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

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*We thank Diana Nason for the following Picture and letter:* I have sent the attached photo for you. Reading in the last edition about Col. Granville Sharp, brought to mind a photo I found a few years ago at a postcard fair. He can be seen in his shorts, Michael Pryke is also there with one of his sons, other faces I remember that at this moment I cannot recall their names. It looks as if it is taken in or near the Quadrant. And I remember well Col. Sharp cycling around the village in his shorts, he did a great deal for the Hassocks.

On the reverse of the photo its states:-

"To Miss Ursula Rice. With compliments and appreciation of work which helped KEYMER reach the semi-final of the Sussex Best Kept Village Competition 7 Aug. 1973

(And now the final) IDAVY" ? - think it says Davy! 1973 was about the time we moved to Hassocks, it is about 16 years since we left Hassocks; we still meet up with Jill Pryke and still enjoy the Talk About.

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I am a Chartered Financial Planner with over 15 years' experience. I work with people like you to help them secure their financial future by putting the right plans in place today.

I love being a part of Hassocks Village, and feel lucky to be able to watch my children grow up within this inspiring community.

I can help you with all aspects of financial planning, including investment, pension and inheritance tax planning. It's the creation of the Financial Plan that is key to delivering your desired outcomes.

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### **NEW RESIDENTS PARTY Saturday 26th March.**

Every year Ditchling Village Association holds a party (pandemic permitting!) to welcome new residents of Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat parishes who have moved to the area in the last year or two. It is a great opportunity to meet other villagers over a glass of wine and find out more about the clubs, societies and groups that make Ditchling a vibrant and stimulating place to live. If you have recently moved into one of these parishes, and haven't been to a Newcomers' Party before, please sign up online at [bit.ly/dva2022](https://bit.ly/dva2022) or email [newcomers@ditchling.com](mailto:newcomers@ditchling.com) for more information.

If you know someone who is new to the village, please send them details and encourage them to attend. All ages are welcome. *John Willis*

**UPDATE FROM OLDLAND MILL** The volunteers at Oldland Mill are excitedly preparing to reopen the Mill to the public for the first time since 2019. Our first Open Afternoon of 2022 will take place on Sunday **3rd April** 2 pm to 5 pm. Come



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and see inside the oldest working windmill in Sussex, where refreshments, memorabilia and our own flour will be on sale. No vehicles allowed at the Mill. Please park in Grand Avenue near the Thatched Inn and either walk up Oldlands Lane or make use of the complimentary minibus. Further details on the website:

**[www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk](http://www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk)**

We are actively looking to expand our existing team of volunteers in a variety of roles. If you are interested in being part of a wonderful team, passionate about the restoration and preservation of an important historic monument please find information on our website under the "Join In" heading.

*Rebecca*

### **LUNCHTIME JAZZ AT THE HASSOCKS**

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*Chris Lambe*



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**MARGARET ROWAN JONES 10/01/1927 - 5/01/2022**

On 27 January 2022 family, friends and members of the Scouting community packed Clayton Church to celebrate the life of Margaret Rowan Jones. Margaret was a colourful character and well known for her bright outfits, accessories and latterly the flower in her hair. People were asked to wear colours on the day and did her proud!

The service was led by Fr Alex, a true celebration through music, poetry, readings and memories. The memories continued at the Church Hall with displays of photographs, albums videos, Margaret's own paintings and items from her Scouting days. The Hall was full of lively reminiscing and the meeting of friends old and new.

Margaret moved to St Gabriel's, Stanford Avenue in 1955 with her late husband Walter and their



three young children, Diane, Roger and Bernard, later joined by Christopher. This was the family home until Margaret moved to Clevelands in 2016.

Over the years Margaret inspired generations of children, becoming "Aunty Margaret" to many. In the 1960s she became Chairman of the School Governors at the Secondary Modern School - now Downlands. In more recent years she enjoyed the invitations to many plays and events at all the local schools.

Margaret was full of enthusiasm for life and especially for the arts. She painted in all mediums, did pottery, Chinese brush painting, calligraphy and belonged to various art, writing and poetry groups in Ditchling and Hassocks. Also a member of Hurstpierpoint Players.

Over the years she belonged to the Field Society, Townswomens Guild, British Legion amongst other groups, enjoying talks, outings and helping



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out. With her mother she ran Golden Years and later herself attended Age Concern where she loved meeting friends.

The 1st Hassocks Scouts saw Margaret and Walter taking on various leadership roles. Margaret was Akela, Group Scoutmaster and ADC over the years, and is well remembered for her creativity, enthusiasm, singsongs, tall stories, the summer camps and the annual pantomimes! "Oh yes she is"! The Tale of Two Mills was a lively tale she scripted herself and a great success - many people remember the rehearsals at St Gabriel's and the great camaraderie that flourished. Donations to 1st Hassocks Scouts, via Bowley Funeral Services, have been requested instead of flowers, in recognition of Margaret's services to Scouting.

One of her joys recently were outings in the Trishaw around Hassocks - she was, as you would expect, the first to volunteer to try it out!

Margaret loved to entertain, to tell stories and make people laugh, always ready to lead "Three Cheers". Her motto was "Live, love, laugh". She will be greatly missed but remembered with love by all.

*Diane Bryant (daughter)  
on behalf of our family*

### **THE LATE MRS MARGARET ROWAN JONES**

After receiving a really nice 'photo' Christmas card from Margaret just before Christmas I was suitably shocked to hear that she had passed away on 5th January.

The colourful photograph showed a smiling Margaret in colourful clothes and a red flower in her hair. She regularly wore a flower in her hair, colour to match the clothes she was wearing at the time. For a lady nearing her 95th birthday she always managed to look bright and lovely.

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I first met Margaret - it must have been in the early 70's - when she asked me to be the pianist for her Gang Shows. Margaret and her husband Walter were Scout leaders at the time. They say 'never work with children' but Margaret loved it and was good at it. Her Gang shows were always lively entertainment - the children loved it as did the large audiences. What a pity the Ralph Reader legacy has not continued to this day.

