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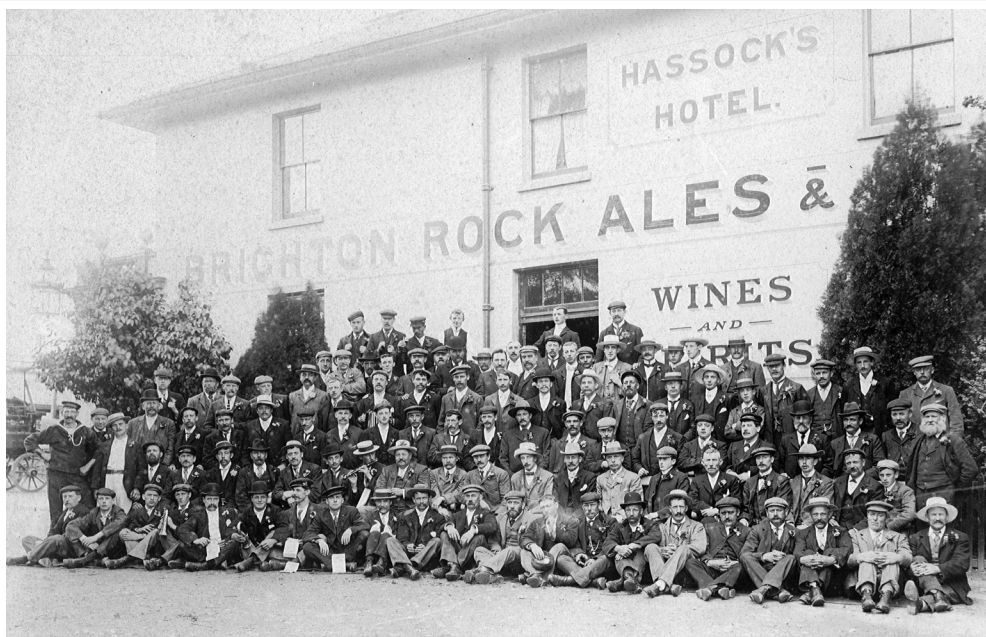
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**Hassocks Goes Gold**

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month.

Help turn Hassocks GOLD for September 2020  
& shine the light of awareness on childhood cancer.

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### **HASSOCKS GOES GOLD - ISN'T CANCELLED!**

September is upon us and the summer draws to a close as we head towards the golden season of autumn. School terms begin with high aspirations and proud photos of children growing up so fast, heading into adventures in their smart new uniforms. But some children aren't.

One in every 500 children will develop cancer by age 14. For those children and their families, life can be very different. Isolated from their school friends, their time is spent undergoing gruelling treatment usually not designed for children. In and out of hospitals, often far from home; radiotherapy, surgery, chemotherapy; endless drug regimes and brutal side effects. In between treatments they are often rushed back to hospital with fevers and life-threatening illnesses caused by their non-

existent immunity to simple bugs – a tragic side effect of chemo. How much worse this must be for these children and their families now that they also have to deal with Covid-19. Treatments delayed, the additional stress of infection and more isolation.

When our daughter Pearl was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma, a very rare and aggressive form of bone cancer, we aimed to live every second to the full. If she was well enough between chemo treatment we would escape the confines of the UCL hospital in London and visit museums, shops and galleries. She especially loved visiting the flagship Paperchase shop – what little girl wouldn't love three floors of stationery and crafts(!) – and our trips to London Zoo. With her bald head, wheelchair and backpack of IV fluids people often stared, but Pearl's lust for life shone out and pitying glances quickly changed into smiles, kindnesses and warmth. As Pearl's mum, the strength I gained from the kindness and support from strangers was immense. Sometimes, a wordless hug from another cancer parent or member of public was what got me through another day of the nightmare we lived. With the threat of Covid-19 and the necessary social distancing how much harder it must be now for parents in what was my position then. Unbearable.

Last September I was staggered by how Hassocks Goes Gold took off! What started as simply an idea to get Hassocks high street shop windows decorated gold to raise



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awareness of childhood cancer, expanded and exploded with all manner of gold events and fundraisers. In total we raised an amazing £8,853.58! Fantastic Effort – Thank You Hassocks!

This year despite Covid-19, Hassocks Goes Gold returns. Although social distancing means we will have to be inventive with our events, I believe it's even more important to bring a touch of gold and glitter to raise not only our spirits but also awareness that Childhood Cancer is the most common (and increasing) cause of death in children aged 1-14yrs.

All money raised under the umbrella of Hassocks Goes Gold will be given in Pearl's memory directly to the CCLG (Children's Cancer & Leukaemia Group) the UK's foremost children's cancer charity. The fund sponsors much needed research into earlier diagnosis, more successful treatments and the prevention of relapse of children's cancer.

Join us by buying a lapel badge or ribbon from the local shops and by displaying a poster in your window. Keep in touch via Facebook, Instagram or Twitter (look for HassocksGoesGold) to join in our gold events and activities.

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Please consider sponsoring a Giant Gold Ribbon on one of the trees around Hassocks. Last year 142 Giant Gold Ribbons were sponsored making a wonderful display throughout the village.

This year Hassocks Goes Gold has gone ECO-Friendly, ditching the plastic laminated ribbons and replacing them with wooden ones.

Email **HassocksGoesGold@gmail.com** to sponsor one in your family or business name, in memory of someone special, or just for fun!

Many thanks to Mid Sussex Flooring & Carpets for being our corporate sponsor again and to QD Stationery who have generously agreed to be a centre for selling the small ribbons and posters for your window displays throughout September.

*Rachel, Jamie, Pearl and Milo Bartlett Bundy*



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## **UROLOGY AWARENESS MONTH SEPTEMBER: TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR CONTINENCE – TIPS EXERCISING**

September is Urology Awareness Month. Organised by The Urology Foundation, this month aims to raise awareness of urological disease as well as raise money to fund vital research and training into these diseases.

It is estimated that 1 in 2 of us will be affected by a urology condition in our lifetime. Our urology health is vital to our quality of life. The NHS estimates that up to six million people in the UK suffer from urinary incontinence. If you are one of them, it will almost certainly affect your exercise routines and, worse, add stress to your daily life. You are not alone – in fact, most of us at some stage in their lives admit to having leaks from time to time. But you certainly are not powerless to solve the problem – it's time to take control of your bladder...

