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LOCAL ACTIVITIES

~~ Clubs with single Events ~~

POLICE SURGERY

Sun 2nd Feb 12 - 2 pm

A chance to chat to Sgt Philip and the PSCO's and discuss any issues you may have

DITCHLING DOWNS WI

Tues 4th Feb 7 pm

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP

Wed 5th Feb 1 pm

HENFIELD ARTS SOCIETY

Mon 10th Feb 2.30 pm

The Romans who shaped Britain - David Stuttard. Guests welcome

HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Tues 11th Feb 7.45 pm

HASSOCKS EVENING JAZZ

Tues 11th Feb 8 pm

COUNCIL SURGERY

Tues 11th Feb 10 - 11 am

Sue - suehatton@midssussex.gov.uk. Kirsty - kirsty.lord@westsussex.gov.uk

HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Wed 12th Feb 8 pm

Adastra Car Park, Hassocks

Ditchling Village Hall

The Great Unwatched (Television) - Bob Sinfield

The Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint

Fish & Chips (pre-ordered) followed by AGM at 2 pm

Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre

Leonardslee Gardens - Stephen Herrington

Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

Trad Jazz Evening. All welcome

Hassocks Parish Centre, Adastra Park

Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Gardening for Wildlife - Adrian Thomas



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DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT

Wed 12th Feb 2 - 5 pm

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

MID SUSSEX ASSOCIATION NATIONAL TRUST

Clair Hall, Haywards Heath

Thurs 13th Feb 2.30 pm

The Historic Building known as Preston Manor, Brighton - Jackie Marsh-Hobbs

HURST, HASOCKS & DITCHLING U3A

Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Fri 14th Feb 2 pm

British Humour in the forgotten Art of the Picture Post Card - James Taylor

BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY SOCIETY

Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill

Fri 14th Feb 8 pm

Farms in Burgess Hill, material from the archives

HASSOCKS JAZZ BEFORE LUNCH

Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

Sun 16th Feb 11.30 am Julie Roberts & Michael Hinton, Tkts julierobertsmusic.co.uk, lunch orders 01273 842113

HASSOCKS WI

Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Mon 17th Feb 7.45 pm

A little bit of Me time

DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Ditchling Village Hall

Tues 18th Feb 9.45 - 11 am

Coffee Morning run by Ditchling Downs WI

STAR CINEMA

Fri 21st Feb 7 pm

Adastra Hall, Hassocks

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Film - The Wizard of Oz. Tickets on the door

Sat 22nd Feb 10 am - 12 pm

Godly Play, Adults & Children hear Bible stories (10.30 am) with craft activities

HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET

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Sat 22nd Feb 9 am - 1 pm

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Sun 23rd Feb 10 am - 12 pm

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HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN

Age Concern, Hassocks

Tues 25th Feb 2.30 pm

Climate Change in the Arctic - James D. Weston

LEWES BARBICAN ROTARY CLUB

New Bury Theatre, Hurstpierpoint College

Sat 29th Feb 6.45 pm

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~~ Clubs with Multi Events ~~

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY

Thurs 6th Feb 7.30 pm

Thurs 20th Feb 7.30 pm

HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY

Mon 10th Feb 7.45 pm

Mon 24th Feb 7.45 pm

HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

For films and showing times visit www.hurstfilms.com

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB

3rd & 17th Feb 7.30 - 9.30 pm

MID SUSSEX OLDER PEOPLES COUNCIL

4th, 11th, 25th Feb 2.30 pm.

MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO

Fri 7th Feb 7.45 pm

Fri 14th Feb 7.45 pm

Fri 21st Feb 7.45 pm

Fri 28th Feb 7.45 pm

RBL CLAYTON & KEYMER WOMENS SECTION

Thurs 13th Feb 3 pm

Sat 15th Feb 9.45 am

Ditchling Village Hall

Film - Apostasy (PG)

Film - Capernaum (15)

Adastra Hall, Hassocks

The History of Morris - Melanie Gibson Barton. Visitors welcome
Why was the Shepherd Delighted? - Bill Avenell. Visitors welcome

Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre

United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks

Club Callers. All welcome

Hurstpierpoint College

Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill

Radio Night

Nag and Natter Evening

Radio Night & Table Top Sale

West Sussex County Council talk on Recycling

Legion HQ, Woodland Road, Hassocks

Child Help - Chris Wooldridge

Coffee Morning at Age Concern

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

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summer there are short walks on Wednesday evenings, trial walks and leisurely nature walks.

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HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Hello Film Lovers - 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 pupil 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

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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.

20th February sees our first NT Live screening after moving back into the refurbished theatre, *Cyrano de Bergerac* starring James McAvoy in the title role. Fierce with a pen and notorious in combat, Cyrano almost has it all - if only he could win the heart of his true love Roxane. There's just one big problem: he has a nose as huge as his heart. Will a society engulfed by narcissism get the better of Cyrano or can his mastery of language set Roxane's world alight?

The Sunday Cinema returns on **23rd February** with the heart-warming comedy *Fighting with my Family*, based on the incredible true story of British born WWE Superstar Paige. Born into a tight-knit wrestling mad family, Paige earns a spot in the WWE training program and she must leave her family and face this new, world alone. Florence Pugh shows there's no role and no genre she can't handle with aplomb, effortlessly taking on this nuanced comedic role.

