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We thank Diana for this lovely postcard 'A Summer Morning at Ditchling':-

I recently acquired this postcard and it captures a lovely tranquil, peaceful scene of a time when life was not so hectic. It is postmarked 1951 and is entitled a 'A Summer Morning at Ditchling'.

My son thinks it is Lodge Hill in background and I agree, perhaps there is someone who will be able to identify the two men in the cart?

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'LIGHT UP HASSOCKS' IS COMING! It's only a couple of months until the big day and the team that organises it is in full swing to make sure everything is in place for Friday **2nd December**.

As a trustee of Hassocks Community Organisation, I'm delighted to welcome Light Up Hassocks back into the fold of the many projects HCO runs and supports for the benefit of local residents and traders. Sussex Vale Rotary did a truly wonderful job, and we are lucky enough to have a couple of Rotarians to guide us this year, but it feels great to have the project back in the village.

We know that Light Up Hassocks is a real highlight in local residents' calendars, especially local children's, and brings a great deal of cheer in the festive season, so we are determined to deliver a wonderful evening.

You can expect all the usual delights such as stalls, live music, food, drink, the funfair and late night opening, but we're also going a bit bigger this year with Proper Cycling and Coffee having a larger area to put on live music, and spotlights for performers on the Mid Sussex Radio Stage so they can be seen better. Additionally, we're pleased as punch to announce that LVS School is going to help make the lanterns



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for the parade alongside Hassocks Infant School. Of course HIS, Windmills and Downlands Schools will all have choirs performing, so proud parents/grandparents/caregivers, bring your hankies!

In the run up, we'll be helping you to feel Christ-massy with the 'find the elf' high street trail, the shop window display competition (judged by Hassocks WI again this year), as well as a competition for Hassocks Infant School children to design the Light Up Hassocks poster (and have the chance to be the one to turn on the Christmas light at Hassocks Hardware!).

There's still plenty to do to ensure everything is ready and runs smoothly, but we're getting there, and we couldn't do it without all our wonderful local businesses and stall holders who support and fund the event.

Please remember that the high street will be closed to traffic from 4 pm to 8 pm so do try to move your car beforehand if you're likely to need it, and notify any carers and delivery drivers that might be making house calls between those times. It would be hugely appreciated if laybys on the high street could be vacated by 3 pm so we can get stalls into position easily and safely.

On the night, please make sure you keep little ones close as it gets very busy, and if you have any problems just speak to a Light Up Hassocks marshal or a member of the security team posted at the road closure barriers and we'll do our very best to help.

Keep an eye on the Light Up Hassocks Facebook page for updates and the running order.

Happy (very early) Christmas!!! *Erika, Bernard, Fred, Shaun, Alison and Jonathan*


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TREFOIL GUILD Our September meeting was held at The Bull, Shermanbury. We played skittles and celebrated 10 years of the Guild.

The October meeting was our Fundraising Event. We had a speaker from St. Peter and St. James Hospice. A raffle and cakes were sold.

On **16th November** we have a Christmas craft evening.

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

1ST HASOCKS CUB/SCOUT GROUP - CHRISTMAS POST

The Cubs and Scouts are offering a delivery service for local Christmas cards for a small fee, in the hope to raise funds for the group. Last year with the money raised we brought hammocks for the scouts to sleep in.

There will be 5 Collection boxes located at QD Stationery, Marchants Estate Agents, Age Concern, Hassocks Hardware and Hassocks Pet Shop. You can leave your cards in the boxes from Light Up Hassocks on Friday **2nd December** with the last collection at 4 pm on Friday **16th December**,



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so we can deliver them at least a week before Christmas. There will be a couple of deliveries in the month.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Cubs and Scouts.
Lisa Sendall, Scout Leader

BRIGHTON CONSORT – REFORMATIONS

Brighton Consort, who are well known for their concerts of early choral music, will be returning to Hurstpierpoint in November with “Reformations – beliefs that changed a continent”. The programme will include two large, three-section pieces: the Miserere by Josquin des Prez, composed in 1504, and William Byrd’s Infelix ego, published in 1591 with text written a century earlier by the radical Florentine priest Savonarola while he was languishing in his prison cell. These works will be interspersed with music by other famous composers of the 15th and 16th centuries, including Isaac, Palestrina, Tallis and Lambé.

The performance of this truly great choral music will take place on Saturday **26th November** at 3 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint. There will be another performance at St George’s Church in Brighton on **23rd November**. Tickets can be purchased online via the website **www.brighton-consort.org.uk/index.htm**, or by ringing **01273 833746**, or on the door.

Please also see more details about Brighton Consort on their Facebook page **www.facebook.com/brightonconsort**.

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION DITCHLING AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The work of the Royal British Legion continues throughout the year supporting our Armed Services. How magnificent were all our Armed Services at HM Queen Elizabeth's recent funeral. May our Beloved Queen Elizabeth rest in peace and rise in glory. Armistice Day this year is on Friday **11th November**. As in the past the Branch will hold a brief service of Remembrance on **11th November** at 11 am and a wreath will be laid.

On Remembrance Sunday **13th November**, the Branch will hold its usual Parade starting from the Scout Hut in East End Lane marching down to the War Memorial. Once again, we will be accompanied by the Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band. Following the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial and wreath laying, there will be a Service of Remembrance in St Margaret's Church. At Streat Church on Remembrance Sunday there will also be an Act of Remembrance at the Streat War Memorial starting at 11.50 am. This will be followed by the Service of Remembrance in Streat Church.