Dan Magrill, Consultant Urological Surgeon and avid cyclist, knows how important it is to feel comfortable when you exercise. 'As urinary incontinence can happen suddenly it can be difficult for the people affected to lead an active lifestyle. Some activities make the problem worse while others, by their very nature, take participants beyond easy reach of a toilet. This can result in people withdrawing from social situations. Fortunately, this doesn't need to be the case.'

Dan's top tips: Running does not cause stress incontinence but it can reveal it. Running hard, running down-

hill and sprinting all increase the pressure on the bladder, which may cause some leaking.

Empty your bladder just before you set out. Try Double Voiding- when you urinate, stay on the toilet until you feel your bladder is empty. Then, stand up and sit down again, lean forward slightly at the knees, and try again.

If you are running or cycling a long distance, factor in a toilet stop, as a full bladder leaks more and you will need to drink fluids when you're running for a long time.

Use a thin sanitary towel or incontinence pad.

To minimise leaks, try squeezing your pelvic floor muscles when you run (don't become frustrated if you can't because it is hard to do).

Avoid caffeine and alcohol-these are diuretics and can irritate the bladder before exercising.

'Regular exercise is very important and can actually improve symptoms but choose activities that don't exert great pressure on the abdominal cavity and pelvic floor. Walking, swimming, dancing and cycling are ideal. Yoga can have multiple benefits. As well as helping to reduce anxiety, it focuses on posture and includes exercises to strengthen the pelvic floor muscles.'

Mr Dan Magrill is Consultant Urological Surgeon for Western Sussex Hospital Foundation Trust, based at St Richards Hospital and privately at Chichester Nuffield Hospital. For more information visit

**www.westsussexurology.co.uk**

*Janet Francis*

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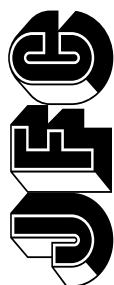
Jane of Lynton Close, Hurstpierpoint, passed away peacefully at Red Oaks Care Home, Henfield, on 9th July 2020. Jane lived in Hurstpierpoint for over 27 years and made many friends, both in Hurst and Hassocks.

Jane managed and cooked for Rib-

betts Lunch Club for a number of years with the help of stalwart volunteers, and did great work fund-raising for numerous charities.

Jane also enjoyed the meetings and friendship of the Women's Institute and Book Club.

*Christine Verth*



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**CHRIS MARTYR** – 10th April 1954 – 8th May 2020  
Our brother Chris grew up in the village, going to Windmills and then Downlands and a member of the Beacon Youth Centre.

In his mid-twenties he left home to live in Stockholm for 10 years, returning to Mid-Sussex and back to Chelsea School of Aviation at Shoreham to learn aircraft engineering. He became a licensed CAA Engineer and started his long career and love of his life Virgin Atlantic and Aircraft. He built his own plane and several cars from scratch in his leisure time.

He left us on VE Day when Lung Cancer took him. He had many friends in the village and he is very much missed.

*Lesley Skidmore and Eric Martyr*

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION** After a committee meeting in July, we were shocked to see someone had gone into the memorial garden and stolen the Legion flag. To make matters worse the rope to raise and lower the flag had been cut through which means when the flag is replaced because the flag pole is so high, it will be difficult to raise the new flag.

Why do people do such things, what good is an old Legion Flag to anyone other than the Legion?

*Roy Coltherd*



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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** - Part Two following on from the August 2020 issue.



In 1931 Michael's grandfather was himself a new-comer. As an enterprising young farmer in the '20s, he had taken on the might of the big dairy companies in Wiltshire, urging local farmers to stand together to demand a fair price for their milk. But the project was doomed to failure. One man could not be permitted to stand in the way of such powerful concerns and he soon found himself bankrupt and homeless. The twenties were a difficult time for farmers. The Great Depression was already looming and economic hardship had hit the countryside hard. What hope was there for

a penniless dairyman with a wife and children in tow? But Philip Alford was not without friends. As a Catholic, he was time and again to find the help he needed through the wider community of his Church. At first this help took him to Wales. Benedictine monks on the tiny island of Caldey needed someone to run their monastery farm. Philip was just the man. And for the next ten years he and his family enjoyed a quiet life under the monks' protection, entering into the spirit of island existence with its religious rituals, close friendships, and dependence on the sea. But in 1931 a family bequest made a new start possible and once again help was at hand. News came of a tenant vacancy on a farm in rural Sussex. Another godsend! Or were those 'good Samaritans' at work again? In fact, this farm belonged to the artist and designer, Sir Frank Brangwyn, a Belgian-born Catholic painter and neighbour of the Guild Craftsmen who worked and lived on Ditchling Common. And these same Guild Members, all Catholics too, were in regular contact with the Benedictine monks at Abergavenny. If that sounds too neat a coincidence, add the fact that Brangwyn had recently trained an apprentice named Frank Alford and a pattern of connection starts to emerge. The details may be lost in conjecture but records show that the Alford



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promptly left Wales to try their fortunes at East End Farm. There being no farmhouse, they spent their first days in the village, renting rooms at The Bull, but it wasn't long before they began to make themselves at home. Brangwyn remained a distant, if well-intentioned landlord. He built a cluster of cottages on the old meadow where the hayricks once stood: three almshouses for old folk from the village and a house for his new tenants. All are adorned with plaques showing the initials of the artist and his wife decoratively entwined. And Michael's grandfather made monthly visits to The Jointure, where Brangwyn lived, to pay his rent and make respectful requests for new gates when the old ones were falling down. As part of his gramme of public works, Brangwyn also built a small



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fire station in the farmyard and later garaged his motor in the barn for use as an ambulance during World War II. The first cow Philip bought was a Guernsey, named Osborne. A family photo in black and white shows fa-



ther and son proudly patting her on the flank. And soon she was joined by more cows and all the other animals which were in those days a regular feature of farming life: ducks, hens, pigs, horses... Further photos show the yard as a free space where all the business of the farm took place. Pig-styes, stables, calving pens, cow-stalls and dairy, all crowding around a central barn. At the far end stood a magnificent muckheap. To one side, cornstacks, haystacks, a pond where children could skate in winter and a fringe of giant elm trees.

