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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH These past few weeks of sunshine have brought the kind of Spring one dreams of for a lifetime. The natural world throws all caution to the winds and seizes the moment. That evil storm of February is a distant memory; next week's forecast of snow is pure supposition. Nature lives only in the present which, just now, is carpeted with wind-flowers and dog violets along quiet country paths and serenaded with birdsong. The pussy willows are transfigured as they bury themselves in a froth of seal-grey catkin fur and golden pollen: heaven for the fat bumblebees which hum in the canopy. Only humans note the massive limbs recently torn from trees and anxiously consult their phones to see whether it is safe to put out their bedding plants. Of course, it isn't! It is still March. The windflowers have the wisdom of a thousands of winters encoded into their fragile memory. They have seen it all before. Through warm periods, cool periods, mini-ice-ages, they have gone on seizing the moment, colonising an inch of ground at a time,



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wherever the opportunity arose. They are truly wild. Truly old. Like the natives of Sussex, they 'won't be druv'. I have tried planting them in the Nature Reserve, selecting the perfect spot, giving them the optimum conditions, loving, hoping, waiting... Nothing! The same with violets. But the violets have now decided this place is good and are moving in fast of their own accord. We have one patch of 'original' hedgebank where dog's mercury grows in spring and the diminutive moschatel, both plants with simple green flowers, which come and mind their own business and disappear each year without anyone much noticing. They are perhaps our oldest residents. When we see a veteran oak, we know it is old. But a veteran patch of untilled ground has its own equal mystery and magic. Wind-flowers grow on the site of ancient woodland coppice. Bluebells are indicators of the same. It is hard to imagine how something as vulnerable and temporary as a flower, or a lump of moss, a fragment of lichen, can be an 'elder' too. But something happens to land which is left to find its own coherence. Yes, without the grazing of larger animals, there comes scrub and nettles and everything gardeners deplore, but a larger landscape without larger animals is like a body without one of its vital organs. If there are no passing deer or wild boar, then humans may have to 'graze' and rootle in their stead. But if a community of plants is allowed to establish itself naturally, then eventually the 'elders' may be enticed to return and bring their magic with them. The slowness is all. Stability and continuity are all. One could make a GM wildflower meadow in a season, but it would require the interventions of Roundup and ploughing before it could be sown for another year. It may take 30 years or more for the veterans we love to

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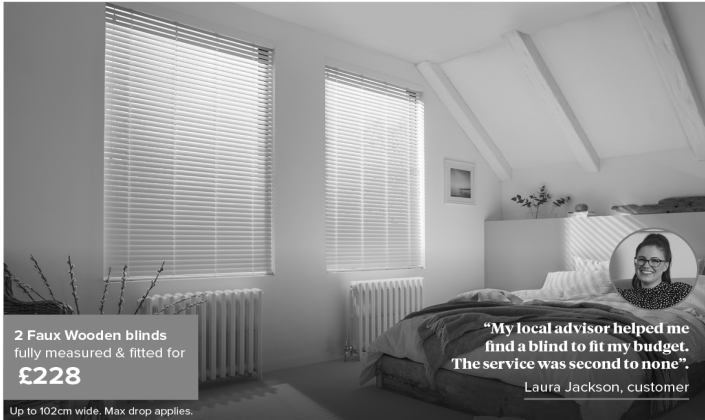
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re-colonize a patch of ground. Too long for moderns to wait. But there is a much better and more fulfilling way for us to benefit, which is by not turning our own ground continually upside down. That way we can inherit the years already allowed by others to whichever plot we happen to land on. Suppose everyone kept a wild corner – not for bug-hotels and seed-packs of bee-friendly flowers from the Garden Centre, though by all means have those somewhere – but a patch of land which is allowed to evolve in peace? Suppose we were each, in our own way, to invite the ‘elders’ to come amongst us once more, to create, or rather allow pockets of wildness in our midst without ascribing to them any human-serving agenda? Such spaces, loosely linked, might constitute an alternative landscape where Man and Nature could exist in trust and where the intelligence and integrity of Nature could speak to us, cautioning against our collective catastrophic will to power. This will not help the skylarks which have nested where the bulldozers are already at work. But it will keep alive in our minds and hearts the memory of a world whose wisdom is older than ours, quieter, more

patient and hopefully more resilient. For inspiration, come and see how the wild has reclaimed the ground round the ponds at Stoneywish. Thirty years on, it is ours today!

Come here also, if you are interested in seeing how this corner of the world looked and lived a century or so ago. Michael has set up a new exhibition of vintage photographs and memorabilia in his Visitor Centre Museum and a phone call is all it takes to book yourself a guided tour from the man himself and take a peek at any albums relating to your own special interest. The telephone number is **01273 843498** or you can email to stoneywishnaturereserve@gmail.com.

Easter will be gone by the time this goes to print – but I wish you all the restorative, regenerative blessings of spring. New leaves, new lambs, ducklings, moorhens, new salad leaves, (those pesky but delicious dandelions and cleavers growing round the back of the shed!), new insights and delight in simple things. These are all free. All fuelled by their own energy. Food for Life! Enjoy them.

Rosemary

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CONGRATULATIONS MUST GO TO 10 YEAR OLD RUBEN SCHILDKAMP

who organised a Table Tennis Marathon on Saturday 19th March at Pakyns Court Hurstpierpoint in aid of the children of Ukraine. Together with his friend Jack, parents, grandparents, friends, family,

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neighbours and the wider community this 10 hour
marathon raised almost £500 pounds!

Our grateful thanks must go to everyone who supported and contributed to this amazing achievement. A local Ukrainian lady living in the village heard about the event and sent a lovely message of thanks for all our efforts which made everything seem worthwhile.

*Nick and Gill Schildkamp
[very proud grandparents]*

TREFOIL GUILD Our March meeting was an Easter Eggstravaganza! The weather was atrocious, but some members braved the conditions and enjoyed the chocolate.!

On 20th April we all played our favourite board games.

