 8th Jan 8 pm Adastra Hall, Hassocks
 Gardening for a Changing Environment - Ed Nugent for Garden Sage

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY

Thurs 9th Jan 7.30 pm Ditchling Village Hall
 Film - Shoplifters (15)

RBL CLAYTON & KEYMER WOMENS SECTION

Thurs 9th Jan 3 pm Legion HQ, Woodland Road, Hassocks
 Bingo and Catchup. Competition - A Winter Hat

HENFIELD ARTS SOCIETY

Mon 13th Jan 2.30 pm Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield
 Britain's Canals - Roger Butler. Guests welcome

HAS SOCKS EVENING JAZZ

Tues 14th Jan 8 pm Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks
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HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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HURST, HASOCKS & DITCHLING U3A

Fri 17th Jan 2 pm

HASOCKS WI

Mon 20th Jan 7.45 pm

DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Tues 21st Jan 9.45 - 11 am

STAR CINEMA

Fri 24th Jan 7 pm

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sat 25th Jan 10 am - 12 pm

HASOCKS VILLAGE MARKET

Sat 25th Jan 9 am - 1 pm

HASOCKS JAZZ LUNCH

Tues 28th Jan 11.30 am

HASOCKS TOWNSWOMEN

Tues 28th Jan 9.45 - 11 am

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fri 31st Jan 8 pm

HASOCKS FIELD SOCIETY

Mon 13th Jan 7.45 pm

Mon 27th Jan 7.45 pm

HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

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Hurstpierpoint Village Centre

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Kirsty - kirsty.lord@westsussex.gov.uk

Clair Hall, Haywards Heath

History of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew - Sarah Oldridge

Adastral Hall, Hassocks

Sussex Stories behind the News - Richard Lindfield

Adastral Hall, Hassocks

Resolutions and a talk on 'Singing for Health'

Ditchling Village Hall

Coffee Morning run by Ditchling Museum Friends Assoc.

Adastral Hall, Hassocks

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Ditchling Village Hall

The Making of the Suez Canal - Tony Turner

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Art Nouveau - Ian Gledhill. Guests welcome

~~ Clubs with Multi Events ~~

Adastral Hall, Hassocks

Fire at Uppark House - Ken Lloyd. Visitors welcome

Tales of the River Bank - Ian Everest. Visitors welcome

Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre

Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint

The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose

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SUSSEX POLICE Over the last 6 months Sussex Police have continued to provide high visibility patrols in the Hassocks area in order to deal with and deter anti-social behaviour which is of course a common thread up and down the country. Of all the recorded crime and statistics, anti-social behaviour comes out top.

Since the summer time where we have had more intense interventions within the village, crime in the area took a dip. You can make of figures what you want of course, so on that note I would ask those that can, to have a look at www.police.uk and put in Hassocks in the search field. There you will see a very good breakdown of crime specific to your area.

I would point out that the second highest figure relates to Violence and Sexual Offences. At the time of this report this is running at 19.48%.

This does not mean that we have lots of violent people walking the streets of Hassocks. If you were to break this down, the majority will include domestic incidents within people's private houses and therefore under nor-

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mal circumstances not cause any risk to the wider public.

I will be holding another meet and greet at Adastra Park on the **2nd February** between 12 pm and 2 pm should anyone like to come and have a chat, even if it is just to discuss the crime figures. The last one we did went down very well.

I mentioned a few months ago that I would be supporting your local Speedwatch. I have now been out with them on four occasions, providing high visibility to the village, but also being in a position to enforce the law and hold offenders to account. Disappointingly though, the amount of people that I have reported for speeding offences has gone well into the teens and is rising.

The majority of the offenders are local to the village.
**Remember if you need the Police - Emergency 999
Non-Emergency 101 or www.sussex.police.uk (online)**

Wishing you a safe New Year.

Sergeant Allan Philip

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REGISTERED MEMBER



TREVOR HUMBER With sadness we announce the death of Trevor Humber, aged 87, following a short illness. He had enjoyed living in Hassocks for thirty years and had a great sense of service to this community in many ways. For example he was an active and significant member of the Rail Group, at one stage drove the Hurst & Hassocks community bus, and for years had ensured the entrance steps to the Cinder Path were kept free of debris, ice and graffiti. He is hugely missed.

Lou Beckerman

A SAD 'GOODBYE' We at Friends and Neighbours were all sorry to hear that a popular member of the group, Frank Oakley, has sadly passed away whilst living in France with his daughter, Sharon. Many of you reading this magazine will have known Frank personally and remember his late wife Doreen - they were our local Ann Ziegler and Webster Booth - entertaining our audiences at the Adastra Hall over many years. Together they sang songs such as 'People will say we're in love' and 'We'll gather lilacs' - lovely songs from the shows. Frank also enjoyed joining the other men in the cast in many humorous numbers with costumes to match!

His daughters Sharon and Carol chose some of Frank's favourite songs for his funeral service. Frank was in his

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90's but still loved to sing and we will all remember that July afternoon, only 18 months ago in 2018, when they brought him to England for a short holiday. We all spent a most enjoyable afternoon with them in the lovely lounge at Shands in Windmill Avenue. After 'tea and buns' Frank just sang and sang - even at that age he remembered the words which is the amazing effect music can have on older persons. It was a joy to hear him.

