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WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL The children have managed to settle back into school incredibly well. They have been relieved to be back with their friends and teachers and many have said how great it is to be back and how much easier it is to learn in school. We will continue to build on this and make sure that every second of teaching works to build their confidence and key skills.

Since all the children returned in March, they have been enjoying a range of activities such as being able to work in groups of 6 in PE, using Lego learning kits to work together on a shared outcome in Year 6 and constructing robots, which were then coded to move, send messages and monitor its surroundings in Year 5.

Our Year 3 children have been exploring the wonders of Europe and Greece and Year 4 have continued with their 'Changing State' topic using a brilliant book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' written by Onjali Q. Raúf, which has developed their empathy skills.

Work continues outside, too. The Wellbeing Area is really coming along and the children have enjoyed using tools to create bug hotels, build furniture and make paths.

Well done to the whole school community – The School raised a fantastic £585.50 for Red Nose Day this year and thank you to all who

donated Easter Eggs to The Friends of Windmills Easter raffle and to those who purchased a ticket. We are also incredibly grateful to have received generous donations to our book fund and to have received so many deliveries of books from our Amazon Wish List – thank you.

Sarah Jacobs

HASSOCKS REPAIR CAFÉ I have recently had repaired a tiered wooden cake stand that has been in my family for years. It was damaged when my children were small and has sat in the corner waiting for some TLC, to no avail. So when there was talk of a Repair Café in Hassocks I was very hopeful...

And then Covid struck...

However due to the wonders of technology all was not lost. I sent an email and some photos, filled out, online, a very simple form and then was able to deliver said cake stand, all socially distanced and Covid secure, for it's TLC and then within a few days was able to collect it again suitably pampered and pretty much as good as new.

Hopefully before too long The Repair Café will be able to be an actual physical place to go along to but in the meantime if you have something that might be able to be fixed get in touch, just search for them online!

Thank you very much. *Carolyn Paynter*

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reMEMber (THE CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME SOCIETY)

Like so many other local charities and societies reMEMber has been greatly affected by the lockdown caused by the Coronavirus. In particular our income has been much reduced because we have been unable to hold our usual fund raising events. So we have reluctantly decided we can no longer produce and post out our twenty-page printed Newsletter. We are going to replace it with a three-monthly online newsletter which you can access on our website – www.remembercfs.org.uk

We are currently in contact with Action for ME (the national charity for people with ME) about working together to set up an exemplar service for people who have ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). This could be a team consisting of a consultant physician, specialist nurses and rehabilitation staff. We would need to raise a lot of money for this much-needed service, but if we can it would demonstrate to the NHS just what is needed throughout the

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So all donations to reMEMber, however small, will be very welcome. To find out how to donate, or for information about ME or the work of reMEMber, go to our website – www.remembercfs.org.uk. Or e-mail us at me_cfs@hotmail.com.

Janice Kent

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Because of the Coronavirus we have been unable to hold our popular monthly meetings at the Guide HQ, Hurstpierpoint. However, we hope to resume a full programme of meetings in the Autumn, starting with a presentation by that very popular speaker, Dr Geoffrey Meads, on Friday 1st October. Please watch the notice boards and local media for further announcements. Or contact me - telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail w.kent123@btinternet.com for further information about our very friendly society. New members always welcome.

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THE GARDEN RETHINK: IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY IN OUR VILLAGES WITH NO MOW MAY

Hurst Rethink and HKD Transition invite the residents of our villages to make our gardens more nature friendly this spring by not mowing our lawns in the month of May. By coming together en masse to take part in what's known as 'No Mow May', we can collectively make a real difference to local wildlife.

In the UK, we have lost nearly 7.5 million acres of flower-rich meadow and pasture since the 1930s, and now only 1% of our countryside provides flowers for pollinators.

However, there are 15 million gardens in the UK and our lawns have the potential to be a major wildflower nectar source - a staggering 200 species are known to grow on lawns. In fact,

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incredibly simple changes in mowing can result in enough nectar from common flowers such as daisies, dandelions, buttercups and clover for ten times more bees and other pollinators. More bees and other insects also means more food for creatures further up the food chain - so by encouraging those at the bottom, we benefit many more. Our local campaign in Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common, Hassocks and Ditchling supports a national survey run by the charity Plantlife called 'Every Flower Counts'.

In 'No Mow May' we simply ask that you leave your mower in the shed for the month of May, then record what flowers you have on a sample of your lawn at the end of the month on the Plantlife website -

www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/. By doing this you will get your very own personal nectar score which shows how many bees your garden can nourish. It's a great thing to get the whole family involved in.

We're working with local schools and community groups to encourage take up of No Mow May and Plantlife have agreed to give us a BN6nectar score to show how many bees our gardens have fed during May! Discover all the details on our website, **www.hurstrethink.org**. If you don't want to leave your whole lawn, just a patch is equally fine, just think of it as a loan to the wild residents of your garden. We look forward to seeing the results. *Charlotte Snook*



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HASSOCKS GOES GOLD believes that we can make a difference to the outcomes of childhood cancer.