On **18th May** our meeting will be all about —Time to Celebrate— for the Queen's platinum jubilee. This will be a bring and share with food from around the Commonwealth.

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

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We're excited to be introducing new Sunday afternoon services, beginning at 3.30 pm at Westmeston Church on Sunday 8th May, featuring a delicious Spring Tea and Songs of Praise. Do drop in, especially if you are going for a walk in the lovely countryside in our parish.

On Sunday 15th May, why not bring the whole family plus your pets to our Pet Service in Ditchling at 3 pm? Check our website www.beacon-parish.co.uk/services for full details and watch for posters locally.

Our popular Morning Worship for all with Communion, followed by coffee and biscuits will be held at St. Margaret's Church, Ditchling on Sundays 1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th May. On Sunday 15th May, Morning Worship will be at Streat Church at 10 am. 'Wednesday at 10' services of



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Communion are held each Wednesday in St. Margaret's Church at 10 am.

Also, please join us for our interesting and important Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held after the 10 am service on Sunday 1st May. Come and hear a review of the past year and our plans for the future.

Sherrian Guest

CLAYTON CONTACT CLUB is for people with poor or no sight. We meet at Clayton Church Hall on alternative Wednesdays from 10.30 am to 2 pm. Drivers collect members from Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint & Burgess Hill.

There is a home-cooked lunch. If you are interested, please ring on 01444 450947.

Dorothy Lazenby

*Deadline for the June issue is
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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY On Thursday, **19th May** we shall be showing *Minari*. Yearning to own a small patch of land, Jacob Yi relocates his Korean/American family – sceptical wife, Monica and their children, David and Anne - from California to 1980's rural Arkansas to start a fresh life and capture the American dream. However, new beginnings including finding out what is best for the family let alone starting a new business on a 50-acre farm to grow and sell Korean vegetables (minari), proves easier said than done. Despite sincere promises, cultural unease, fleeting hopes and the constant threat of financial disaster, Jacob is convinced the family has found their own slice of Eden in the rich dark soil of Arkansas. However, can grandma Soonja's humble but resilient minari help the Yi family figure out their place in the world?

Director: Lee Isaac Chung, USA 2021, 115 minutes, Cert PG 13.

On Thursday, 2nd June our film will be *Petite Maman* which is a heartbreakingly hopeful fairy tale for all ages. Eight-year old Nelly (Josephine Sanz) has just lost her beloved, maternal grandmother and her parents go to her mother's childhood home to clear it. Nelly's mother (Nina

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Meurisse) is deeply upset by the whole process and leaves during the night without saying goodbye to her daughter. A little later, after exploring the house and then going into the woods to play, Nelly meets a similar aged girl building a treehouse. The girl, Marion (Gabrielle Sanz), is extremely friendly and invites her to help and what ultimately transpires is a tender tale of childhood grief, memory and connection.

Director: Celine Sciamma, France 2021, 72 mins, Cert PG.

The films will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. Films start at 8 pm. Doors open at 7.30 pm. Wine will be available before the film and there is ample free parking behind the Hall. Guests and temporary members are welcome for a small charge payable at the door.

Rowena Cager and Melanie Samuel

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Sing Your Heart Out - A huge thank you goes to Sharon Gilbert and Nick Hancock, our resident Gentle Chair Yoga and piano playing duo on a Friday morning, who successfully along with other musicians, friends, family and some of our members of Age Concern put on a "Sing your Heart out Evening" here at the centre on Saturday 19th March raising a wonderful amount of £1435.00 for our Centre. There was a fantastic raffle prize selection, thank you to everyone who donated for that, and a tuck shop run by Sharon's family. We thank everybody who came along and supported the event. Sharon is hoping to do another one in the near future. We would also like to thank CBL Crawley Plant Hire for making a donation of £500 on the night! Nick Hancock was an absolute legend, talented and hilarious. Thank you to all the other great singers and performers and to everyone who "sang their hearts out". We hope to use some of these funds towards cheering up our patio and garden for you to enjoy, with a bird table, new shrubs and plants to make sitting outside nice with the better weather coming. We have tables and parasols outside.

Date for your Diary! Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - Saturday **4th June** held here at the Centre, we will be holding a Buffet Lunch between 11.30 am to 1 pm in our dining room, with refreshments and homemade cakes available all

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Activities - Art Group Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon, German Scrabble and Chiropody here Monday to Thursday. Knit and Natter on a Wednesday do bring your craft and sit in our cosy room and chat to others.

We will be closed on the Bank Holidays Thursday **2nd** and Friday **3rd June**, open on Saturday **4th June** for our jubilee celebrations 9 am to 2 pm. All are welcome. We will be open as normal on the Monday **6th June**.

Regards all at Age Concern



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AT THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL a group of passionate parents got together to try and do something within the community to raise money for the awful situation in Ukraine. They organised a number of events around the village and in school they set up a cake sale. There was an excited buzz from the children in the morning as all the donated cakes were collected in. They were then even more excited to sell and eat these after school. Thank you so much to the wonderful parents for organising this and supporting the challenging situation in Ukraine. Thanks to all those who brought cakes or baked for the sale, an amazing £523 was raised! Two weeks prior to this, the parents were incredibly generous in their support of Red Nose day raising a staggering £713.50 for those in most need.

During the spring term Year 3 have continued their learning on Ancient Greece, looking at Greek art, vases and columns. They have also been representing patterns in different ways and making their own Greek pots and temples in multimedia, which they were very passionate about. A couple of weeks ago, Year 4 took part in Titanic



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day. By using props and costumes, and dancing to music from the era, the children were able to experience what life may have been like for the different social classes on board RMS Titanic. In Maths, the children have been learning about symmetry and have been exploring horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines of symmetry using the Numicon shapes on a baseboard. The children challenged each other to complete different symmetrical patterns.