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Everyone is most welcome to come and join us at these services.

Poppy Appeal will be starting around 27th October this year. As always Poppies and Crosses will be available in most of the shops and businesses in and around Ditchling.

The Royal British Legion is always looking for new members. You don't have to be ex-service, just be prepared to support our Service Men and Women and their families in all that the Royal British Legion does to help them, in so many different ways.

Please contact me on **01273 845319** if I can be of further help.

Margaret Bovill

PARISH OF CLAYTON WITH KEYMER CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday **12th November**
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HURST RETHINK The Queen's Green Canopy - a chance to celebrate the life of Elizabeth II. Earlier this year Hurst Rethink launched a campaign to encourage locals to join in a nationwide tree planting initiative called the 'Queen's Green Canopy' to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. We hoped to see around 7,000 trees planted in Hurstpierpoint - one for each resident (approximately!). With the passing of Queen Elizabeth II in September, this campaign has gained extra significance. As a nationwide initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the QGC was due to conclude in December - the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the United Kingdom is from October to March, the initiative will now be extended to include the full tree planting season, beginning in October 2022 and concluding in March 2023. This extension is in accordance with the campaign's Patron, His Majesty the King. Hurst Rethink are proud to be part of creating a living legacy with over a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation during the first planting season, October 2021 to March 2022. The extension of the QGC initiative will build on this

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legacy and serve as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty's extraordinary service to her country and her people.

The interactive map created by The Queen's Green Canopy to showcase the planting projects across the United Kingdom will also continue to the end of March 2023, giving people an opportunity to be part of this special legacy. If you're planting one or many trees this year, we urge you to add the details to the Queen's Green Canopy interactive map at <https://queensgreencanopy.org/> so we can reach our planting target.

If you're a landowner or business owner who would like to plant trees and would like to find out more, please contact hurstrethink@gmail.com.

Charlotte

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POLECAT For most of us, our only encounters with British mammals are spotting them on the roadside as we hurtle past at 55mph. I'm sure many people these days believe that lying motionless on a road verge with its feet in the air is natural behaviour for a Badger. Our road trips may be macabre safaris, but roadkill can tell us a lot about the state of our island's mammalian fauna. Hedgehogs, a squashed staple on the roadkill menu a few decades ago, are now hard to find flattened on the highway, reflecting their dramatic fall in numbers in the wider countryside. And recently an unfamiliar corpse has appeared on the tarmac: the Polecat.

Before being killed by cars, Polecats already had a long history of persecution in England – mainly for eating poultry and notoriously stinking to high heaven. To Shakespeare, and many others since, 'Polecat' was an insult. The species was exterminated from Sussex around 1890. Indeed, the entire English population was banished to the wilderness of Wales. Yet we were happy to welcome their watered-down, domesticated form – the Ferret – as cuddly pets and ruthless Rabbit hunters.

After a century in exile, purebred Polecats are making a comeback. This re-colonisation was the basis for a recent investigation by the Vincent Wildlife Trust who requested roadkill Polecat corpses for DNA testing to verify their pure Polecat lineage (as opposed to Polecat/Ferret hybrids). I was soon dodging traffic on the Steyning by-pass and excitedly picking up a dead Polecat. Being mustelids,

Polecats naturally smell, but take my word for it, they smell a lot worse when they've been dead for a few days. Despite discharging a whole can of Glade, my wife smelt that something was up seconds after I set foot in the house.

Putting a dead Polecat in your freezer will test even the strongest of marriages.

Thankfully, after some smooth talking, my marriage is still intact but there are still some fish fingers that neither of us are brave enough to eat. Next morning a package arrived from the Vincent Wildlife Trust containing heavy duty bags, some cool Biohazard stickers and printed instructions for posting Polecats.

After an interesting exchange at the post office counter, my roadkill casualty was posted. A few days later, it was declared 100% Polecat; further evidence that Polecats have returned to Sussex. It's

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great to have them back and many farmers are welcoming them too, as they do a great job of dispatching Rats and Rabbits. Look out for them in your headlights.

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 guide book, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

Michael Blencowe

DITCHLING PLAYERS - November production (23rd to 26th November) Well, rehearsals are well under way for our production of 'Gaslight' and I understand that things are going well with not only some returning faces to the Ditchling stage

but also some new ones too who are very welcome. As always with any production it's not just the final play that the audiences see but also all the things that are going on backstage and those people are working equally hard to bring another excellent production to you the audience. 'Gaslight' is a Victorian melodrama full of suspense and intrigue, just right for those dark November nights, with a wife who thinks that she's going mad with all the strange things that are happening in her home, or is she? To find out you'll have to come along and join us at Ditchling Village Hall where all will be revealed.

As with our Spring production there will not only be the evening performances from Wednesday (23rd) to Saturday (26th) but also a matinee on the Saturday with Curtain up at 7.30 pm and 2.30 pm. Tickets from The White Horse, Ditchling (cash only) and www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk (a booking fee applies to online purchases).

David Tattersell

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HASSOCKS GUIDES – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE?

If you were a Guide in 2005 you may recognise yourself, or maybe you had a daughter in Guides and can see her as she was 17 years ago! The picture was taken when the Guides were enjoying a trip to Adelboden in Switzerland. It's just one great activity that Guides in the village have taken part in over the last 90 years.

If you were a Guide you will recall lots of different activities that you took part in, friendships made and skills learnt. You may also remember the rain at camp!