This September we'll be turning the village GOLD again to raise awareness and funds for research into this dreadful disease. But don't wait until September to get involved in this tremendous event....!

It's not too late to get involved in our Sunflower Growing Competition with prizes for the three tallest. This competition is being sponsored by Matt Burnett of Maple Leaf Gardens, a local Garden Landscaping Company. Get yourself off to a flying start with seeds from last year's winners for sale. These giant sunflowers, grown by Pat Ticehurst, reached an astounding 3m 67cm - for those of you working on old money, that's 12ft 5ins!!

To get your winners seeds or to send some to a friend just email HassocksGoesGold@gmail.com – all proceeds go to funding research into Childhood Cancer.

If you have ideas for a sponsored event or fundraiser you'd like to hold to support Hassocks Goes Gold please let us know. We're happy to help with publicity or practical aspects to help make your idea a glittering success. This will be only the third year of Hassocks Goes Gold but the popularity of this new annual event has been staggering. Last year we quadrupled the number of Hassock's residents involved and have now raised over £20,000 for research into Childhood Cancer!

Rachel



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Flickering moments there to gage.

Here he sits astride the morn,
Fire still smoking, sheep unshorn.

Sussex born and Sussex bred,
Once a wandering shepherd lad.
Hills and valleys, all he knew;
Smooth green pastures? Very few.

'Southern Downs' once his domain,
Which now with shadow, yet still retain
Those boyhood thoughts of yester-year,
Mellowing forms do still appear.

Hunkered there on oaken log,
Full contented, pipe and dog.
Shoulders cloaked in hempen sack,
Chilly breezes lack attack.

In wooded clearing...well to spot,
Caravan hiding, fully furnished with rot.
Little hillock man-made with tins,
Once custodian to those treasured beans.

Here the dog squats watching well,
Rabbit roasting, glorious smell.
Here together: man, dog, pipe and fire;
Reflecting who might first expire.
Contented, fulfilled, in bond to the end;
What better companion,
old Spot still a friend.

© William Tingley

COBBS MILL - This time last year, Jenni Jolley wrote an interesting article about Cobbs Mill, at Sayers Common.

An Open Day was planned, but owing to the pandemic it unfortunately had to be cancelled. Just to say that a friend and myself still very much hope to be able to visit the mill ... eventually!

Sam Flowers

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THE MID SUSSEX HEALTH CARE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

held their AGM on Zoom on 18 March 2021.

The Chair was pleased to welcome the patients who could join the meeting and outlined the variety of tasks undertaken by the PPG within its role to help provide a better health care experience for patients. The support over this last year has included marshalling flu and COVID vaccination clinics, sourcing face masks, delivering medical equipment to patients at home, communicating changes to patients, collecting patient feedback and advising the Practice, liaising with the Clinical Commissioning Group and MPs, trialling new systems for the Practice, and improving communication links.

Minutes of the meeting may be viewed on www.midsussexhealthcare.co.uk - Patient Participation Group, AGM.

During the year, many patients have marvelled at the vaccination programme undertaken by

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the NHS, and following the formal AGM, Dr Miriam Winn (GP) and Denise Simpson-Banks (Practice Business Manager) gave an enlightening presentation on how the Practice absorbed the massive task of setting up and manning the clinic at Clair Hall while continuing to care for their patients' medical needs. Behind the Scenes at the Practice - Issues Faced by the Practice in 2020 during the Covid-19 Pandemic

At the beginning of 2020, the situation escalated over a weekend, and five days before the official order came through from NHS England, the decision was taken to close the doors of the three surgeries. New regimes for telephone triage, video calls, a Hot Hub for treating those with COVID symptoms, adapted ways to look after very unwell patients whilst also protecting the staff, were quickly introduced, fine-tuned and adapted as the situation changed - sometimes within a few hours. Not long after, came the additional challenge to set up what has proved to be the very successful vaccination programme at Clair Hall, despite

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the pressure and challenges associated with the complex and uncertain delivery of the vaccine.

Numerous changes to the surgeries were required, involving much physical work to make them safe and accessible for patients that had to be seen; and to allow for more routine appointments to be carried out.

Some of these changes continue to be in place, for example, taking blood samples can now also be done outside, under a tent or with patients remaining in their car for those who are not comfortable with entering the surgery building.

Looking ahead, there is a positive message. New techniques and skills have been developed using the latest technology, and these will be invaluable tools for carrying out the partners' plans for extending and enhancing care for all their patients in an unpredictable future.