In mid-March a group of Year 4 children took part in an Adventure Education morning at Plumpton College. The activities were run by BTEC students, under the supervision of teaching staff. One group of children worked on den-building, focusing on how to provide shelter from the elements and how to make their structures strong and stable. The other group took part in an activity using verbal instructions to guide their blind-folded partner along a woodland rope trail. Then the tables were turned, and the children designed their own trail for the leaders to navigate! Both activities were great fun and provided the chance to work cooperatively, share ideas, problem solve



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and think creatively. The children all made the most of this opportunity and approached their tasks with real enthusiasm and team spirit.

Year 5 recently took part in an egg drop experiment in Science, which the children enjoyed very much. This was a really practical way of learning all about the force of air resistance and friction which counteracts the effects of gravity when something is falling. Out of nearly 100 eggs only a few broke which showed great preparation and egg-traordinary skill!

In March, nine year 5 children took part in a netball tournament. The tournament was held at Downlands with nine other local schools. The Downlands sports leaders lead the event and they did a fabulous job. This was the first time our children had played against another school, after only 6 weeks of attending a new netball club. They did so well - they won 4 and lost 4 matches. The team showed great determination, positivity and grew in confidence as the tournament progressed. They came joint 5th - congratulations to the team for all their efforts. Thank you so much to their coach who showed such passion and commitment to giving them this opportunity.

In English, Year 6 have been focusing on descriptive writing and looking at a haunting wartime book named Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti. Along with detailed illustrations they have been able to write atmospheric descriptions of different scenes. The children tried to use a variety of language fea-

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tures to describe the scene vividly for the reader.

We are very excited about our upcoming summer sporting events, including introducing more clubs such as athletics and cricket and training for further sports events.

Leila Murray

BRAN TUB BINGO EVENING The Garden Spa Eco Salon brings you two amazing charity events. On Saturday **21st May** at 7 pm, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre - Bran Tub Bingo - win a game and pick your prize out of the tub.

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HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS CLUB

21st Arts Competition Success

Overcoming the current restrictions, the Club held its 21st Arts Competition in front of its own gymnasts, spread over five evenings.

The competition attracted over a hundred gymnasts to perform in the four different categories for trophies and medals in Hoop Pairs, Beam Pairs, Ribbon Solos and Sports Acrobatic Sixes.

With free and open entry, some of the competitors only joined the Club in the Spring term, while some of the Seniors have attended the Club for over ten years. The gymnasts chose whether to enter, then chose which sections to do, their own music and then create and practise their own routines for performance.

The Beam Pair competition involves mounting the beam and performing six different skills before dismounting. This year's winners were :- Year 3 – Freya Gofton & Mimi Steiner, Year 4 – Gracie Smith & Aimee Morley, Year 5 – Hannah Dare & Elitha McKenna, Year 6 – Summer & Alexis Sargent, Year 7+ – Isabel Faulkner & Grace Balcombe.



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The rhythmic apparatus is rotated each year and this year the pairs were Hoop. The winners were Year 3 & 4 – Layla Whipp & Jessica Jones, Year 5 & 6 – Aria Gosrani & Sukie Kirwan-Ferreira.

The Ribbon Solo winners were :- Year 3 – Maya Muncaster, Year 4 – Emily Darbyshire, Year 5 & 6 – Alicia Aitken and Year 7+ – Isobel Faulkner.

The last two sections were Sports Acrobatic Sixes, where six gymnasts perform a sequence including agilitys, balances and dance. The Junior Six winning team was Alexis & Summer Sargent, Emilia Barker, Jessica Burn-Murdoch, Hannah Dare & Elitha McKenna. The Senior Six competition was won by Isobel Faulkner, Esme Graham-Evans, Imogen Cox, Grace Balcombe, Darcy Ganpatsingh & Elsi Beveridge.

Adding together the scores from their entries, the Overall Champions were calculated, Summer Sargent won the Overall Junior Championship and the Senior title was won by Isobel Faulkner.

The next opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 38th Annual Championships in June.

There are a few vacancies to join the Club – par-



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icularly the Pre-school classes on Friday afternoons. For further details regarding the Club please visit their web-site www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk

Andrew Hair

VIVACE! IS BACK WITH A CONCERT FOR UKRAINE The friendly Ditchling-based choir Vivace! is pleased to announce that it has survived the pandemic. The last two years have not been easy, but we are back to what we love doing, which is to sing in perfect harmony and raise money for charities large and small.

Our summer programme includes a concert in aid of Ukraine in the Great Hall at Danny House, Hurstpierpoint on **15th June** at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are available from Suzy Smith, email suzy4restoration@hotmail.com or ring **01444 471363**. The grounds at Danny House will be open from 6.30 pm and doors open at 7 pm. All proceeds are to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

We are always ready to welcome new singers and as long as you enjoy singing in harmony an ability to read music is not essential. If you are interested, please contact info@vivacechoirsussex.org.uk.

Richard Ware



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LET'S MAKE AND OPERA! Find out how we do it at two Heber Opera workshops. Heber Opera, the Hurstpierpoint based opera group, is planning two opera workshops on **Saturday 21st May** (Steyning Centre) and **Sunday 22nd May** (Uckfield Civic Centre). Each workshop will concentrate on chorus sections from a different opera. The days will begin (time to be confirmed) with learning the music and be followed by acting out the drama. At the end of the day's workshop, solo singers will join the participants to present the piece to friends, family and anyone else who would like to come along to an informal performance in the evening (there will be a minimal audience charge).

The cost of taking part in each workshop covers the music and provision of tea/coffee refreshments. The viability of these workshops depends on the number of participants so if you are interested and wish to know more please contact our musical director Michael Withers on **07802 735190** or michael@michaelwithers.co.uk.

The closing date for entrants is Friday **6th May** when full details of the workshops will be circulated.

Jenny Hawkes



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DEATH BY DESIGN (11th to 14th May) Following on from a very successful launch in January the Ditchling Players are once again treading the boards but this time we're not alone as we're being joined by another local group.