The cows had their own stalls with their names printed



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above: Bluebell, Tulip – flower-names were a favourite. The barn had a purpose for every season. In winter, great heaps of mangels reached almost to the beams. Chickens were plucked and hung here for Christmas. Corn was stacked. Spring swallows nested. Self-suffi-

ciency was the order of the day, so the holding produced its own hay, straw, manure and fodder crops. Bacon and eggs came from the farm menagerie. Vegetables from the garden. The year brought an endless succession of tasks. Ploughing, harrowing, haymaking, harvesting. Threshing and pig-sticking in December. Hedging in January. Dock-pulling in June. There were stacks to thatch, rats to kill and butter and jam to make. And then the relentless business of milking. Checking the cowstalls with a lantern at night. And logging up wood for fires. You can see from the photos that life was hard. The family bath hung on a nail

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by the dairy. There was never quite enough money to clear the tradesman's slate. But fresh air and exercise bred strength of spirit. When Philip died in the village polio outbreak of 1934, his sons carried on and soon new generations of children annexed the yard, making secret camps there and scrumping from the neighbours. Michael appears in the family album as a grubby kneed urchin in wellingtons, cricket bat in hand, a band of siblings under his command. Gradually his uncles found work elsewhere. Tractors took over from horses. The pond was sold away. The big elms died. By the time the land passed to him, Michael had a young family of his own. Milk churns were on the way out. Automation was on the way in. There were butter mountains, beef mountains and DDT. Small farmers, those who, like himself, were still doing things the old way, were once again struggling to survive. Michael took on a plethora of



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part-time jobs to make ends meet. At any time of the day you might find him mowing the churchyard, or delivering school dinners, or putting out a fire with the local retained firemen. Then home to milking or haymaking or sawing logs. Even with the help of friends and family, it was clear that something else must be done. He tried swapping from dairy to beef. He made a brief foray into stabling horses. And then he took a bolder decision. If there was no future in commercial farming, he would develop the land as a nature reserve and open his gates to the public. Battles with planners, battles with sceptics ensued, but Michael had already made up his mind. He and his children would reinvent the place - dig new ponds, plant more trees, and restore the wealth of wildflowers his grandfather had known. He re-stocked the farmyard with ducks and pigs, put sheep in the meadows, swans on the ponds, cockerels on the dunghill and filled the barn with historic photographs. Visitors could buy an ice cream, get their boots muddy and talk to a turkey, all for under a fiver. And it was at this point that I put in an appearance. I had spotted an advertisement in the local press for 'weekend exhibition space at a local country park'. To an impoverished artist such as myself, this sounded full of potential. I knew a little about Ditchling's artistic heritage. I knew more about its rustic charm. I imagined both somehow combining to create an aesthetic venue and I put together a portfolio of draw-

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ings to try and make the right impression. The owner had sounded encouraging on the phone: "Come and see for yourself," he said, swallowing the toffee which had somehow stuck his teeth together. The next day he met me at the farm entrance and, dispensing with formalities, cut straight to business. No, he did not want to see my drawings. Where would I like to set up shop? There was a pen here, currently full of rabbits and another beside it, housing guinea pigs, but they could all be moved. Or how about this double shed? The peacocks and chickens wandered in and out at will, but the roof was sound and somewhere he had a key to the other door. That would let in more light. As it turned out, he never found the key. I plumped for a pitch outside and ditched any conventional aspirations. With my wares set up on an old wallpaper-pasting table I could keep an eye on the activities in the yard and make for cover if it rained. On my first day I sold some prints and cards, scooped a commission, and met the guinea fowl. Michael re-appeared as I was packing up. So, was I coming back? I guessed I was. The weekend extended to two, then three and before I knew it I had become absorbed into the genial chaos that filled the place. Michael marched about with a purposeful air, sorting out one crisis after another. The goats were out. The electricity had gone off. Someone was stuck in the toilet. He would sprint by on his way to a

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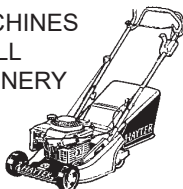
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fire call, or hover by the tea room to consume a slice of Anna's legendary chocolate cake. The commission I painted turned out to be for his ex-wife, who showed me the greatest kindness. Gradually I got to know the other members of the family, including a troupe of independent-spirited grandchildren. All made me welcome, as if I was a new member of the menagerie! Somehow I stayed. The following year I moved into a stable-studio all of my own, helped spend frozen evenings painting the old cow-stall and started putting up new 'country life' exhibitions. Everything was done on a shoestring and nothing ever went according to plan. The mangels in my farming display started to grow. A bantam nested in the feed trough. Mice ate the corn-sheaf. The rain got in. The lights went out. One dank November day, when the chickens were standing forlornly on one leg, their feathers fluffed out against the cold, I dipped a paintbrush into my water-pot to find that the water had frozen solid. This encounter with the random and often deeply inconvenient forces of nature proved irresistible. An anarchic magic set this place apart. Life, forever taking off. As I succumbed to the magic, I progressed from week-

end exhibitor, to artist in residence, and from exhibition organizer to assistant sweeper, herder cake-baker and weeder. By the time Michael was forced to sell his old farmyard and begin anew in Spatham Lane, I had burnt all my boats.

"You used to look like an artist," observed my neighbour one day. "Now you look like a farmer's wife." Which was exactly what I had become. My car began to grow mushrooms, too. We had lambs and chain-saws in the kitchen. How did other people live? Their houses were spotless and their meals were on time. They could plan a holiday or a picnic. They could lie in in the morning. We had no truck with any of that. Through hilarious days and difficult days we cussed and struggled, while the nature reserve quietly got on with business of growing more beautiful. Trees flourished, ponds matured, birds came and went. Whenever events conspired to defeat us, this knowledge kept us going. Long after we had departed, the land would remain. And as long as the land remained there might be pigs and acorns and nightingales to enchant the next generation. So here we are today. Michael is now helped by his grandson and a de-

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voted team of staff. We have a website and a campsite. We host talks and parties. We are almost respectable. Yours truly, pensioned off as a general farmhand, now pursues a gentler life, feeding the geese and ducks, and recording what I see for posterity. But some things will never change. Chaos still has its foot in the door. And magic? Let me tell you about the magic...