Margaret was a very knowledgeable lady and had many interesting stories to tell. She always had a smile on her face when greeting anyone. Our communities have lost a popular and friendly lady. Sleep tight Margaret - you have left us with some very fond memories.

*Dorrie Mottram*

### **LOVE**

Love does not have time  
It is outside our earthly play  
Neither having a start or a finality  
Love was present before life's dawn  
And so travels with us  
In spite of our downturns and shipwrecks  
It is always there  
Can always be reached, touched and enjoyed  
Residing in us and of our true nature  
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**HURST RE THINK** After the success of the first Hurst Rethink Community event - Doorstep Carols, at Christmas - the team is now moving on to the next event which is aimed at giving our village the community spirit we rediscovered in the last couple of years.

So, having heard of other towns and villages which have had amazing success with this next event, Hurst Rethink Community decided to jump on the bandwagon and run its very own 'Big Hurst Jumble Trail'.

Most of us have houses full of stuff that we don't need any more and it's a while until the car boot sales get going again. So, Jumblers, what better than having a stall outside our homes and making a day of it? This is a great opportunity to sell or give away things not needed any more and for kids to clear out their old toys too (and maybe bake some cakes and raise some money?)

And Jumblees - you can plan your route and have a leisurely stroll round the village with plenty of places to stop for a bargain.

Jumblers - please email your address to [hurstjumbletrail@gmail.com](mailto:hurstjumbletrail@gmail.com) by **25th March** latest to be included in the Trail Map. Jumblees - Jumble Trails will be available on the Big Hurst Jumble Trail Facebook page, local Hubs, village notice boards and local media - from **2nd April**.

See you there!

*Hurst Rethink Community Team*



Hurst ReThink  
Community

## THE BIG HURST JUMBLE TRAIL

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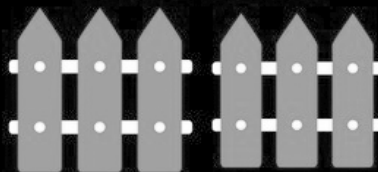
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**Jumblers** - a chance to set up your stall outside your home and sell or give away the stuff you no longer need. Simply email your address (see above) by 25th March at latest so you don't miss out on being included on the trail map.

**Jumblees** - follow the trail around the village and pick up some fantastic bargains. The Jumble Trail will be published online, in local media and notice boards from 2nd April.

**SUNDAY APRIL 10TH 2022**

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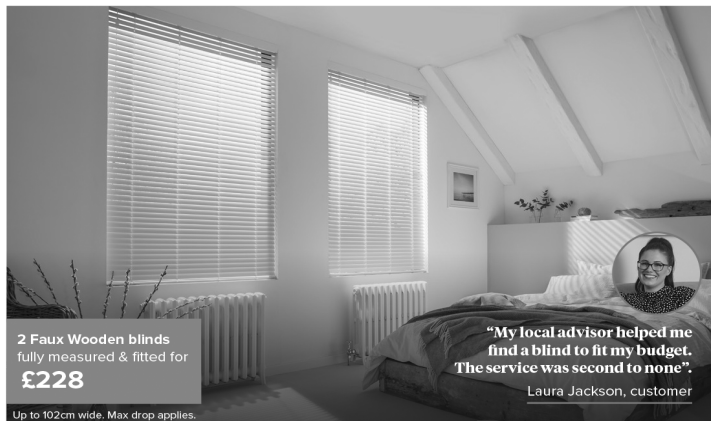
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## **LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT IS LOOKING FOR A RENTAL PROPERTY IN THE AREA**

The South Downs Refugee Project, who are working to offer a refugee family a fresh start this year under the government's Community Sponsorship scheme, recently had notification from the Home Office that they have been granted Approval in Principle. They are now keen to hear from local landlords who may have property in the area and wish to help the project.

"We've had amazing local support in the last 10 months and have raised over 75% of our fundraising target. With Home Office approval in place, our next big job is to find a property and we are looking for a 2 or 3 bedroom property to rent, which the family will call home" said project chair Tom Bailey.

The project requires a lease of a minimum of two years, throughout which time the family will be supported by a volunteer team as they resettle into

the area.

Anyone interested in an informal chat is encouraged to get in touch via email

**sdrefugeeproject@gmail.com** or visit **www.southdownsrefugeeproject.org**

*Tom Bailey*

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 4th March** This year's service has been written by the women of England, Northern Ireland and Wales, and is entitled 'I Know The Plans I Have For You'.

Our service in Hurstpierpoint will be held on Friday **4th March** in Holy Trinity Church on the High Street at 11 am. Please come and join us in this service which will be held around the world on this date.

*Veronica Aldridge*

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**HURSTRETHINK.ORG** In the last edition - February, there was a lovely old photograph from 1920 of a lady standing in a summer meadow next to a ramshackle barn. The first thing that struck me was how different our local countryside looked not so very long ago. High wide hedgerows left to flower, teaming with blossom from where Nightingales would have routinely sung out on spring evenings. A wildflower meadow buzzing with hundreds of species of insects.

A photograph of the same place today would look very different indeed. Hedgerows flailed to ragged waist high ugly stumps by heavy machinery offering next to nothing for wild creatures. Meadows mercilessly mowed or sprayed with herbicide. Any old buildings pulled down, sealed up or netted over so not a solitary Barn Owl could get a roost for the night or raise some chicks or where Swallows can nest.

When we zealously 'tidy' our countryside and gardens selfishly, and without a thought for wildlife, we directly destroy the very things that we miss so much. That we now resign ourselves to recalling through nostalgic photographs and on television. The lady in the photograph wouldn't recognise

much of the Sussex countryside in which she grew up today due to our increasing tidying obsession since the 1960's. The countryside shouldn't look the way it does - bare, severely controlled by the heavy hand of man and devoid of life.