We send our sincere sympathy to his family on their sad loss. We will all treasure those happy and memorable times together entertaining our communities. Now with his beloved Doreen - R.I.P.

Dorrie

CORRECTION - BOXING DAY PARTY at Age Concern is on Boxing Day and not the 27th December as advertised last month. Call **01273 842122** or **01273 842201** to book -

Ed

MESSY CHURCH is a morning of activities for adults and children with refreshments and food for thought and now includes Messy Vintage. 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 January** 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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LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD Robert Burns memorably compared his situation to that of a mouse whose nest he had accidentally destroyed, condemning it to death. He felt his own plight was far worse. The mouse was concerned only about the present, whilst Burns could recall his past troubles, and as for the future, 'tho' I canna see, I guess and fear'. As we enter 2020, many of us, including HKD Transition, cannot help sometimes feeling that we have much in common with Burns.

That enigmatical title describes the coming together of Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Keymer and Ditchling residents who are concerned with climate change, and, although at times deeply depressed when confronted with more and more scientific evidence of global warming, cling to the belief that there is much that can still be done by individuals. We can move (transit) towards a zero carbon society, away from our profligate use of the world's resources. Formed in 2009, HKD has grown steadily and now over 450 people subscribe to our monthly on line newsletter whilst a whole range of initiatives is paving the way towards reducing the carbon imprint of our villages.

Perhaps the most significant is our pressure for improving the B2116 for cyclists between Ditchling and Hurst. HKD chairs the Mid Sussex Cycle Forum and works closely with our local Councillors. The vibes are good.



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We now have a 'bike box' at Stonepound crossroads and, at long last, plans are being made to make the route between the centre of Hurst and Downlands School more bike-friendly. A safe cycle route to school, making the 'school car run' obsolete and thus reducing the pollution level at Stonepound, is no longer just a pipe dream. Again, on the larger scale, our sister organisation, HKD Energy, aims to increase the amount of renewable energy generated in our area. The 2015 80kW Downlands School Solar Project continues to operate very successfully with over 300 solar panels reducing the school's energy costs and yielding a financial return to local investors. The group is now working with other community energy groups and Network Rail to examine the feasibility of solar panels providing power to the railways.

Fortunate as we are in living in a spring line village at the foot of the South Downs, it means that we are also at risk from flooding, increased in recent years by the changes in rainfall patterns. Short, sharp but very heavy rainfalls are becoming more frequent, and our streams and drainage systems cannot always cope. Working closely with our helpful local councillors, Mid Sussex District Council and WSCC staff, plus funding from Operation Watershed and Hassocks Community Organisation, has enabled us to introduce Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to our area. This is a proven means of

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reducing flood risk by mimicking nature and 'slowing the flow' of water entering drains and streams. Such 'systems' can be as simple as an extra rain butt or a rain box planter attached to a roof downpipe or more sophisticated such as the rain garden in Adastra Park where an interpretation board shows all our SuDS interventions.

More interventions are planned in the countryside between the Downs and Hassocks. In 2020 we hope to start intensive tree planting, working with Downlands School Eco Group and the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust. Trees lessen flooding by absorbing and holding water in the soil, whilst it is claimed that 48 lb of carbon dioxide is absorbed yearly for every tree planted. Cash and volunteers will be needed, but our waterlogged fields and footpaths will benefit.

Throughout the year, HKD groups are involved in occasional stream clearing, maintaining the debris dams on the Lagg and Herring streams, stream biodiversity surveys, bird walks, moth walks and, recently a very successful guided stream walk. Ditchling youth groups have been involved since 2013 in planting and caring for the Village Orchard and revelling in the annual Apple Day with its welly wanging, apple fritters and apple juicing. The Giant's Garden is a new HKD venture – a magic pop up garden for children of all ages which focuses on storytelling, foraging, magic gardening and wild crafting.

Working together in small groups strengthens our community and is a powerful antidote to depression. 'Having

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fun' is part of HKD's philosophy. Robert Burns thought the same. He dismissed gloom by welcoming those 'whose hearts the tide of kindness warms' and invited them to 'Come to my bowl, come to my arms, My friends, my brothers'. HKD aims to continue the tradition.

More information: info@hkdtransition.org.uk and www.hkdtransition.org.uk or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

CONGRATULATIONS ANN JONES who's ticket 112 was drawn at QD Stationery winning the lovely Christmas Cross Stitch made by super stitcher Judy Tilbury. Thanks to everyone for buying tickets. £75 to Headway East Sussex.
Judy

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY COMMUNITY EVENT

I am planning a 75th Anniversary of VE Day community event on Friday **8th May** (date of bank holiday instead of May Day) in Adastra Park. It'll be along the similar structure as Hassocks May Day but with a 1940's theme. With this in mind, I'm asking if anyone has any contacts or would like to help with regards to military vehicles and/or personnel, 1940 style choir/live music, 1940's dress hire, hair and make up artists, local photos or stories of the era. Or do you have any ideas? There will be a 1940's style café. Please contact me by email on michellebinks5@outlook.com

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Our new shop will soon be ready! We are extending it to have a lot more selling space, a changing room and a large store room. We need you! Volunteers needed! We are looking for more volunteers to help serve and sort items in the new shop. If you are interested please do come and have a chat with us!

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.

Chiropody – We have a chiropodist here each day. Please do call us and we will put you through to them to make your appointment.