Finally, on Friday **28th February**, we have the gorgeous, powerful, and stunningly crafted, *If Beale Street Could Talk*. A visually stunning and emotionally intense meditation on young love, family and social injustice in America, based on the novel by James Baldwin. The book was written 20 years ago, but it is utterly relevant today and this film is a masterpiece.

Visit our website www.hurstfilms.com for more information and to buy tickets.

Hope to see you at the Village Cinema soon.

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DOMINIC FERRIS LIVE AT HURST PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS IN A CHARITY CONCERT on Saturday **29th February** at The New Bury Theatre, Hurstpierpoint College, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 9JT at 7.30 pm doors at 6.45 pm.

Dominic returns to his Alma Mater for one night only. He is an internationally acclaimed pianist whose recordings with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra have sold over 3 million albums worldwide. He has performed on and provided orchestrations for six top ten albums since 2015, all recorded at Abbey Road Studios, and has recently collaborated with Michael Ball and Alfie Ball on their latest release.

Dominic grew up in Brighton and Hove and attended Hurstpierpoint College between 1999 and 2004. On 29th February Dominic will return to the college performing a special 'one night only' concert presented by the Lewes Barbican Rotary Club. The evening will feature a wide variety of genres including music from Dominic's recent London concert series 'Me And My Piano'.

Dominic will joined by special guests including Martin Milnes. Together, 'Ferris & Milnes' are a musical theatre double act who have performed their own productions in the West End and in New York.

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All profits from the event will be donated to St Peter & St James Hospice and Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Donald Faulds

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP At the November meeting Liz Gibson told us about the AAKSS - the Air Ambulance Kent Surrey & Sussex. What a wonderful speaker. The important information to pass on about this organisation is: they are an independent charity, they need to raise £14 million a year & they make a difference and save lives. The AAKSS is not just a flying ambulance but are HEMS. - there is a doctor on board. A wonderful service.

At the December meeting the Handbell Ringers came to entertain us. What a beautiful sound. We were invited to sing along to the carols & it was most interesting to hear their origins. This was followed by a Christmas Quiz & mince pies with a cup of tea.

We have started 3 sub-groups: Handicraft, Walking & Lunch - do contact either of the numbers below for more details.

There was no meeting in January and on the **5th February** there is a Fish & Chip Lunch (must be pre-ordered) followed by our AGM.

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Trevor Butler

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DOWNTON ABBEY comes to Hassocks Adastra 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, film starts 7 30. Tickets on the door. Wine, tea, coffee, soft drinks, plus a raffle. Hope to see you there.

On **21st February** we have Judy - Thirty years after starring in "The Wizard of Oz," beloved actress and singer Judy Garland arrives in London to perform sold-out shows at the Talk of the Town nightclub. This biographical drama film has a highly praised performance by Renee Zellweger in the title role. Doors open at 7, film starts at 7 30. Tickets on the door. Wine, tea, coffee, soft drinks, plus raffle. Come along.

Liz Edmunds

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

We meet at 3pm 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 **13th February** we welcome our first speaker of 2020, Chris Wooldridge from Child Help. The competition is

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an item beginning with 'C'. So plenty of scope for the imagination with this one.

On the Saturday **15th February** we will hold our first Fund raising event of the year, a Coffee Morning at Age Concern Hassocks, between 9.45 and 11.45 am.

Donations for stalls are always very welcome; raffle prizes, bric-a-brac, toiletries etc. Our cake stall is very happy to receive tasty treats, if any of you fancy doing a bit of home baking your efforts will be really appreciated.

Please bring them along on the morning. Non-perishable items can be brought to the monthly meeting or if needed please ring Jenny to arrange collection. All funds raised will go towards our benevolent funds. Thank you so much for your support - we hope to see you there.

Liz Thomas

DITCHLING SINGERS New members are always welcome! We are a friendly choir who enjoy singing popular songs together. No auditions and the first session is free. Both our February rehearsals take place in Keymer Church Hall, on Sunday, **2nd February**, 4 until - 6 pm, and on Sunday, **16th February**, 4 until 6 pm. Just come along or contact me on **01273 845627**.

Erika Chapman

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CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH at United Reformed Church.
Thank you so very much to all the helpers who made it possible. I think everyone had a most enjoyable time. Special thanks to the lovely twins for their entertainment. Happy New Year to everyone and thank you for variable donations towards the lunch. God bless you. See you in 2020. Same time - same place!

Rita

HANDS OF TIME

As years go by
And we grow old
What will we have to face
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In this world today,
Amongst the turmoil and unrest
Which never goes away.

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CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? Some local families have yet to discover the delights of The Acorns Nursery and Forest School in Lindfield and at Westmeston Parish Hall near Ditching!

Recently awarded 'Outstanding' again by Ofsted in Lindfield, The Acorns cater for children age 2+. Run by Janet Irwin, a qualified teacher, it offers 'Stay and Play' sessions for parents and toddlers, sessions for home-educated children, as well as a full pre-school curriculum.

