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Your Editors: Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown, Natalie Dalley & Nicola Botting

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*We thank Margaret Georgeson nee Gaston for this letter and photo:-*

Dear Village Voice, in issue 274 the photo that showed the WI group from 1944 said the gentleman second from the right was Mr Paisley, it should have said Mr Pacey.

He with his wife Mabel and daughter Peggy (pictured) were our neighbours for over sixteen years. Bob Pacey lived next door to the Red Lion Pub now a private house. He was a carpenter at Hurstpierpoint College, but he also wound the Church clock which was done manually by winding weights on cables quite heavy work. My father Bill Gaston did it for Bob if he was unable to do it.

The photo is of my mother in our front garden leaning on the fence post talking to Mabel, with Tamplins written on the wall. They were good friends.



Church on a regular basis. They were very good friends and every day they took it in turns to make tea and listen to Mrs Dales Diary on the radio. I was Peggys bridesmaid when she got married and we are still in touch she lives in Shoreham. During the war Bob bred rabbits for the table and my mother kept chickens so we often did an exchange of eggs and meat.

Mabel Pacey lived next door to the Red Lion Pub. Every Sunday morning, she got up very early to prepare the Parish Room for Sunday School and if a dance had been held on the Saturday night as they often were during the war, she and my mother cleaned up the room in readiness. She and my mother were both Marthas which meant that they cleaned the

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### **PYECOMBE FAYRE AND FLOWER FESTIVAL** Saturday and Sunday 4th – 5th September

We are delighted to announce that the Pyecombe Village Fayre and Flower Festival returns this year after last year's enforced lay-off!

The theme of the floral displays this year is "Looking to the Future" and this is what we will all be doing! The church will be open from 11 to 4 pm and you can be sure of a feast of stunning displays. Teas and cakes will be served in the tea tent and a licensed bar will be selling drinks. You can also enjoy a ploughman's lunch with a glass of wine in the delightful setting of our beautiful South Downs village.

This year's competitions will include the fancy dress dog competition which has proved so popular, but we will be introducing a "Natty Hat" competition where competitors are invited to design, make, and model their hats. Given this year's theme, there

should be some "out of this world" designs. Other attractions include various arts and crafts stalls situated around the churchyard.

What better way to enjoy a summer weekend!

*Tim Cullen*

**PAUL ROBERTS** - We were very sad to hear of the death of Paul Roberts, one of the owners of Lag Wood. Paul and his wife Sue Milnthorpe have been wonderful custodians of the ancient woodland and meadow, and very generous in allowing the community to enjoy them both. HKD Transition is especially grateful for allowing us to build debris dams along the Herring stream, reducing peak flows of the stream in the centre of the village. Paul's meticulous documentation in words and photos of the life of the wood and meadow is an amazing legacy to leave, see <http://lagwood.org.uk/>. He will be much missed by many in our community.

*Juliet Merrifield, HKD Transition*

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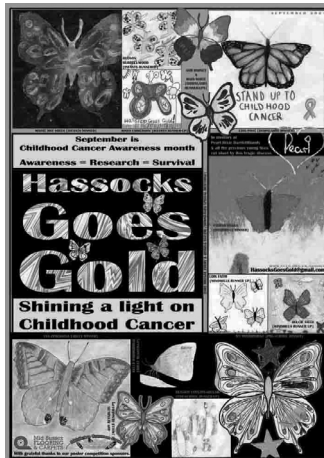
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**SEPTEMBER IS GOLD!** The village is set to turn GOLD this month as HassocksGoesGold raises awareness of Childhood Cancer and much needed funds for research to combat this cruel disease. As many of you will know my own daughter Pearl died in 2017 from Ewings sarcoma and until our family was turned upside down by Childhood Cancer, I had no idea how common it is or how poorly funded. The chemotherapy treatment that she endured was not unusual in being designed for only for adults. Most childhood cancer drugs are not licenced for children, but they are given them because there is simply no alternative. As children's bodies are still growing, they need stronger treatments than adults and many children die from the cure before the cancer.

The medical staff we encountered during Pearl's 11-month treatment were on the whole fantastic but without better treatments being available there was simply nothing that was effective enough to save her. It breaks my heart every day. It is a situation that must change. Childhood Cancer kills more children in the UK than any other cause, even road traffic accidents.

Some Childhood Cancers (there are many different types) have good outcomes. There have been breakthroughs in adult cancer that have translated well to Childhood Cancers. But with the majority of cancers in children being so different to adult cancer, much



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more research for new treatments is needed. Currently less than 1.4% of cancer research money is spent on Childhood Cancer, a fact I find shocking. Pearl was so much more than a cancer statistic. She was, and still is, an inspiring and energetic force. Kind, wickedly fun and a delight to be around. She had so much to give to the world and in creating HassocksGoesGold I feel I am helping to further that energy even though she isn't around to do it herself.

So here we are in September. A month to decorate GOLD, to treasure what we have and to protect the children of the future. This year's theme is Golden Butterflies. Please display a Golden Butterfly poster (pictured), buy a gold ribbon, walk the Giant Gold Bow spotting trail, vote for the best Gold shop window, run the Gold Run, enter the sunflower competition, join HassocksGoesGold on Facebook to bid on the Daily Auction or take part in one of the many other Gold events this month. Let's have fun and raise some funds!

The Golden Butterfly Posters are available from QD Stationery. See HassocksGoesGold on Facebook or Instagram for event details.

All money raised via HassocksGoesGold goes to research treatments for Childhood Cancers with poor outcomes via a fund set up in Pearl's name:  
<https://specialnamedfunds.cclg.org.uk/pearlpower>

*Rachel BartlettBundy*



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**HEBER OPERA** is delighted to be rehearsing again after 18 months when singing was not permitted and will be presenting an hour-long concert at three venues in Sussex: **10th October** at Uckfield Civic Centre, **16th October** in The Steyning Centre and **17th October** at Hurstpierpoint, Village Centre.

The concerts will feature Heber Opera soloists and chorus together with the Heber Ensemble performing a selection of opera choruses and arias.

At the time of writing, it is uncertain what restrictions on audience numbers may apply, so the box office will not open until **1st September**.

More information on Heber Opera and access to on-line booking via <http://heberopera.co.uk> or by calling **07340 251875** (ticket line only from **1st September**).

*Jenny Hawkes*

**HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW** 2.15 pm on **Saturday 11th September** in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre.