Are you bored and lonely? Or do you know someone that is? How about coming along to our centre where you can have a nice hot chocolate, selection of coffees and tea and cake and meet some new friends. We also serve lunch at 12.15 pm, two or three courses at a very reasonable rate. We put our menu on our website every

Friday, **www.achassocks.co.uk**. Do come along one day and have a look at our centre. Transport can be provided locally. We are your local Social Centre providing a warm and inviting environment to encourage people to venture out of their homes. If you would like to just come along one day please feel free to pop in and take a look.

I Pad and Phone lessons held on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 am until 11 am (Not school holidays).

Knit and Natter – do come along on a Wednesday morning for a chat with fellow knitters, we are again knitting squares for the Salvation Army so please do come along. If anyone does have some double knitting wool to donate to us we would be very grateful.

Well Balanced 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.

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

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**BBC CHILDREN IN NEED AP-
PEAL** Let's Dance! (Hassocks) held
their 31st Sponsored Tap Sessions for
the BBC Children in Need Appeal in
November.

In the afternoon pupils from 3 years
old tapped along with Sally-Ann and
her older girls in Fancy Dress for 1
hour and an evening Session for 1 ½
hours was attended by older pupils
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by David Leaver.

We were pledged £1,668!...a huge
thank you to everyone involved.

Robin x



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We meet at 3pm 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**.

At our meeting on **9th January** we start our new year playing Bingo and catching up after the festivities.

The competition item is: A winter Hat.

At our recent AGM the whole committee were willing to stand again for another year. Thankfully I am not aware of any twisted arms! We thank them all for the smooth running of our group and in organising the programme.

It is no mean feat finding new and interesting speakers, and getting ideas for different outing venues each year. Besides these we have lot of extra fund raising events throughout the year that require organisation, such as coffee mornings or helping with the Poppy Appeal. A lot of our activities are designed to be fund raisers continuing the ethos of our organisation, to provide aid, through our benevolent funds, to Service Personnel and their families in times of need. During the past year, from these fundraising activities, we have donated over a £1,000 to these causes. You might be also interested to know that the Women's section of the British Legion was formed in 1921, and Clayton & Keymer, branch was inaugurated on 4th November 1935. So this year we will be celebrating our 85th anniversary. What a remarkable achievement!

Wishing you all a Happy & Healthy New Year.

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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL The Christmas term was as busy as ever for the children – on top of continuing their superb learning in class they took part in lots of local seasonal events. Some of you may have seen performances by members of the school choir at the Garden Centre and on the evening of Light up Hassocks, with others taking part in the children's parade on that evening displaying their beautiful hand-made lanterns. Our Year 4 classes treated us to a superb Christmas production – 'Bah Humbug!' which was thoroughly enjoyed by all in the audience! The Year 5 and Year 6 Carol Concert has become a firm tradition at The Windmills and for the first time we were able to organise for the performances to take place at the St Cosmas & St Damian Church. The children really enjoyed the opportunity to sing in such a lovely setting and we wish to thank everyone involved for their part in making this happen. Our attention now turns to a new term and we look forward to telling you more about life at The Windmills throughout 2020. We would like to wish all the readers a very happy new year!

Sue Bandy

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Meets on the last Friday of each month in the Guides' HQ, Trinity Road Car Park. At each meeting we have a presentation, by an expert speaker on a subject with a historical or geographical flavour. Our next meeting will be on **31st January** starting 8 pm when our speaker will be Ian Gledhill whose presentation will be about Art Nouveau.

Come along and join us. New members are always welcome.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY HURSTPIERPOINT GYM CLUB

The Club is celebrating its 40th birthday this January, having been started in 1980 and having seen nearly 5,000 children attend.

Some children only have a trial and find it not to their liking, but the vast majority find it a friendly welcoming atmosphere where they can gain in physical skills, independence and creativity. Pictured is Jasmine Cross who has set a new record for Awards. Jasmine joined Pre-school gym when she was just three years old and has now progressed through the Award scheme to be the first gymnast in its history to have gained all of the awards. From Award 8 when she was four, through to Award 1 while a junior, then on to achieve Bronzes, Silvers and Golds in all three areas of Floor, Vault and Sports Acrobatic Pairs, taking in countless competition wins she is currently the reigning Champion. Jasmine is now learning to coach and pass on her skills to a new generation.

Over 180 gymnasts gained British Gymnastics Awards at the term's presentations. All awards are given free as part of the Club's affordability policy.

The Club currently has vacancies in many of its groups,

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The Club thanks everyone who came to either the Danny Family Bonfire or the Hurstpierpoint Christmas Fair - these events are valuable fund-raisers for the Club. Congratulations to Evie West and Chloe Watkins who won ChiChi the Panda and Poppy Puppy at the Fair.

The next opportunity to see the gymnasts in Competition will be on Saturday **28th March** when a hundred gymnasts are expected to compete in the 21st Annual Arts Competition, featuring Sports Acrobatic group sixes, ribbon pairs, beam pairs and hoop solo routines.

In January some of the top regional coaches will be coming to the Club to give competition tuition to the gymnasts. Pictured are the gymnasts from the 2019 competition. *Andrew Hair*

NEW YEAR'S DAY also simply called New Year or New Year's, is observed on 1st January, the first day of the year on the modern Gregorian calendar as well as the Julian calendar.