Guiding today still offers lots of opportunities to try challenging activities in a safe space: to work as a group, to plan your activities together and

learn new skills. Sadly, the opportunities to join a Guide unit in the village are less than they were in 2005. 2nd Hassocks Guides which started in 1976 to offer Guiding to all the girls who wanted to join, has had to close due to lack of volunteers coming forward as leaders. There is still one Guide unit in the village but, with the growing population, it does mean that not all the girls who would like to be

Guides will have that opportunity. If you were a Guide yourself, or just enjoy being with young people and enabling them to develop their life skills, we'd love to hear from you. Guiding is fun for adults too and enables you to try new activities, develop new skills, make new friends and have fun. You even learn to enjoy the rain!

We'd love to hear from you if you think you'd like to be part of Guiding in Hassocks. Do contact Pennie Thomson our District Commissioner at penniethomson@aol.com or give me a call on **01273 842895** even if it's just to reminisce!

Clare Brittain (2nd Hassocks Guides – retired)

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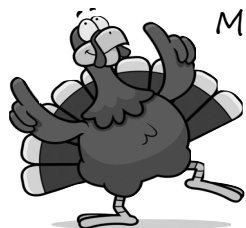
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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL We have had a great start to the term. Lots of active learning, lots of active new opportunities and lots of singing! Singing assembly and choir are back and it is an absolute joy to hear the children's voices ringing through the hall once again. We are excited to be building on our parent engagement this term by welcoming parents back into the school to attend celebration assemblies and sessions with their children to share learning. Collaboration and a strong relationship between school and home are so important.

Our new year 3 children have settled in brilliantly and have been having lots of fun in maths; learning how to predict patterns, make links between different bonds, number trios and finding doubles. In art they have been expressing themselves through 'doodle art', using different ways of mark-making and a variety of patterns to create their own designs. We were really impressed with the level of focus, perseverance and care that they took.

Year 4 have been learning about Ancient Egypt and have produced some incredible scarab beetle artwork through carefully studying the different body parts to demonstrate accurate proportions in their

sketching. In geography they have been learning about the River Nile and naming the different parts of a river. The children enjoyed a practical session making replica rivers from tin foil so they could discover for themselves what makes a river flow. Year 5 recently spent a week doing some work based around the 'Room of Requirement' from the Harry Potter books. They created their own rooms using various art techniques to build texture to make their work look more realistic, then wrote about their creations in their English lessons.

We have a wonderful outdoor learning environment that we are very proud of which the children all love spending time in. Year 6 were recently challenged to make 'Green Man' faces on the trees using mud, berries, leaves and twigs. The results were astonishing and there was some great teamwork and lots of happy, smiling faces. They also enjoyed making mud balls to throw at targets – everyone had lots of fun and got really messy! The children recognise that spending time outdoors and having these opportunities for practical fun with their friends is also great for their mental health and wellbeing.

Paula Greenfield

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New Activities - Chair Pilates on a Monday 2 pm to 3 pm, Bingo Wednesday mornings at 11 am. Come along and bring your knitting and chat to others

Art Group Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon.

Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday **3rd De-**

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cember from 9.30 am to 12 noon - Raffle with a chance to win one of our Christmas Hampers!, Cakes, Refreshments and gifts on sale. All Welcome.

"Sing a long Christmas" - After a very successful fundraiser previously, Sharon Gilbert and Nick Hancock and friends will be putting on another fabulous evening of singing, food and nibbles on Saturday **3rd December** at 7 pm, to be held at Age Concern - tickets will be on sale please contact the office.
All at Age Concern

HURSTPIERPOINT CHRISTMAS FAIR organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club will be held at the Village Centre, Hurstpierpoint on Friday **25th November** from 6 pm to 9 pm and on Saturday **26th November** from 9.30 am to 1 pm. Entry is free and there will be a wide range of stalls selling a variety of Christmas gift ideas. Cards, advent calendars, craft kits, pottery, knitted crafts, jewellery and much more will be available.

Rebecca

Deadline date for December is 1st November

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CLAIMING GOVERNMENT BENEFITS – HOW 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT CAN HELP

For people living with sight loss and those supporting them, the process of claiming Government benefits may seem a long and daunting process. Access to the correct financial help has never been more important as the cost of living crisis continues and the winter approaches.

4Sight Vision Support, which offers support to blind and sight impaired residents of all ages throughout West Sussex, provides specialist advisors who guide its clients through the process of identifying and accessing benefits and concessions to which they may be entitled. This can make a huge difference to quality of life, independent living and general wellbeing. Advisors will assist with completing forms, such as Personal Independence Payments (PIP), Attendance Allowance (AA), Blue Badge and other travel concessions, and obtaining a 50% discount on a TV licence.

In response to the rising cost of living, the Government has also set up several non-repayable payments to help those who are affected the most. These include a Winter Fuel Payment; Pensioner Cost of Living Payment; Disability Cost of Living Payment and an Energy Discount. Other available benefits include Low Income Benefits, Tax Credits; Universal Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance, Em-

ployment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit.

Service user Kathleen, who is partially sighted and lives with anxiety and has dyslexia, commented, "4Sight Vision Support's adviser Tara took the time to read and explain the form, wrote out the answers and read these back to check I was happy. It's enabled me to overcome the previous barriers I had trying to complete this form and means I now have access to financial support."

If you or someone you know needs support accessing benefits and concessions call **01243 828555** or visit **www.4sight.org.uk**

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CANCER RESEARCH UK 40 years ago the late Grace Fry organised a coffee morning to raise funds for Cancer Research, before the end of the day I had agreed to help her.