Or better still, come and experience it for yourselves. Details of opening times etc. are available on our website: [www.stoneywish.com](http://www.stoneywish.com). Certain new regulations will be in place to keep all visitors safe and prevent any risk of infection from coronavirus. Campers, please note, prior booking is currently essential. Our new camping guidelines will be found on our website, as will any future changes required by government. Meanwhile, Godspeed, and enjoy the blessings of summer!

*Rosemary*

**Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha  
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*We thank Patricia Ritchie for the following:-* The virus, that we are at present trying to cope with, is very much like the effort needed to alter our way of life from 1939-45.

Our families were split up – children became evacuees, fathers and brothers went to fight. Granted we were not looked in our homes but very limited to travel.

At the shops people formed a queue only to be allowed to buy one onion per family – no citrus fruit or bananas. No spacing either – very orderly.

Despite the difficulties, there was a great feeling of a collective need, a determination to beat this enemy. People became more friendly and helpful to neighbours less able.

Whereas today the people raise funds for the NHS, in the War-time funds were raised for tanks, guns and fighter planes.

In this village people seem to be quite content to stay at home - no meetings or clubs - time to tend the garden in lovely weather.

Several people are looking forward to the Church re-opening for services instead of singing alone to BBC's Songs of Praise.

We will win this war against this virus - just hope it doesn't take 5 years.



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**THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION** In these very unusual times with the Coronavirus the Hassocks Twinning Association thought that it would be a good idea to keep in touch with everyone in the organisation. It's also a great opportunity to remember happy times together with our friends in France and Germany.

In 2018 we went to Wald-Michelbach near Weinheim where we enjoyed a wonderful supper upon arrival. This was followed by a guided tour around the town with the Mayor and a visit to a brewery. Our hosts also showed us a mineral mine in the local area. On the last day there was a colourful community carnival.

In 2019 we went to Montmirail in the Champagne Region. We went by Eurostar and then caught the train from Paris to Chateau Thierry. Here, we were picked up by the Mayor who drove us to the Halle du Veau where we were offered drinks and refreshments. We were then introduced to our lovely hosts who took us to their farm a few miles away. It was obvious from the warmth and sociability of our friends that they were all keen to keep this vital link between themselves and Hassocks.

This year we were, of course, looking forward to welcoming our friends from both Montmirail and Wald-Michelbach for a weekend of fun and festivities, but it is clearly going to be something which we will have to

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delay until next year when it will be safer to travel more freely. Hopefully events will be able to be organised again in the not too distant future.

It would be lovely to hear from anyone who has fond memories of their trips to either town and perhaps has photographs which we would be able to share with our members.

If you know of other families or groups who would be interested in joining our Twinning Association then please do contact with either Caroline Southern, Membership Secretary, [carolinefionas@gmail.com](mailto:carolinefionas@gmail.com) or me, the Chairperson, [stephaniewhite@btinternet.com](mailto:stephaniewhite@btinternet.com).

In the meantime we hope that you all stay and well.

*Stephanie White*

*We thank Colin South for the following letter:-*

Dear Editor, I won't be the only one, but during the Covid I have missed Church greatly.

It's learning about Christianity, having a good sing song and the fellowship of being with other like-minded people.

If you have felt lonely during Covid, please think about attending Church. The United Reformed Church in Keymer Road, has services on Sunday and Thursday (when there is no Covid) and I think you will take great comfort if you attend at any time.

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**DOWNLANDS SCHOOL** You would expect a school to be pretty quiet during the summer holidays, and usually that would be true for us at Downlands, but this year it's been a totally different story.

Before we broke up on the 20th July, our SLT worked hard to prepare our students, parents and staff for what school will look like in September.

And what a lot of rules, regulations and requirements there were to consider ...

Social distancing in a school is difficult at best and at worse is almost impossible. Our SLT have risen to the challenge and the school has been totally reorganised in order to allow our students to return safely this month.

Students will be working in Year Group bubbles with each year group occupying separate areas of the school & having their own break out area. Students will arrive at separate times and depart at separate times. If a student or adult from a bubble shows any symptoms then we can isolate that bubble and they will be away from school meaning that other year groups will continue to attend. We are confident in our processes and look forward to welcoming our existing students back and meeting our new Year 7 cohort.

We would like to thank our fantastic maintenance & cleaning teams, who have been working tirelessly

through the summer break ensuring that the school is spotless and safe for the students return in September. So, although it might have seemed very quiet at Downlands during August, you can rest assured that we have been incredibly busy to make sure everything is in place for a safe and sensible return to school.

*Gail Wickens*

**HEBER OPERA** booked a date for its regular craft fair in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on **10th October** long before lockdown, and we are now taking bookings for stalls at the event. Stalls come with a table provided and the fair is open to the public 10 am to 2 pm on the day. If you are a crafter and would like to take a space at our stall, please get in touch with me. Of course we cannot guarantee the situation with regards restrictions that might be in place at the time, but should we have to cancel the event for Coronavirus reasons, all stallholders who have paid will be refunded in full. We will, of course, set out so we observe social distancing or other necessary rules that pertain at the time. We also hope to provide a full range of our very popular home-made refreshments as we usually do.

To book a stall or for more information please contact me, [jen.hawkes@btinternet.com](mailto:jen.hawkes@btinternet.com) **01273 834703**.

*Jenny Hawkes*

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# Kitchen Carousel

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Hello again. We trust all our old clients have weathered the Covid crisis in good health and good spirits. Now are doors are open for new clients! Be assured our Covid precautions are exceptional. We were lucky to still work through most of the crisis. We have kept to ourselves and followed all the guidelines.

We are your local kitchen specialists. You can follow our progress month by month in this magazine. We do thoughtful kitchen makeovers but we also start from scratch and do complete kitchen projects. We are brilliant at small kitchens but we have also done stunning bespoke kitchens in the finest country houses. Recently we have worked for people with some physical issues. We are clever at making everything much more accessible. Our cabinets and worktops are bespoke. Which means we can make them any shape or size to suit your space. Our most ingenious designs come from the way we utilise dead corner space. We are master drawer makers...made with traditional dovetails and fitted on superbly engineered self- closing runners. We love making funky /clever larder units. Our average larder with racks will store 300 average tins. The cost of our bespoke cabinets is about the same as the high street shops which only make standard sizes. I have been designing kitchens for some years. I have some clever solutions you might not have thought of. In 1988 I was made European kitchen designer of the year for designing the same kitchen fifteen different ways. I started on boats so I know how to utilise space.