We can make a change this spring by leaving our natural spaces and hedgerows to grow a little as they were in the old photograph, without drowning in insecticide spray or flailing hedges to ugly stumps where no flowers or berries grow year after year. Please help our diminishing British wildlife.

*Brian*

**DITCHLING SINGERS** we are a group of people who enjoy singing for fun.

We meet every other Sunday from 4 pm to 6 pm in either the Old Meeting House, Ditchling or Keymer Church Hall.

We sing a variety of songs, mainly from musicals and would love to welcome new singers, men or women. There are no auditions, and you don't have to be able to read music.

If you are interested please contact either an Anne Bridle on **01444 451102** or [anne\\_bridle@btinternet.com](mailto:anne_bridle@btinternet.com) or Diane Colin on **01444 450493** or [diane.colin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diane.colin@yahoo.co.uk).

*Erika*

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**U3A MEETING WITH LOCAL NATURALISTS** A wintery Friday afternoon: the perfect time for u3a members to go on 'a summer walk' down a country lane', courtesy of local naturalists, husband and wife team Ray and Angela Hale who revealed just how much there is in the Sussex countryside if we can only open our eyes and ears. That spider will be any one of the 650 species. The ladybird looks beautiful but if it's the Harlequin it's an invasive danger to our natural habitat. Ray admires a photo of bindweed, adding 'one man's weed is another man's flower.' The Hales' aim, to 'reconnect people to nature' is shared by the u3a, perhaps you can join us on one of nature walks.

*Jeremy Weinstein*

**HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** Meet at Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint at 2 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.  
 On **2nd March** - Hurst Hedgehog Heaven with Ann Winney.  
 On **6th April** - The Belgian Royal Family and its connections to the British Royal Family with Melanie Gibson-Barton.  
 New members are always welcome and your first visit is free. We have a couple of sub groups -walk-



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*Ann Tranter*


**HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY** We meet on the last Friday of each month in the Guide Hall next to Trinity Road car park. The speaker for our next meeting will be Melanie Gibson-Barton. She will give her presentation on the 'Votes for Women Suffragettes & the Suffragists' on **Friday 25th March** starting at 8 pm. Admission is free to members, and a small fee to non-members.  
 Contact me on **01273 832280**, e-mail [w.kent123@btinternet.com](mailto:w.kent123@btinternet.com) for further information about our very friendly society. New members are always welcome.

*Bill Kent*

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**MONDAY MATTERS CLUB** 2 pm to 4 pm  
Monday **7th March** Royal British Legion Club, Woodland Road, BN6 8HE.

You are invited to this inaugural meeting to see if you are interested in joining us, with a view to making it a fortnightly event. We are a friendly group, and both lads and lasses will receive a warm welcome. Come alone, or with a friend to have a say in how often we meet, and what activities, if any, you would like to participate in.

The overall aim is one of friendship, and companionship, whilst participating in shared activities, games, discussions etc. If you join us there will be subs to pay at each meeting which includes include tea and biscuits and small annual fee payable to R.B.L. is also a requirement to use their premises.

Membership forms will be available at the meeting.

For further information please contact: Liz Robinson **01444 241657** or Helen Welch **01444 243483**. Don't be alone, don't stay at home, we'd love to see you here, Come along for a sit and chatter.

To find out what makes Mondays Matter! Look forward to seeing you.

*Liz Thomas*

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**HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** has two events this month.

On Tuesday **8th March** at 7.45 pm in the Club room of the Village Centre

Alison Marsden, founder of Gardening by Design, will be giving an illustrated talk entitled 'More Garden Impact For Less Effort'.

Our Spring Flower Show will be held at 2.15 pm on Saturday **12th March** in the Village Centre. Come along and see the first flowers of spring, cookery, photography and children's exhibits and enjoy a piece of home-made cake with a cup of tea. Exhibiting in the show is free simply pick up a schedule from Gibsons in the High Street for full details.

*Kathy Green*

**SUSSEX CHORUS** Saturday **26th March** at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG. [www.sussexchorus.org](http://www.sussexchorus.org)

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*Angela Holroyd*

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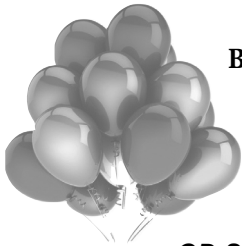
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### **THE SPRING TERM IS IN FULL SWING AT**

**THE ACORNS** and daffodils are already bobbing in the wind at Westmeston where they always seem the first to signal the onset of Spring.

The Acorns has two nurseries: at Lindfield and Westmeston near Ditchling.

Lindfield is our home-based nursery, where Janet Irwin, the teacher owner of The Acorns, shares the ground floor of her home and garden with the children.

Westmeston Parish Hall is the venue for lots of our Forest School adventures.

Welcoming children from 2 to 8, we cater for children deferring entry to school and those being home educated. So that prospective parents can get a feel for The Acorns nursery, we offer 'Stay and Play' sessions for toddlers at Westmeston.

We have lots of bilingual children with us and this term we are celebrating their countries of origin, learning more about their cultures and traditions. In 2021 we were ranked in the Top Twenty small nursery groups in the UK by [daynurseries.co.uk](http://daynurseries.co.uk)



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*Janet Irwin*

**TREFOIL GUILD** Our January meeting was a very interesting talk given by Hurst Haven For Hedgehogs.

In February we held an International Event. "Come and Travel the World".

On **16th March** we are holding an Easter Eggstravaganza.

We meet at the Guide Hall at Semley Road at 7.45 pm for 8 pm on the 3rd Wednesday in the month. Visitors welcome. Call **07546 495433**. *Pam*

**STAR CINEMA** Friday **11th March** is film night. The film to be shown is Mothering Sunday - a British romantic drama set in the wake of World War One. It stars Josh O'Connor (the young Prince Charles in The Crown), Olivia Coleman, Colin Firth, and Glenda Jackson.

Doors open at 7 pm, and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Wine/tea/coffee and raffle.