In pre-Christian Rome under the Julian calendar, the day was dedicated to Janus, god of gateways and beginnings, for whom January is also named. As a date in the Gregorian calendar of Christendom, New Year's Day liturgically marked the Feast of the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus, which is still observed as such in the Anglican Church and Lutheran Church.

In present day, with most countries now using the Gregorian calendar as their de facto calendar, New Year's Day is probably the most celebrated public holiday, often observed with fireworks at the stroke of midnight as the new year starts in each time zone. Other global New Year's Day traditions include making New Year's resolutions and calling one's friends and family.

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HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Hello Film Lovers. In January we return to the wonderfully restored Players Theatre, where we will also have installed our new CinemaScope screen and amazing immersive sound system. We also have two superb films to see in this sparkling new environment.

On Thursday **16th January** we have the brilliant Korean drama, *Burning*, a mystery thriller based on a story by Japanese writer Haruki Murakami; a psychological drama set in the modern Korea. When Jong-su meets vivacious Haemi he knows she is way out his league, but to his delighted surprise she takes up with him and they start a relationship. So when he goes to pick her up from the airport on her return from a trip, he is shocked to see she has a new man in tow, Ben, an obviously wealthy, very smooth young man. He is smug, assured and perhaps just a little bit creepy and, when Haemi suddenly disappears, Jong-su is convinced Ben is involved. *Burning* is a brilliantly made one-off; puzzling, intelligent and ultimately mesmerising.

Then on Friday **31st January** we have the must see drama *The Kindergarten Teacher*. Maggie Gyllenhaal is utterly brilliant as Lisa Spinelli, a kindergarten teacher by day, who takes poetry classes by night. Her two worlds collide when a five-year-old Jimmy Roy (Parker Sevak) reveals himself to be a poetic prodigy. Anxious to protect his gift from a world she believes doesn't understand, her fascination with the boy spills over into obsession. This smart, sharp film entrances with the

deceptive simplicity of the complex matters it deals with and is a showcase for the brilliance of Maggie Gyllenhaal and a reminder she is among the best actors working today.

On Thursday **13th February**, is a film like no other you will have seen, *The Chambermaid*. Lila Avilés's terrifically assured first feature finds magic in the routines of a young hotel worker. Gabriela Cartol plays Eve, a maid in a luxurious Mexico city hotel working on the 21st floor, who dreams of promotion to the glamour and additional pay and perks of the VIP floor, the 42nd. Diligent and conscientious, she amuses herself by sifting through guests' possessions to get insights into their lives. When she has interactions with guests, some are weird, some funny, some infuriating. Cartol gives a wonderful performance, filled with humour and poignancy in this superbly atmospheric film.

Hope to see you at the Village Cinema soon.

David Saitch

STAR CINEMA Downton Abbey comes to Hassocks Adastral Hall on **24th January**. Many of the original cast members have returned, including Dame Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville, Laura Carmichael, Jim Carter, Michelle Dockery and Elizabeth McGovern.

Doors open at 7 pm, film starts 7.30 pm. Tickets on the door. Wine, tea, coffee, soft drinks, plus a raffle. Hope to see you there.

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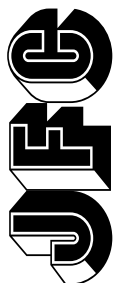
PANTO! PANTO! PANTO! AND REFURBISHMENT Completed in record time the work to “refresh” the interior of The Players Theatre at Hurstpierpoint has resulted in a completely redesigned space.

Decorated in a warm deep crimson – complemented by new carpeting and seating – the auditorium is heated by a 21st century silent and eco-friendly system which can switch to air conditioning in our next hot summer! And the seats! If you’ve been a regular visitor to our productions and have become used to bringing along your own cushions to ease the discomfort from the seats installed over thirty years ago you will now sink into our new, specially designed and comfortable armchairs with a sigh of relief!

The Players are now working hard to refresh the remainder of the Theatre - if you’ve had major building work done at home you’ll know how much clearing up is needed once the main job is finished – and this means that the first production in the refurbished auditorium will not be until the annual traditional pantomime.

Hurstpierpoint Players would like to thank all the organisations and individuals who have supported “The Big Push” in recent years. And by the way, that ‘Big Push’ continues into the future, as the coffers, now depleted after an expenditure of over £100,000, will need to sustain the Theatre in future years.

Our programme for 2020 has now been published and



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can be found at the Theatre and in many shops and retail outlets throughout Hurstpierpoint. It may have been delayed until January but now it’s all hands to the theoretical pump as the Hurstpierpoint Players plan for a spectacular opening show in their ‘new’ theatre.

Panto - “The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose” is a truly traditional pantomime with all the essential elements and, of course, full audience participation led by Billy, Mother Goose’s irascible son. The wicked Squire’s bailiffs, Sage and Onions, cause the usual chaos – there are good and naughty fairies and the wonderful Mother Goose on hand to ensure that your experience of this first production in The Players Theatre will be a magical one. Tickets are on sale now online at www.hurstplayers.org.uk or in person from the Theatre Box Office in the High Street between 10 am and 1 pm on Saturday mornings.

Performances are from **17th – 19th January** and **24th – 26th January** with a choice of matinee or evening performances.