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Even the two year olds try to put their own wellies on in their eagerness to go outside. Warmly wrapped up with hats, scarves and gloves, all the children love to see their breath in the cold winter air as they look for signs of Spring. Please call for a free taster session and get in touch if you would like to join our friendly team in this term-time setting. Telephone **01444 455081**,

www.theacornsnurseryandforestschool.com Janet Irwin

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DOWNLANDS STUDENTS VISIT CHINA In October, 23 Downlands students set off to Shanghai for our first ever China Exchange. After a mammoth 16 hour journey, we arrived in Hangzhou, often known as the business and commerce capital of China. During the week, students were partnered with a Chinese student at our partner school, Sijiqing Middle School, and spent the week fully immersed in Chinese home life. Students were staying in typical Chinese flats with a Chinese family, eating Chinese food and playing Chinese games! The experience was once-in-a-lifetime, they were brimming with excitement and stories each morning when the group reconvened for a day of activities.

During our visit, students had the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting workshops and trips. We spent an exciting afternoon visiting the West Lake, a UNESCO world heritage, made famous for hosting the G20 summit in 2016. After a short boat ride to the central island (known as The Three Ponds Mirroring the Moon), we spent some time exploring the stunning pagodas, giant lily-pads and ancient monuments. We also spent an exciting day visiting Nanjing via bullet train! During our time in school, pupils took part in an art workshop, music workshop, badminton session with members of the Chinese national team and a martial arts class. Importantly, we also spent time exploring the similarities and differences between our two schools. Downlands



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students (and Ms Chalmers!) took part in a Year 7 Maths class and found the standard to be similar of an Undergraduate Maths course!

After bidding farewell to our host families, we spent the last 24 hours in Shanghai. We took an ascent up the Oriental Pearl Observation deck and gazed down from 350m on the mighty Shanghai. Pupils then ate dinner at the famous Nanjing Food Market, where some brave pupils tasted scorpions and crickets. We finished our night viewing the incredible Shanghai sky-line all lit up from The Bund waterfront area.

The trip was incredible and the pupils showed a huge amount of respect and humility towards a completely new culture. We look forward to continuing this partnership with Sijiqing Middle School in the future, with plans to run our next exchange in 2021. *Nicki Burston*



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THE WINDMILLS SCHOOL Last term the children produced some excellent work including superb cooking by Year 5 as part of their DT project researching seasonal produce that they then used to make a tasty savoury sauce - there was a delicious smell around the school and made all of our tummies rumble! Whilst investigating different rocks, soils and fossils, Year 3 learnt new vocabulary relevant to the topic - and created an amazing dance to the well known Queen song 'We Will Rock You' to show how different rocks are made! Over the next term we look forward to telling you about some more of the creative methods of learning the children will use to focus on their termly topic. This will include Year 3's study of life in Ancient Greece and how this has influenced the Western World; exciting science experiments investigating solids, liquids and gasses by the children in Year 4 and geography lessons in Year 5 concentrating on the water cycle whilst in computing lessons they will design programs using different coding skills that users are able to control. As part of the 'We'll Meet Again' topic, Year 6 will study the WWII Battle of Britain, which was such a turning point in British history. This topic will be particularly relevant this year as the country commemorates in May the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, the formal end of World War II.

Sue Bandy

MID-SUSSEX HEALTHCARE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) is pleased to announce that the AGM will be held on the **19th March** at 7 pm in the United Reform Church Hassocks. We welcome patients of the practice to come along to find out how we are working on ways to improve patient experience. We are also really excited to announce that our newsletter will be available in all surgeries, local press and websites from February. Please keep an eye out for them arriving at the practice in the Near future. Any enquiries can be directed to **midsussex.healthcarePPG@gmail.com**.

Hannah Loram

HASSOCKS LADIES SINGERS We are a group of 14 ladies who meet at St Francis Church on a Monday afternoon. We spend a few weeks preparing a programme of 2 part songs which we then take out to Residential Homes mainly in Hassocks and Burgess Hill. Our aim is to encourage our audiences to join with us by singing or just tapping in time, so our programme is designed for that purpose.

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My name is Stephen Hamilton. I have over thirty years experience in designing and then making kitchens. Now I am a little older and wiser I prefer to work closer to home. When I was young I designed and built some of the most luxurious kitchens imaginable and in 1988 I was European kitchen designer of the year. I even designed and made kitchens for clients in New York and Geneva. I still do luxurious bespoke kitchens. As long as your local! You'd be amazed how much more reasonable our prices are than the big boys with expensive showrooms!

When I first started my career, I designed the interiors of boats. That taught me to maximise space. Now I find I am often asked to try and design very small kitchens. I enjoy the challenge.

A few months ago, in Grand Avenue, I designed a kitchen in a 1930's bungalow. The kitchen was only eight feet by eight feet. I managed to fit in: A tall fridge freezer, a tall, eye level oven, three huge sets of pan drawers and more worksurface than before. Mrs F was amazed and is still looking at the spare space in her drawers.

In April I redesigned a kitchen for Mrs B in St Georges Park. They have beautifully appointed apartments but the kitchen design leaves a little to be desired. I kept eighty per cent of the existing carcasses but fitted over a dozen new drawers which greatly increased accessibility. It has transformed Mrs B's kitchen experience. Cost? Around ten thousand pounds.