Louise Evatt

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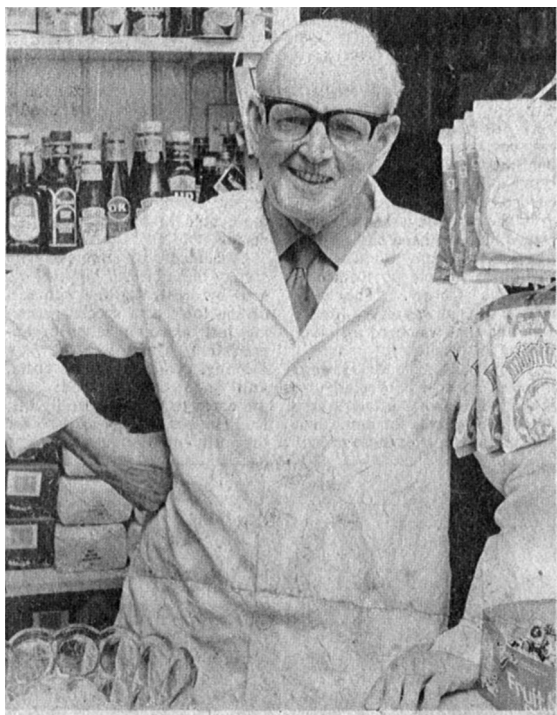
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Dave Evans

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AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS RE-OPENING: We still plan to open the Day Centre doors for business on Monday 17th May.

Over the next few weeks our staff will be calling members to see if they are still planning to visit again and if minibus transport is needed.

Anyone over the age of 55 is welcome to use the Centre and membership is free.

If anyone has some time on their hands and would like to offer some of it as a volunteer then we would be delighted to hear from you. We use volunteers in the Centre for jobs associated with the charity shop, coffee shop and dining room; for our minibus as drivers and escorts; for medical transport using owners cars in return for paid mileage. If you would like to give it a try then come and see us after

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the 12th April, when the charity shop will be open and staff will be in the office, or email us at enquiries@achassocks.co.uk. The charity shop will also be accepting donations from 12th April. Rooms are available for groups to meet in return for a donation. Age Concern Hassocks used to be a vibrant, welcoming community and we hope that you can help us return to that over the coming months.

John Rose

CATS EYES Can someone please explain to me why all the cats eyes along the main Hassocks/Hurst road have been taken out - not only leaving great holes for cars in which to damage their chassis but also leaving the vehicle users without their assistance on a dark night?

Mrs M Thorpe

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msrpublicity@gmail.com or telephone our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Sue Blandford, on **01403 255654**. *Jo Mitchell*

COMPETITION TIME We are delighted to announce a new collaboration born out of Lockdown, Ditchling based artist Abigail Lock has created a series of 3 herb prints,

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framed in either black or white frames for Hassocks very own, Kitchens De La Casa a haven for kitchen lovers! To launch our partnership, we are doing an exclusive giveaway where you can win one of these beautiful framed prints worth £30 AND a £30 voucher to spend at De La Casa Home!

To enter its super easy, find us on **Facebook.com/jodelacasa** or **/abigail-lockdesign** or **Instagram @delacasa_home** and **@abigail_lock_design** and follow the instructions of the competition. Or pop a note into Kitchens De La Casa with your name, email and phone number.

Competition opens on Monday **10th May** and the winner will be announced on Friday **21st May**, on social media and directly if you applied by note.

Winner must be ok to collect from Hassocks, Sussex!

All written entries will be destroyed after the competition, we are not storing any of your personal data. *Abi & Jo*



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Our design team are RHS Chelsea medallists and many of our members involved in arranging the numerous exhibits at the show are themselves Chelsea medallists, including numerous Golds and 'Best in Show'.

You may not be able to walk on water but at Flower Power there will be innovative and eye-catching floral exhibits doing just that in imaginative settings.

Want to hear from our floral experts? Well, you will have the opportunity to watch a series of mini-demonstrations by leading figures from the world of flower arranging in Sussex.

As well as a host of eye-catching floral exhibits, there will be many trade stands with interesting and original items. And if you brought Lady Luck with you, you must try your hand at winning a case of Leonardslee wine in our competition. This fabulous prize is generously sponsored by Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens. And if Lady Luck desserts you, maybe she will return if you take part in our raffle to win a fabulous afternoon tea for two voucher, again generously sponsored by Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens. This tea will be brought to you by Head Chef Jean Delport of the Restaurant Interlude, which received its first star in the Michelin Guide Great Britain and Ireland 2020.

There will also be a tombola in aid of Sussex Area's own charity, The Sussex Kidney Trust.

Flower Power is a really special event not to be missed. The Prime Minister has said there is light at the end of the Covid tunnel. What he should have said is that at the end of the tunnel is 'Flower Power'.

To take advantage of our Early Bird discount buy your tickets by **9th June** to include a brochure, please contact our Flower Power ticket officer, Carol, at **sussexflowerpower@yahoo.com**. We look forward to seeing you there. *Gaenor Circus*

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HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS UPDATE Our restart on the 20th April should see all our gymnasts return to action and thirty new children join and start working towards their British Gymnastics Awards.