Flowers, fruit, vegetables, cookery, photography, novice, and children's sections. Tea and home-made cake, raffle, and end of show Auction. Exhibiting is free – pick up a schedule from Gibsons in Hurst High Street.

*Kathy Green*

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**HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS** The Players are delighted to bring you some late summer cheer with their September production at The Players Theatre. Richard Harris's farcical comedy "Outside Edge" is directed by Annette Squire and as the true cricket season draws to a close all enthusiasts and/or cricket 'widows' are invited to leave their respective pavilions and join the Players in theirs – otherwise known as the Players Theatre at 147 Hurstpierpoint High Street.

"Outside Edge" follows a village cricket club captain's attempt to form a team for the regular local match, organise stumps, refreshments and pitch rolling whilst concurrently defusing the effects of several extra-marital activities. It will be presented from **13th to 18th September** inclusive as part of the 2021 Hurst Festival.

Hopefully – we are always full of hope, but it is sometimes misplaced – with Covid 19 restrictions now lifted we will be permitted to sell the full house of 86 seats.

So, if you are theatre minded, or cricket minded, or both, please reserve those dates now: **13th – 18th September** at 7.45 pm – tickets are on sale now either in person at the Theatre when the Festival Box Office



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there opens or online [www.hurstfestival.org](http://www.hurstfestival.org). You will have a good night out without ever tossing a googly and with luck you might bowl a maiden over in our licensed bar!

And the Players are even looking further ahead to this December when a cold-hearted miser is visited by four spectres and transported back to worlds past, present and future. Yes – Charles Dickens' timeless A Christmas Carol comes to the Players Theatre on **9th, 10th, 11th [2 performances] 12th, 16th, 17th and 18th [2 performances] December** – a total of 9 performances over two weeks. The Players promise to deliver a heartfelt and uplifting tale to warm the cockles – directed by Linda Burton and Jan Bell.

Reserve the dates now! Let us be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas!

*Anne Hopper*

**HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD** We will be holding our first meeting at Age Concern Hall on **28th September 2 – 4 pm**. This meeting will be to discuss the future of the Guild and our way ahead. There will not be a speaker at this meeting. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

*Sheila Southwell*



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The silver cup for the Top Infant was presented to Louis Wooller. The Top Junior was Cora Nelson, while the top Senior was again Emily Holmes.

This year's full roll of honour is :- Year 1 – Diddie Smith & Connall Currie, Year 2 – Louis Wooller & Maya Muncaster, Year 3 – Layla Whipp & Jessica Jones, Year 4 – Elitha McKemma & Amelia Monteith, Year 5 – Emilia Barker & Genevieve Horner, Year 6 – Cora Nelson & Imogen Holmes, Year 7 – Isabel Faulkner & Natalie Tyrell, Year 8 – Tilly Lewis & Maddie Harrild, Year 9 – Bea West, Year 10 - Chloe Wright, Year 11 – Emily Holmes

Pictured are:- Louis Wooller - ( Infant Champions), Cora Nelson (Junior Champion).

More details of the Club can be found at :



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There are currently vacancies for pre-school children who have passed their third birthday. Parents of older children interested in joining should contact the Club to find the up-to-date position. *Andrew Hair*

**WANTED** If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included please email us at [ed@vil-lagemagazines.co.uk](mailto:ed@vil-lagemagazines.co.uk) or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR.

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**Regulation 25**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR** Each Rotary year begins on 1st July and Sussex Vale Rotary were pleased to welcome Tony Seddon as their new President, taking over from Tom Brierley, who had the challenging task of presiding over the 'Covid Year'. Despite all the difficulties the past year held, Sussex Vale has supported the local Foodbanks, Sussex Cancer Fund, St Peter & St James Hospice, Hurst Museum, Hurst Girls Brigade, the Red Cross and CAB Project Wenceslas.

In addition, our international support has gone to End Polio, the provision of clean water to schools, Joshua Orphans Care and Rotary Foundation. Sussex Vale continues its work in the local community, most recently re-opening the Memory Moments Café in Hurstpierpoint, supported by Know Dementia.

We've also financed and arranged for refurbishment of the defibrillators held at Hassocks Hardware and outside Morleys in Hurstpierpoint.

Support has continued for the provision of emergency food hampers via the local schools, with over 12 visits having been made to deliver these essential supplies to the local schools.

With the help of Hassocks Community Organisation, arrangements continue for LIGHT UP HASSOCKS

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(LUH). Financing it is always a challenge and so far, a donation of £1,000 has been promised by Bellway Homes, with a further £200 from an anonymous donor. The road closure has been approved, security and First Aid arrangements are in place, and fair-ground attractions are being agreed. The usual support will be in place from Burgess Hill Radio.

It is hoped to hold a concert in Mid-October to help raise funds. More details will be confirmed as the date approaches.

In order to give all this help to our local communities, Sussex Vale needs to raise money and a Race & Quiz Night will be held at the Adastra Hall on **8th October**. By supporting this, you are supporting your community. Keep an eye out for information about this and our other activities on our Facebook page and website.

Don't forget, we have no admin or other costs, and you can be sure every penny raised by us will be spent on good causes. 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](mailto:secretarysvr@gmail.com), or 07546 111996, he will be pleased to hear from you.

*Duncan Honeyman*

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We are serving lunches weekdays in our dining room. Please do call us on 01273 844461 to book a place., do let us know by 10 am on the day at the latest. Our Menu is always on our website. If you need help with

transport to come for lunch, we may be able to collect you in our minibus, do enquire in the office. Our Coffee Shop is open from 9 am to 3 pm serving refreshments.

Have you seen our refurbished Charity Shop? Do come and have a look! Our shop and coffee shop are also open on Saturday mornings.

Activities – German Scrabble every 2nd Wednesday morning, Art Group Tuesday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon, Hairdresser and Chiropody here Monday to Thursday. Table Tennis Table available!

Can you help us? Volunteering opportunities to help drive our bus - We are looking for drivers and escorts to expand our daily pick-up runs, please do call the office for more information, or come in and see us. We are also looking for a Saturday morning volunteer to help in our coffee shop, this can be once a month on a rota system to take orders including payments for refreshments. Do call us or pop in and see us.

We look forward to welcoming you.