We do little jobs or we do complete projects. If you just want a few cosmetic changes we won't try to sell you a whole new kitchen...but if you do want a whole new kitchen then we are seriously patient, thoughtful, organised and detailed. Sometimes our clients are not sure if they need a refurbishment or totally new so we advise. We are not just there to sell you cupboards. We have a fantastic team...plastering,...tiling. We even do new windows, new doorways and underfloor heating.

If you are seriously contemplating a brand new kitchen project the most important thing is *project management*. If you need a complete new kitchen it's disruptive. Old cabinets need removing. Walls need plastering. New electrical work is usually essential. Then there's the plumbing, fitting, flooring, decorating etc. If you order a new kitchen from us you get me, Stephen Hamilton, as the project manager from the beginning to the end. For this reason I do over ninety per cent of my work in a five mile radius from our workshops which are based in Ditchling. It keeps life simple and organised. My first visit is around forty minutes. I do lots of scribbles and present lots of different possibilities.

I try to work around your budget. Then I disappear and leave you to mull it over. For as long as you like. No pressure. Afterwards you can visit our workshops/showrooms. Sometimes we take clients round to see one of our recently finished projects. That way you really get to see our attention to every last detail.



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

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**THE ACORNS** September beckons the start of an exciting new term!

At the Acorns, we will be spending as much time as we can outdoors, exploring, discovering and learning through outdoor play and forest school adventures.

It is what we do and what we like best and now we all know that it is best for all of us!

We believe that learning is fun and that learning and laughter go hand in hand.

Children at Westmeston bring their bikes and scooters. They learn to ride them, climb trees and build dens. Children in Lindfield love the adventure playground, the climbing frame and Wendy House. All Acorns children love big hunts and muddy puddles!

Over the Summer, our annual Holiday Fun programme at Westmeston has been enormously enjoyed by children aged 2-11.

From September 7th we welcome new children to our nursery and forest school both in Lindfield and Westmeston near Ditchling, but we still have room for more!

Catering for children aged 2-8, we offer a wonderful nursery and a bespoke programme for children defer-



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ring entry to school and those being home-educated. Our 'Stay and Play' sessions for parents and toddlers will be reinstated as soon as possible on Mondays and Wednesdays at Westmeston. Telephone:

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[www.theacornsnurseryandforestschool.com](http://www.theacornsnurseryandforestschool.com).

*Janet Irwin*

**reMEMber** the Mid Sussex-based charity for people with ME, held a sponsored walk from Clayton Windmills to Ditchling Beacon and back on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Because of social distancing restrictions only a few of us could take part but we managed to raise over £300 to help people in our area who suffer from ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome).

In the last issues of Village Voice and Talk About we said we hoped to hold our annual conference in Clair Hall, Haywards Heath on 14th November. However, because of the continuing restrictions on such gatherings we are now planning the event to be a Zoom meeting. Expert speakers who have agreed to take part are Dr Charles Shepherd (medical advisor to the national ME Association), Dr Amolak Bansal (consultant immunologist), Dr William Weir (consultant physician of Harley Street) and Dr Paul Worthley (GP). We will announce full details in the Middy and on our website [www.remembercfs.org.uk](http://www.remembercfs.org.uk)

For further information about CFS/ME and reMEMber telephone me at **01273 831733**, e-mail [me\\_cfs@hotmail.com](mailto:me_cfs@hotmail.com) or go to our website [www.remembercfs.org.uk](http://www.remembercfs.org.uk)

*Janice Kent*



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## COUNTRY CRICKET 1950'S - A WITNESS

Father and Son with Breakfast done,  
Survey the weather where,  
Through windows peep, a glimps of sleep,  
Full shorn, which nature soon repair.

Another Sunday thus arrives,  
Seasonal Cricket on the green,  
Withholds from the passing stranger,  
The vision soon to be seen.

With Mower, Barrow, Shovel and Broom,  
Stride to the green field, where,  
The sheep are ushered off the pitch,  
Though leave their droppings there.

With low-set cut, sweep and mow,  
A strip is fashioned bare,  
Twenty-two yards of gentle slope,  
Sweet miracle of love and care.

The Home Team arrive by various means,  
Blacksmith, Farmer, Gardner, Youth,  
With hopes set high, their dreams aspire,  
Set out to face the truth.



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The toss winning 'Home' team elected to bat,  
With deeds that did appal,  
So little need of the Umpires finger,  
Through the meeting of Stump and Ball.

The visitors bowler came thundering in.  
With plimsoles all a flap,  
An opening Batsman trembled there,  
With single Pad and Bat.

Carnage thus there followed  
With the sound of shattered Ash,  
Where the Stumps were all a flying,  
At the Home Teams friendly Bash.

With a total of FOUR the Home team expired;  
Not a single clap or cheer,  
And sought in solace the Pavilion, where,  
Uplifted with strong cold Beer.

At his place in the Pavilion  
A bewildered scorer sat,  
His skills being still untested,  
Would have preferred to take a nap.

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The Visitors opened their batting,  
So little to defend,  
And struck the Ball with great delight.  
From both, plus either end.

With Bat and Ball they did excel,  
That team from a distance far,  
Who so few knew, or have expired,  
Since the day they raised the bar.

With game complete, a Home defeat,  
The sheep soon returned,  
Re-claim their rightful grazing place,  
Which man had chalked and churned.

© William Tingley

## **CLAYTON AND KEYMER ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2020**

On advice from The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal we will be unable to 'collect as individual volunteers this year.'

We are committed to ensuring that volunteers and supporters of The Poppy Appeal are able to access and wear a poppy, take part in Remembrance tide and that we are able to deliver the Poppy Appeal safely.

To this end, The Royal British Legion has been working behind the scenes with Banks, Building Societies and supermarkets who have the ability to do this on behalf

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of the 'Poppy Appeal' and all stocks of the paper poppies would be sent directly to them, allowing those who wish to 'Wear your Poppy with Pride' to still do so.

Organisations and any members of the public that would like to have a wreath to lay at any of the Remembrance Services will be able to telephone The Poppy Appeal at Aylesford directly to order their wreath on **01622 717172**.