Tickets on the door (cash only please). The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

*Liz Edmunds*

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*We thank David Woolgar for the following:-* The February issue has just arrived through my letter-box (thank you very much) and was delighted to see the photo that Dave Evans had provided of the Baker Family at Little Washbrookes Farm here in Hurst.

I am related to the Bakers and my Dad Frank Woolgar bought Little Washbrookes from Alfred Baker who was the Butcher opposite what is now the village green and bus stop when he retired in 1959. My Mum eventually sold it in 1985 to fund the purchase of a retirement flat in the Glebe. So many happy years at the farm when I was growing up.

Doris Baker is in her nineties and lives in Bracklesham Bay and we are hoping to get down and see her before long after being unable to visit for the past two years.



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## SPRING

The open sky canopy revives and grows wide  
Now the light, sieved through the remnant  
Of winter's strung-out tenacity  
Gifts a satin promise of ease and thaw  
Mist hangs, never near  
Silvering the air, a tracery fresh

Sun, the one source of colour  
Climbs steady  
Urging the woody grey deserts below  
To life forgotten  
When here! A sudden  
Surprise of vibrant yellow  
Smearing with timid defiance  
The surrounding unleaved drear

In the wood, bright shafted decrepitude  
And a grudging damp beneath..  
The cavalry light caressing  
Moss-furred tree bases alive  
To greening vibrancy -  
Then dimmed sudden as April's schizoid sky  
Inverts to moist gunmetal once more

Now we emerge from treebound slumber  
Again light floods sudden  
And there, a field brims emerald from within,  
Overlaid by the foregrounding oak's  
Fingered filigree

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**THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL** The term at The Windmills Junior School continues to be busy, balancing the challenges of Covid with ensuring the children's learning is of the highest quality. Our recent internal assessment shows that the children are making really good progress 'catching up' with lost learning time. We are really excited that more sporting opportunities are opening up and we are offering more after school clubs.

In mid-January, our Cross Country Finalists took part in the next round of the competition in East Grinstead. There were 14 runners from Windmills running in this stage which is a school record! This phase of the competition was a serious step up, both in terms of distance and the general challenge the course presented. Midway through the circuit, the children had to navigate their way up an enormous hill which tested every runner to the limit. The distance was 2 kilometres; an increase of 800 metres from the previous round. Despite the slightly daunting challenge ahead, I have rarely seen a group of children more determined. They ran their hearts out. To qualify for this round is a fantastic achievement in itself, but to perform as well as they did was the cherry on the cake! Whilst we are yet to find out if any of our runners have qualified for the next round, I can safely say that this has been one of the most successful Cross Country teams in the school's history. Congratulations to the team

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on their significant achievement.

This term, Year 6 have been experiencing an alien invasion! Taking H.G. Wells' War of the Worlds as our starting point, the children have written thrilling tales of pursuit and escape from the menacing Martians. Here are some examples of their work:

Screams pierced the air. Dogs howled for help. I froze. Towering over the streets of London was something only found in nightmares. It began to walk towards me. With each step it took, houses crumbled and churches collapsed under its immense weight. I stumbled back in fear. Its eyes locked onto me. There was only one thing to do now: run.

I ran as fast as I could, knowing that I was running for my life. Quickly, I ducked behind an upturned car, trying to catch my breath. The last few minutes had gone by in a blur and now almost half of London had been demolished. I knew I had to head for shelter if I wanted to survive. (Lottie) Out of the fog and clouds, a gargantuan unearthly figure emerged. I froze in fear. The monstrous beings were fast so I wouldn't be able to outrun them but was there anywhere to hide? I laid my eyes upon a ditch. I had only one chance. I ran up to the trench of mud. Perfect. It was big enough for me and the horse, Frederick. I bounded inside, dragging Frederick with me. Suddenly, I realised that we were surrounded. The Martian tripod's legs advanced and I thought we were done

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for but by some miracle, the machines missed us. (Leo)

Fifteen pupils from Year 6 were given the opportunity to take part in a dance workshop at Downlands Community School. The plan was to learn a dance routine from scratch and perform it to others within the session. After they arrived at Downlands, they met six GCSE dance students, who then lead them through the whole experience as part of their GCSE course. They danced to the song 'A Whole New World' from the movie Aladdin. In the dance, they had to be synchronised and energetic. Learning the moves was an exciting challenge for the pupils and they had an amazing hour of fun (while learning a lot). All in all, they thought the morning was an incredible experience. The pupils who participated want to truly thank everyone involved, especially the GCSE students who taught and created the amazing dances. They are also very grateful for being able to use the space of the assembly hall. Thank you to Downlands Community School.

In Year 5 we have kick-started our spring term topic, Hidden Kingdoms, by looking at various hidden treasures of planet Earth. Some that at one stage in history we didn't even know existed. In our English writing, we took guidance from the one and only David Attenborough and listened to his rich descriptions of places in the world. Using his models to aid our writing, we created our own explanation texts of our chosen hidden kingdom. These included kingdoms that are perched high upon mountain ranges (Machu Picchu) as well as under-water fantasies (Atlantis).

Year 5 have also 'launched' themselves into their Science topic of Space and it's safe to say that an incredible amount of learning has already taken place. Ably assisted by their favourite YouTube

song, Year 5 soon learnt the order of the planets and wrote some catchy mnemonics to make this stick. To learn about the greater details of the planets, they created some Top Trumps cards. As well as including key information such as: the distance from the sun and the length of days and years of these planets. They also created their own categories including 'beauty' and 'suitability for humans.' Year 5 have not stopped here - they have recreated the movement of the planets using inflatable models (Neptune is yet to complete a full orbit!) and also looked at how day and night take place.

The children in Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Titanic so far and are eager to find out more! We have started by learning why the Titanic was such a special ship for its time and discussed why people were choosing to go to the United States in 1912. This will then feed into our historical and geographical understanding of the passengers and will build on our knowledge of wealth and poverty and how this had huge significance on the passengers of the Titanic.