Early May will see our gymnasts receive 181 awards gained in 2020, together with the Champion Awards for being top of every age group last year.

We are planning our 37th Annual Championships within our classes before the end of term, with our juniors and seniors invited to enter vault and floor routine competitions. The results and further awards will be announced at the start of July.

With class sizes having been reduced, there is the opportunity for new gymnasts of all ages from 3 to 16 years to reserve a place to join us. Please contact us via the link on our website.

We still ask all gymnasts to double check for updates on the News page of our website www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk. *Andrew*

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LOVING LOCAL 1st Hassocks Scouting would like to say a huge thank you to Budgens Hassocks and Childhelp Hassocks children's charity.

They kindly donated a whopping 76 Easter eggs for the 1st Hassocks Beavers, Cubs and Scouts Virtual Easter camp.

The young people had an amazing weekend and were delighted to receive a surprise Easter egg. Thank You - Lets Love Local. *Jess Edwards*

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON At the time of writing (late March) Sunday services are continuing online. We hope you enjoyed celebrating Easter Sunday with us online and we hope that it won't be too long before we can welcome people back inside the churches for Sunday worship; we may have been able to by the time you read this. For the latest information please visit our website at www.beaconparish.co.uk/ or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/the-beaconparish. *Sherrian Guest*


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Please contact me if you are looking for guidance on planning for your financial future.

Giles Turner APFS
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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH Greetings from Ditchling. Today being Easter Saturday I am looking for joyful news, news of resurgence, regeneration and delight after a winter of dismal official forebodings. So here is the view from one corner where everything is bursting with life. Stoneywish re-opened to the public yesterday and has never looked so bonny in the first flush of spring. Lambs, piglets, baby birds are coming fast. Snowdrops are over now, but the primroses, grateful for all the moisture a wet start can bestow, are blooming in fat tussocks. The longer they grow undisturbed, the fatter they become and, seeing them, one can understand how Victorian children found them so commonplace in the countryside they made themselves great 'tossy-balls' from the blossoms, presumably for playing catch. The days of such abandonment are no more. We merely watch and marvel at the thought of what once must have been. But this same principal of increase goes for all the other elements in Nature when they are allowed free play. The dawn chorus here grows more complex, day by day, as spring progresses, elaborating from winter's broken calls into tendrils of sound which grow in tandem with plant tendrils and leaves in a kind of ecstatic synergy. As summer's



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migrants arrive, the notes of chiffchaff, blackcap and, (God willing one day), cuckoo, are added to the weave – the whispers of insect wings, of leaf bracts falling, of the wind snagged in a dead holly branch – all resonating to the 7-8 Hertz wavelength of the Earth's magnetic field. These things ground us; hold us securely against any delusions of fear or sense of not belonging, not being necessary to the miraculous forces which brought about our birth, and which lift us up into a state of joyful awareness. For entropy is only one partial theory of the Universe. Scientists now acknowledge that the cosmos reveals other inexplicable processes at work, processes which do not tend towards coldness and decay, but which magically proliferate into new and vital forms. These processes currently defy mathematical computation, operating at levels deeper than the manipulable molecular dimension, deeper even than the scalar dimension of thoughts and impulses which our human technologies seek to harness for good or ill. As vulnerable, as besieged and damaged as our Earth home seems to be, it still – thank Heaven! – knows things which we do not know, manifesting intelligence at every level, and belying our common conviction that we live on a soulless lump of rock. Otherwise life here

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would have long since ceased to exist. I read today that the planet is now exposed to radio and microwaves competing with its natural frequencies at a rate 200 million times greater than that of 100 years ago. Our dying ash trees, our failing populations of birds and insects, our own immunity crises, bear testimony to the fact. And yet, wherever we hold off, hold back in reverence – the vitality floods back. Do we really need to be generating this kind of lethal power in the world? We could be part of the natural fabric, not the pathology which tears the fabric apart. We are still invited to try, to stand in reverence and receive the free gifts of life: love, energy, strength, which connection with one another and the whole cosmic community bestows. Wild creatures know this as their birthright.