*Carol White*

**LIONS BOOK DEN** Have you missed getting pre used books from the Lions book den? Then don't worry we are now back with new opening hours which are 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, and 1 pm to 4 pm on Thursday's, Friday's, and Saturday's.

Due to possible COVID-19 infections, if you are dropping off books, we can only accept them when the shop is open and only at our back door and not in the shop. Please do not leave any outside when we are closed. All donations will be stored in quarantine for 72 hours. We have very limited storage facilities so please be prepared to be told that we cannot accept your donation

We are now accepting, and prefer, payment by card.

We are doing everything we can to ensure your and our safety and minimize the spread of the virus. So please always wear a mask whilst in the shop and be prepared to have your hands sanitized on entry.

*Tony Parris*

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**THE HURSTPIERPOINT SOCIETY** was founded in 1962, to protect and conserve the natural and built environment of our village. We take a particular interest in planning issues that might irrevocably damage the appearance and character of this historic village or the ecology of the surrounding countryside.

It is a well-supported village charity with more than 1,300 members, who pay either a Lifetime subscription, or an Annual Fee. Traditionally, fees have been paid on the doorstep to our volunteer army of 50 collectors, who deliver the Society Newsletter; in 2019 we established the facility to pay the annual fee via Direct Debit, to support those members who preferred not to be 'cold-called'. We now find ourselves impacted by COVID-19 restriction on movement, which has prevented collection of cash subscriptions since February and highlighted the challenge of this form of payment.

We encourage those members who have been unable to pay their 2020 subscription to convert to Direct Debit via the Membership Renewal page of our website [www.hurstpierpointociety.org.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointociety.org.uk). Alternatively, you can switch to Life Membership through the same page, with a one-off payment. If you wish to remain an Annual Member, and prefer not to commit to Direct Debit, the Donate page will allow a one-off payment to cover your subscription for 2020.

Please consider then converting to Direct Debit for 2021,

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Many thanks for your ongoing support, to enable us to continue with our work. Amongst many other things the Society has persuaded Mid Sussex District Council to carry out an appraisal of the village Conservation Areas, thus protecting the historic character and architecture of the village, purchased a strip of woodland – which requires ongoing maintenance – to prevent housing development too near to the village, supported the Parish Council in the establishment of Hurst Meadows, planted over 100 trees around the village, produced maps of local footpaths, provided financial support to village projects such as the St Lawrence school swimming pool and the Players Theatre, every year made awards to local residents to encourage building work sympathetic to the village heritage, acted to mark the history of the village including preserving the old finger-posts, placing a plaque at the door of St George's House, restoring Victorian street signs, marking the route of the Roman road, providing benches, etc.

If you are reading this and are not yet a member, it is easy to join on the website. You will be very welcome.

*David Clarke*

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**LOCKDOWN LIFE AT DITCHLING (St Margaret's)** Throughout lockdown, we have been open for keyworkers and vulnerable children, including over Easter and May half-term. Our committed staff worked on a rota basis to cover two groups: one for children aged 2 - 7 (including our nursery) and the other for children aged 7 - 11.

Teachers also provided home-learning packs covering the curriculum, prioritising mental health and well-being. From Term 5 we then developed online, teacher-led, face-to-face sessions 3 times a week for every child, plus recorded collective worships to be used in school or at home. These sessions enabled the children to connect with each other, and their teacher, greatly supporting them.



During lockdown up to 23 children were on site daily, with approximately 10 children attending during the holidays. Since June we have also managed to welcome back on site 65% of the school (including nursery). Extensive

planning (including staggered starts, re-distributing equipment and furniture, markings around school and revised cleaning regimes) ensured this return was as smooth and safe as possible. Back at school, our children have amazed us with how they have returned, showing resilience, understanding, care and friendship. They walked in and started learning and playing together as if nothing had happened!

We have faced many challenges during this time, including the fast changing and sometimes conflicting advice received, and the home circumstances of staff. We have also had to cope with increased costs in order for us to comply with guidance. However, it has been vital for the children's emotional well-being and mental health to offer opportunities to return to school, as parents have reported the impact that lockdown has had on them: increased anxiety; difficulty in conversing with peers; behavioural challenges; reluctance to leave the home. The children now need closure on this academic year and the chance to prepare for the next, without any additional

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tell you in person.

I would like to thank my customers  
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Thank you all so much once again  
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concerns building over the summer holidays. Thank you to all parents and the village community in helping us achieve all we have during this difficult period. "It can't be underestimated how much organisation it must have taken to get the children back ... To keep online lessons going too has been a godsend.... I am bowled over by how much hard work and effort have (been) put into the children and their schooling during this difficult time... the home learning packs and teacher support have been fantastic..." (Parents)

*Miss Hemes*



**HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD** Whilst there is still no indication of when we may meet up again, the committee would like to wish everyone to keep well, and to remind you keep in touch with each other – a telephone call can go a long way when you live alone. In the meantime enjoy the rest of the summer.

*Sheila Southwell*

**THANK YOU** We would like to say thank you to the following people who have been delivering your magazines to you

Brendan Hallisey (Pine Tree Flats), Mrs G King (Adastra Avenue & Oldlands Avenue), Roz Hill (Wilmington Avenue) & Ms S Nicholls (Bonnywood Road). Thank you for all your help.

*Editors*

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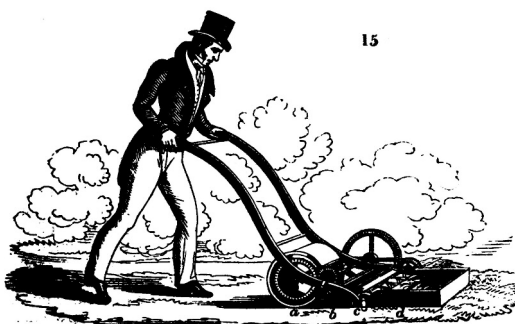
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## OLD MACHINERY EVOKES MEMORIES AND NOSTALGIA,

so a replica of the world's first lawn-mower is something not to be missed. One has just arrived at the South Downs Heritage Centre in Hassocks. Invented back in 1930, no original examples of the early grass cutter were known to exist. And so, In 2012 a replica was built by Guy Martin & a team of engineers as part of the TV's series 'How Britain Worked'.