Sometimes however, a new kitchen is essential. Sometimes people *don't even know* if they *want* a complete new kitchen. Which is where I come in. We give *genuine* advice. Sometimes it goes in stages. If I feel we can accommodate your kitchen design requirements without the palaver of ripping the whole kitchen we will advise accordingly. A brand new kitchen is messy. To do it properly one has to rip the everything out and then, almost always, replaster the walls to make good. Appliances are often moved so new electrics are required ...quite often we move doorways. A refurbishment can take maybe five/six/ seven days but a complete kitchen from start to finish is usually around three weeks. Do you want the hassle? Or the expense? Many of our clients go on holiday whilst we do the work.

I always try to work within your budgets!

A refurbishment with all new doors and worktops and refitting etc generally costs between five thousand and eight thousand pounds. A new kitchen? It all depends. And that's the point. A *small* total kitchen project can be anything from ten to fifteen thousand pounds. It depends what appliances you choose and what services need moving.

With over thirty years experience in all sorts of planning situations I can usually come up with *several different* alternatives you may not have considered. Because we are 'bespoke' and because we make all our cabinets and drawers whatever size is required we have so much more flexibility than the average kitchen company.

When I come to give my first appraisal I do not come with the intention of selling you more than you need. I am happy to just change your doors and drawers if that is what you want.

In April I got a call from Mrs P in Greenlands Close Burgess Hill. She told me her oven was packing up. Could I help her? I arranged to see her. One thing led to another...the cupboards were really beyond recovery. It seemed to me Mrs P really needed a *completely new kitchen*. [Mrs P is 90 going on about 60] The electricians looked dangerous. I scribbled some ideas...one thing led to another. Now Mrs P is whizzing about in her brand new kitchen. We had to rip the old one out, thanks to **Jon and his son Ryan**, plaster the walls, thanks to **John Evans Plastering**, completely reconfigure the plumbing, thanks to **Richard and Ian Thompson**, who have several generations of reputation as local Hassocks plumbers. Only then could we fit a new kitchen. Thanks to **Ian and Liam**, [chief kitchen installation engineers] Mrs P eventually chose one of our classic ash marquetry kitchens] then we tiled the walls, [**Ian** again!] We re-designed and hid the boiler. That was me **Stephen Hamilton**, then we refloored the whole kitchen and dining room [**Homecall** from Burgess Hill]. Then we decorated top to bottom. [**Jon** again!] Five weeks! Although I am the designer I am also the project manager. Mrs P was brilliant. When we first ripped out it became apparent that the electricians were dangerous so we rewired the entire place and fitted a new fuse box [thanks to **Keith Hand**] The Cost? Around twenty thousand pounds. Was it worth it? You'd need to talk to Mrs P about that! Everyone engaged in the project is local.

I understand how big a decision and how big a commitment a new kitchen or even a refurbishment can be. I understand that *initially* you just want some ideas...to explore the *possibilities* and this is where we are building our reputation. We work locally, we only use local reputable tradesmen. We are patient and thoughtful.

If you have a new kitchen we start off by emptying all your cupboards into plastic storage boxes. Then we store and label them and return the contents to the new cupboards.

We are meticulous about covering all the floors and keeping dust and disruption down to a minimum.

We have a brilliant range of doors and worktops. But you know what! I find we frequently don't talk, specifically, about the door and drawer design until much later. I am just about to do a kitchen in Wivelsfield for Mr and Mrs D. The project is signed and sealed and deposits paid but we are still discussing the final design. I took them to look at granites and stones at the stone manufacturers. Now we are going to take a trip to east London to look at their selection of Burr oak veneers. Why am I wittering on? Because I want to let people know that we are *not* a faceless national kitchen company, blinding people with false free offers and sales gimmicks. We are hands on. We care.

Our drawers are just brilliant. You have to *try them* to know what I mean. They are traditionally made with proper dovetails in our own workshops in Ditchling. They come all the way out and they take tons of stuff! I train all our apprentices in proper drawer making.

We have showrooms you can visit but you can also visit some of the kitchens we have finished ...probably just around the corner from you.

I hope this gives you some idea of what we are about. If you are interested in a new or refurbished kitchen I do hope you will give me a call. I don't charge for my planning service if you live within a five-six mile radius of Hassocks. On my first visit I simply talk to you about what you might like. I discuss the problems you have with your existing kitchen and then scribble some alternative plans. Then I will leave you to mull them over. There is no rush and no pressure. Early planning is essential. Planning makes for the perfect project.

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We thank Jeannie for the following story:- It's still dark outside when I wake up. I wrap my toes underneath my duvet so that I am completely cocooned. When I finally drag myself away from this paradise of warmth I go to the window and peer outside at the street below. There is a thick line of frost painted along the tops of the cars. The next door neighbour is scraping his grey minivan clean with a sponge, his cheeks are pink. I wave at him but he doesn't see me.

The heat from my tea burns my fingertips as I hold it in my lap. The house is silent. The toast is ruined before I can save it, I place it in the bin and the lid rattles shut. When that stops rattling there's silence again. I turn on the television.