Looking at an iron plough on display in the Reserve the other day, friends of ours marvelled at the strength that would be needed to hold the handles straight and cut a furrow behind a horse. It would require a modern body-builder on a diet of high protein powder and an intensive fitness regime to do what poor farm hands once did on little more than bread and an occasional slice of bacon. Where did their energy come from? Michael drove a hand



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plough in his youth. Dick Morley's father and Bunny Taylor were local champion ploughmen. Folk literature tells us that not only did ploughboys make an art of their punishing work, but took pleasure in it and sang as they went. But then all people who are truly connected to the Earth are inspired to sing. Think of Wordsworth's 'Solitary Reaper', or the people of all the world's indigenous communities who have kept alive the traditions of living and working together as one. Here in Britain singing and whistling were once spontaneous and ubiquitous. Singing and dancing revels welcomed the return of Flora in Spring. Singing helped the cows let down their milk. It helped the crops to grow. It brought the harvest home. Shepherd boys piped to their flocks. Women sang over their spinning. Fish were sung into nets. Babies were sung to sleep. If we could only ground ourselves in a genuine Earth connection once more, we might be astounded by a release of energy and joy, experiencing negentropy for ourselves and for one another. Literal revival. We might even start to sing and dance again, adding missing voices and smiles back into the universal festival.

What better news for Easter? Or for our beleaguered Earth home? We do not need technology to



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Rosemary

TROUBLED TIMES

When all these troubled times have past
And the world is right again
Let's hope some good will come
From all this grief and pain

Lets remember how on Thursdays
We stood outside our door
Waving to our neighbours
Something we have never done before

We all had so much patience
When standing in a queue
If their shelves were empty
Then we would just make you do

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People in isolation
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We would phone to ask what they might need
Then leave their order on the step

The short time we were given
Just to exercise
How precious were those moments
With our family by our side

Our gardens so well tended
Many flowers will grow
The Joy and happiness summer brings
So many will never know

They will never see the sun
Or the blossom on the trees
Or smell the fragrance of a rose
Swaying in the breeze

So as in time our memories fade
Please keep them in your mind
And make this world a better place
Than the one they left behind

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DITCHLING SCHOOL In an effort to prepare our children for the fast-paced, ever-changing, wonderfully diverse world that we all share, here at Ditchling (St Margaret's) Primary and Nursery we have just celebrated Literacy Week. The focus this year was helping the children to make global links, through rich and inclusive texts from all over the world. While also giving opportunities to explore these ideas through drama, art, discussion and of course writing.

The children in Key Stage 1 were learning through 'The Runaway Chapatti', Year 3 and 4 'The Egyptian Cinderella' and Year 5 and 6 'The Proudest Blue'.



To help the children immerse themselves into the different cultures explored in these texts, we reached out to our school community and invited people

from a range of faiths to share their religion with the children. This was an excellent opportunity for the children to gain a deeper understanding of what these religions look like in the real world, while also making the learning more memorable.

We were also lucky enough to have a visit from the 'Drama Geezers' who really brought these texts to life

through drama, artwork and laughter. These inspiring workshops helped the children to make global links with different countries, landmarks and traditions, while also being so much fun! A child in Key Stage 1 expressed "It was awesome to be creative with no judgement", and another child reported how "funny and cool" the drama was.

After each year group's drama workshop, the children created their own storyboard. These storyboards will soon be turned into a real life book, taking our children from engaged readers, to captive storytellers, to now published authors.

Michelle



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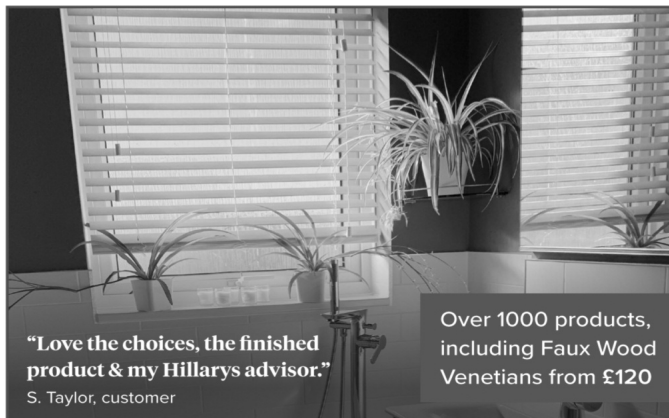
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HASSOCKS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

There were smiles all round at the end of last month as the coaches and players of Hassocks Junior FC celebrated the return of grassroots football following the relaxing of Covid restrictions on 29th March. The permitting of outside organised sporting activities meant the return to training and friendly fixtures as well as league matches for those teams representing the club in the Horsham & District Youth Football League.

"We are just so happy to be back", said Jason Roberts, Chairman of Hassocks Juniors, "It feels like forever since we were out there. I know many of the coaches are really excited about getting going again. We have the training all planned, lots of matches arranged, and all our Covid Risk Assessments and procedures are done. We are totally ready to welcome the kids back, and can't wait to see them!"

But a full return to how things used to be it is not, as strict FA safety rules will mean no spectators will be allowed at the games (At least for the first two weeks anyway) and only one parent per player will be permitted to attend to spectate. Other ongoing safety rules will also remain in place such as the banning of goal celebrations, regular hand sanitising during breaks and social distancing at all times off the pitch.