Anne Hopper

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Our first film of the New Year will be shown on Thursday, **9th January** and is entitled **Shoplifters**. The story is influenced by the Japanese recession, including media reports of how people live in poverty and resort to shoplifting. Set in Tokyo, a Japanese couple, Osamu and Nobuyo, stuck with part-time jobs and hence inadequate incomes, avail themselves of the fruits of shoplifting to make ends meet. They are not alone in this behaviour as the younger and the older of the household are in on the act. However, the unusual routine is about to change from carefree and matter-of-fact to something more dramatic as the couple open their doors to Junji, a beleaguered young girl. The reasons for the family's habit and their motivations come under the microscope and this excellently scripted film is an eye-opening look at a working class family in Japan just trying simply to make ends meet.

Director: Hirokazu Koreeda, Japan Japanese 2018, 121 minutes, 15 Cert

We are showing two films in February with the first on Thursday, **6th February** called **Apostasy**. Set among a community of Jehovah's Witnesses, two sisters, Alex and Luisa and their mother are united in their devotion but as Luisa starts to question the advice of her elders, she makes a transgression that leaves the whole family in fear of God's wrath. This startling and bold debut film

is a thoughtful exploration of faith and, more particularly, fundamentalism – the hope of God and the potential prison of religion.

Director: Daniel Kokotajlo, UK Urdu Engl. 2017, 95 minutes, PG Cert.

Our second film in February on Thursday, **20th February** is entitled **Capernaum**. After running away from his negligent parents, committing a serious crime and being sentenced to five years in jail, a hardened, streetwise twelve-year-old Lebanese boy sues his parents in protest of the life they have given him. Set in Beirut, this is a heartbreaking and emotional film with flashes of humour and two astonishing child performances – a gripping sympathetic cry for the dispossessed.

Director: Nadine Labaki, Lebanon, Arabic 2018, 126 mins, 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.

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WELL DONE ELLA STAPLEHURST, aged 10, from Hassocks who was the chosen winner for South Downs Nurseries Ghost Hunt competition. She is pictured here with staff member Ella Charlton who presented her with her prize.

Trevor Butler

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In our spring season we are singing the beautiful and moving Stabat Mater by Antonin Dvořák. We currently have spaces for new members, both experienced singers and those who have not sung for a while. The choir is non-auditioned and you are welcome to come and try a rehearsal before deciding whether to join. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 7.45 pm to 10 pm at the United Reformed Church hall, Junction Road, Burgess Hill and begin on Monday **6th January** (or you could come on any Monday in January). For further information and to contact us, visit our website at www.burgesshillchoralsociety.org.uk, see our Facebook page, or phone **07522 493966**.

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They're so easily taken for granted. An earthworm isn't much to look at. A tube made of muscles with a mouth at one end and a bum at the other but he and she (they're hermaphrodites) is responsible for making your garden grow. These burrowing beauties really mix it up in the mud. Some drag dead leaves deep underground while their wormcasts return essential minerals back to the surface. This improves soil structure and their tiny tunnels help with drainage and allow aeration.

Cleopatra declared them to be sacred and Aristotle called earthworms 'the intestines of the soil'. Indeed, at some point every bit of your garden would have passed through a worm's belly. They munch their way through dead organic matter and make it available to even smaller decomposers - fungi and bacteria - who break it down even further. The nutrients released are

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reabsorbed by our plants. What once was dead is returned to the living. It's one of those 'circle of life' things.

There's about 3000 different earthworm species worldwide with around 27 native species in Britain. There's lobs under your lawn and brandlings in your compost bin. Some species live in leaf litter others dig deep in the soil. There could be up to 2 million worms working underground in an area the size of a football pitch.

Earthworms are part of a wildlife workforce that lives in your garden and provides an essential service for free. Birds, bees, beetles, fungi, hoverflies, woodlice and many others volunteer for us as pollinators, pest controllers, decomposers and recyclers. All we need to do is give them a home and leave them to it and they'll get on with the dirty work.

But it's the earthworm who is seen as the kingpin of the whole operation. "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world as these lowly organised creatures". Charles Darwin said that – and I'm not going to argue with him. We just can't live without them. So it's about time we start paying earthworms some respect and attention. Because when we're all dead and buried they'll be paying a whole lot of attention to us.

Michael Blencowe



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Walks are arranged on Tuesdays and weekends throughout the year and vary in length from 4-12 miles. During the summer there are short walks on Wednesday evenings, trial walks and leisurely nature walks.

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

Jo Mitchell

PRESIDENT HILARY BEGAN THE MEETING WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR LIGHT UP HASSOCKS, AND NOTICES.

This was followed by the evening's main activity, the creation of Christmas table centrepieces and door wreaths, led by Jacky Haywood.

She and her daughter Wendy laid out a variety of greenery, which was supplemented by members' additional greenery, candles and decorations. After Jacky's demonstration, members were able to make their own displays

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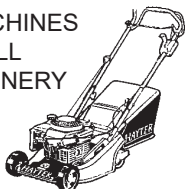
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- another skill achieved!

A further group of members created decorations and cards for the stall at the Light Up Hassocks event.

After refreshments, contributions to the Christmas Hamper Raffle were collected from members to be assembled later by the Committee.

The evening concluded with the drawing of raffle prizes. The next Hassocks WI meeting will be on **20th January** when will see in the New Year, with Resolutions and a talk on 'Singing for Health'.