I must have nodded off because when I open my eyes my tea is cold and it's light outside. There's a knock at the door. A tall man with a long, greying beard greets me. He passes me an electronic box where I am to draw what he calls a 'squiggle' as opposed to a formal signature for my delivery package. He brusquely hands me the parcel and leaves without looking back. He doesn't

hear me say thank you. There's silence again.

Inside the box is a new pair of slippers. They are gorgeous but I don't remember ordering them. After having a shower and getting dressed I move into the living room and begin to read, I am halfway through my book. I'm too tired to go for a walk today. Eventually it gets dark again outside.

Another knock at the door jolts me with surprise, I almost run to it.

"Hello Grandad," she says, "Do you like your new slippers?"

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"The perfect woodland garden" - Visitor quote 2018. As I write in early January 2020 I am already fed up with the winter weather! However our Christmas Day count of flowers open in the garden surprised us with an excellent total of about 80 so I should not grumble. Of course one heavy frost on Christmas Eve would have lowered the total. However it would not have been so bad as over 40 years ago we had a bit of luck. We discovered hardy winter flowering shrubs. From then onwards we have always been keen to have flowers in the garden every week of the year. Add to the hardy shrubs our collection of snowdrops and hellebores, winter flowering perennials and bulbs and the garden is a real joy for bees and insects and of course NGS visitors!

So why not book to visit our snowdrop and hellebore garden?

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Our garden will be open for the National Garden Scheme caring, nursing and health charities for visitors to enjoy. Pre-booking only. The garden can be visited from mid-February to mid-March 2020. (Dates and details on our website). Individuals and groups are welcome to pre-book so why not arrange to meet friends here and explore the garden together. One fee includes entry, coffee and cake and garden tour if required.

There have been lots of changes in the garden over the last 18 months but the weather is much the same. So please wear warm clothes and sensible sturdy shoes.

Parking available at the house. Groups please car share.

The garden can be reached by bus to the Jack and Jill Pub and from Hassocks station on foot along the Cinder Path (public footpath).

We do hope that you will get in touch and book to visit our garden. telephone **01273 842805** or better e-mail: pembury@ngs.org.uk. Nick & Jane Baker

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DOWNLANDS SCHOOL The last few years have seen some fabulous drama productions at Downlands from 'Wizard of Oz' to 'Wind in the Willows'. We have been delighted by the sheer number of students taking part each time. Mrs Kelly Robertson, our Drama teacher, is the brains behind all our productions, and we can't wait for this year's show. Auditions began back in October and rehearsals have been going on three times a week ever since. We have been working on the acting, the dancing, the singing and the music as well as costume making, set creation and the lighting and sound. All the hard work will soon be there for all to enjoy - if you fancy an evening in the company of Roxy Robinson, Fat Sam, Dandy Dan, Blousey and Buggy Malone please join us from Tuesday 4 February to Saturday 8 February for our production of 'Buggy Malone'. Our students and staff work incredibly hard every year to put on a fabulous show - from the music, to the set production, the technical wizards to the make-up artists - it truly is a whole school production. Tickets will be available from school reception only. As demand is likely to be high

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we do not anticipate any tickets being available on the door. We hope to welcome you to one of the performances.

Nicki Burston

SUSSEX CHORUS is a Large vocal ensemble performing in Brighton and Mid Sussex with professional orchestras and soloists.

The next concert is Bach - St John Passion on Saturday **21st March** at King's Church, Burgess Hill. RH15 9LR at 7.30 pm. Ticket outlets: Eventbrite.co.uk, Sussex Chorus Ticket Manager or Burgess Hill Helpoint.

Tenor Solo - Simon B, Jack Thompson - Conductor with Oxford Bach Soloists and Stephen Brown as the Evangelist. There will be an orchestra brought together by Jack & comprising musicians from Sussex & London - it has yet to be named.

We are interested in singers who might like to sing this work with us particularly tenors & bases. For more information see our website www.sussexchorus.org.uk.

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So you won't have to clear her pooch,
And when she's late, oh dear, oh my,
Where can she be it's time for her delicious tea.

She'll come, but only when she's ready
Not when you call, so keep it steady
She'll come and purr and bring a gift
Of mouse or bird and you will lift
The dustbin lid, so fast she'll wonder
What have I done? on this she'll ponder

And when your legs begin to tottle
And you need a hot water bottle
Then there she is to keep you warm
On lap and knees and on your arm.

She'll come to you with fur and eyes
Glancing through you, oh, so wise,

She'll say, I know that you love me
And I do to: Oh: What's for tea?
God made the cats, to give us people
A love that last's, may it ever ripple.

© Anisah

HASSOCKS WI held our Christmas Party on Monday 16th December, and we had a great time!

We were welcomed by President Hilary and a glass of mulled wine, and the partying began with a selection of Christmas poems. Music was provided by the Zaffir sisters, a local duo who sang Ed Sheeran numbers and gave a lively rendition of "All I want for Christmas is you".

Darryl performed an ingenious story based on "Good King Wenceslas", and Iris, Stella and Angi presented an entertaining version of the famous "I know my place" sketch.

Our thanks go to Karen and Stella for laying out a sumptuous feast of food produced by members.

Barbara provided a challenging table top quiz, the beautifully wrapped Christmas hampers were raffled, and carols were sung to round off a lovely evening.