*All at Age Concern*

Deadline for the October issue is 1st September for more info visit [www.villagesmagazines.co.uk](http://www.villagesmagazines.co.uk)

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North Side from West to East:- Clayton Park Hotel Barber's Shop - Mr Hewitt, Hoad's Stationery - Mr Hoad, Moore's General Store (Stanford Avenue), Butcher - Mr Rookard (2nd Shop), Sweet Shop & Horse Meat - Mrs Munroe, Dairy - Mr/s B Baker, Railway Station, Hassocks Hotel, Police Station (Semi Detached House, Woodland Road) - Pc Paviour Then Pc Tanner, Holmwood (Large Residential Property and Grounds) - Mr Shand, Primary School (Chancellors Park) - The Misses Brooker Then Mrs Lake, Headmistress. Congregational Church (Spitalford Bridge), Room at Rear (used to educate evacuee children from London as Primary School was full - The Children were taught by Mr Reece and Miss Troughton. Brook Stores (Groceries & Meats) - Mr/s Baker, Butcher - Mr Thair, Dekker's (Confectionary & Stationery) - Mrs Kotchie, Midland Bank (Grand Avenue) - Mr Biggs, Inkster's Chemist, Baker's Hairdresser - Mr Baker, Wilmington Lodge and Gardens extending to the Adastra Park.

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*We thank Susan Mottram for the following letter:-*  
Having read the article about the businesses in Keymer Road by Tony Sharp, I hope that I can fill some ?'s

Regarding the South side, yes, the Co op, the Dairy, Lloyds Bank, Ayling & Strudwick, where Sainsburys is now and where Humanity at Heart were followed by Rocking Horse. I don't recall the Fish shop, but the Greengrocers were Eastwoods, who were also florists who later became Munro's florist. The Butchers was Rookards, then later Smith's. The Gas show-room was where Bowley's is now, I can't remember the first solicitor? The corner half of that unit in between the corner of Downsview Road was a Woodland Store, then a sweet shop called Deckers.

Across from that was the General Post Office, the sorting office behind and the GPO telephone exchange? Next was the Garage and filling station. On the other side of the bridge was Marchant and the bakers, Acres at one point.

Across the other side of Parklands Road, was the "original" supermarket, Masters & Tulley, but in my time Keymarkets, they moved into Orion Parade when the Cinema was knocked down! That was then Rayford Electrics, (Ray Horney) then Lavells moved

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from the other side of the road. Next to that was Deanne's a ladieswear shop, that had a cafe above at one point! Next door my memory lets me down, but then Louis shoes, where Hair Emporium is, Shaffer was where QD Stationery is now, Bennett's Ironmongers where Tim Fai is, and Princes men's, ladieswear and school uniforms! Not sure what was in the western half of the corner shop, Miss Bates and her wool shop only had the half to the East!

The cinema took the whole of what is now Orion Parade!

North side - Up at the station, where Station Garage is, was the Southdown Motor Services Bus Garage, that could hold four buses! (Latterly only two were "stabled" there). On the corner of Woodland Road was the Coal Office, then the Estate Agents Bradley & Vaughnan? Next door was Kent's Stationers, the cafe and Gents Hairdressers I don't recall? The unit where the Kitchen shop is, was Batchelors. I recall a pharmacy, but not the name, also I recall the Deli. Then Ladieswear shop was Mary Wall, then Kadarwear. Then Barclays Bank.

Across the road from the Bank was/is the Infant School, which was the only school until Downlands Secondary School was built about 1960? Windmills

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Junior School was built about the same time, but only had four classrooms.

After passing the URC, formerly the Congregation Church, there was Brook Stores, traditional service! Next together was the Butchers, various names, then Lavells, who as I said previously, moved across the road. Then Point Appliances had it, before Mansel McTaggart.

From the corner of Grand Avenue, there was the Midland Bank, which became HSBC, next to that was Selby's Chemist this was where the kebab shop is, in between it was Unwins Off Licence.

Next door, where Boots is currently, was a Barber's, with a Ladies Hairdressers above.

Next to that was the National Bank, which became Nat West, then the Pet shop, and Dry Cleaners, Deux Amies hairdressers and another Sweet shop! Now Child Help.

I am sure that people older than me will remember other names, and the Hassocks Past & Present did a similar project a while ago?

**GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK 18-26 SEPTEMBER** Hassocks, Hurst and Ditchling are part of national week of events celebrating action on climate change <https://greathbiggreenweek.com/>.

On **18th September** the Floods and SuDS group will guide a walking tour in Hassocks to look at some of the flood problems that Hassocks faces, and the projects designed to help to mitigate future flooding.

On **20th September** Hurst Rethink invites the community to get together and plan positively for the future: with our reliance on fossil fuels being phased



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out, we can begin to imagine a cleaner and healthier environment. But how will this look?

On **22nd September** HKD Transition will host an online discussion about air pollution, its impact on our health and what we can do about it.

On **23rd September** HKD joins with Fairer World Lindfield to hear from Nick Owens of HKD Energy about energy retrofits, how to do them and what impact it can have.

Finally on **25th September** Repair Café Hassocks opens live after almost a year of operating remotely. Details of all our local events are on <https://www.hkdtransition.org.uk/events>.

*Juliet Merrifield*

**BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY ASSOCIATION** Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill. Friday **10th September**, 8 pm. A Journey along the Cuckmere Valley, an illustrated talk by Geoffrey Mead. Guests welcome.

*Stephanie*

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**GIRLS' BRIGADE** (GB) is a Christian organisation that welcomes girls of all faiths and none. GB in Hurstpierpoint started at the Evangelical Church, now the Good News Church in 1935. 1st Hurstpierpoint Company moved to the Methodist Chapel in Cuckfield Road in 1947 and has been there ever since, it is led by Margaret Taylor (Captain) and several other adult leaders and helpers. GB meets on Wednesday evenings in term time and runs four different sections for the different age groups :- 5.15 pm to 6.30 pm: Explorers (n:vestigate) – Aged 4 to School Year 3. 6.30 pm to 8 pm: Juniors (n:gage) – School Years 4 to 6. 6.30 pm to 8 pm: Seniors (n:counta – School Years 7 to 9 and 6.30 pm to 8 pm: Brigaders (n:squire) – School Years 10 to 11 and Young Leaders to age 18.

We run a varied programme of badge work, craft and fun and games. During Lockdown, we continued meeting on Zoom where we kept our badge work going with all sections and enjoyed making ice cream, Springtime cake decorating designing gardens with icing and sweets, we created edible insects and discussed healthy eating and leading a healthy lifestyle with the older girls. For the younger sections, we looked at caring for wildlife and the envi-



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ronment and had a virtual Pet's evening when the girls took turns to show everyone their pets and talk about how they looked after them.