Kate Hastings

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- Thank you on behalf of our President, Dame Vera Lynn, our Vice President, Mrs Juliet Smith, our Chairman, Tom Jones and the Branch Committee. Please accept our grateful thanks for all your generosity for our 2019 Poppy Appeal. Together we have raised in excess of £5,000.

To all the businesses, shops and collectors a huge thank you to each and every one of you.

To everyone who has donated most grateful thanks to you all.

Margaret Bovil

THE STEM CLUB AT DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

has been awarded Outstanding STEM Club at the STEM Inspiration Awards 2019. The winners were announced at a prestigious event held at the House of Lords on the 5th November.

The awards celebrate those extraordinary individuals and organisations who inspire young people to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Many of the winners are volunteers, passing on their own passion and expertise to students, encouraging them to pursue STEM careers. Awarded by STEM Learning and sponsored by UK Research and Innovation, the awards also recognise employers who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to STEM education and who have successfully embedded this within the culture of their organisation.

The judges praised Helen Colvert

“With STEM clubs currently running Downlands Community School has done an exceptional job raising the profile of STEM subjects. The Clubs are highly collaborative, working with others schools, STEM Ambassadors and with a range of industries. They also

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encourage a highly practical approach, with students developing business plans and working through real life design/build processes. It's no surprise that the clubs have grown in popularity and in number.”

Yvonne Baker, Chief Executive of STEM Learning said:

“I am delighted to celebrate some truly amazing people, all of whom work tirelessly to broaden the horizons of young people in the UK. In this year's winners we have seen fantastic examples of schools, colleges and STEM employers working together. This collaboration is vital as it helps inspire the next generation of STEM professionals, highlighting the skills needed by students and the opportunities available to them in tomorrow's STEM careers.”

Vivienne Parry, UKRI Board member, said:

“a key part of UKRI's mission is to inspire the next generation. In 15 years' time I hope some of the UK's most promising and exciting scientists and engineers will say they owe their career to a STEM Ambassador.”

Nicki Burston

From The late Miss Z.J. White the founder of this magazine

STRANGE BUT TRUE. Did you know in 1884 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert received a rather unusual visitor from America. His name was 'General Tom Thumb' and he was only 25 inches (635 mm approx.) tall. His real name was Charles Stratton and although only little and weighing only 15 lbs. (7.75 kg approx.) he was otherwise perfectly normal. His wife was even shorter at 21 inches (535 mm approx.) high!

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FREE IT SESSIONS? Sessions resume during term time from Tuesday 7th January then 14th Jan, 21st Jan, 28th Jan, 4th Feb, 11th Feb, (no session 18th Feb) 25th Feb, 3rd March, 10th March, 17th March, 24th March. Free technology help sessions for the over 60's at Hurstpierpoint College, every Tuesday during term time, in collaboration with Mid Sussex Older People's Council. The friendly students at the college will be on hand to help you with any technology related questions you may have, every Tuesday during term time from 2.30 pm until 3.30 pm with time for a coffee and chat afterwards. Any questions you like, big or small, from turning on your device, to using Skype or looking things up. Bring your laptop, iPad or any other devices you have questions about. The college also has PCs to use if needed. Please just go to the College Lane reception and you will be shown where to go.

No need to book, just turn up. For any questions, please leave a message on our answerphone **01444 242760**.

Nicola Brotherton

POSTPONEMENT OF PRIVATE LIVES On behalf of the Ditchling Players I would like to apologise for the fact that we had to postpone our autumn production due to the indisposition of a member of the cast, who we wish well.

We were disappointed about this but, unfortunately, un-

like the professional theatre we don't have understudies waiting in the wings to take over at short notice. So, after much deliberation, we reluctantly decided that the best thing would be to postpone the production. However, you'll notice that I've used the word postpone, because, thanks to the goodwill and hard work of the cast's; backstage crew etc., everything is in place for this to now be our Spring 2020 production with curtain up on the **20th to 23rd May**.

So please put these dates in your new diaries now. Further information about ticket sales etc. will be in this magazine and on our website: **www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk** nearer the time so do keep checking for this.

Finally, the Players would like to thank everyone for their support in the past and look forward to seeing you in the audiences for our future productions. A Happy New Year to you all.

David Tettersell

**Deadline for the February
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BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC OPERA PERFORMANCES

Brighton Early Music is extending its programme of events beyond the autumn festival period this year by presenting an early opera at the Old Market in Hove. On **8th/9th February** there will be a rare opportunity to see Marco da Gagliano's *La Dafne*, in a new production by Thomas Guthrie. This highly entertaining and delightful work was premiered in 1608, one year after Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, and sets a classical story from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. The tale of Apollo and Dafne explores enduring themes of love, power and control as

boastful Apollo pursues the beautiful nymph Dafne - with dramatic consequences - amidst the chaos of gods behaving badly. The performances will feature a stellar cast of talented young singers and instrumentalists, including some familiar names from previous BREMF productions.

All the information on performances, dates and times is available on the Brighton Early Music website www.bremf.org.uk, where you can also buy tickets. Alternatively please ring the Old Market box office **01273 201801**.