2020 Dates - **17th February** - A little bit of Me time.

16th March - Speaker tba. Burgess Hill singers.

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STAFF AND CUSTOMERS ALIKE AT A HASSOCKS GARDEN CENTRE PUT THEIR WEIGHT AND THEIR WALLET BEHIND JUMPERS DAY, RAISING MUCH-NEEDED FUNDS FOR CHARITY.

The event at South Downs Nurseries in Brighton Road was in support of The Children's Society's festive fundraiser. "The support was fantastic", said Rebecca Houghton-Knapp from the family-run business. "We smashed last year's total and are sending over £400 to the charity." Pictured above are the staff and customers.

Trevor Butler



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1ST HASSOCKS BROWNIES were busy thinking of others before themselves and demonstrating inventiveness as this photo demonstrates. Girlguiding Sussex Central's Commissioner, Lisa Barden, set Girlguiding members lots of 40th "Ruby" challenges as part of a year long celebration to mark the County's 40th Birthday. One of them was to see what red foods they could find. Melanie Failes, Acting Leader, suggested the unit donate Ruby Red themed foods for the local food bank to be delivered at Christmas. The Brownies uncovered lots of items to benefit people in the local area - well done to them all.

Pennie




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GODLY PLAY is a way for adults and children to hear Bible stories, then have a chance to think about them and take part in craft activities. Why not come along and try the activities or just pop in for coffee, tea, cake and a chat. Organised by Churches Together in Hassocks our next Godly Play will be on Saturday **22nd February** between 10.00 am and 12 noon at Hassocks United Reformed Church; the story will be told at about 10.30 am. There is no charge and all are welcome.

Darryl Sinclair

RESULT OF HERBIE FLOWERS CONCERTS

The two sold-out concerts given by Herbie Flowers and Friends on Sunday 5th January in Ditchling Village Hall raised £4200 for the Mighty Magnus Medicine Fund, which is providing funding for 8-year-old Magnus's non-NHS cancer treatment.

Magnus's family would like to extend their deep gratitude to Herbie and his fellow musicians and to all those who supported the concerts or donated. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thanks are also due to all those who provided the magnificent raffle prizes, including several Ditchling businesses – in particular Black Dog Hill Winery, White Horse pub, The Nutmeg Tree café and The Green Wellie café.

Sylvia Bain



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HISTORY OF FREDERICK ROWLAND EMMETT OBE (22 October 1906 – 13 November 1990), known as Rowland Emmett (with the forename sometimes spelled "Roland" [as his middle name appears on his birth certificate] and the surname frequently misspelled "Emmett"), was an English cartoonist and constructor of whimsical kinetic sculpture.

Emmett was born in New Southgate, London, the son of a businessman and amateur inventor, and the grandson of Queen Victoria's engraver. He was educated at Waverley Grammar School in Birmingham, where he excelled in drawing, caricaturing his teachers and vehicles and machinery. When he was only 14 he took out a patent on a gramophone volume control. He studied at Birmingham School of Arts and Crafts and one of his landscapes, Cornish Harbour, was exhibited at the Royal Academy; it is now in the Tate collection. An otherwise undistinguished career was interrupted by World War II, when he worked as a draughtsman for the Air Ministry while perfecting his gift for drawing cartoons. From 1939 until the 1950s, and less frequently in the 1960s, he published regularly in Punch and for many years when his work was published elsewhere it was credited to "Emmett of Punch". His cartoons were seldom political, except when he caricatured bureaucratic absurdities, and his early sub-

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jects typically found humour in the difficulties of life in Great Britain during the second World War. His drawings soon started to include railway scenes and he gradually developed a unique concept of strange, bumbling trains with excessively tall chimneys and silly names.

On 12th April 1941 he married Elsie May Evans (who was always known as Mary, the daughter of a Birmingham silversmith. She managed his business interests. They had one daughter, Claire.

In 1947 his cartoons came to life on the stage of the Globe Theatre, London, in "Between the Lines", a scene for Laurier Lister's revue Tuppence Coloured, with Max Adrian as an eccentric signalman at Friars Fidgeting Signal Box. In 1951, at the Festival of Britain, his most famous steam locomotive, Nellie, was made into a copper and mahogany kinetic sculpture and with two other locomotives, Neptune and Wild Goose, was one of the festival's most popular attractions, operating the Far Tottering and Oyster Creek Branch Railway. There was a fatality when two trains collided. At this time he was living in Cornwall and working in a studio in a boat-loft at Polperro; later he returned to West Cornwall before settling for the rest of his life at Ditchling, in Sussex.

more to come next month

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 He is my love – security.

His coat is smooth, his coat is rough
 His ears are short, his paws are tough
 His eyes are large or small or thin
 And when he speaks, my, what a din.

His tail is long, his tail is short
 He's altogether a jolly good sport.
 When God made dog he made man too
 Take care of dog, no matter who
 Can feed and water this dear creature
 The dog is God's own loving teacher

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Twenty-one years ago Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club organised an Arts competition in which over fifty gymnasts performed. This year sees the 21st Arts Competition which will now showcase over a hundred gymnasts performing routine with ribbons, hoops, on the beam and in Sports Acrobatic Sixes. The competition will be held in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre in the morning of the **28th March**. The gymnasts will be competing for the twelve silver trophies and scores of medals. Spectating for parents & friends is free.