The main thing is though that football is back and a season which normally finishes around the end of

April will no doubt continue on now into the summer for many teams looking to make up for lost time as long as there is somewhere to play and an opposition team to play against. It's been a very disrupted 12 months at Hassocks Juniors but the passion for playing football hasn't waned one bit and the fact that we now have a record 352 of players signed to the club representing 21 different teams across the U5 to U16 age groups is testament to this. The appetite for getting young people off their games consoles and outside participating in healthy sporting activities has never been stronger and the issue of positive mental wellness in our youth community never more relevant. At Hassocks Juniors we will do everything we can to support these important initiatives.

So I want to say a huge thank you to all those involved with the club such as coaches, the players and their families, committee members, sponsors, Freedom Leisure and the councils that provide our facilities for all the help and support you have given us throughout what has been a challenging time for us all.

Thanks to you all the future of youth football in our village looks very bright indeed.

C'mon Hassocks.....!!!

I am the President of Hassocks Junior Football Club. For more information please visit our website www.hassocksjuniorfc.co.uk or email me president@hassocksjuniorfc.co.uk. *Nick Palmer*



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FANTASTIC RESPONSE TO LAST MONTHS PAGE 3 PHOTO

Thank you to all the people below in helping identify the ladies in the photo.
From Diana Nason:- Back row :- far right Joyce Biggs - a good friend who recently died. 4th from right is Doris Schofield - lovely lady; 5th from left is Edna Williams. Bottom row left is Tess ? - she lived on the corner of Grand/Mackie Avenue; I think 3rd from left is Margaret Mailardet's mother possibly. I may be wrong -? Some other faces are familiar but cannot name them.



From Lucy Hunt:- The towns women's photo of their choir the lady was a friend 2nd right front row Mrs Jessie Gale, she may have been the pianist for the choir.

From Anne Slade (nee Poynter):- I recognised your mother Muriel straight away and remembered her name. The tall lady in the middle is Mary Hewison. I recognise some of the other faces but cannot put names to them. My mother, Doreen Poynter, is not in the photo but was very much involved with the Hassocks Guild and was Chairman one year. Other names but I don't think they are in the picture are Doris Kent and Joyce Mather. They were all close friends during the 1960s in Hassocks.

Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha CHIROPODY - PODIATRY

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From Pamela Worthington-Williams:- My husband, Mike Worthington-Williams, subscribed to your magazine for many years, but very sadly passed away last month. I know he would have been delighted to see this month's issue of the Talk-about, however, as the photograph on the first page of the Towns Womens Guild includes his mother, Edna Williams. She is in the back row, 5th from the left (right behind the lady in the dark dress sitting down). I'm sure Mike would have known many of the other ladies as well.

From Carol Haynes (nee Anthony):- It was lovely to see the photo and like Jacqui I recognise many ladies but names more difficult. However the lady back row second from left is my Auntie Rose, Rose Baker from Hassocks Dairy by the station. The lady third right, front row I think is Annie Wickham.

From Sue Fawcett:- Referring to the photo of Hassocks Townswomen's Guild, the lady standing in the back row, second from left is Hilary Balchin. I recognise several other faces, but I'm afraid I can't put a name to any of them. I wasn't a member myself.

From Hilary Balchin:- Regarding the photo of the Hassocks Townswomen Guild Choir in the April

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Edition, I can help to identify a very few in the picture. I recognise many faces but can't remember names! I have found a copy of the photo in my photo album dated 1965.

Front row 1st left I think is Tessa Hillier – centre our conductor – next to her Ann ? next Mrs Gale our pianist.

2nd Row 2nd left me, Hilary Balchin – Downlands School reception 1974 – 1996.

We used to rehearse in a lovely bungalow where Fitzjohn Court now is.

Sorry I can't be more help but I would love to know if anyone else recognises anyone.

From Richard Hudson:- Re the photo of the women from Hassocks Townswomens Guild, I can name fair few of the ladies in the photo Back row 2nd left Mrs Bulchin, she lived in Wilmington Close and her two boys are Tim and Pat. 5th left Edna Williams she lived behind us in Woodslan Road and worked with my mum at Hoadleys in Burgess Hill. Front row 1st left Mrs Hillyer, she lived in Grand Avenue and I went to school with her son Steven at Junior school. 1st right Mrs Butler lived in Friars Oak Road. I knew her son Francis. Recognise others but cannot name them.

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LIGHT-UP-HASSOCKS In case you haven't noticed our post on Facebook, Sussex Vale Rotary Club Is pleased to say plans are underway for Light Up Hassocks to take place this year on **3rd December**.

We are grateful that Hassocks Community Association have offered to help us with the event. As a first step an application has been

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submitted to secure a road closure for Keymer Road from 4 pm – 8 pm on that date. Clearly it will only go ahead provided Government restrictions have either been lifted or we can meet any control requirements in place at the time.

We will endeavour to keep you updated as things develop, so please keep an eye on the 'Talkabout' & 'Village Voice', and our Facebook page.