Mid Sussex Theatre Productions arose from the late Haywards Heath Operatic Society and although relatively have already put on a successful production of '39 Steps'. The play that's been chosen for this collaboration is 'Death by Design' by Rob Urbinati. Set during a weekend in an English country manor house in 1932, the play combines the plot of an Agatha Christie thriller with the wit of Noel Coward. Playwright Edward Bennett and his actress wife, Sorel Bennett flee London and head to Cookham after a disastrous opening night of Edward's latest play. Various guests arrive unexpectedly, amongst them a Conservative politician, a fiery socialist, a near-sighted ingenue and a bohemian artist and dancer – each of them with a long held secret. When someone is murdered it's left to Bridgit, the feisty maid with a macabre interest in murder to find out 'whodunnit' in her own inimitable style.

Tickets are on sale now and are available either on-line (booking fee applies) at **ditchlingplayers.org.uk** or at The White Horse, Ditchling (cash only). We are also aware that some of our audience don't venture out at night and so are pleased to announce that there will be a matinee performance on Saturday **14th May** at Ditchling Village Hall. Doors open at 7 pm (Curtain up at 7.30 pm) for the evening performances and 2 pm (Curtain up at 2.30 pm) for the Matinee.

Both MSTP and the Ditchling Players look forward to welcome you to what will be both a successful and productive collaboration for both groups.

David Tettersell

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HURSTPIERPOINT OPEN GARDENS IS

BACK! We are delighted to announce that we will be opening on Sunday **19th June**, to raise money for St Peter and St James Hospice. We're aiming to have about 8 gardens open around Hurst. It's a lovely, sociable, event, and it's an important fundraiser for the Hospice.

We'd love to hear from anyone in Hurst who might be interested in opening their garden. It doesn't need to be big, or weed free, or perfectly designed – just something that will be interesting to people. We're open to offers from people in any part of Hurst – especially gardeners (or allotment owners) within walking distance of the High Street.

If you think you might like to open, please contact Prue Heron – **prueheron@gmail.com** or telephone **07769 904724**. One of the organising team would be very happy to come and visit your garden to answer any questions and talk about what's involved.

Pru Heron

HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

Our March meeting was our AGM and it was good to get back to being near normal. We didn't have a speaker but committee read out excerpts from some of our very old documents, which were from a collection of articles commemorating women's social history through sixty years from 1929 to 1989 – my how we have progressed since then!

Our next meeting is on **24th May** when our speaker is Andy Thomas who will explain the probability of U.F.O's or not! We meet at Age Concern Centre at 2.30 pm. Visitors welcome. *Sheila Southwell*



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IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY IN OUR VILLAGES WITH NO MOW MAY

After the success of last year's No Mow May campaign Hurst Rethink and HKD Transition invite the residents of our villages to once again make our gardens more nature friendly by not mowing our lawns in the month of May. By coming together en masse to take part in the charity Plantlife's 'No Mow May' campaign, we can collectively make a real difference to local wildlife - and pollinators in particular.

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

However, there are 15 million gardens in the UK and our lawns have the potential to be a major wildflower nectar source - a staggering 200 species are known to grow on lawns. In fact, incredibly simple changes in mowing can result in enough nectar from common flowers such as daisies, dandelions, buttercups and clover for ten times more bees and other pollinators. More bees and other insects also mean more food for creatures further up the food chain - so by encouraging those at the bottom, we benefit many more.

Our local campaign in Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common, Hassocks and Ditchling supports a national survey run by the charity Plantlife called 'Every Flower Counts'.

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



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

We're working with local schools and community groups to encourage take up of No Mow May and Plantlife have agreed to give us a BN6 nectar score to show how many bees our gardens have fed during May! Discover all the details on our website, www.hurstrethink.org

If you don't want to leave your whole lawn, just a patch is equally fine, just think of it as a loan to the wild residents of your garden. We look forward to seeing the results.

Charlotte Snook

CRIME IN THE CARIBBEAN, FICTIONAL AND ALL TOO REAL

There's more to crime in the Caribbean than TV's 'Death in Paradise.' Neil Sadler, in Jamaica, helping train the local police force, became interested in the real-life adventures of eighteenth century pirates. At the u3a's March meeting, he showed how figures like Blackbeard, rightly notorious for their cruelty, had another side. 'Gentleman Pirate' Stede Bonnett paid his crew wages and the Pirates Code allowed crews the vote on important decisions and awarded compensation for loss of limbs. Another modern touch was Neil interspersing his talk with bursts of reggae and steel drums making for an all-round entertaining afternoon.

Jeremy Weinstein

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RAVEN May 14th 1264. The aftermath of the battle. Two thousand corpses lie strewn on the slopes and riverbanks around Lewes. Some view this as a victory; for others this is defeat. But for a large, black bird who has calmly watched the bloodshed from the side-lines, this scene of slaughter is an all-you-can-eat buffet. Democracy never tasted so good.

Smart birds, Ravens. Way before 1264 they'd realised they needn't waste their energy killing to eat when other less intelligent species can do the dirty work for them. For centuries Ravens exploited man's enthusiasm for resolving quarrels with clubs and swords. Ravenous Ravens dined out at all the finest battlefields, burial grounds, gibbets and gal-lows.

Hanging around with corpses would get anyone a bad reputation but the Raven's took on mythological proportions. Across the northern hemisphere the bird became respected and revered by many cultures as an omen of death, denizen of the after-life, messenger of defeat. This sinister CV secured them a plethora of portentous appearances in everything from the Old Testament to Game of



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Thrones. The sight of a Raven struck fear in the heart of man who would dare not harm it. Today Ravens still occur in our folklore as the earthbound spirit of King Arthur, and at the Tower of London the birds are entrusted with the fate of the kingdom. Yet aside from all the make-believe malevolent accolades bestowed on the Raven, it truly is magnificent to watch. As befits Britain's wickedest bird, the Raven certainly dresses the part in a costume of sleek, glossy black feathers, shaggy 'beard' and stout dagger beak. It commands the sky; wheeling on wide wings and uttering its guttural 'cronk cronk' call. Sometimes their behaviour is incongruous with their evil image. To see Ravens rolling and tumbling through the air during their joyous display flight is like catching the grim reaper doing the hokey-cokey.