I now find it's time to retire. I would like to thank the various people that have been on the committee over the years.

Val Purdew who became our secretary a few years later and has done a sterling job.

My friends and the local people who have supported us over the years at coffee mornings, the annual plant sale, the famous race nights, quiz nights, fashion shows and donations being received.

The support in selling my Easter chicks which just raised £17,000 in nine years. Is there anybody in hassocks that hasn't got one? My close friend Tina Allen for all the knitting she has done, selling them as well.

I feel very proud that our total raised to date is £249,301.24.

A big thank you to our families that have been such a support.

Thank you all.

Stella Jenner

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ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB had its centenary this year and held many celebrations to mark the 100 years of bowling in Hassocks. Amongst the many events organised was a match against the Chelsea Pensioners who came down from London in their scarlet uniforms and enjoyed a great afternoon with us on the green.

One of our events each year is to hold a match and collection for charity and this year we collected for the Hassocks Goes Gold Children's Cancer Charity. This was a great day with nearly all club members attending playing fun games and at the end followed by a very busy Tombola and BBQ. Adastra Bowling Club is proud to have raised £600 towards this charity which hopefully will be matched by Barclays Bank. It is good to see this worthwhile charity being embraced by many individuals and businesses in our community.

Brian Booth

BURGESS HILL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 3rd December, Cyprus Hall, 10 am to 3 pm. There will be an array of trading stalls in support of local good causes, plus refreshments and a tombola. Free admission.

Run by Burgess Hill Horticultural Soc. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com

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DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

The oldest in England, this year celebrated the historical milestone of 200 years of the Society and the Bi-centenary Show took place on 3rd September.

The Show was held on the picturesque Ditchling Village Green and the ribbon was cut to open the show at 1 pm by BBC Radio Sussex's and Ditchling's own Sarah Gorrell.

Visitor numbers were high and we also we received a record number of entries. 283 in total in the adult classes, plus 23 children's entries. Across all sections, the benches heaved and the stewards had trouble fitting everything on the green baize when the exhibitors started pouring in at 8 am sharp, weighed down with their baskets and boxes of produce, cookery, floral art, photographs and paintings.

Not to mention the children proudly carrying in their miniature gardens.

The judges remarked on the high quality of the entries, across all categories.

Outside of the main marquee, the live music programme went off without a hitch and was enjoyed by all. The children's races were enormously popular and much fun was had with these, which contributed hugely to the happy, fun filled atmosphere on the Village Green.



In the small marquee, the colouring competition provided some quiet time for those younger visitors who needed it, and a space for Dick Morley to sell his wonderful book about the history of the Society.

The stalls selling their wares looked very jolly and helped to draw in visitors, and in the case of the wine stall, helped to keep people there!





Trophy winners were:

George Blackstone trophy - John Oughton,
Wheelwright Challenge Cup - Dick Morley,

President's Challenge Cup - Jenny Corney,

Ralli Challenge Cup - Susanna Parker

Davy Challenge Cup - Susanna Parker and Sarah Dean,
joint winners!

Children's Trophy - Finley Grey

Margaret Buckwell trophy - Olivia Tyler-Smith

Henry Waller Memorial Trophy - Georgie Kane

Buckwell Trophy - David Eaton

The brand new Bicentenary Trophy was won by an emotional Tamsin Harrison for her stunning showstopper cake, which was judged 'Best in Show' across all sections.



Thank you - The DHS Committee would like to thank everybody involved in making the day such a success including the wonderful musicians; Janet Lawrence, The Rude Mechanicals, Helen's String Quartet and Ditchling Morris Dancers. Also David at the Post Office, the Parish Council and especially the wonderful Turner-Dumbrell Foundation, without whose generous grant we could not have put on such a spectacular event.



Future events: The Spring Show will be held at Ditchling Village Hall on **25th March 2023**.

For more information about the show and the Society visit www.ditchlinghorsoc.co.uk.

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BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT Saturday 3rd December

Join us for our ever-popular Christmas Concert where we are performing two outstanding works by Vivaldi and Schubert.

Antonio Vivaldi composed his joyous Gloria in 1715 originally for the choir of the Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage for girls. It comprises twelve short sections which range from the sunniest and most sparkling of moods to moments of poignancy and reflection.

Franz Schubert wrote his Mass in G over just six days when he was only eighteen. It is a gorgeous work and shows the brilliance of the young composer. A selection of carols for choir and audience completes the programme.

The concert takes place on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG. Tickets are available from Burgess Hill Help Point, on the door, phone 07522 493966 or visit our website at www.burgesshill-choral.org.

Frances Eales

THE HURSTPIERPOINT NSPCC COMMITTEE are having their annual Quiz evening on Saturday 19th November in the Hurst Bowls Club, South Avenue, Hurst.

Tickets include a fish and chip supper or sausage or fish cake with chips. Tickets are available from Mishon Mackay, 106 High Street, Hurstpierpoint **01273 834602**. There will be a bar and raffle. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Jo Marshall

JAZZ ETC AT DITCHLING VILLAGE HALL

with Aneesa Chaudhry & K2

Friday 2 December 7:30pm

Join us for our Christmas Special as Aneesa sings jazz, blues, classics and Asian fusion, backed by K2.

(Ashley Knowles: piano/organ/accordion,

Patrick Knowles: guitar, Gary Fairchild: bass and

Dave Uden: drums) with special guest

Dave Morgan on trumpet.