If you are interested in learning more about Rotary and how you can help or join us, please contact our club secretary on secretarysvr@gmail.com, or 07546 111996, he will be pleased to hear from you. We can also be found on Facebook and our website.

Duncan Honeyman

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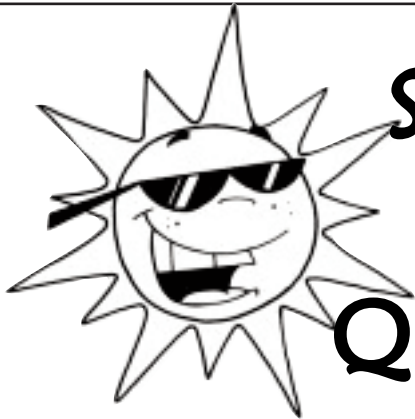
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Harriet Matthews

HASSOCKS WI REPORT – SPRING 2021 - THE WINDMILL GIRLS ARE BACK!

We are putting together a new programme of events for 2021, and anticipating a return to normal meetings.

April's events included an Easter – themed afternoon tea, a Zentangle (therapeutic drawing) session, a talk from a Forces social worker in the Middle East and Afternoon Tea with Baroness Bolsover, via Zoom.

On **12th May** at 2pm we have an Extra Slice featuring 'The Eco Garden'.

17th May at 7.45 pm, our regular meeting via Zoom gives us the history of Kew Gardens.

21st June at 7.45 pm is the date for an informal get-together, hopefully at Adastra Hall, and flower arranging is planned for July.

If you are interested in joining us, please ring Barbara on **01273 846811**.

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SUSSEX MUSEUM CURATOR AND LAWN MOWER HISTORIAN APPEARED ON BBC TWO'S GARDENERS WORLD

Clive Gravett, curator of the Museum of Gardening housed within South Downs Nurseries, Hassocks, has been helping and advising the BBC in the production of a film on the extraordinary history of the lawn. This was broadcasted in two parts and presented by Advolly Richmond, researcher and garden historian.

The BBC consulted Clive as their researchers had limited knowledge of lawn mower history, but after reading a copy of his book 'Two men went to mow' and discussing this fascinating subject in more detail they immediately recruited him onto their team. Initially it was planned to have been just one short piece on their programme, but as the filming progressed and with so much interesting material a decision was made to produce the film in two parts.

Clive says he really enjoyed the opportunity to take some of the particularly rare mowers and other items from the museum to fantastic locations, including Goodwood House, Sussex and Cottesbrooke Hall, Northampton, the BBC team were great to work with and I was pleased to receive this comment from the director, 'Thank you again for all of your help in the making of these films – we really couldn't have done it without you!'

The Museum of Gardening opened in March 2016 as a joint venture between Bates of Sussex and Clive's charity The Budding Foundation which supports local children in need, many interesting, unusual and unique horticultural tools and machines are exhibited and with the gradual lifting of covid restrictions Clive is eager to re-commence his popular talks/presentations to horticultural societies and other groups.

Trevor Butler

Clive is pictured, during filming, with a replica of Edwin Beard Buddings lawn mower which was invented in 1830 and is presently on display in the Hassocks, museum, we should add that the museum is not officially open until 17th May due to covid restrictions.



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BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY We're pleased to report that, despite Covid, we've had a very positive and encouraging singing year. This time last April BHCS had to cancel our Spring Concert but we were sure we would be singing again in December. We readjusted quickly and began online rehearsals, under the leadership of our Musical Director Michael Stefan Wood BEM, and with a regular attendance of 50 plus members. Once we found out that a December concert would not be possible, we adjusted our plans again and instead continued online rehearsals, culminating in an 'at home' concert and a whole choir recording of Rutter's 'Candlelight Carol,' edited from individual tracks. Since then, we've been going from strength to strength.

How do our rehearsals work? Well, every Monday evening, we combine an initial warm up and sing-through with work for the four voices (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) in different breakout rooms, all on mute and using backing tracks. After further whole group practice, the evening culminates with a conducted sing-through backed by a choir and orchestra, which feels very much like singing with a choir. Whilst an online rehearsal can never

be the same as face to face singing, some very interesting benefits have emerged. Firstly, as well as covering major works, such as Haydn's 'Creation', we have also had the opportunity to sing smaller works such as Faure's 'Cantique de Jean Racine', Bruckner's 'Locus Iste', and a number of very lovely madrigals. Secondly, we all have to learn our parts and be able to sing them independently; we can't rely on the person next to us to help! Thirdly, and just as importantly, we've got to know each other much better in our random tea-break 'rooms', along with choir quizzes and socials. Mainly though, we have enjoyed singing together and sharing our love of music. Now, with the prospect of some easing of restrictions, we are considering plans for a summer programme of oratorio choruses and which could include some in-person meetings. Whether you're an experienced singer or someone who has always wanted to be in a choir, and are interested in joining us, news about next term is available on our website at www.burgesshillchoralsociety.org.uk or visit our facebook page at www.facebook.com/BHCS2 or phone 07522 493966.