When not busy instilling fear in the population, Ravens performed an important clean-up job riding Britain's towns of rotting rubbish and the bird was protected by royal decree. But in the 17th century people's perceptions changed and for centuries the birds were persecuted. Ravens, and the old beliefs they represented, were exorcised from Eng-

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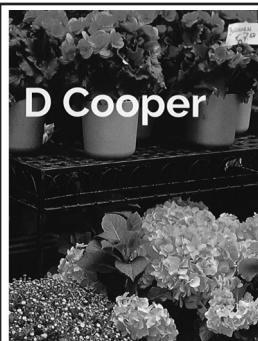
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land. By 1895 they had vanished from Sussex. But informed, tolerant attitudes have recently allowed Ravens to return. They mostly breed on our chalk cliffs and quarries but can be seen flying over our towns and cities. In our comfortable world of surround sound and selfies there is something reassuringly sinister about watching a Raven circling overhead; a spectral souvenir of our brutal, primitive past. Sussex will never again be the site of a bloody revolutionary battle. But there's no harm in a few Ravens hanging around. 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 guide book, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join.

Michael Blencowe

HASSOCKS WI Sorry, you missed our March evening. We heard about and tried gentle Tai Chi with Steve and Marie-Louise from Hurst and chair Pilates with Nancy. We went home stretched and energized.

The April meeting found us taking along cherished

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items and telling their stories to others, favourite books, music and a few teddies. Interesting and evocative.

Our next craft meetings are going to be dedicated to making flowers and decorations to help us celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022, at our May meeting. We will have food, fun and jollity. Don't forget WI meet Adastra Hall 3rd Monday in the month. Doors open 7.30 pm start 7.45 pm. New Craft club 1st Monday in the month Green Room 2 pm.

Come along and enjoy company and make new friends.

Gerry Dandridge

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ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB 1922 – 2022

How many of you have actually looked over the hedge during April????? The green is starting to look very good and by now Adastra members will have returned to outdoor bowling. If you look over the hedge you should see a number of people playing bowls on most days of the week. On Wednesday, Saturday and some Sundays matches are held when the players from visiting clubs play against Adastra. These games are usually played in whites and start at 2 pm.

At half time a welcome cup of tea plus biscuits are provided. Why not come along and watch the matches you never know you may suddenly wish to start playing yourself.

If you are unable to make the Open Day sessions to be held on Saturday **7th, 14th and 21st May** due to domestic duties the Adastra Bowling Club ask that you contact Mrs. Barbara Hornby on **01273 845222** and she will try to assist you by arranging for you to come to the bowls club when you are available. Please do not miss out if you wish to spend some leisure time to enhance your well-being.

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The Adastra Bowling Club have arranged many events during this their centenary year and will tell you more about them next month unless of course you have decided to join us in person.

David Reader

DITCHLING MORRIS is delighted to be back dancing out around Sussex this year! We are a mixed side of folk dancers and musicians, founded in 1985 and local to Sussex, dancing in the traditional Cotswold style and are proud to be multi-generational.

Ditchling Morris always welcomes new dancers and musicians to keep the Morris tradition alive. If you enjoy dancing, learning something new and making new friends and having fun along the way, speak to us when you see us out or find out more about how you can join on

www.ditchlingmorris.org or find us on Facebook as "Ditchling Morris".

Abigail

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HASSOCKS AREA REFUGEE SUPPORT Are you thinking about offering to sponsor an individual Ukrainian refugee or family?

Not sure how to connect with refugees needing help?

Want to be able to meet with other hosts in your area?

Want information on where there are social groups for your guests to make contact with other Ukrainian speakers?

Want to know what documents your guest needs to open a bank account or register with a doctor?

We can answer these questions and more.

We can offer advice, support and translation services from local people.

We are part of a network of local groups working together to support hosts and their Ukrainian guests.

Want to volunteer?

We are also seeking volunteers to help with transport to health care appointments schools, local services along with collecting and sorting donations. If you would like to donate clothing, baby equipment or toys, details of drop off points will be on our Facebook page

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Linda Howes

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB Attendance has been encouragingly high and the club looks well set to weather the Covid storm. The club is approaching its Summer Break now but that doesn't mean that there will be no dancing. On Monday **6th June** members and friends will be dancing in the open air at our Summer Dance on Ditchling Green. Starting at 7 pm there will be live music and the dances will be led by Sean Goddard. Admission will be payable on the door.

The Committee would also like to remind members that they are invited to the Annual General Meeting on Monday **16th May** which will, of course, be followed by dancing.

In September the club will resume the regular club nights on 1st 3rd and 5th Mondays of the month at 7.30 pm for 2 hours at the United Reformed Church Hall in Hassocks.

Plenty more details on the website

www.keymerfolkdanceclub.com. *Sally Course*

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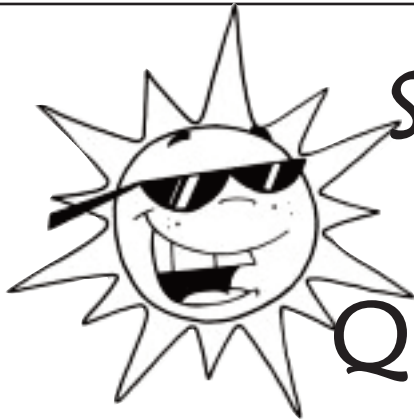
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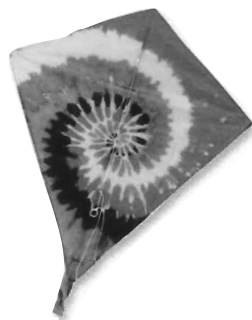
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On offer is a wonderful nursery and forest school for children aged 2 to 8 and a forest school programme for home-educated children.

We offer 'Stay and Play' sessions for parents and toddlers and a Holiday Fun programme for 2 to 11 year olds from **25th July to 19th August**.