Delicious food available from Tiny Thai and a selection of wines and beers at the bar. Please book ahead if possible, so that we can be sure of being able to accommodate your party.

Tickets £12.50 from Ditchling Post Office

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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

At the time of writing, we are preparing for our first Generosity Week. By the time you read this we shall be giving thanks for what we shared that week and moving on to consider the generosity of those who gave their lives in conflict as we look towards our services of Remembrance.

Remembrance Sunday – Ditchling & Streat

9.30 am Service of Holy Communion – St Margaret's.

10.50 am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial by the Village Green.

11.15 am Remembrance Service – St Margaret's

Also, a 10.45 am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the South Churchyard of Streat Church, followed by a service.

Sundays in November – St Margaret's

10 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion on **6th, 20th and 27th November**.

Wednesdays @ 10 – St Margaret's
10 am Holy Communion each Wednesday.

Wednesday **2nd November** at 6 pm – SING! – St Margaret's.

Do come and join us to sing some favourite worship songs and learn some new ones. Everyone is very welcome.

Our Sunday services are normally live streamed and can be found via the Beacon Parish TV button on our website www.beaconparish.co.uk where details of any changes or additions to our list of services can also be found.

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KNOW DEMENTIA EVENTS

3rd November - Memory Moments Café for people with memory problems and their care partner/families at Court Bushes Community Centre, Hurstpierpoint.

17th November - Memory Moments Café for people with memory problems and their care partner/families at Adastra Hall Hassocks.

2nd, 16th & 30th November - Brain Waves Choir Hassocks, a community choir for people with any neurological condition including Dementia, Stroke, Parkinson's, MS, MND and ABI at Adastra Hall, Hassocks.

For more info or to book a place please call **01273 494300** or email info@knowdementia.co.uk.

Visit our website www.knowdementia.co.uk for details of all our events throughout West Sussex.

Natalie

HHD U3A LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We have just completed our second book on the history of the village. This new book focuses on the history of shops in the village. Our first book being on 'Hostelries in Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint, past and present'.

The new book is titled 'Keymer and Hassocks Shops 160 Years'. We have traced the history of the shops from the first ones, which were at Keymer, through to the present day.

If you would like a copy of the 'shops' book please contact Marilyn Goodwin at marilyn.goodwin2@gmail.com or QD Stationery.

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HURST PLAYERS Over the Christmas and New Year period 2022/3 the Hurst Players will present "Treasure Island" a version written by Bob Sampson and directed by Richard Coney. There will be eight performances from **29th December to 7th January** – a mix of evening and afternoons.

Watch out for details of characters – the familiar ones from Robert Louis Stevenson's story will be there – plus a few additional ones – and with auditions over, glorious rehearsals are under way involving lots of piratical shenanigans and, of course, laughs!

The Players' website www.hurstplayers.co.uk has all the details of dates and times of performances – tickets will be available early in December and can be booked online or in person at the Theatre, 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint.

We would love to welcome you for some festive Christmas entertainment designed for all the family to enjoy.

Anne Hopper

HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME 2022/23

Hassocks Parish Council is pleased to announce that it is now inviting applications for grants to assist local community groups or for projects and activities that will benefit local residents. The deadline for the submission of applications for phase 2 of the scheme is Friday **27 January 2023** for consideration at the

Full Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday **14th February 2023**.

More details on www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk or please contact the Parish Council Office on **01273 842714** or email info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk.

Ian Cumberworth

LIKE DANCING THAT IS ENERGETIC AND ELEGANT?

Ditchling Morris are welcoming dancers and musicians to practice evenings and workshops from September until Spring 2023.

We are a friendly, mixed side that meet at the URC Church Hall in Hassocks. If you enjoy the challenge of learning something new and having fun along the way, contact us or just come along on Thursday evenings from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

For more info visit www.ditchlingmorris.org or facebook.com/ditchlingmorris.

Frida Manning

CAMEO (come and meet each other) Monday **14th November** at Keymer Church Hall from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Cameo is open to all just come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

Gary Pickett

THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CONCERT.

An afternoon of G&S, festive music and readings starring Ian Belsey (Bass) and Louise Crane (Alto) both members of the National G&S Opera Company on **27th November** at 2.45 pm at Adastral Hall, Hassocks. Tickets include tea or coffee and mince pies. Email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com for more information.

Pennie Ingram



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SUSSEX CHORUS Saturday 12th November
Timothy Hamilton's Requiem and Haydn's 'Nelson' Mass at St Andrew's Church, Cants Lane, Burgess Hill. RH15 0LG 7.30 pm.

Conductor: Stephen Anthony Brown, Organ: Jeremy Weaver, Orchestra: Rosenau Sinfonia, Soprano: Zita Syme, Mezzo Soprano: Tabitha Reynolds, Tenor: James Schouten, Baritone: Peter Grevatt.

Tickets available from: Carousel Music **01444 417654**, Burgess Hill HelpPoint **01444 247726**, www.sussexchorus.org. *Angela Holroyd*

HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 'Treading Gently Through the Borders' – a detailed look at the softer side of border management.

An illustrated talk by Ben Pope, Head Gardener to a private estate in West Sussex. Preceded by a short AGM at 7.45 pm on Tuesday **8th November** in the Club Room of Hurstpierpoint Village Centre.

Kathy Green

DOWNLANDS SCHOOL ASSOCIATION We have our annual Christmas Market coming up from 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday **26th November** at Downlands Community School.

Festive Stalls, Christmas Tree Forest and entertainment from the Downlands Choir and Orchestra. Visit downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk for more info.