Mike Clemens

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Will bathe my feet – and save my blooms

And when the ice – on our roads
Makes walking awkward – freezes toes,
You sprinkle salt – on footpath near
The Council will grit – and people will cheer

Now I won't fall – Hurrah! Hurrah!
I'm safe to walk – on another day
The cars can go – the buses too
You best go slow – don't be a fool

When the Lord made salt – we people should say
Thanks be to God – and we should pay –
Attention to bounties – that the Lord hath given
We won't have snow or salt in Heaven

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HASSOCKS PREHISTORIC UP TO 20TH CENTURY

The area first became a centre of population around 20,000 years ago during the Stone Age. These people were mostly nomadic until approximately 5,000 years ago. Around this time, the first farmers settled on and around the South Downs, a mile to the south of the village. They travelled from the continent, bringing with them various types of farming livestock. Evidence of their existence has been found in the form of tools and dwellings around Stonepound Crossroads and in the Parklands area.

Around 600 B.C. the first metal workers came to the area with the beginning of the Bronze Age, and a good example of an Iron Age fort is to be found on the top of the nearby Wolstonbury Hill on the South Downs.

The area was colonised by the Romans and a Roman cemetery was found by Stonepound Crossroads. Modern Hassocks is thought to have stood at a Roman crossroads on the London to Brighton Way between Londinium Augusta (modern London) to Novus Portus (possibly modern Portsmouth) (running north-south) and the Greensand Way Roman road from modern Hardham to a north-south road at Barford Mills north of Lewes and possibly further to Pevensey. With the demise of the Roman Empire came an influx of Anglo-Saxons and the eventual reintroduction of stone buildings, such as the parish church of St. John the Baptist in the nearby village of Clayton, which is believed to have been built around the 11th Century.



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19th and 20th centuries - The opening on 21st September 1841 of Hassocks Gate station (named after the nearby toll gate on the turnpike road to Brighton, but now known simply as Hassocks) on the London to Brighton railway saw the beginning of the village that we know today. South of the village the railway passes beneath the chalk escarpment of the South Downs through Clayton Tunnel, which at 6,777 feet (2,066 m) is the longest of the five tunnels on the railway. The north entrance of the tunnel is distinguished by a castellated portal with a dwelling house between the two towers. The latter might have been built for the use of the man who had to look after the gas lighting in the tunnel (for several years after opening the interior of the tunnel was whitewashed and lit by gas lamps, presumably to allay the fears of early railway travellers). In 1861 a collision between two trains within the tunnel killed 23 people and injured 176 others.

In the 1930s the Grand Avenue residential area, along with several other roads, was developed by George Ferguson on the site of former orchards and the Orchard Pleasure Gardens. A special feature of the Hassocks Homes development ordered by Mr Ferguson was the planting of flowering cherry trees along the main roads.

1939 saw the beginning of World War II, and the closure of the cinema in September of that year for the duration (it was still going in the 1950's). Evacuations then began from London bringing an additional 1,250 to the population.

Info from Wikipedia



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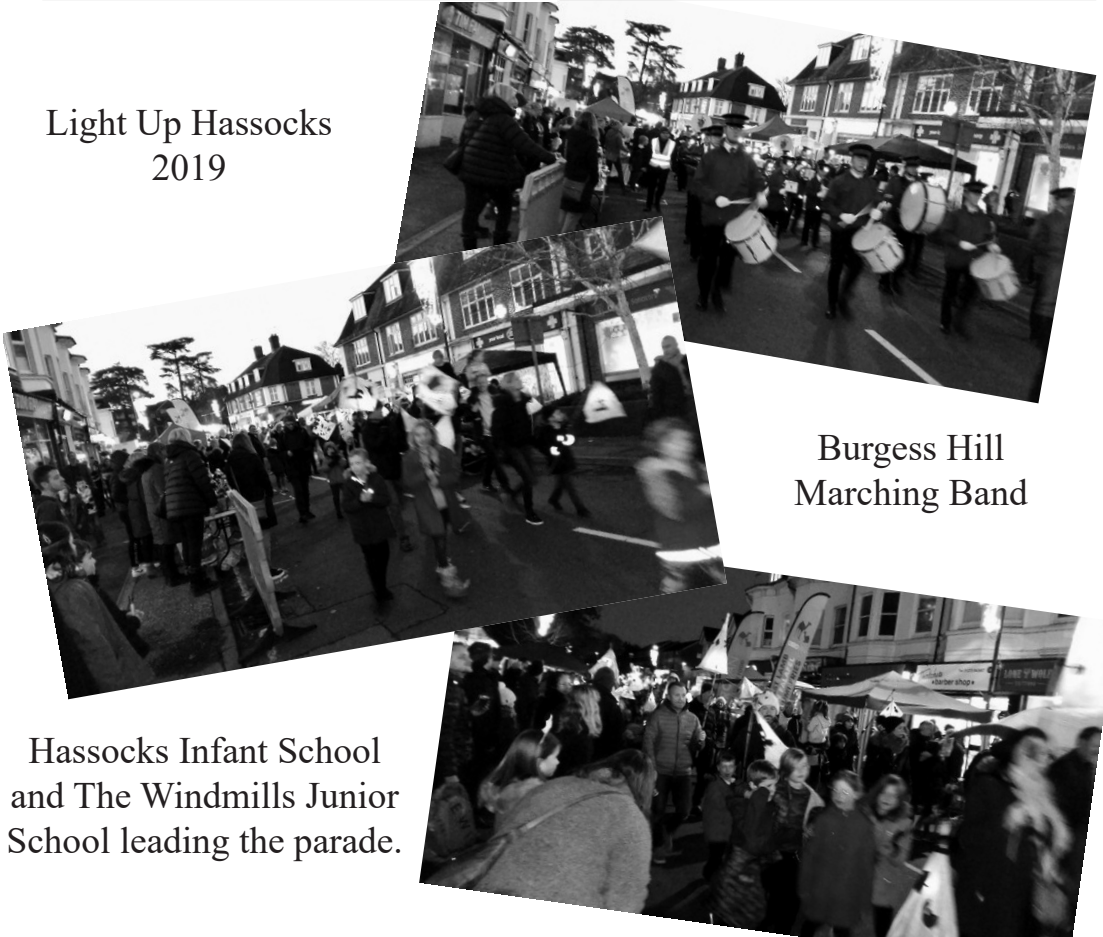
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LIGHT UP HASSOCKS The Festive Season began on Friday at the annual Light Up Hassocks event, organised by Sussex Vale Rotary. Fortunately, it was cold and dry for the large numbers of people who came along. It is aimed at being a family evening and it was good to see so many parents and children of all ages enjoying themselves. As usual the evening began with the parade of lanterns by children from Hassocks Infants School, who were led by the Burgess Hill Marching Band. The entertainment continued, supported by Burgess Hill Radio, with performances by the School Choirs from the Infants School and Downlands School, and local groups Black Hurricane & the Zaffire Twins on the stage. Congratulations to Ruby Daniel winner of the poster competition competed for by the children from the Infants School. So many shops had created excellent seasonal window displays, that it was a difficult decision to decide that Bella June Flowers was the winner of the best dressed window competition. It was a full and busy evening with many stalls and fairground rides up and down the street. Thanks are due to all the various organisations which contributed towards the success of the evening, details of those involved can be found in our Facebook pages. The event is largely self-funded through the sponsorship and sale of calendars, together with contributions from the stallholders.