There is usually an annual camp for the Junior age group upwards and we are hoping to join other uniformed organisations in the Youth Enclosure at the Trooping of the Colour celebrating the Queen's Platinum Anniversary in 2022 in London.

We plan to restart GB face-to-face from Wednesday **8th September** so if you have a daughter who would be interested in joining our friendly group, please bring her along then or, if you would like more information, please ring **01273 832286** or e-mail [margaret@taylor24.plus.com](mailto:margaret@taylor24.plus.com) *Margaret Taylor*

**PHILOSOPHICAL GROUP** will be restarting at The Purple Carrot in Hassocks, on Sunday **5th September** from 2 until 4 pm.

This is a monthly meeting for people who enjoy discussing and debating issues in a friendly non-judgemental environment. You do not need to have studied philosophy.

The owner Chris is opening his cafe especially for the group to hold its discussion group, refreshments will be available or small donation would be great.

*David*

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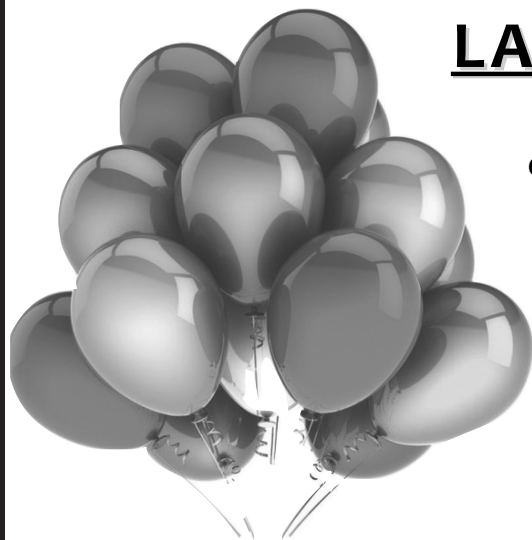


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**THE ACORNS NURSERY** and Forest School is one of the Top Twenty small nursery groups in the UK according to [daynurseries.co.uk](http://daynurseries.co.uk). This exciting news arrived on the last day of term: a wonderful end to a year in which our children have flourished, despite the challenges of Covid.

Mrs Ann Butcher, who led The Acorns at Westmeston retired at the end of term after 29 years at The Acorns. Old and new staff enjoyed a tea-party held in her honour.

Janet Irwin thanked her for her enormous contribution to The Acorns and everyone wished her good health and happiness in retirement.

Holiday Fun! has been a huge success again this year and lots of new families have discovered the magic that is The Acorns. Dates for 2022 **25th July to 19th August**

Now the new term beckons and a warm welcome awaits you at the Acorns whether it is for Nursery, Forest School sessions for home-educated children or our popular 'Stay and Play' sessions.

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ended settling in policy at Westmeston and Lindfield. For further information about visits, enrolment, and Stay-and-Play sessions, please chat to our friendly team on **01444 455081**.

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*Janet Irwin*

**HASSOCKS BABY GROUP** I moved to Hassocks from London in June 2020 at the height of the pandemic. The move was closely followed by the birth of our second child in October.

Creating a safe and welcoming place for parents and babies under the age of one to meet and play after a long, tough winter was my primary motivation for establishing the Hassocks Baby Group.

I could not have established the group without the kind and generous support of John, Jill, and Carol at Age Concern Hassocks, who have made the group feel very welcome, and provided a lovely room for us to hire. We have access to the beautiful garden, which is a huge bonus. Many thanks to all the staff at Age Concern Hassocks.

A big thank you to those of you that have come along to Hassocks Baby Group, without your support, the group would be defunct! Please keep coming, and let others know this vital resource is here.

Hassocks Baby Group meets at Age Concern Hassocks every Monday morning from 9.30 to 11.30 am. A stay and play session, with stories and songs at the end. Find us on Facebook by searching for Hassocks Baby Group, join the group and feel free to post any questions.

*Emily McLean Inglis*



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**LET'S TALK... RUBBISH** We love talking rubbish at the Hurst Rethink. It's one of the favourite subjects as our team of volunteers gathers every week to sort the crisp packets and sweet wrappers that people have dropped off to our Terracycle bins. I'm sure we'd rather be doing something else but for the time being we know that our effort is appreciated by many in our community who are loath to chuck plastic packaging in the bin.

Reducing waste is the one thing we can all do to improve our local environment and the good news is that this is going to get a whole lot easier over the next few years.

Hurst Rethink and the Parish Council had an enlightening meeting recently with Colin McFarlin, Volunteer Waste Prevention Advisor at WSCC, where we discussed some important and imminent changes to how our household waste can be recycled.

One of the main drivers of change is an old favourite, taxation. From 1st April 2022, plastic packaging that doesn't contain at least 30% recycled material will be subject to a new Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT). This has really boosted the market for recyclable plastic. Where does a lot of this plastic come from? Supermarkets? And who can now make lots more

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money from it...you guessed it... supermarkets. Last month we saw announcements from both Sainsbury's and Co-op about increased recycling of soft plastics in store. This time next year you'll most likely be able to take most of your plastic packaging back to where you bought it - making our Terracycle collections defunct. We sincerely hope so because it's about time the supermarkets did more to contribute to a more circular economy.

Another key change is the introduction of food waste collections from West Sussex County Council (WSCC), proposed for 2022. Around 40% of the rubbish in our black bins is food waste. WSCC is currently trialling food waste collections in the Adur District Council area to determine the fine details of how collections will work such as frequency. Once the results are in, we can expect to see a full roll out. Just think, 40% less waste going into our black bins! Finally, a subject close to many of our hearts...litter. We've witnessed a lot more litter on our streets in the last 18 months, partly because the pandemic has encouraged use of disposable items. We're working with the Parish Council on a litter plan to try and reduce the amount of litter in Hurst - and encourage people to take their litter home. Details of the plan and campaign launch will follow in the next few months.

To find out more about our Terracycle collections and other activities, visit our website [www.hurstrethink.org](http://www.hurstrethink.org). You can also sign up to our monthly newsletter here.

*Charlotte Wilson*



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**HCO NEWS - SUMMER 2021** What a year this has been so far! Sadly, the pandemic continues, but at last, the vaccines, produced at near miraculous speed, are providing some protection.