Jo

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP, meet at Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint from 2 pm to 4 pm on **2nd November**. 'Hurst War Memorials and the Lives of some of the Fallen' with Mary Norris. Visitors welcome.

Ann

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STAR CINEMA You enjoyed Fisherman's Friends last year....now here's the sequel. November's film at the Adastra Hall is on Friday **25th November**. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets on the door (cash only please). Tea, coffee, wine plus the usual popular raffle. The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Edmunds

SUSSEX SEWING CLUB – We are friendly sewing group that meets once a month at Westmeston Parish Hall. Our next get together is Saturday **12th November**. If you'd like to join us for a day of uninterrupted sewing, please email sussexsewingclub@gmail.com. *Dianne Bowles*

HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD Our annual Federation Day was a success with about 100 delegates from various other Guilds joining us for a special day. We all enjoyed a fish and chip lunch and had an afternoon speaker and a giant raffle. Each Guild had a decorated table display depicting Halloween and a table with things to sell. Our next meeting will be on **22nd November** when our speaker will be Dr Janet Pennington whose talk will be "On your feet" a history of shoes. We are having a Christmas dinner in December Our Christmas party afternoon will be on **13th December** and a special speaker to entertain us. We usually meet on the fourth Tuesday afternoon in the month at 2.30 pm to 4 pm at Age Concern Centre. You are welcome to come as a visitor to see if you like us.

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH Now that the Autumn Equinox has passed and the fat, golden harvest moon has shrunk to a slip of herself, I am minded yet again of the turning cycle of the year. Our first frost came last week, just as confused nasturtium and marigold seeds decided to sprout in the herb garden. I asked Michael what the autumn jobs on the 'old' farm would have been. "Bringing in the mangels," came his prompt reply. 'Mangels', for anyone not in the know, are mangel-wurzels, (or 'mangolds', in country dialect), a wurzel being a root, and mangel a kind of turnip. These fat, gold-and plum-coloured beets were grown as winter fodder for the cows. In September the leafy tops would be cut off in the field and the roots unearthed ready for harvest. When they were brought in it was the job of the farm children to lob them onto great heaps which half-filled the barn. No wonder the Alfords bred good cricketers! The cows had their mangels served chopped in their feeding troughs as they were milked and on a Saturday, the men would rest from milking and take their refreshment alongside them: mugs of steaming tea and heavenly cream slices, (made and delivered by Mr. Maidment from West Street), the tray balanced on a 10 gallon milk-churn for a table. On dark winter mornings, the cow-stalls were lit by oil lamps, and it was Michael's job, when young, to clean the soot out of the 'chimneys'. The cow-stalls were warmed by the breath of the animals. The lamps must have thrown living shadows on the walls - timeless moments, which seem out of reach of our frantic, electrified world.

We are accustomed to moan about the nights drawing in at this time of year. Perhaps the ability to control most things in our environment makes us less adaptable than our forebears, for it seems few of us in the West relish the encroachment of darkness. We react to it by staging the super-illumination of our houses, streets and cities as winter deepens, but I wonder if something important is not lost along the way. In 'indigenous', that is to say pre-digital/industrial households across the world, dark-

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ness is still respected by country people. Darkness is another realm, a world of rest from toil, a world where people gather together round a communal hearth and share stories and food and companionship. For the Dagara people of West Africa, darkness is sacred, belonging to the dimension of Spirit. To intrude there with any light other than the storyteller's campfire, is considered an act of disrespect. As fuel bills rise, will we have to stop taking light for granted and relearn the art of living with shadows? Of course nobody wants people to be stumbling about, tripping over things and burning the toast because they can't see what they are doing. But perhaps it is not all doom and gloom. Changing with the seasons, becoming winter people, could possibly remind us of forgotten gifts, making us slow down, take note of one another, and feel the pulse of Nature around us. The Danes cultivate slow, candle-lit, family evenings together, practising their celebrated Hygge, or art of cosiness, which helps them score so well in the world's register of Happiness. Perhaps we too could benefit from blessings of the old Viking Valhalla, or Saxon Mead Hall: comradeship, conviviality, and the delicious sense that the colder and darker it is outside, the more we should gather and share together.

The cosmos for the Dagara is divided between five elements: Fire, Water, Mineral, Nature and Earth. Water cultures are slow-moving, peaceable, respectful of the past and the wisdom of the ancestors. Fire is the furnace of our first origin, bringing warmth and the inspiration of dreams, but in its negative aspect it can cause havoc. Cultures where fire rages out of control are the cultures of progress and expansion, addicted to speed and violence. Goading into an ever-aster pace and seizing ev



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everything in its path, this fire destroys nature and brings tension, sickness and war. Malidoma Patrice Somé, who has written so eloquently about the beliefs and traditions of his village in Burkina Faso, makes this plea to us, the fire-culture people who are burning up the world: that we change our focus from the destructive fires of impatience and goal-seeking and nurture instead the kindly hearth-warmth of fellowship and belonging. This seems like sound advice for drivers incensed by the kerfuffles in Ditchling High Street! Perhaps for us all in these crazy times.