In Science, the Year 4's have been learning about states of matter and, in order to deepen their understanding, they have conducted many practical investigations. The most recent investigation focused on the processes of melting and freezing. They made ice cream in class using some freezer bags and ice (and they even got to taste some too)! They discussed what state each substance was at the start and the end of the process. They found out that in order for the ice cream mixture to be frozen, we needed to cool it.

Year 3 have been enjoying dance in their PE slots this term. Using Chinese New Year as a starting point, we learned movements inspired by dancing dragons, lions, fans and fireworks that are all

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seen during this time of celebration. The children then linked the movements together to create a dance sequence. Thinking carefully about their starting positions and how to travel between their movements, they practised and then performed their dances. The Chinese music that they danced to, links with our learning in music this half term—learning to play glockenspiels and composing using pentatonic scales.

Year 3 have also been getting crafty in their DT lessons. The children were given the design brief to make a stand to hold objects for a desk. They had to learn some key terminology and skills to succeed in this challenge. After learning about butt joints, the children designed their stands. They then made their frames which involved careful measuring, sawing and sticking. Accuracy and patience were needed as well as a lot of problem solving on the way! We were so impressed with the children's perseverance and creativity. The results are amazing! We think we have some future designers in the making.

*Ruth Jayal*

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reMEMber is the Hurst/Hassocks-based charity that gives help and advice to people who have ME (also known as. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome)

Our Newsletter is on our website – **[www.remembercfs.org.uk](http://www.remembercfs.org.uk)**.

We held a Zoom Conference with expert doctors in November 2020 and we hope to hold another on **14th May** this year – watch for further publicity about this.

We are trying to raise funds to set up a consultant-led clinical service for people who have ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome).

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)**, e-mail us at **[me\\_cfs@hotmail.com](mailto:me_cfs@hotmail.com)**. Or telephone **01273 831733**.

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Email [nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk](mailto:nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk) or visit for more info. [www.ditchlingcharityball.uk](http://www.ditchlingcharityball.uk) Nikki

**HASSOCKS WI** Meet Adastra Hall on third Monday of the month. Doors open 7.30 pm meeting starts 7.45 pm.

New Craft Club - February was hands on teaching us crochet. Some were more successful than others, but very good humoured afternoon. We aim to 'showcase' different crafts for and from our members to sample and enjoy. Of course, you can bring along your own project to work on with tea and company.

Next meeting - Monday **7th March** at 2 pm in the Green Room - Papercraft

Our evening meeting featured a richly detailed and enthralling talk, by Ray Hale, on Mary Anning, the Lyme Regis fossil collector.

On Monday **21st March** evening meeting is called 'Take Good Care Of Yourself', a wellness evening. There are also future booked theatre trips, planned arty outings, frequent group walks, books clubs and creative writing evenings.

Come along for a warm welcome. Gerry

**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON** We are holding a 'Back to Church' Sunday on **20th March** and look forward to welcoming back old friends and welcoming and making new ones. Refreshments will be available after this service. Do come and join us. A service of Holy Communion will be held at

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Wednesday **2nd March** Ash Wednesday, Sunday **6th March**, Wednesday **9th March**, Sunday **13th March**, Wednesday **16th March**, Sunday **20th March** Back to Church Sunday, Wednesday **23rd March**, Sunday **27th March** Mothering Sunday, Wednesday **30th March**.  
Sherrian Guest

**HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD** A after a good Christmas Party the Guild was pleased to welcome members to a normal meeting again in January when our Chairman Sheila Southwell gave a talk about her years in the B'ham & Midland Operatic Society when she was a member for 8 years and took part in shows such as "King & I" "Carousel" and "" South Pacific"

Our February meeting's speaker was Gilly Halcrow, whose talk on "History of Food Drink & Table Manners" was appropriate after all the Christmas fayre.

Our **22nd March** meeting will be the AGM. We meet at Pauline Thaw Centre at 2.30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month, anyone is welcome to come along and there is always a speaker (except at the AGM) and afternoon tea and a raffle and a quiz. Hope to see you there.

Sheila Southwell

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## MOTHERS DAY 27th MARCH

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** On this, the last day of January, a wind whips out of the north, scouring the sky clear of clouds so that an expanse of cobalt blue dazzles the eye beyond the bronze tips of the willows. The sky has got into the ponds, where the geese and ducks, now paddling in pairs, break it up into lacquered tiles. And the sunlight slips between tree trunks and brightens the dry beech leaves on the woodland floor. Here Spring is already a-foot: Winter aconites crowd together, their yellow blooms like miniature suns of golden heads with green neck ruffs – ('choirboys' in Suffolk idiom) and always the first to appear; snowdrops are emerging between spears of arum lily and a froth of tiny leaves of Queen Ann's lace. The wind swings the catkins in the alders and hazels, blowing flurries of small birds into the air. They are goldfinches, I think, scavenging for seeds in last year's alder cones. By the time I reach that pinetum they have hidden up in the brambly blackthorn hedge and are chattering invisibly, so that the hedge itself seems to be singing. Distant woodpeckers are vocal. The moles, driven deep by January's drought, have excavated a dense mass of mole-hills

in the Farm Centre, where our new billy goat lifts his nose and bleats to announce his presence while the 'nannies' observe him, unconcerned. Everything is busy, wrapped up in its own unfolding narrative. It seems as though I have been doing this, going out to 'look for Spring' all my life, and the ritual is a peculiarly human one. While I am looking for it, everything else is busy 'being' Spring, and I am suddenly struck by the irony that everything I found and saved over the course of many years – whether destined for school nature tables, or windowsills at home, for scrapbooks, photograph albums, dare I even say, paintings – sticky buds, catkins, bluebells and all – were never more than a husks of a moment. My sticky buds dried out. The rest of the tree got on with its life.