One thinks of the community response to the cloud burst that hit in late June this year when water again threatened several shops near the junction of Parklands and Keymer Roads, just some seven months after the last more serious flood.

Thanks to the local villagers to push back the water, the flooding was avoided. It was nevertheless noticeable that the seasonal flooding was considerably less than in previous years. We feel certain that the work of HKD Transition and HCO within the Natural Flood Management Group to 'slow the flow' reduced the flow through Spitalford Bridge, thus allowing the surface water to escape.

We exited 2020 having organised a late evening Christmas shopping and Street Food event which was enjoyed by many. It was repeated in June this year and looks like becoming a regular treat.

The War Memorial in Keymer was looking a bit unloved and needed some TLC! An appeal via our HCO Volunteers quickly produced three volunteers. There will be a major effort again before Remem-

brance Sunday so we will be appealing in the autumn for a larger group to tackle the overgrown slope behind the memorial.

HCO arranged and majority funded the refurbishment work of the Monday Group on the large notice board at Chancellors Park.

Subsequently, the three rather tired oak notice boards with maps of the village on by The Hassocks Pub, the green outside Age Concern and on Keymer Parade, were expertly refurbished by Stuart from the Hassocks Repair Café.

Littering in our lovely village is an ever-present problem - solving it starts with raising awareness. HCO, the Parish Council and Downlands School together ran a competition, timed to coincide with Earth Day 2021. Posters by Haris, Olivia, Orla and Sophia were judged equal winners and produced in poster format and are displayed throughout the village. Special thanks to Downland's Gail, Tracey at HPC, Amanda of HCO, and Paddy, the railway station manager.

As ever HCO volunteers have tended the various beds and planters that do not come under the Parish Council. Catherine, Liz, Paul, and Anne spent a productive afternoon on the station platform removing



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the weeds and planting the shrubs in the large planter which Liz had organised from South Downs Our Village Discount Card, in support of our high street, continues to attract new businesses. We welcome the new owners of Hassocks Hardware and the new Aroma Café & Kitchen in Keymer.

We also welcome a new initiative led by Frances and Laura called Hassocks Youth Projects (HYP), which HCO is very pleased to support; HYP aims to offer bespoke events to the youth of Hassocks community. They hope to be able to start offering events from September and are currently planning to launch the following events: Accompanied Bike Rides, Baking Fun and Code Club.

Thanks, are also due to Laura for her brilliant work in integrating the HYP website with our own and re-vamping our website to also include the facility for new and existing supporters to donate on-line.

*Erika & Bob*

**NEWS FROM OLDLAND MILL** Anyone who has walked up to the Mill recently will have noticed our exciting new building project emerging from the ground. With works expected to take place until the autumn, it is not safe for us to welcome visitors at the

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present time. Our new, permanent workshop will provide volunteers with a facility to undertake essential repair and restoration work.

In addition to the building works, owing to the rising number of Covid 19 cases being reported in Mid Sussex, we have reluctantly decided to cancel all the planned Open Days for 2021. We will be focussing on milling flour, for sale, plus routine maintenance. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back at the Mill for our 'Welcome back to Oldland Mill' Special Event Day on **1st May 2022**.

Further information about the Mill, and about reopening nearer the time, can be found at **[www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk](http://www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk)**.

*Rebecca Street*

**STAR CINEMA** The Star Cinema volunteers are as keen as anyone else to recommence film nights, but in light of the ongoing issues and uncertainties with COVID, we are reluctant to make promises we can't keep.

Please rest assured we will be back with Friday film nights as soon as is practicable, so watch this space.

*Liz Edmunds*

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## Clarks Corner, Hurstpierpoint



Mrs Clark pictured on the left holding a banner (Can anyone let us know the organisation on the banner?)



*We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for these photos of Clarks Corner, Hurstpierpoint:- The group picture is taken at the house opposite Clarks Corner at a Wedding. Pictured seated left to right from the Groom Mr Harriot, Bride Miss Clark (daughter), Mr Clark and Mrs Clark.*

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** Long before Stoneywish opened its gates to the public, the farmyard acted as a magnet to a wide variety of visitors. There were the neighbours calling for eggs and Christmas chickens, and dear old Miss Kitson from East Gardens, who waded through the mud at the bottom of the yard to beg an occasional barrow-load of compost from the manure heap. Then the professionals; Mr Driver, the corn merchant, who came to buy wheat and sell cowcake, and Mr Turner, who came to kill the pigs and once flung a proffered meat knife at Michael's astonished father, growling in disgust. Can't use that bloody thing. It's as blunt as Old Harry! "Mr Bourne brought the 'thrasher' in the autumn and Michael remembers the excitement of hearing the great steam engine rumble down East End Lane when he was a boy. Mr Bourne drove the engine and Mr Small, who was even stricter than the pig-sticker, supervised the threshing itself. Mr. Small, formally attired in Victorian style (waistcoat, tie, and bowler hat) fed the wheat into the drum. Each man in the threshing team had his allocated part to play, some dismantling the corn stacks, others hooking up the sacks to catch the wheat and woe betide the one who handed up his bundle of corn stalks the wrong way round or fumbled with the sacks and disrupted the smooth running of the machine. The children raked out the chaff that fell beneath and swept it into

a heap. Michael's Uncle Bob once started the steam engine when it stood idle and, in a feat of adolescent daring, ran it to the bottom of the yard, where it stuck fast in Miss Kitson's mud. Ruinations must have followed!

Another, great excitement for Michael and his sisters was the delivery of the barrel organ, the day before the Fair. This barrel organ, which played a vital part in the village festivities, was brought from London, and lodged overnight in the Top Yard and the farm children had the fun of grinding out tunes on it before it made its official public appearance. The arrival of the barrel organ meant the end of feverish weeks of preparation as legal families and business competed to build the most elaborate floats for the Fair Day procession. It also brought the giddy promise of Harris's swing boats and merry-go-rounds in the North Star Field.

The farmyard was a good place to find material for a float.

On one occasion the Alford's dressed as gypsies and set out in style on a cart decorated with a campfire tableau. For the occasion Michael, now a bit older, had felled a tree and set it up on the cart, for rural effect. Soon after turning into East End lane this tree became entangled in the telephone wires and had to be ignominiously felled a second time. But the genuine gypsies were good friends to Michael and taught

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him how to collect and sell scrap metal and he soon built up a sizeable spoil heap beside the barn.