Westmeston has enabled Janet Irwin, the teacher owner, to develop an outdoor programme for nursery age children and those older ones being home-educated or deferring entry to school. With a 'can do' attitude, and mixed age group, the children thrive and have a wonderful sense of wellbeing.

If you are looking for a traditional, nurturing, nursery school, with an early introduction to literacy and numeracy, plus an optional reading scheme and lots of outdoor play and forest school adventures too, please come and see us.



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Janet Irwin

A WEAVING OF JAZZ JEWELS AND POETRY, Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint. Saturday **18th June**, 6 to 7.30 pm.

Hello friends, Vocalist Lou Beckerman here. Together with BAFTA award-winning pianist Joss Peach, we are delighted to be putting on another intimate, jazzy and poetic evening.

Those who came to our 'Raise the Roof' show for the South Downs Refugee Project (SDRP) at Danny House last August had a taste of our performance, and many have kindly asked when we might play locally again. This will be another fundraiser for SDRP, our local community initiative to welcome a refugee family to the area, as well as for Holy Trinity Church, Hurst.

There'll be a mix of jazz and a peppering of spoken word pieces - some newly written. I've been scribbling away during lockdowns and am looking forward to sharing them with you. Joss's versatility and warm manner have made him a firm favourite. He loves to sing too so watch out for a duet or two... We've previously played in the church and love this glorious setting.

Tickets can be reserved by email: margaret@112a.co.uk or phone **01273 835113**. You'll also be able to donate to SDRP on the night.

To find out more about the project you can visit www.southdownsrefugeeproject.org. Very much looking forward to welcoming those of you who can make it.

Lou



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We thank Derek Swaine Chairman of The Hassocks Field Society for the following reply:- Dear Name and Address supplied - Snowdrops, I was very interested to read your comments in the March Talk About. Perhaps if you had asked the 'tall gentleman' you would have found out that the snowdrops were in fact being planted.

I think a few facts are in order.

John Gray, the Field Society Outings Coordinator, organized a yearly trip to a venue with snowdrops. When he sadly died in 2007, as then Chairman of the Parish Councils Environment Committee, I suggested that we planted a large number of snowdrops in the Memorial Garden.

This we did, paid for by the Hassocks Field Society and this was well received by the Society and the Village.

The following year I suggested that each year Mrs Gray and myself plant more bulbs, purchased by the Field Society. Since then we have planted over 9,000 snowdrops in the green, observed and approved by many passing villagers.

As Chairman of Hassocks Horticultural Society I would also point out that you plant with a bulb

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planter and you dig up bulbs with a trowel.
I would welcome further discussion.

www.hassocksfieldsociety.org.uk

RESPONSE TO SNOWDROPS IN LAST MONTHS ISSUE I refer to your April edition and the article entitled Snowdrops.

The person who chose to remain anonymous has cast a shadow over an outstanding member of our community who is the chairman of two of our village societies.

This gentleman was not in fact stealing these bulbs as mentioned in the article but was in fact planting 700 new bulbs supplied by funds from one of the societies to enhance the memorial path in Adastra. Had this person asked him what he was doing he would have enlightened them, rather than them walking on and presumably thinking that he was in the act of stealing them.

Phil Mephram

LEWES AND BONFIRE NIGHT a presentation by Andy Thomas at Danny House New Way Lane Hurstpierpoint on Thursday **12th May 12:30 pm**. in aid of NSPCC 'every childhood is worth fighting'.

Tickets which include a light buffet lunch and a glass of wine are available from Mishon MacKay in Hurstpierpoint or call **01273 834602** or giving.give-star.com/event/nsppcc-andy-thomas-lewes-and-bonfire-night

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LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS – HOW 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT CAN HELP

4Sight Vision Support has been providing support and specialist information to blind and sight impaired residents of all ages throughout West Sussex for the last 100 years. Some core services have changed very little, others have changed enormously or been introduced as times and technology moves on, and in 2021, major service updates were introduced as a direct result of experiences gained during the pandemic.

A sight loss diagnosis can be a devastating and life-changing time. In the run up to Global Accessibility Awareness Day on **19th May** we'd like to highlight how we can provide one-to-one assistance if you or someone you know needs support, or if you yourself are supporting someone with sight loss. Our services are free and you do not need to be referred.

We can: Help after diagnosis at the eye clinics to enable you to understand your eye condition, the registration process, and promote good eye health. Help you connect with others, sharing experiences and support.

Provide assessments to identify magnification techniques and products to help with everyday

tasks such as reading, shopping, medication, preparing meals.

Help with accessing benefits and concessions with assistance to complete forms, such as Personal Independence Payments (PIP), Attendance Allowance (AA) and Blue Badge.

Enable you to remain independent, communicate effectively, and develop new skills with the help of technology.

Provide appropriate and up to date information, advice, and guidance in formats accessible for you. Support with education, training, learning, and employment.

Enable you to access leisure, social, health and wellbeing activities within your community

If you'd like to find out more, or are interested in volunteering or fundraising for us, please call on **01243 828 555**, email enquiries@4sight.org.uk or visit www.4sight.org.uk.

Cathy Clark

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HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

With the departure of Lynn and Nigel Pink for Norfolk we are in urgent need of some new members. We are a very friendly society, and new members are always welcome.

We meet on the last Friday of each month in the Guide Hall next to Trinity Road car park. We always have a presentation by an expert speaker on a subject of historic or geographic interest, usually concerning Sussex but sometimes from wider afield.

At our last meeting on 25th March our scheduled speaker, Melanie Gibson-Barton (subject the Suffragettes), was unable to attend. Fortunately, we were able to get Dr Geoffrey Mead of Sussex University who gave a presentation on the River Adur from source to sea.

The speaker for our next meeting will be Chris Horlock. He will give his presentation on Sussex Witchcraft on Friday **20th May** starting at 8 pm.