The programmes depicted some of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century's most impressive engineering achievements, bringing them back to life.

The original patent drawings were used to construct the mower.

The display now in the Hassocks museum is one of four additional replicas made following the broadcast of the TV series.

Buddings' mower joins many others in the Brighton Road museum dating from the 1860's to 1980's together with a display of many unique & rare vintage gardening tools.

*Trevor Butler*

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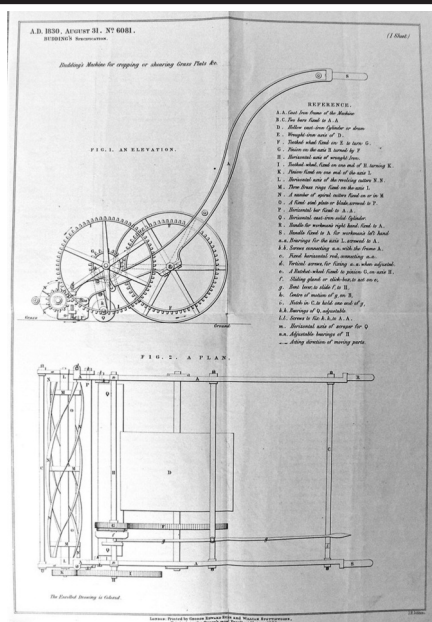
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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Starting in October, we will be showing films again in the Ditchling Village Hall, in a highly controlled environment, involving full social distancing and the wearing of masks or face coverings for all (except for those people who have a copy of the medical exemption from mask wearing with them). We will not be having tea, coffee or wine, in order to ensure that social hygiene is fully maintained and avoiding removal of face coverings at any time during the showing.

Our first film, on Thursday, **1st October** is entitled *Leave No Trace*, based on the novel *My Abandonment* by Peter Rock. It is a powerful and poignant story about Will, a veteran, military father with post-traumatic stress disorder living quietly with Tom, his teenage daughter. The film opens with verdant nature, in the secretive midst of a vast public park on the outskirts of Portland, Oregon where they live in camouflaged encampments, moving regularly in order to evade detection. They make fire from the earth and gather water from the sky. When their cover is blown, the pair are captured, interrogated and forced to re-enter the modern world, with divisive results.

Director: Debra Granik US/Canada English 2018 109 minutes PG Cert.

Our next film will be *Pain and Glory* and will be shown on Thursday, **5th November**.

The films will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. The films start at 8 pm. Doors open at 7.30 pm. There is ample free parking behind the hall. Pre-booked Guests and temporary members are welcome payable at the door.  
*John Jenkins*

**HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS CLUB** Classes restart on Tuesday **8th September**. We have carried out an extensive Covid Risk Assessment and will be following both its recommendations and those of the Parish council who run the facility. We are incorporating social distancing, bubbles, additional cleaning and reduced numbers in our plans. For the time being, parents will not be able to enter the premises.

The few children who will now be moving up groups should have been contacted, including all of the Pre-schoolers who are starting Reception in school.

If you did not receive an email from us at the start of lock-down, please help us by emailing your child's name to [andrewhinhurst@gmail.com](mailto:andrewhinhurst@gmail.com) (It's a link on our website). That way we can email you with any new details – which will also be available on our website [www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk).

Please contact us if you are leaving. All new enquiries are welcome, particularly for Pre-school classes on Friday afternoons – Boys 1 pm, girls 1.30 pm, 2 pm and 2.30 pm.  
*Andrew Hair*



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## HURST COVID-19 NEIGHBOURS' SUPPORT GROUP WINDS DOWN.

Round about 14th March this year as the Covid 19 pandemic was gathering speed, like many villages and towns across the UK, Hurstpierpoint formed a Neighbourhood Support Group. 5 volunteers came forward to act as Area Co-ordinators and they liaised with new 'Road Group Reps', all ensuring from then that there were enough new volunteers recruited to cover every household in the village. The goal – achieved – was to ensure that every single house had a contact name and number to call for help when social isolated or shielding.

Now, as (hopefully), things get quieter and the NHS Support Team is in place to take over, the Group is to be disbanded on 31st August. For these 5 months, these unsung heroes of volunteers have shopped, got prescriptions, walked dogs and put all their energy into making sure no-one went without. Whatsapp groups were humming with sharing tasks and camaraderie and new friendships have been formed. Many volunteers have said that they have got to know people in their street that they would never otherwise have met and the world has opened up just a bit!

So much good has come out of this challenging year and the Co-ordinators, Road Group Reps and Volunteers de-

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(In case you're wondering about the yellow badges – some volunteers were getting dark looks from fellow shoppers, when they pushed piled-high trolleys round supermarkets! The badges were introduced to let on-lookers know that this particular shopper was a Voluntary Covid 19 Multi Shopper)

*Prue Peters*



*Volunteer Marion Roots with happy 'customers'  
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### YELLOW MEADOW ANTS: SOUTH DOWNS

**SKYSCRAPERS** If you're feeling boxed-in by buildings and overwhelmed by architecture, I've found the perfect escape route. Head up onto the South Downs and let the developed world be stripped away with every step. Yet here, in this ancient landscape, towering above the thyme and trefoils in the turf, you'll find some of the most impressive buildings in Sussex.

Ant hills are mini miracles of design and construction, the visible tip of the ant's underground empire. Soil is mined and carried, grain by grain, to the surface to construct this metropolis of mounds some of which can be centuries old. Every ant hill represents a separate colony of Yellow Meadow Ants – respected as the finest architects amongst Britain's 42 ant species. Ant hills are high-rise heat-traps built to harvest the sun's warmth. This soil solarium houses a series of chambers; the colony's nursery. Here, worker ants tenderly tend to eggs, pupae and larvae – moving them around within the ant hill to keep them always on the sunny side.

With a strong division of labour, each colony is a 'superorganism' made of thousands of hard-working individuals serving a common cause – their colony and queen. But life is far from peaceful. Every ant hill is a miniature kingdom at war with its neighbouring ant hills. Epic battles are fought daily on these downs, and every summer squadrons of winged ants take to the skies in an attempt to establish new colonies. It's a perilous mission – certain death awaits them if they land in occupied territory.