This, in turn, attracted a new visitor, for Rowland Emmett, the cartoonist and kinetic sculptor, lived just down the road Emmett was always on the look-out for the quirky items he incorporated into his machines and when he was not in the Hassocks Hardware shop, examining the egg-whisks and feather dusters, he was often hovering about Michael's pile of scrap, scavenging for old wheels and pipes and bits of propellor, these were clearly identifiable in his early sculptures. In time, Michael became Emmett's gardener and odd-job-man and the gentle genius, who described himself as 'the Ditchling tinkerer', is celebrated today in a mini-museum, affectionately dedicated to him on the Reserve.

Three large oil paintings show the farmyard as it was in the old days. The barn stands, dwarfed by massive elm trees, the pond, later separated from the farm, holds the cowstalls and haystacks in reflection. The artist, Ethel Rawlins, who lived in a cottage in Field Way, just a short walk away, would arrive with her paints in the 1940's and sit amidst the ducks and chickens to capture a world that was soon to change forever. Unable to raise the money to buy these paintings when they came up for sale, Michael offered to do Miss Rawlins' garden, until he had paid off the debt. Add to these visitors, the tramps who occasionally took a night's lodging in the barn and the swallows, which arrived every year to fill the building with their chattering, teaching their young to fly from beam to beam before they went wheeling out into the blue beyond. Add also a succession of friends and

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helpers who turned up to 'muck in' at haymaking and harvest time, and last, but certainly not least, the scores of families and children who have come to picnic and play and make the place their home for the day. Now the old farmyard is no longer part of Stoneywish, but the visitors still come, and the Campsite has its own community of friends and neighbours. The sight of campfires at dusk and the sound of children's voices keeps the spirit of the place alive - perpetual welcome.

Michael's museum is now open, providing glimpses of the farm and surrounding villages in their many incarnations.

If you are interested, please do contact us for a personal tour. The number is **01273 843498** or email [stoneywishnaturereserve@gmail.com](mailto:stoneywishnaturereserve@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, this visitor, who blew in for a weekend art exhibition nearly 30 years ago, and somehow never left, must go and cook supper or the farmer will be muttering.

Enjoy the fruits of hospitality this summer and may your guests always find pleasure and interest at your door!

*Rosemary*

**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON** There will be a service of Holy Communion at 10 am at St Margaret's Church, Ditchling on **Sundays 5th, 12th, and 26th September**.

The service at 10 am on **Sunday 19th September** will be at Streat Church. Recordings of the services are available from <http://beaconparish.co.uk/> from 7 pm each Sunday.

*Sherrian Guest*

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**ASH DIEBACK** is a serious disease that is killing Ash Trees across Europe. Young tree can die quickly once infected. Older trees can be slowly killed by a yearly cycle of infection.

We have been steadily removing the worst affected trees in the wood since 2018 but now the disease has taken hold here, so we are taking action for the safety of our visitors and neighbours by removing all ash trees with significant decline next to footpaths and properties.

Although the work may look drastic, please be assured that it has been carefully planned with consent from the Forestry Commission and in line with the Woodland Trusts ash dieback Position Statement

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2019/06/ash-dieback-position-statement/>

We are only removing ash trees where we have to. Ash trees out of falling distance of footpaths and properties and those showing the most significant sign, of resistance to the disease are being retained and monitored. The works start in September and are taking place outside of bird nesting season. We will aim to avoid the wettest periods to minimise the impact on the soil and ground flora where possible. Timber will be extracted, and branches cut up to avoid smothering the woodland floor.

The majority of the wood's trees, including oak, hornbeam, hazel, wild cherry, hawthorn and silver birch are

unaffected by the disease and will maintain habitat for wildlife while their saplings will gradually fill the gaps where ash used to be.

Thank you for your support and understanding. We hope this reassures you that our management decisions are centred on the best long-term interests of trees and woods, and the people and wildlife that depend upon and benefit from them.

That wood will remain open throughout the duration of the works, but some footpaths will be closed or diverted with signs and barriers to maintain safety while the works are taking place. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

*Grace Davis*

**APPLE DAY** Sunday 3rd October on Ditchling Village Green, 11 am to 4 pm.

Plans are well underway for our 7th Apple Day. Bring your apples for pressing, enjoy our bar, hot food, and drinks. Have a go on the smoothie bike, make your own bird box or one from the Monday Group. Find out about hedgehog life with Hedgehog Haven, enter the longest apple peel competition, buy our orchard tea towels, taste different honeys, plus lots more. Start practising your welly wanging skills. We look forward to seeing you. If you'd like to volunteer to help us, we'd be very pleased and if you'd like to have a stall, please email us at [ditchlingorchard@hkdtransition.org.uk](mailto:ditchlingorchard@hkdtransition.org.uk).

*Tae Chisholm*

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**HAVE YOU ENJOYED YOUR GARDEN DURING LOCKDOWN?** If so, are you a member of the Hassocks Horticultural Society? If not, why not join us?

We will be celebrating our centenary next year, so have been part of the Hassocks scene for a long time. Due to the pandemic, we have missed our monthly meetings over the past 18 months. Therefore, we are pleased to be able to re-start on **Wednesday 8th September** when we will be gathering in Adastra Hall to listen to an illustrated talk to be given by Alex O'Sullivan about 'The Alpine Plants of Patagonia'. Alex is an excellent photographer, and he will be telling us about the plants growing in this volcanic region. Maybe some have been commercialised and are now in our gardens! Doors open at 7.30 pm, talk starts at 8 pm, small entrance fee.

Annual membership starts in January, however, join now and you will get 15 months for the price of 12. Come along and enjoy interesting talks and sociable evenings with raffle and refreshments. You will be made to feel most welcome. What more could anyone want after being locked down for so long?! If you have any questions please contact our Chairman, Derek Swaine, [jeannederek42@btinternet.com](mailto:jeannederek42@btinternet.com) or **01273 842516**.

*Pat Ticehurst*

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## **DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Autumn Show, **Sunday 5th September.**

We have missed you. Due to the pandemic, we have had to cancel the last five Shows, AGM etc. We are now planning our Autumn Show ready for **Sunday 5th September**, we are looking forward to seeing you, let us make it a very special occasion. It may have to be adapted to take into consideration any special conditions regarding public safety etc. but we will do our best to make it an attractive and enjoyable occasion.