The following opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 36th Annual Championships on the **4th July**.

Andrew Hair



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Photo shows a typical 'Six' balance from the 2019 competition.

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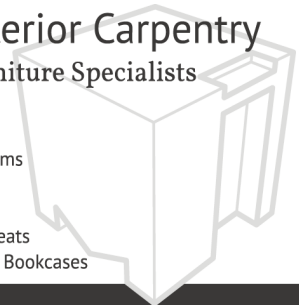
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A HISTORY OF JACOB'S POST This post was erected at the end of the 19th century to mark the site of the old gallows where the body of Jacob Harris was hung following his execution for murder in 1734. The rooster is a copy made by the pupils of Uckfield Comprehensive School. The original is in the guardianship of Ditchling Parish Council and may be seen at Chichester House, Ditchling. On 26th May 1734, in the parish of Wivelsfield, Jacob Harris, a Jewish pedlar (also known as Yacob Hirsch), committed three barbarous murders at the public house which was situated at the north end of Ditchling Common (The Royal Oak). He killed the landlord of the pub, Richard Miles, his wife and their maid. He is alleged to have stolen some money and clothes and fled to the Cat Inn, Turners Hill. Pursued by soldiers he hid up a chimney at Selsfield House, West Hoathly, but was discovered. Miles, before he died was able to identify the pedlar and he was incarcerated in Horsham Gaol. He was subsequently tried and executed and afterwards hung in chains on Ditchling Common close to the scene of the murders. A ballad was composed, sold and sung at the execution. Jacob's Post is the remains of the gibbet. Afterwards, and well into the 19th century, a fragment of this post carried in the pocket, was considered a cure for toothache and epilepsy. It was also said that women who were barren went to the corpse when still hung at Ditchling and after holding its hand would become fertile.

Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha CHIROPODY - PODIATRY

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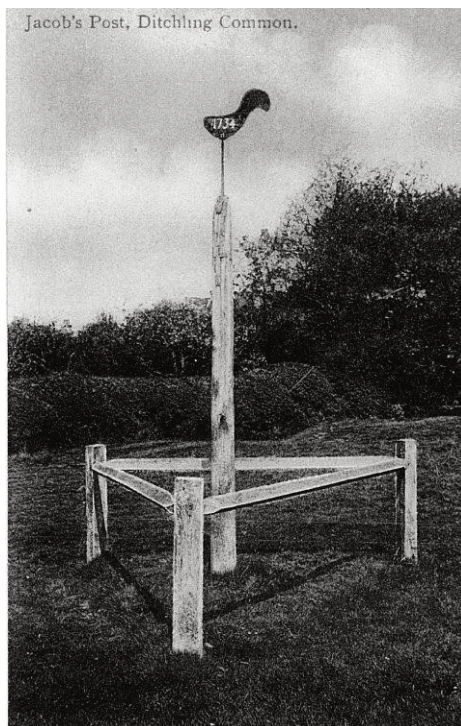
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TOAD - THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER En-
sconced in my corner of a Sussex pub I didn't look far
for inspiration for this month's article. The clanging of
brass on lead alerted me to a couple of lads playing that
most Sussex of pub games – Toad in the Hole. The
perfect excuse for some sycophantic toadying to an
amphibian I adore; warts and all.

Toads are beautiful. Yes, I know they have lumpy, poi-
sonous skin. Yes, I know they have a face like Ena
Sharples. But that eye. That amazing eye. Next time
you see a toad get right up close and allow yourself to
be hypnotized by that mesmerizing golden-ringed eye.
Fellow toad lover George Orwell called it "about the
most beautiful eye of any living creature".

In February that beautiful eye blinks open as toads
awaken from their winter hibernation. From under
stones, logs and leaves they emerge and start the long
walk home – back to the pond where they were born.
They proceed on this pilgrimage with a determined, un-
steady gait – like one of those old men you see gingerly
crossing the shingle on his way to his annual New
Year's Day dip. But once the Toad hits the water he is
rejuvenated and has one thing on his mind. Croaking
and brawling a peaceful pond is transformed into a
Club 18-30 pool party as male Toads squabble over fe-
males in a writhing ball of amorous amphibians.



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The results of this Bacchanalian bonding are long
polka dot ribbons of spawn (unlike the Frog's shapeless
tapioca blobs) and by May the parent Toads have left
their breeding ponds to lead a more respectable life on
dry land until their winter hibernation. Amazingly these
animals can live for over 40 years.

With their primordial appearance, annual gatherings
and rituals there is a touch of evil about the Toad.
Throughout England's history they have been vilified;
linked to witchcraft and strange superstitions. And,
when it comes to folklore, there's nowt so queer as
Toads. Rubbing Toads on your body could cure cancer;
a live Toad in your mouth could cure skin infections.
Precious jewels (toadstones) were reputed to be hidden
in a Toad's head. Immortal toad-eaters were a sideshow
attraction at country fairs. Travelling Toad doctors
could heal you with Toad hearts and legs. The myste-
rious Toadmen used Toad potions to cure horses (a
practice that allegedly continued until the 1930s in
some English counties).