Down under the ant hill, other ants work on the aphid farm. Root-feeding aphids are herded and 'milked' for their honeydew – a hi-energy drink which helps fuel

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the colony. Ants also obtain a similar sugary syrup from the caterpillars of Chalk Hill Blue butterflies. When these caterpillars are ready to pupate they are carried underground and adopted by the ant colony. Upon emergence, the subterranean homesick blue butterflies scramble back to the surface and escape to the summer skies.

Ant hills don't just benefit ants; their angles and aspects create a unique micro-habitat on chalk downland. Their sun-baked slopes are great for basking butterflies, grasshoppers and lizards and their soft, sifted soil is loved by mosses, grasses and flowers. This softness is also their vulnerability. Every ant lives in fear of the great winged terror from the sky – the green woodpecker. Its brutal bill and sticky harpoon tongue can cause carnage in a colony. Winged monsters, kingdoms at war – it's a veritable Game of Thrones out there on the South Downs in September.

*Michael Blencowe  
Sussex Wildlife Trust*



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**THANK YOU** I would like to express my great appreciation to the nurse and her kind ladies who came to my aid when I fell heavily on the Keymer Road on 22nd July. After three days in hospital I am now recovering well at home.

Thank you so much for your kindness.

*Audrey Mockett*

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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](mailto:msrpublicity@gmail.com) or telephone our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Sue Blandford, on **01403 255654**.

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*Editors*

**FLU CLINICS** The Practice is now planning for the flu clinics this Autumn which of course need to take account of COVID restrictions. More information will be issued soon. Keep up to date by checking the practice website: [midsussexhealthcare.co.uk](http://midsussexhealthcare.co.uk)

*Louise Evatt*

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### **HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**

In the last issue I asked if anyone could give me information about a family with the surname Jupp who at one time ran shop called South-down Stores in Hurstpierpoint High Street. I am grateful to Penny Hopkins, formerly of Hurstpierpoint, who sent me a photo of Jupp's Store on the corner of South Road, and information that George Jupp had a grocery and drapery business there. He also hired out horse-drawn vehicles. I would guess that the photo dates from 1900 or a bit earlier.

I am also grateful to Mr Jonathan Taylor who discovered the following information in the archives of the Mid Sussex Times. George Jupp married Jane Anne Channing, daughter of the Hurstpierpoint postmaster, on Easter Sunday 1882. In 1887 his shop was called New South-down Stores. It appears the business flourished, and Mr Jupp became a Freemason. He died on 20 July 1915 aged 65 and was buried at Hurst cemetery. He left an estate worth £2471.

If anyone can give me more information about this family and their business, telephone me on **01273 832280**

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or e-mail [w.kent123@btinternet.com](mailto:w.kent123@btinternet.com).

Turning to the present day, because of the Coronavirus our Society has had no meetings since February. I have prepared a new programme of monthly meetings starting on 18 September but this may have to be postponed if the present restrictions on meetings continue. In that event I shall inform all our members and arrange suitable publicity.

*Bill Kent (Chairman)*

### **HOW HAS YOUR HEALTHCARE SERVICE BEEN THIS YEAR?**

It's been a strange year so far and the future is still so uncertain, but for patients the need for health care services do not stop. The Patient Participation Group is a way for you to let the practice know how you have felt about its services. We want to hear about the services you have experienced over the last few months. What was exceptionally good? What needs more work? What do you want to see in future?

Drop us a line  
at [midsussex.healthcareppg@gmail.com](mailto:midsussex.healthcareppg@gmail.com) to give us  
your views.

*Louise Evatt*

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## STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Thank you for all your comments about my idea for a statue of Dame Vera next to the War memorial. It really is the ultimate accolade and would be a great tourist attraction for Ditchling otherwise we'll probably just end up with a plaque somewhere stating Dame Vera lived in this village and although it would be very nice she deserves a lot more - mind you this is a double edged sword, more tourists means more Traffic and Ditchling High Street is a Nightmare at the best of times, personally I always think Ditchling is a nicer place when the Beacon is closed and you greatly reduce the cut through traffic.

Shall we have a little around wander Hassocks and see what's going on, you probably already know Costa won't be opening which is good news for the independents in the village, Help the Aged has also closed its doors forever. I'm not totally sure what's happening to St Catherine's Hospice Charity Shop, it's obviously not open due to the Age of its staff.. Apparently New Management has taken over Orion News perhaps some stock may appear on the shelves, although personally I think the damage is already done. Across the road from there at Castle Solicitors it would appear that Mr and Mrs Castle have decided to raise the drawbridge and hang up their shields. Obviously from the outside nothing will change, it's just Mr and Mrs Castle that are handing the reins over to others but will be staying on as consultants whatever that means - so they will still be coming and going for the time being. I'm never really sure if retirement is a good or a bad thing, the thoughts of not working or not having a purpose in life when I wake up fills me with dread, and being on the cusp of 70 it's something I get asked about from time to time but all the time I don't have a single ache or pain in my body and customers keep coming through the door I shall carry on.

I'd just like to give a big thank you to Reflex Hairdressers for taking part in National Hair Sunday, they worked all day giving complimentary cut and blow dries to NHS staff and key workers to say a big thank you for everything they've done and continue to do during these very strange times. They wore T-Shirts on the day which read Not All Heros Wear Capes, quite true well done Team Reflex - proud of you.

I've had the usual array of Wildlife casualties and strays. One gentleman phoned me because he had a Lizard running round his house, after he'd miraculously caught it and brought it in for me to identify, it was one of our native Lizards which he took back and released in his garden which turns out is a haven wildlife including Slowworms, lucky man. My favourite call of the month was from Boots Chemist in Burgess Hill where a Stoat or Weasel had run into the store which they'd had to close immediately for Health and Safety reasons. Mad Eh! How you catch something so small and wild from a store that big could only be done by a pest controller, I got together with Julie from the RSPCA and we couldn't think of any solution, trying to trap it could take ages, and it may just find its own way out in the end. The RSPCA have helped me a lot lately with damaged and injured Foxes and Seagulls so it was very sad to hear over 300 staff are being made redundant this is not good news, we need them but it's another consequence of these difficult times we're all experiencing.

Thank you to those who support your local businesses, we can't survive without you. Please take care and stay safe and above all don't get complacent, this thing isn't going away just yet.

Steve.

**HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392**