As well as the fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants, this show has 13 cookery classes. We also work with the children from St Margaret's School, and we have provided them (thanks to Peter Eastwood) with plant pots, compost, and seed to grow "a dwarf sunflower in a pot" to show in addition to "A vegetable Monster" for the under 6 age group or a painting or collage entitled "Fireworks" for ages 7 to 11.

We are making plans to celebrate our 200th Anniversary next year, there will be Open Gardens and other special events - Watch this space!

*Mary Holman*

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**reMEMber** (the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society) Our Newsletter is now online and can be accessed on our website – [www.remembercfs.org.uk](http://www.remembercfs.org.uk). Our Autumn edition will contain news about reMEMber and what's going on in the world of CFS/ME. Articles include the new organisation Doctors with ME, how to manage relapses, exacerbations and flare-ups, the new Guidance from NICE, and dysfunction of the immune system, as well as amusing articles from two of our members who have ME.

Also, on our website you can access videos of presentations by top doctors at our Zoom conference last November.

We are trying to raise funds 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. This would demonstrate to the NHS just what is needed throughout the UK.

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](http://www.remembercfs.org.uk). Or e-mail us at [me\\_cfs@hotmail.com](mailto:me_cfs@hotmail.com).

*Janice Kent*

**"IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!"** A group of some 25 retired professional engineers met at the museum, within South Downs Nurseries at Hassocks, for an RCEA meeting last week.

It was a huge success and an occasion enjoyed by all the talk was followed by a tour of the museum and a wholesome lunch from locally sourced ingredients.

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The past 16 months have been difficult for the museum and its associated charity, the Budding Foundation, with over 20 booked talks having been cancelled because of the pandemic and its restrictions, donations have been minimal for over a year now. Thankfully, though, we have some talks booked for the Autumn, so things are looking brighter.

*Clive Gravett*

### **REPAIR CAFÉ HASSOCKS OPENS IN SEPTEMBER**

After almost a year of operating remotely, the Repair Café Hassocks will be opening face-to-face at last on **Saturday 25th September** from 10 am to 12.30 pm. After that it will be open every fourth Saturday (Hassocks Market Day) apart from December and August. You'll be able to bring your items for repair, talk to our repairers and have a cup of tea or coffee while they look at what's needed. Some repairs are simple enough to do at the café, others will be taken home by our repairers, and you can pick them up when ready. From **1st September** you will be able to book a slot for the opening day on our website <https://www.hkdtransition.org.uk/repair-cafe-hassocks> or on Facebook [facebook.com/repaircafehassocks/](https://www.facebook.com/repaircafehassocks/).

Our amazing repair volunteers have responded to almost 200 repair requests in the last 9 months. We can't repair everything, but we can point you towards professional repairers who may be able to help if we can't. Even if you don't have something to be repaired, or have already had a repair done remotely, do come along and say hello.

*Juliet Merrifield*

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**HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** After such a long "Covid" break the Group has started up again. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in The Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 to 4 pm. Our first meeting was a Garden Party in August in the beautiful garden of our Chairperson Dianne.

On **1st September** we have Peter Bates giving a talk titled "Out of Africa" and on **6th October** Colin Mcfarlin is, hopefully, talking to us about recycling.

We are going to use recyclable cups for tea instead of the china ones provided so if you prefer a china one you are welcome to bring your own along.

New members are always welcome and if you would like more information do contact me on **07806 670359** or Dianne on **01273 835284**. *Ann Tranter*

### **WE ARE BACK! WITH JAZZ AT THE HAS-SOCKS PUB.**

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The Muskrat Ramblers are commencing on Tuesday **14th September** with Jazz Lunch from 12 pm to 2.45 pm included entrance fee is lunch you will need to book in advance by calling Jo on **01444 235986** or Margaret on **01444 235639**.

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Tuesday **12th October** again 12 pm to 2.45 pm. This event does not include food in the entry fee but does have a special Jazz Lunch Menu available. (No Booking necessary) *Alan Cresswell*

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

We are delighted to announce that our popular monthly meetings at the Guide HQ, Hurstpierpoint will resume in the Autumn, starting with a presentation called "What is Landscape" by that very popular speaker, Dr Geoffrey Meads, on **Friday 1st October** at 7.45 pm. All other meetings start at 8 pm - "Wiston Estate - 1000 years of history" by Janet Pennington on **29th October**, "The Anglo Saxons" by Mak Norman on **26th November** and "Sussex Shepherds" by Ian Everest on **28th January 2022**.

Watch for further announcements about meetings in 2022. Or contact me - telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail [w.kent123@btinternet.com](mailto:w.kent123@btinternet.com) for further information about our very friendly society. New members always welcome. *Bill Kent*

*Correction to last month picture from Dave Evans. Mr Hole rented the land from the Danny Estate and the photo around 1930's.*

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## ~~~ WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER ~~~

**Clubs, Societies & Groups** please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section. Email [ed@villagemagazines.co.uk](mailto:ed@villagemagazines.co.uk) or send to **QD Stationery 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR**. For more information call **01273 846978**.

### ~~ CLUBS WITH SINGLE EVENTS ~~

**1st** HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Hurstpierpoint, 2 pm Peter Bates 'Out of Africa' - guests welcome.

**5th** PHILOSOPHICAL GROUP Purple Carrot, Hassocks, 2 pm, Discussing and debating issues in a friendly environment - all welcome.

**5th** DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW Ditchling Village Hall, 2 pm.

**8th** HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.30 pm Alex O'Sullivan 'The Alpine Plants of Patagonia'.

**11th** HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 2.15 pm

**14th** JAZZ LUNCH Hassocks Hotel, 12 pm, lunch included with booking call Jo 01444 235986.

**19th** HOLY COMMUNION Streat Church, 10 am.

**25th** HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET National Tyres Forecourt, 9 am - 1 pm, Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

**25th** REPAIR CAFE Hassocks URC, 10 am - 12.30 pm, bring items for repair book your slot [www.hkdtransition.org.uk](http://www.hkdtransition.org.uk).

**28th** HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS Age Concern Hassocks, 2 - 4 pm. Discuss future of the Guild.