Frances Eales



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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I was sad to hear of the passing of Prince Philip last month, a gentleman who I greatly admired. So for a change I thought I'd tell you about the two tenuous links I had with him. I was born in a Missun Hut at Blackbushe Airport, Yateley, Hants in 1952. My father was in the fire service at the airport. He also had a little part time job as a handyman at the local Nunnery. It was a huge place with lots of fields surrounding it, which my father persuaded the Mother Superior to rent to him for a small charge. He then built a small stable and eventually bought a donkey called Jenny. My mum used to wheel me up to the field in my pram where she used to help my Dad with his chores. At the age of 3, I started to sit on Jenny, she had a felt saddle and normal bridle. I'd ride her round the field trying to get her to do anything but walk, then one day nearer the age of four something frightened her and she just took off. I thought wow this is fun, my mother was shouting thinking I was going to fall off, but I didn't, not even when she stopped suddenly, so that was it, my love of riding was born and I'd spend many a day with Jenny grooming her and looking after her. Eventually she was retired and my parents bought a pony as a companion for her and a step up for me. Her name was Kitty and I adored her, we'd go out for day rides, just her and me, it was so safe on the roads in those days and the land hadn't been polluted by house building, they were wonderful times. It was at this time my parents joined myself and Kitty to the local Pony Club, a fabulous organisation which was started in 1929 for young people interested in ponies and riding. I wore my white shirt and Pony Club Tie with such pride, but the events they organised were amazing. My branch the Garth and South Berks had its headquarters at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst and that became my playground for many years. Captain and Mrs Clarke were in charge of the branch, they organised Gymkhanas most weekends, Pony Club Rallies, Pony Club Camp, Quiz Nights, trips to the Horse of the Year Show and training sessions to improve your horsemanship. Kitty eventually retired and that's when Mystic Bronze arrived a beautiful 14.2 bay gelding, he loved himself, he was good and he knew it. I was now about 10 years old and my parents had just bought this amazing Pet Shop in Camberley High Street called the Camberley Aquaria. My father had now been posted to Heathrow Airport Fire Service, but still had the field and stables at the Nunnery. It was at this time in my life I was asked by the Pony Club to join the Prince Phillip Cup Mounted Games Team. It was also this time of my life that I realised I was in a branch of the pony club which has 425 members of which 415 were girls, not many blokes rode in those days, but us 10 that did considered ourselves very lucky indeed - anyway my first tenuous link to Prince Phillip 'The Mounted Games' were the inspiration of Prince Phillip, when Colonel Sir Mike Ansell was Director of the Horse of the Year Show. Prince Phillip asked if he could devise a competition for the children who could not afford an expensive well-bred pony and in 1957 the Horse of the Year Show staged the first mounted games championship for the Prince Phillip Cup. It was a huge success, so that was it for the next 5 years myself and Mystic Bronze threw ourselves in this wonderful challenge. Miss Kirkpatrick was in charge of the team and training, but I had an ace card, a gentleman I knew as Uncle Vic, he wasn't a real uncle, but we always called him that, he was a professional wrestler turned stuntman. He turned up at our house one day and said come on Stephen if you're going to do these Mounted Games you need to learn a few tricks. Mystic Bronze was fast and could turn on a sixpence which helped, but this wonderful man who turned up at the field twice a week bought his own horse with him and basically over a period of several months taught me how to jump on and off at full gallop, hang off the side to pick things up off the floor, all this without a saddle, but before we started all this he taught me how to fall properly. He said to me do it like this and you'll never break a bone in your body, which I never did. Then we went on to tent pegging with a cane and jousting which was hilarious, but what was wonderful was the Nuns after their morning or afternoon prayers would come out and watch and then when everything went well they'd applaud, but when it didn't you'd hear them gasp! They were such a sweet bunch of ladies. Anyway, the team and I travelled the country competing against other branches of the Pony Club to qualify for the Prince Phillip Cup Finals at the Horse of the Year Show, in all those years we only qualified twice, which wasn't too bad, but on the last occasion we were chosen to take part in a musical ride with the Household Calvary, that was the most nerve racking thing I've ever done, getting this right was not easy they had big horses and we had ponies and we had to carry a lance like them, which were made for us and we got to keep them. I think Prince Phillip was in the audience, but I just wanted to meet my heroes at the time. Harvey Smith & David Broome, I didn't care about anything else. Sadly, we didn't win on either occasion, but the experience and the memories will always be with me. Mystic Bronze and I went from the Mounted Games to do Cross Country and Hunter Trials, but I will finish this next month before I get back to life in a Village consumed by planning applications.

Steve xx

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