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Sussex Vale Rotary is already planning for the event next year. If anyone wishes to help with that, contact can be made at lightuphassocks@gmail.com or secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk. Sussex Vale Rotary has a busy month ahead, with just about enough time to draw breath before the next item is upon us. We will be helping with Christmas teas at the Memory Café in Hurstpierpoint, followed quickly by lunches for the Cameo Club at St Cosmas & St Damian church hall. In addition, we will be preparing and delivering Christmas hampers to help families enjoy a happier festive season. Street collections to aid us in our activities took place in Hurst and Hassocks on 14th and 21st December, respectively. We hope the celebrations were enjoyed by everyone and look forward to continue working within the community in 2020. Wishing a Happy New Year to everyone.

If you are interested in learning more about Rotary International and how you can help, please contact our club secretary at the above email address, or on **07546 111996**, he will be pleased to hear from you. We can also be found on Facebook and our website is available at www.rotary-sxvale.org.uk.

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Firstly, I must congratulate the organisers of the Light up Hassocks event it was the best for a long time, well organised, well attended and no problem people running around spoiling it for everyone else.

Mind you I did have a cafe full of cats until the rock band fired up then it was definitely a cat-less café, they weren't fans.

In Keymer I noticed the café has once again closed down, but luckily for the landlord it has been re-let so it can re-open as a café. Now you will have to forgive my lack of memory but is that the 3rd or 4th time it's been a café and is it not time to say, I don't think a café is going to work up here, still lets wish them luck and perhaps once Brexit is over and done with people will start spending money again, even at Café's in Keymer.

Back down in Hassocks – Ripples the bathroom shop has closed down, not really a big surprise, I'm just surprised it lasted as long as it did, I did go in just the once to ask about something in the window when I heard the price I thought O.K. Steve don't look too shocked – just smile sweetly and ask if they keep a defibrillator on site, it'll be interesting to see how long it takes to be re-occupied, it's a big old shop so it could be a while.

Remember those four very excited young ladies I had in the shop last month? Well they are even more excited now because they've got their lease so expect to see the shop next to Age UK to re-open again as a hairdressers which I'm sure will please all those people with lots of hair, of which I'm not one, mind you if you walk past anyone of the number of hairdressers we have in the village they all seem to be busy snipping away.

Good to see the tennis courts are open again, some high pressure water moss killer and probably another thousand pounds is all it took but not everyone was happy with what I wrote, but all I was interested in was the court itself and why it was closed.

It was very sad to hear of the passing of Mark Perrett, I've been using and sending people to Perretts Farm for a good many years now mostly for hay or straw or occasionally the farm shop. He was your classic gentleman farmer, a lovely man, with a heart of gold, when foxes came into my life in a big way I thought he'd be a bit, 'can't see why you love foxes so much', but he understood my passion and always asked after Miss Snooks. The word stalwart gets used an awful lot these days, it means loyal, reliable, strong and hardworking, I'd say Mark was most definitely a stalwart and a whole lot more, he'll be much missed by everyone - the farm won't seem the same without his rosy cheeked face around the place.

Ok that's it, I've no doubt 2020 will bring a whole lot of new challenges especially with the decline of the high streets and the inevitability that as I get older, so does everything and everyone around me, so when we all scream Happy New Year – let's hope it is.

Love Steve and all the furies at Hassocks Pet Centre xx – not to mention the staff!

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