If I walk around the pond again, the world will have changed. The goldfinches will be gone; the sun will have dipped behind the trees. As dusk falls, a Little Owl gives its mewing cry and wings over the water and away across the fields. Of course, he may have been there all the time, like the myriad other things I could not see before. Going round twice is like dipping a toe into Zeno's river and entering into the mystery of 'flux'. "All is change", as that Greek philosopher observed and all attempts to stall or control the flow, cut one off from the source of the mystery. Perhaps it is better to go lightly, like the invisible catkin pollen and let the wind carry us, quickening, that is to say, enlivening and raising the vitality of our consciousness in the here and now.

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This way we would not have to be bogged down with cataloguing, collecting, counting steps, pulse beats, calories, days, miles, species - not struggling to possess Nature, but allowing ourselves to be reclaimed, enchanted by Her. Is there a lesson here for those of us who want to save the world by force? The more we try to take control, it seems to me, the more we become the problem, trying to damn the vital and evanescent pathways of things we barely comprehend, instead of stepping down with grace and accepting the gifts of being small. To go out naked, so to speak, without the usual paraphernalia of phone, camera, pedometer, sat nav, gadgets and gizmos of all descriptions, and to forge the outdoor leisure distractions of speed lights, loud music is to rediscover, with wonder, how small one is - how extraordinary the vastness of the smallest corner of the world we take for granted. One doesn't need the Rocky Mountains, lovely as they are. A vulnerable and increasingly isolated pocket of land such as Stoneywish will do. A simple back yard will do. Such spaces could collectively co-evolve, if once allowed to do so, to re-establish a coherent wider landscape where life can

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flourish. How refreshing it might be to discover that a genuine face-to-face with a backyard weed was worth more than zoom time with the world's rarest flora! What I found, on my second time round, was another surprise. Perceptions also evolve. My initial glimpse of a world which was present when I was not and had a total validity with or without me, deepened as I began to see myself, a creature subject to Natures universal laws, as an inalienable part of the flux. The being which startled the owl had moved on from the being which listened to the gold-finches - declaring itself part and parcel of that greater dynamic which brings the changes of the Seasons. So Spring is not to be 'found' so much as 'lived'. It doesn't happen around us, it happens through us too. We are it and we can help to make it happen by being alive to its message. That's a breath of fresh air, if I ever there was one, after a dark, gloomy Winter! So on that note, I leave you to bud and bloom for another month and wish you all the joys of life returning!

*Rosemary*

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**4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT WELCOMES FORMER HIGH SHERIFF OF WEST SUSSEX AS NEW VICE PATRON**

West Sussex charity 4Sight Vision Support is delighted to begin the New Year with the announcement of the appointment of Dr Tim Fooks, former High Sheriff of West Sussex, as a Vice Patron. Tim brings a wealth of experience to this voluntary role and will join the charity's other nine Vice Patrons who work alongside staff and volunteers to deliver free advice, support and specialist information to blind and sight impaired residents throughout West Sussex.

Tim has been a GP in West Sussex since 1992 and held the post of High Sheriff for the year 2021-22, the first medical doctor appointed to hold this Office in the county. Tim has served as a Board member of the West Sussex NHS Primary Care Trust and was clinical lead for Children and Young People's commissioning for almost 10 years. He has been a GP trainer and educator and was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 2016. Tim sits on the Board of the Leathersellers' Livery Company in the City of London and is a Trustee and Patron to several West Sussex charities.

During his year as High Sheriff, Tim was deeply impressed by the way 4Sight Vision Support's staff and volunteers stepped up the care they offered to those with visual impairment during those really difficult months, ensuring that members could gain access to the best possible support, equipment and advice.

He comments, "4Sight Vision Support's recent receipt of the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is very well-deserved. However, there is still much to be done to make sure its great work can benefit as many people with visual impairment in West Sussex as possible and I am delighted and honoured to have been invited to support the charity as a Vice-Patron."

CEO Kirstie Thomas added, "We are thrilled that Tim



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has been so impressed by our work that he has chosen to join us as Vice Patron. In particular, drawing upon his many years of experience, he will be specifically aiming to develop and strengthen our working relationship with local NHS providers to promote awareness of 4Sight's services and to together help provide more targeted and tailored services to its beneficiaries."

A keen walker, Tim is also looking to support the charity's Ramblers Group, which last year celebrated its tenth anniversary, and is currently undertaking sight awareness and guiding training in order to become as a sighted guide from time to time.

It is estimated that there are over 2 million people living with sight loss in the UK, and over 35,000 people living with sight loss or low vision in West Sussex (RNIB West Sussex Data 2020).

4Sight Vision Support is a registered charity founded in 1921. The charity provides face-to-face specialist advice and support to over 2,000 people living with sight loss in West Sussex each year. 4Sight Vision Support also supports parents, carers and other family members whose lives are impacted by sight loss. It works across West Sussex and all of its services are free. Its holistic and person-centred approach ensures that a diagnosis of sight loss is not a one-way road to loss of independence and reduced health and wellbeing outcomes: it delivers outreach services in urban and rural settings, social support, emotional support and advocacy, provides daily living aids and accessible technology, transport, as well as eye health information, including preventative information to help people retain and preserve their sight. 4Sight Vision Support achieves this with a small, highly skilled and dedicated workforce, and with the support of a team of nearly 300 volunteers. It also runs 36 social/activity clubs and peer support groups across the county.

*Cathy Clark*

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*Photo shows a number of girls holding their recently presented British Gymnastics Awards.*

### HURSTPIERPOINT GYM - ARTS FESTIVAL COMPETITION

This Spring term sees the return of our Arts Competition for its 21st running, featuring Ribbon Solos, Beam or Hoop Pairs and Sports Acrobatic sixes. Over 110 gymnasts will now showcase over 80 entries, performing routine with ribbons, hoops, on the beam and in Sports Acrobatic Sixes. They are all practising week on week for the finale.

If Covid abates, then the **2nd April** will be the first opportunity in nearly three years for parents to see what their children have been working towards. If it is not

covid safe by then, the competitions will be held without audiences during regular session in the preceding two weeks.

There are a few places left to join the Club, with vacancies particularly in our Pre-school girls classes on Friday afternoons – 1.30 pm, 2 pm or 2.30 pm. Our Club offers regular classes at affordable costs with fully trained coaches, free awards each term, two free entry competitions each year and subsidised clothing.