So that gives you some idea of the variety of subjects discussed at our meetings. If you would like to join us, please contact me - telephone **01273**

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832280, e-mail w.kent123@btinternet.com. Or just come along to our meeting on **20th May** which will be preceded by a short AGM.

Bill Kent



PHOTO IDENTITIES *We thank David Wilson ex Scout Leader for the following letter:-* Re the photograph of Hassocks scouts in the April edition of Hassocks & Keymer Talk About, the people shown are follows - from left to right.

Edgar Pettit, David Wilson (myself), Norma Wilson, Cath Stoner, Dianne Pack, Margaret, Walter, Stan Pack.

I'm not sure of the location but as the ladies are all from Hassocks Cub Packs, it was possibly taken at one of the annual Cub Camps at the Isle of Thorns. I hope this is of interest.

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We thank Dave Evans for this picture of Hurst Bowls Club taken in the 1930's. (Pictured left to right)

Back row: Tubbs, Frank Hudson, Lionel Geering, ?, Fred Anscombe, Jackson Styles, Steve Serle, Basil Geer, White, ?, A Atkinson, Hammond, Bill Voyce (Sen).

Middle Row: G King, Sands, George Thomson, Gander, Harry Shepherd, Mr Cook, Lockyer, ?.

Bottom Row: (sitting of ground) Charlie, Tom Bishop, Toby Pierce, Walt King, Dick Anscombe, George Walder, Archie Piper, Thompson, ?, Bannister, Hudson, Mockford, (sitting on ground) Mr Furlonge.

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A HOSPICE'S OPEN GARDENS SCHEME, which has been hit by the pandemic, received a boost from horticultural quarters this week.

St Peter & St James, in North Chailey, were given £500 towards production of the event's brochure as a gift from family-run South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks.

The Stonepound Garden Centre also donated bedding plants, raised at their on-site nursery, which the hospice will sell to boost their funds.

"We had heard how the popular Open Gardens had taken a back seat during the pandemic", said Rebecca Houghton-Knapp from the business. "And it was a pleasure to assist as the hospice are hoping to raise plenty of funds in the coming months."

Rebecca Houghton-Knapp

OLDLAND MILL The team at Oldland Mill look forward to seeing you at our first Special Event Day for nearly two years on **1st May**, 11 am until 4 pm. The running order for the day is a great mix of music, fun and dance.

11 to 11.45 am Sussex Folk Group.

11.45 to 1 pm Morris dancing (in the lane).

1 to 1.30 pm Punch and Judy (in the lozenge).

1 to 1.45 pm Kevin Russell.

2 to 2.45 pm Blues Band.

3 to 3.30 pm Punch and Judy (in the lozenge).

3 to 3.45 Ditchling Singers.

All our normal memorabilia, tea and cakes will be available for purchase. There will be a complimentary minibus running from The Thatched Inn right up to the Mill at regular intervals.

David Cumberland

**Deadline for the June 2022 issue
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GIFTS FOR HURSTPIERPOINT GIRLS A youth group's badge-work exercise has been made easier thanks to a donation from a Sussex Charity and Hassocks Garden Centre.

Working together, the Budding Foundation and family-run South Downs Nurseries have given 1st Hurstpierpoint Girls' Brigade all they need for the youngsters' plant care work.

The Rev'd Will Fletcher visited the Brighton Road garden centre to collect a selection of interesting succulent plants, together with pots, compost and grit to help with their project.

Said Clive Gravett, founder of the Budding Foundation: "It is always a delight to be able to help youth groups and to foster their enthusiasm for gardening and environmental projects."

Clive Gravett



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HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint at 2 pm on first Wednesday of each month.

In March Ann Winney gave us a presentation on Hedgehogs. It was most interesting. The thing that amused me most was that she calls a group of hedgehogs a prickle - brilliant.

4th May - some Magistrates will give a presentation about their work.

1st June is our AGM and we are hoping to incorporate this with some Jubilee Celebrations.

We also have a Walking Group, Textile Group and Book Club.

New members are always most welcome - first visits are free.

For more information please contact me on **01273 649023** or Dianne on **01273 835283**.

HASSOCKS MAY DAY Everyone is welcome to Adastra Park to join in the merriment and festivities of Hassocks May Day on bank holiday **Monday 2nd May** from 12noon-4pm. Our infamous Dog Show is back! Entry will be £2 per class per dog. Just turn up on the day to enter. Hassocks Infants will be dancing around the Maypole and Burgess Hill Marching Youth will be performing. Community café will be run by PearlPower – all cake donations appreciated. We have a beer festival and BBQ hosted by KHSSC. A plethora of community and charity stalls with a variety of activities to take part in. A fun filled afternoon for all the family to enjoy. See you there. *Michelle Binks*

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~~~ WHAT'S ON IN MAY ~~~

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**1st ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Worship & Holy Communion plus Annual Parochial Church meeting.

**1st OLDLAND MILL**, Mill Lane, Keymer 11 pm - 4 pm. Special Events Day - see article for more info.

**2nd HASOCKS MAY DAY** Adastra Park, Hassocks, 12 to 4 pm. This family event returns. Cafe open & dog show.

**2nd HASOCKS WI** Green Room, Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 2 pm. Flowers and decoration making ready for the Jubilee with food fun and jollity. Guests welcome.

**3rd DITCHLING DOWNS WI** Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. 'The Silk Industry' - David Easton.

**4th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.

**4th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 2 pm. Some Magistrates will give a presentation about their work. Guests welcome.

**5th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE** Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book

call 01273 494300.

**7th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB** Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 noon. Open Day - Have a go at bowling to book call 01273 843855.

**8th HISTORIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SOCIETY** London Road/Brighton Road Hassocks. 60th London to Brighton Run. More info [www.hcvs.co.uk](http://www.hcvs.co.uk).

**8th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Worship & Holy Communion.

**8th ST MARTIN'S CHURCH** Westmeston, 3.30 pm. Spring Tea & Songs of Praise.

**10th LUNCHTIME JAZZ** Hassocks Hotel, 12 pm. Lunch included to book call 01273 841110.

**10th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. Geoff Peach presenter of BBC Radio Sussex and Surrey 'Dig it'.