Autumn invites a turning inward, a pause in the hurry of life. A self-enrichment. In herbal medicine this is the time to gather roots because the life force of a plant retreats and concentrates below ground as sunlight wanes. There is a return to origins. Creatures which have gorged on summer's bounty, now face a change – the challenge of austerity. Their bodies will survive on what they have laid up for winter. Conserving energy, they will rely on their own coats for warmth and their own hearts' endurance to see them through. And humans? One last thought from the Dagara people: They believe that plants are the wisest things on earth, because they were here first and because they can communicate silently, through pure spirit. Animals come second, because they evolved next and they can communicate in grunts and sounds without the need for words. Humans, the last to arrive, are the least intelligent, because they need language in order to understand one another. The more words people use, so the argument goes, the further they are from their sacred roots. Fact-trading, logic, dialectic are the language of estrangement. Conversely, the language of poetry is a bridge, by which man tries to return to his source. Oh dear! Not much hope for someone who uses *so many* words to write her QD article! But in a way, though not a poem, this *is* an attempt to attune to the gentler, wiser values of those who have gone before. There are times when being 'connected' to the modern world feels like

being at the mercy of a persistent nuisance caller, an unknown and invisible pest who wishes to pry into every moment of our lives. Maybe autumn is a good time to put the phone down and seek a different kind of connectedness, with the earth, with our past, and the 'village' of people we can actually reach out to and touch. As for me, I'll just creep off to my chimney corner and dream about cream slices... all friends welcome. And may your autumn dreams come true too!

Rosemary

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

We will be holding a Zoom conference on Saturday **19th November**; the speakers will be Dr Weir of Harley Street, Dr Nina Muirhead of Doctors with ME and Dr Charles Shepherd, Medical Advisor to the ME Association. If you would like to join the conference, please e-mail me_cfs@hotmail.com.

Our Newsletter and full information about ME and reMEMber can be found on our website – www.remembercfs.org.uk or telephone me on **01273 831733**.

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We thank Dave Evans for the following picture of a group of Lady church goers outside the Methodist Church, Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint which was built around 1910. (Mrs Sandler is in the front row)

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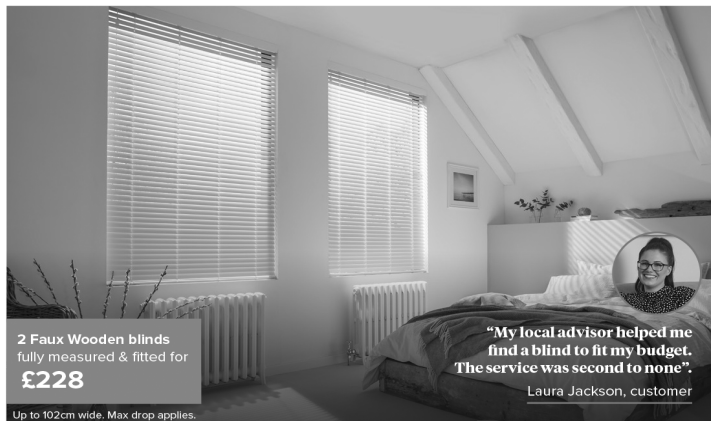


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of £10,000 for the Children's Cancer & Leukaemia Group. Super tall sunflowers, the Golden Bee poster competition, 119 Giant Gold Bows, The Parklands Road Gallery of Art, the Adastra Bowling Club fundraiser, Let's STALL Childhood Cancer, Shop Window Displays – the winner being QD Stationery! – the Daily Facebook Auctions, the Village Market Tombola Stalls, The Golden Gala, Reflex@42's crazy 24-hour-Hair-a-thon and the Field Society Coffee Morning. Yet again the huge generosity of this amazing village has done great things, raising awareness and funds for Children's Cancer but also had a really great Golden time doing it! Thank you to all the people who helped out with crafting, organising and manning stalls, to everyone who donated, sponsored, bought, baked, sold, drew, encouraged and stopped to get involved, plus a special mention to the Scouts who took all the Giant Gold Bows down before lunchtime on the 1st October! Huge thanks also to all the businesses who donated prizes and took part even though we all know how tough it is for them right now and to The Hassocks Pub for hosting the Golden Gala and helping the night go smoothly. And a massive thank you to my

husband Jamie and son Milo who support me through an exhausting month and always have my back when I need their help. It's a GOLD STAR and a HUGE Thank You from me! Currently the total raised stands at £11,500 but with the amazing efforts of the girls at Reflex@42 and some big business fund matching still to land I'm very happy to call this year the most successful ever as I think we're headed to around £16,000!

Rachel Bartlett Bundy

HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB

Many thanks to all those generous people who braved the damp weather on 23rd September and made it to our (almost) annual Coffee Morning. We are very pleased to report that we have raised £600 for Macmillan.

Hilary

CRAFT FAIR Heber Opera Craft fair in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on **12th November** 10 am to 2 pm. Lovely homemade refreshments and varied stalls for you to visit and start your Christmas shopping. At the time of writing there are a couple of stalls available so please email **Jen.hawkes@btinternet.com** if you are interested and there might still be one free for you, no guarantees though! Please do come along to browse and bring your friends.

Jenny Hawkes

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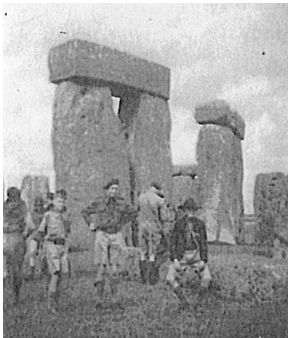
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~~~ WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER ~~~

Clubs, Societies & Groups please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section. Email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or send to **QD Stationery 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR.**

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~~~ WEEKLY MEETINGS ~~~

1ST HURSTPIERPOINT GIRLS' BRIGADE, Methodist Church Hall, Hurstpierpoint, Wednesdays term time. Age 4 to Sch Year 3 5.15 pm. Years 4 to age 18 6.30 pm. Margaret Taylor 01273 832286.