For the up-to-date position, please contact us through our website

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*Andrew*

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## **HURST RETHINK - PLANT YOUR TREE FOR THE QUEENS JUBILEE**

There are around 7,000 people living in Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common. Queen Elizabeth II has been on the throne for 70 years. Wouldn't it be just incredible if we could plant a tree for every resident to celebrate this huge milestone? This is what Hurst Rethink is setting out to achieve as a key project for our Biodiversity Group in 2022.

We're not the only ones wanting to plant trees for the Platinum Jubilee. A nationwide campaign has been launched to encourage communities up and down the land to take part. Called the Queen's Green Canopy, the initiative encourages everyone from individuals, Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, schools and corporates to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October and March. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the Queen's Green Canopy promotes the planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

Our local campaign, which launches in February,

urges residents, groups and businesses to plant trees in their gardens or on their land. Hurst Rethink will provide details on where to get native trees, which ones to plant, where and how to plant and how to care for your new tree. Once you've planted your tree, you can upload a photo and details onto an interactive map on the Queen's Green Canopy website.

We are also looking for land locally where we can plant trees for the community - so if you know of anybody with unused land that is suitable, please let us know. We need to mobilise as a community to reach our target of 7,000 trees so please get involved and spread the word.

If you're part of a local group or business and would like to take part (you can earn a plaque!), please contact [hurstrethink@gmail.com](mailto:hurstrethink@gmail.com)

For all the information you need to take part in the campaign, check out our website, [hurstrethink.org](http://hurstrethink.org).

*Charlotte Snook*

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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 Charity Shop, do come and have a look? Our shop and coffee shop are also open on Saturday mornings.

Activities – Art Group Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon, Quilting Group, German Scrabble, Hairdresser and Chiropody here Monday – Thursday.

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We are looking to introduce a Chair based exercise class in February, do call us for further details.

Knit and Natter on a Wednesday do bring your craft and sit in our cosy room and chat to others.

Memory Corner, starting very soon. Is there something from the past you have that you would like to bring in and show everyone? We are sure this would create an interesting talking point too! Please do bring into the centre and we can show it with other memorabilia.

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.

Dates for your diary: Tuesday **8th March** at 2.30 pm, Suzanne Glossop, a local resident, will give a fascinating talk about her aunt, entitled “Suffragette – A Personal History”. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

On Saturday **19th March** our supporters are hoping to organise a fundraising event for us: “An evening with Nick Hancock and friends” will feature music, a quiz, raffle etc.

Over the Easter weeks beginning on Monday **11th April**, look out for the special meals that we will be putting on. More information will be available from our office and website

Finally, we need help with our Sage accounting and are looking for a volunteer who could give us some of their time each week. Please contact the office for more information if you might be able to help us.

*Regards all at Age Concern*



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### NUTHATCH: THE BIRD TABLE BUCCANEER of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Back garden birdwatchers know there's a pecking order on the peanut feeder. Coal Tits are elbowed out by Blue Tits who in turn are ousted by Great Tits. But when the Nuthatch shows up, everything scarpers. With its streamlined body, blue back, pink chest and black eye-stripe, the Nuthatch cuts a dynamic figure; a swashbuckling, bird table buccaneer. The weapon it wields is a stout, dagger-like beak but it's not designed for skewering birds. Nuthatches are nuts about nuts.

The Nuthatch's name comes from 'nut hacker' in reference to the bird's habit of jamming hazelnuts and acorns into tree crevices and then using its powerful bill to noisily smash them open. There's an old Sussex name which fits this manic, intense bird perfectly: Nutjobber. I have never seen this nutty little bird sitting still. They're so crazy about climbing that they're the only British bird that can actually climb headfirst down a tree.

At this time of year our garden birds become more vocal and aggressive as they claim and defend territories and croon their tunes to attract a mate. Spring lacks this urgency for the male Nuthatch. He hasn't stopped fighting all winter as he angrily defends his hectare of woodland. Nuthatches are monogamous too and the loyal pair soon dispense with spring serenades and get down to the hard work of making a home. Many birds start from scratch. Twigs and moss are laboriously collected and nests are painstakingly woven. Nuthatches however are happy to let someone else undertake the heavy construction work. Their residence of choice is a spacious tree



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cavity drilled and abandoned by a woodpecker. Sure, it needs a bit of work, but the Nuthatches will make do and mend. The main problem is the front door. It's too big. This gaping hole can let in predators or Starling squatters who will happily turf out nesting Nuthatches. So, while the male keeps guard the female Nuthatch starts bricking up the entrance hole. Her bill is used like a plasterer's trowel to smear mouthfuls of mud until the terracotta porch is perfectly Nuthatch sized. She is a compulsive builder and if they move into a nestbox she still cannot resist plastering mud around the hole, even if it's already the right size.

And it's great to report on a bird that's actually increasing in number and range. Once restricted to south-east England, the Nuthatch now breeds in Scotland – probably assisted by the provision of garden peanut feeders as it marched north. And as Britain seemingly gets crazier by the day it's nice to know there's still space for a few more Nutjobbers.

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 Michael Blencowe 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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### ~~~ WHAT'S ON IN MARCH ~~~

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**1st DITCHLING DOWNS** WI White Horse, Ditchling.  
7 pm. Tasting and learning about 'Sussex Cheeses'.  
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**2nd HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** Guide HQ,  
Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 2 pm. 'Hurst Hedgehog  
Haven' Ann Winney. Guests welcome.

**2nd ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am.  
Holy Communion.

**4th HHD U3A** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 2 pm. 'My Life  
of Crime' George Smith.

**4th WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** Holy Trinity Church,  
Hurstpierpoint, 11 am. 'I Know the Plans I Have for  
You'.

**6th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am.  
Holy Communion.

**7th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** United Reformed  
Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Traditional Social  
Dancing'. Guests welcome.