### ~~ CLUBS WITH MULTI EVENTS ~~

**4th & 5th** PYECOMBE CHURCH FAYRE & FLOWER FESTIVAL 11 am - 4 pm Bar & food available.

**5th, 12th, 26th** HOLY COMMUNION St Margaret's Church, Ditchling, 10 am.

**6th, 13th, 20th, 27th** HASSOCKS BABY GROUP Age Concern Hassocks, 9.30 am, play, stories & song.

**13th - 18th** HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS 7.45 pm, 'Outside Edge' Richard Harris's farcical comedy, tickets [www.hurstfestival.org](http://www.hurstfestival.org).

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**COME AND HAVE A BROWSE.**

**DEATH'S-HEAD HAWK-MOTH** In August I was sent a photo of a giant caterpillar seen in an Iford garden. The colourful caterpillar, garish yellow with flamboyant blue chevrons and spots, was shuffling along on its stumpy legs like a miniature conga-line in search of a party. The caterpillar would have buried itself in some soft Sussex soil and, within its cocoon, would have undertaken an amazing transformation. Around November, a completely different beast will be emerging from the Iford earth and into the night skies, a moth. But, with a 12 cm wingspan and ornate patterned wings, this is no ordinary moth. Its beauty should be admired and respected if it wasn't for one small thing. Stamped on its thorax is the spectral image of an eyeless human skull, an eerie façade that has given it its name, the Death's-head hawkmoth.

The moth's baleful birthmark has, for centuries, struck fear into the hearts of superstitious humans who have seen it as a messenger of the Devil. And, according to legend, this rare moth seems to have put in regular appearances throughout history. Even learned naturalists once claimed that the moth was a "foretelling of war, pestilence, hunger, and death to man and beast." Legend has it that the appearance of a number of Death's-head hawkmoths signalled the start of the French Revolution in 1789. The moth appeared in the bedchamber of King George III; a visitation that allegedly tormented the crazed monarch and sped him to his demise in 1820.

The Death's-head's notoriety has continued to seep through the centuries in art and literature. It appeared prophesying doom in Thomas Hardy's 'Return of the Native' (1878) and was an instrument of evil in Bram

Stoker's 'Dracula' (1897). In the surrealist film 'Un Chien Andalou' (1929) it gave life to Salvador Dali's nightmares. In 1968's English horror 'The Blood Beast Terror' Peter Cushing was on the trail of a monster that was half-woman and half-hawkmoth. In 1991 the moth was seen perching on the lips of Jody Foster on posters advertising 'The Silence of the Lambs'. In the film its cocoons were placed inside serial killer Buffalo Bill's victims as a grizzly calling card (the hawkmoths that appeared in the movie were a different species to the ones that appeared in the original story; only a minor point but it did ruin the movie for me somewhat).

Like all moths the Death's-head hawkmoth is harmless. It is a largely African species which some years undertakes an amazing migration north, arriving on extremely rare occasions in Sussex. Of course, its links to death and destruction are just superstitious claptrap. But with a Death's-head on the loose in Sussex this Autumn I'd keep your windows closed, just in case.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join me on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guidebook, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at

[sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join). Michael Blencowe

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## STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Welcome everybody hope you are all enjoying your summer freedom.

Here's a little bit of local gossip. The dance shop lady has got her wish and will be opening her dance wear shop in what was Age UK, we look forward to that.

A lot of my customers are telling me about the Butterfly Gardens at Middleton Common Farm and how fantastic it is. If you haven't checked it out yet I'd certainly put it on your 'to-do' list. Still in Ditchling my favourite farm shop Perrets has had a re-fit with new display counters to show off more of their home reared meats, great place, great people, love it, give it a visit.

Continuing on from last month..... Do you know one day you'll wake up and it will be the best day of your life because on that day you'll meet that very special person you're going to spend the rest of your life with. I remember that day like it was yesterday, I was beginning to change a bit, my voice was deeper and my jodhpurs much tighter. A friend of mine - Liz Owen - who had a horse which she kept in a stable in her back garden and I'd ride for her when on the odd occasion she couldn't because of an ongoing health condition, had called me to ask if I'd mind taking it to the Yateley Horse Show. I was going anyway and taking Hawk, he was on the riding for the disabled stand raising much needed funds, he enjoyed the adulation he got for being famous. Liz asked me to call at her house early to collect her horse Angus because he was entered in the first show jumping class. I walked down her garden path to the stable where Liz was standing with his tack, she welcomed me and said I hope you don't mind but my friend who is mad about horses is coming along to help as a groom. I said that's fine because grooms are very useful people. She's just picking his feet out, this is my good friend Nola, at which point this little face appeared over the stable door, I went to say I'm very pleased to meet you - but my mouth wouldn't work. I had just come face to face with an angel, never had my eyes seen anything so beautiful. If anyone ever tells you love at first sight doesn't happen then call them a liar because it just happened to me. Now don't get me wrong the pony club was full of beautiful girls, a lot of whom were good friends, Jackie Fairfoul, Terri Clark, Belinda Downs, Terri and Jeanie Gardiner to name just a few, but there is beautiful and off the scale beautiful. I remember very clearly getting into the horse box and looking at Hawk and saying to him I think I have just met my destiny. The worst part of all this was I had to spend the day with her and try not to act like a prat, I also had to jump a horse and act professional - like I knew what I was doing although my brain was addled, my heart was beating so fast I couldn't get my breath. I kept saying to myself come on Stephen pull yourself together, just calm down, then she'd say something to me and I'd be back to square one - a gibbering idiot. Anyway, eventually the day drew to an end and I went to check on Hawk, he'd had a good day raising money and I'd had a good day wondering what the hell to do next. Funny thing was Hawk could tell I was different and I wasn't the full ticket, so for some reason he decided to stand on her foot. She was very good about it and said not to worry but it just made me realise that she wasn't just beautiful to look at but was the nicest kindest person you could ever hope to meet. What do I do next? After all it's not every day you meet perfection, mind you to this very day she still reminds me that Hawk stood on her foot and points to the mark he'd made.

Hawk had picked up a new trick, just before we'd set off at the start he'd do this Lone Ranger Zorro Esq rear up on his back legs, it was just to show off - mind you I wasn't any shrinking violet which was lucky because life again was about to go up a gear. All of a sudden I found myself on a V.I.P invitation list to premier events, all sorts of invites were coming through the door and frankly I was very confused by it but decided I'd better step up and make the most of it. To this day I can only guess how I got on the list and now I had someone to take with me, we've now been married 48 years, the same length of time we've been here in Hassocks - How times flies!

Love Steve

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