**11th HASOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 8 pm. 'The National Collection of Hedy-chium (Ginger Lilies)' - Andrew Gaunt. All welcome.

**11th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.

**12th NSPCC FUNDRAISER** Danny House, Hurstpierpoint 12.30 pm. Lewes & Bonfire Night' - Andy Thomas. Tickets include a light buffet lunch call 01273 834602.

**13th BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY SOCIETY** Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill 8 pm. Lost Theatres of Brighton. A talk by Chris Horlock. Everybody welcome.

**14th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB** Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 noon. Open Day - Have a go at bowling to book call 01273 843855.

**14th DITCHLING PLAYER & MID SUSSEX THEATRE PRODUCTIONS** Ditchling Village Hall, various performances. 'Death by Design' tickets [www.ditchling-players.org.uk](http://www.ditchling-players.org.uk).

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**15th** STREAT CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Worship & Holy Communion.

**15th** DITCHLING PET SERVICE Ditchling, 3 pm. check website [www.beaconparish.co.uk/services](http://www.beaconparish.co.uk/services) for venue details.

**16th** HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.30 pm. Come along and enjoy company & make new friends. Guests welcome.

**16th** KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 - 9.30 pm. AGM followed by Traditional Social Dancing. Visitors welcome.

**17th** DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by St Margaret's Church. All welcome.

**18th** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.

**18th** HASSOCKS TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hut, Semley Road, Hassocks 7.45 pm. Time to Celebrate - for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - bring and share food from around the commonwealth. Visitors welcome.

**19th** DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall, 7.30 pm. Minari - Cert PG 13. Guests welcome.

**19th** MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

**20th** HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 8 pm. Sussex Witchcraft - Chris Horlock. Guests welcome.

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**21st** HEBER OPERA Steyning Centre. Opera workshop. To book call 07802 735190 by 6th May.

**21st** ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 noon. Open Day - Have a go at bowling to book call 01273 843855.

**21st** THE GARDEN SPA ECO SALON Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 7 pm. Bran Tub Bingo Charity Fundraiser - win a game and pick your prize out of the tub. Tickets 07375 490459.

**22nd** HEBER OPERA Uckfield Civic Centre. Opera workshop. To book call 07802 735190 by 6th May.

**22nd** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Worship & Holy Communion.

**24th** HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN GUILD Age Concern Hassocks 2.30 pm. 'The Probability of UFOs or Not!' - Andy Thomas. Guest always welcome.

**25th** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.

**27th** HHD U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 2 pm. AGM followed by 'The Story of English Freedom' - Andy Thomas. Guests welcome.

**28th** HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET National Tyres Forecourt, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

**28th** REPAIR CAFE United Reformed Church, Hassocks, 10 am - 1 pm. Bring items for repair book your slot call 01273 040110 or [www.hkdtransition.org.uk](http://www.hkdtransition.org.uk).

**29th** ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Worship & Holy Communion.

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

Well, here I am on the cusp of 70 and strange things are starting to happen. For example just the other day an official brown envelope landed on the front door mat – at last I screamed, finally after all these years waiting it's arrived! My knighthood for services to film and literature. But no it wasn't that at all it was a letter from the DVLA telling me that as I was now 70 years old I had to reapply for my driving licence, what's that all about? Mind you my biggest concern is where have the last 10 years gone? They seem to have gone by in the wink of an eye but I'm very lucky I have no aches or pains or arthritis and this I put down to a couple of things, CBD oil which makes me feel like the Indian rubber man and being a workaholic which keeps me very active in both mind and body. Like the engine of a car – stop using it and it'll just cease up.

I do wish I had better teeth, I really am like an old horse my teeth are a mess what I have got left that is. Being dentist phobic hasn't obviously helped, in the old days I used to go to Mr Casey in Hurstpierpoint who was lovely he understood my needs, good low costs and virtually pain free dentistry. After he left I didn't see a dentist for years, Gavin wasn't bad but the cost just kept going up and up, so here I am deciding what to do next, spending money on myself is not something I do easily. Those people with great teeth and no animals must really be quids in. Two of the most expensive doors to walk through these days must be vets and dentist, in that order and things are only going to get worse, trouble is most vets are now owned by these huge Equity Corporations and they determine the fees charged it is now dearer for your dog to have dental work than it is you. Harking back to the old days again I remember Graham the vet over the road in the original Ark Vets – he was lovely – a man who joined the profession because he wanted to help animals and their owners and not charge them the earth. He left soon after Ark Vets became part of the Equity Corporation that now controls them and eventually retired from the profession altogether.

I am always fascinated what goes through peoples minds when trying to think of ways in these strange times to make money. I suppose we all do it from time to time, Bit Coin I suppose was one of them on the other hand you could open a Vaping Shop, now I know nothing at all about this habit and it must be a habit or you wouldn't do it. It is a safer alternative to smoking cigarettes but you don't see shops just selling cigarettes anymore. In the old days tobacconists shops were on every High Street. My Granddad was a pipe smoke. One day I went with him to the tobacconists on Camberley High Street, it must have had at least 50 different pipes on the wall plus cigarette holders and 100's of different tobaccos, some loose some in small cans. It had everything for the smoker and the smell of all the loose tobaccos was actually quite intoxicating. I was about 12 at the time but the smell of that shop I shall never forget, eventually these specialist shops disappeared and along came the newsagent which swallowed up that sort of business. So in Hassocks we have 6 outlets for smokers and vapers, so I was a bit surprised that someone would take on the old Pavilion Electrics to open a vaping shop, if cigarettes are eventually banned, as is the wish of this government, then vaping will become more popular but I think that is a long way in the future. As with all new businesses we welcome them and hope they do well.

Thank you for all the food etc you keep bringing in. Never throw anything away, if it can't be used abroad then the food banks here will take it to help people struggling to feed their pets. Please keep your High Street alive – shop locally whenever you can

Steve

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