It took Kenneth Grahame's beloved 'The Wind in the
Willows' to finally drag the Toad out of the dark ages
putting him in a tweed suit and in the hearts of the na-
tion. Keep an eye out for these amazing animals around
Sussex in the coming months as they return to their
ponds.

Michael Blencowe

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MID SUSSEX OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL (MSOPC) HOST FREE CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR

OVER 60'S. MSOPC, put on their annual Christmas Tea at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield again this year, much to the delight of over 60's from across Mid Sussex.

It was a great opportunity for older people to get out of the house and socialise over the Christmas period, whilst enjoying good food and entertainment. Free transport and assistance is provided for those who find it physically too difficult to drive or use public transport.

This year, many volunteers came to help on the day, serving hot drinks, sandwiches, Christmas cake, scones, and Victoria sponge. Mince pies were supplied by the Lindfield Co-op, as well as some fabulous prizes for the raffle. The Co-op are always a great support to MSOPC throughout the year, providing some essential funding to help them to help local older people, and Matt Askey, manager of the Lindfield Co-op, also came along to visit on the day, as well as the man in red himself; father Christmas. Leader of Burgess Hill Town Council, Councillor Robert Eggleston and Councillor Stephanie Inglesfield from Haywards Heath Town Council were also in attendance.

Every year, there is fun musical entertainment, and this year MSOPC welcomed back local duo 'Anything Goes',



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who are always popular. One member even wrote and recited poetry on the day, which was well received with the crowd.

Over 100 people attend the event every year, always thoroughly enjoying themselves and come back year after year.

The event has received very positive feedback, one member saying; 'The Christmas tea you provide every year is always wonderful but this year you surpassed yourselves, it was exceptional! Delicious food, beautiful decorations, marvellous entertainment, very good service and good company'.

MSOPC put on free events and coffee mornings throughout the year across Mid Sussex, in 2020 to include VE day celebrations in Lindfield on the 8th and 9th of May, and provides a free quarterly newsletter to



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all members. They have also facilitated arrangements with Ardingly and Hurstpierpoint Colleges to provide free one to one computer sessions across Mid Sussex. Older people can receive help with their mobile phones, iPads etc. so that they can keep in touch with family and friends and so do not feel cut off from the online world. For more information about MSOPC, visit **www.msopc.org.uk**, or phone their helpline on **01444 242760**.

Nicola Brotherton



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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Now tell me should I be surprised that a food bank is opening in Hassocks? When I was first told about it my immediate reaction was really – it's not cheap to live round here with the price of houses and rents. So who qualifies to use one because we've got the lowest unemployment figures for some considerable time, I suppose there are the elderly - the old age pension isn't exactly a lot but my mother who was fiercely independent and very proud would have screamed at me "NO thank you I'm not a charity and I don't take handouts". So what do you think - was I wrong to have been surprised or is it a sign of the times?

It is nice to see Mr Castle back behind his desk at the solicitors, for those of you that have not heard he was knocked down by a car while out walking his dog just before Christmas, he was lucky if you can call it that, although he did spend a little while in hospital there were no serious injuries so he was out in time to enjoy the Christmas festivities although very carefully. For all of you who asked the same question as I did – was the dog alright? Yes he was unscathed. You just never know what is round the next corner.

I've had out the back of my shop for a little while now an old fridge freezer which came from the flat I handed back, it hasn't got the compressor on it anymore so it's basically a tin box. Now on several occasions I've tried to get someone to take it away with no luck, so I thought silly me just take it down to our local dump which I did. On arrival I was stopped and asked for I.D., I said I'm sorry I've come to get rid of some rubbish not catch a flight! Luckily I had my driving licence on me he looked at it and said you can't come here you live in Ditchling. This guy's having a laugh I thought, yes I said but my shop is in Hassocks, so it's commercial rubbish he said, I said no it's from the flat above so it's domestic, he said so why doesn't the person living in the flat bring it I said because the flat is unoccupied and it was left behind, a long pause ensued, eventually he said you can't bring it here you'll have to take it to Lewes. You know when the red mist begins to descend and your inner self is telling you not to lose it but sadly your lid is going to blow, I replied so you want me to drive all the way to Lewes when I'm here now then? Then I threw in the classic do you know how much I pay in rates each year to Mid Sussex it's people like me who pay your wages – blank look, you can't bring it here, it's no wonder fly tipping is on the increase. It's a crazy situation when you can't use the dump that is on your doorstep, not that these people care about the environment anyway but look at the extra pollution I alone create by driving those extra miles, who's stupid idea was this anyway we should get Mrs Hatton on it, she seems to be the councillor around here with her finger on the button.

It's never easy writing something about someone who has passed away but to write about someone who was killed in such a violent and unnecessary way by the hands of his own people without getting emotional or political is an impossible task. So having been Reza's neighbour for the last 14 years I can say without hesitation he really was a lovely man, kind and considerate with a wicked sense of humour and a very professional approach to his dry cleaning business. He will be muchly missed by the community. I hope the shop will continue to trade and I'm sure everyone will continue to use it so the memory of Reza lives on. My heart goes out to his family and friends who are devastated by this shameful lost life. RIP Reza.

Love Steve & all at Hassocks Pet Centre

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