**7th MONDAY MATTERS CLUB** Royal British Legion,  
Woodlands Road, Hassocks 2 pm. Open afternoon

for potential new members.

**7th HAS SOCKS** WI Green Room, Adastra Hall, Has-  
socks, 2 pm. Afternoon Craft Club. 'Papercraft'.  
Guests welcome.

**8th AGE CONCERN** Dale Ave, Hassocks, 2.30 pm.  
'Suffragette - A Personal History' Suzanne Glossop.  
All welcome, refreshments available.

**8th LUNCHTIME JAZZ** Hassocks Hotel, 12 pm.  
Lunch included with booking call Jo 01444 235986

**8th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 8 pm.  
'More Garden Impact for Less Effort' Alison Mars-  
den.

**9th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am.  
Holy Communion

**9th HAS SOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Adas-  
tra Hall, Hassocks, 8 pm. 'Plants & Crime' Dr Mick  
Lynn. All welcome.

**11th STAR CINEMA** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm.  
'Mothering Sunday'. Cash only on the door.

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**11th** BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 8 pm. 'Michelham Priory' Helen Poole. Guests Welcome.

**12th** HASOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Age Concern Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Coffee Morning for 'Riding for the Disabled' All welcome.

**12th** HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 2.15pm. 'Spring Flower Show' All welcome.

**13th** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.

**14th** HASOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, 7.45 pm 'North to Greenland' Mary Day.

**16th** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.

**16th** HASOCKS TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hut, Semley Road, Hassocks 7.45 pm. Easter Eggstravaganza. Visitors welcome.

**19th** AGE CONCERN Dale Ave, Hassocks, 7 pm. 'An Evening with Nick Hancock and Friends'. Music, a quiz & raffle. All welcome, refreshments avail.

**20th** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. 'Back to Church' Holy Communion.

**21st** KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Traditional Social Dancing'. Guests welcome.

**21st** HASOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.30 pm. 'Take Good Care of yourself'. Guests welcome.

**22nd** HASOCKS TOWNSWOMEN GUILD Age Concern Hassocks 2.30 pm. AGM.

**23rd** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.



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**25th** HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 8 pm. 'Votes for Women Suffragettes & the Suffragists' Melanie Gibson-Barton. Guests welcome.

**26th** SUSSEX CHORUS St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill, 7.30 pm. 'Soloists and Rosenau Sinfonia' Tickets 01444 412579.

**26th** HASOCKS VILLAGE MARKET National Tyres Forecourt, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

**26th** REPAIR CAFE United Reformed Church, Hassocks, 10 am - 12.30 pm. Bring items for repair book your slot [www.hkdtransition.org.uk](http://www.hkdtransition.org.uk)

**26th** DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION New Residents Party - see article.

**27th** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.

**28th** HASOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, 7.45 pm. 'More Animazing Animals' Steve Bridger.

**30th** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.

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## **STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP**

You wouldn't believe how many questions I get asked over the course of a day - but the most popular one at the moment is what's happening to Pavilion Electrics? A gentleman from Ditchling who's a bit of a snappy dresser informed me he'd like to see it become a gentleman's shoe shop as Burgess Hill no longer has a decent one. Personally, I wouldn't know because I never go there however, I did ask him why he would bother going to Burgess Hill when just up the road in Hurstpierpoint is a first-class men's shoe shop. It may not be cheap, but if you want the best then go no further, well he said I never knew that and I've lived round here for nearly 20 years and never thought of exploring the smaller villages - I always head for the larger towns. Your loss then I said - places like Ditchling, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint are an Aladdin's Cave of small businesses that have a lot to offer. In answer to the original question, I recently had a couple of gentlemen in asking about the shop. They were looking for a premises locally to open a Turkish Barbers. I have no idea what the difference is between an English or Turkish Barber apart from the obvious, but aren't these the guys that set fire to you to get rid of excess hair? That could be interesting to watch from across the road. Personally, I think it would be ideal as a Dog Grooming Salon, but we will have to wait and see.

I have to be honest there are times when I wake up in the morning and having listened to the news, I just think the world's gone mad - I can't comment on parties, inflation or the ridiculous cost of energy which wouldn't seem so bad if it was just a glitch and things will come down in price eventually, but you know they won't and that's the worrying bit. However, when it comes to shortages you wouldn't believe the things we can't get just because they come from abroad, I've never known so many 'Out of Stocks' in all the 49 years I've been here and as for the price rises - say no more - it seems to be relentless. There are only so many you can absorb anyway when I said the world's gone mad - this next bit really proves it.

Bella & Megs had put up a very nice gazebo - beautifully built and very secure for its customers who prefer to sit outside and for those with dogs who could sit down and relax with their pet by their side. They followed all correct protocols and ensured it was built to the correct standards - it was quiet an expensive addition to the café. But that didn't matter because it would pay dividends in added customer footfall. Unfortunately, due to a technicality they must take it down and there is nothing they can do about it. So please show your solidarity at this extraordinary decision. Now - I don't mean chain or glue yourself to the gazebo but show your support for this very popular and well-liked café by going in and purchasing a drink or some food.

I've always said owning any animal is a love hate relationship. All the time you've got them you just love and spoil them, but then when they get ill and die you hate the pain and the heartbreak it brings. It takes a long time to go away and sometimes it never leaves you. You shed a Tsunami of tears, some people vow never to own a pet again because of the pain and heartbreak. Some, like me just keep putting themselves through it again and again. Sadly, this month I've lost two of my cats, Sandi and Clarence. Both the friendliest and kindest cats you could wish for. Clarence our one-eyed cat named after the Lion in Daktari, loved to be out the front of the shop meeting, and greeting people as they came along the footpath in the mornings, when the kids were going to school, he'd be round their legs and, on their laps, when they'd let him. He was extra ordinary, especially when you consider the poor start in life he had from cruel owners. He was with me for 13 glorious years and passed away at home with his Mum, Dad & two brothers. Sleep tight little man we will never forget you.

Love Steve

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