BBT (Bumps, Babies and Toddlers) St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks. Thursdays 1 to 2.30 pm. A group for play and chat.

HASSOCKS FOOD BANK, Powell House (next to United Reformed Church), Hassocks. 10 am to 12 noon. Monday and Fridays.

HUG IN A MUG St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer. Monday 10.30 am (excl. Aug 29th)

HUG IN A MUG St Johns Church, Clayton. Tuesdays 10.30 am.

THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Praise - 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday. Wednesdays@10am Holy Communion each week.

TOAST CLUB Powell House (next to United Reformed Church) Hassocks. Mondays (term time only) 3 to 5 pm.

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for School Years 7 to 11. Pool, table football, uno, Wii Console and toast.

THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, Wednesdays 10 am. Holy Communion.

UKRAINIAN FAMILIES COFFEE MORNING Guide Hut, Hurstpierpoint. Thursdays 10.45 am - 12.45 pm followed by English lessons at 1 pm

YOUTH GROUP St Francis Church, Priory Road. Thursday 5 pm - 6.30 pm School Years 4 to 6. 7 pm - 8.30 pm School Years 7 to 13. (Term time only). Lead activities and free time - pool, table football, board games etc.

~~~EVENTS~~~

1st DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm.

The Knepp Estate, Rewilding Project - Penny Green

2nd THE BEACON PARISH St Margaret's Church, Ditchling 6 pm. Sing! Learn new songs and revisit old. All welcome.

2nd BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

2nd HURSTPIERPOINT MONTHLY SOCIAL CLUB Guide HQ, Trinity Rd, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. Hurst War Memorials and the lives of some of the fallen - Mary Norris. Visitors welcome.

3rd MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm.

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6th HASOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

7th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Hall, Hassocks 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Traditional social dancing. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk

8th JAZZ AT THE HASOCKS Hassocks Hotel, 11.45 am. A set Lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01444 235986 to book.

8th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Club Room, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 7.45 pm. AGM followed by Treading Gently Through the Borders - Ben Pope.

9th HASOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 8 pm. AGM followed by Hurst Meadows Apple Orchard - Martin Sadler. All welcome.

11th ROYAL BRITISH LEGION DITCHLING St Margarets Church, Ditchling 11 am. Armistice Day wreath laying and brief service of remembrance.

11th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.msars.org.uk. Pirate Radio - Mick Senior G4EFO.

11th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book sussexsewingclub@gmail.com.

12th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 10am - 2 pm. Craft Fair all welcome.

12th PARISH OF CLAYTON WITH KEYMER Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 10 am - 12 pm. Christmas Fair all welcome.

12th SUSSEX CHORUS St Andrews Church, Cants Lane, Burgess Hill, 7.30 pm. Timothy Hamilton's Requiem & Haydn's 'Nelson' Mass. Tickets 01444 417654.



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11th ROYAL BRITISH LEGION DITCHLING Remembrance Sunday - please see article for whats happening where and when.

13th DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling, 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome!

14th HASOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. The Life and Times of Magnus Volk - Bill McNaught.

14th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall, 2 - 4 pm. Come and enjoy and enjoyable afternoon over tea and cake.

15th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Ditchling Players. All welcome.

16th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

16th HASOCKS TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Christmas Craft Evening.

17th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 2 - 4 pm. For people with memory problems & their families/carer. Games, talks, music and refreshments. To book call 01273 494300.

19th reMEMBER Zoom conference with Dr Weir, Dr Nina Muirhead, Dr Charles Shepherd email me_cfs@hotmail.com to book - see article.

19th HURSTPIERPOINT NSPPC Bowls Club, South Ave, Hurstpierpoint. Quiz Evening and Supper. Tickets 01273 834602.

21st HASOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Murder Mystery Evening. Visitors welcome.

21st KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Hall, Hassocks 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Traditional social dancing. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk

23rd/26th DITCHLING PLAYERS Ditchling Village Hall,

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25th HURST, HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes Community Hub, Hurstpierpoint, 2.30 pm Staying safe on your computer not falling prey to spams - Liam Dasey. All welcome.

25th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.msars.org.uk. Construction Contest.

25th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Methodist Chapel, Hurstpierpoint. 7.45 pm The Art of Goldsmith - Anton Pruden of Pruden and Smith. Visitors welcome.

25th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7 pm. Film - Fisherman's Friend - The Sequel. Tickets on the door.

25th/26th HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Fri 6 - 9 pm & Saturday 9.30 am - 1 pm. Christmas Fair - Free entry.

26th BRIGHTON CONSORT Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint, 3 pm. Reformations - beliefs that changed a continent. Tickets www.brightonconsort.org.uk 01273 833746.

26th 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.

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

26th DOWNLANDS SCHOOL Dale Ave, Hassocks, 11 am - 2 pm. Christmas Market plus Downlands Choir & Orchestra.

26th MID DOWNLAND PARISHES Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 10 am - 3 pm. Christmas Fair.

27th DITCHLING SINGERS Keymer Church Hall, 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome!

27th GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 2.45 pm. Festive Music & Readings with Ian Belsey & Louise Crane. To book email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

28th HAS SOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. A Wildlife Cruise round the British Isles - Michael Blencowe

30th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

We are a very friendly society, and we have regular meetings with excellent guest speakers who give illustrated presentations on a wide variety of subjects with historical or geographical themes. However, our membership is dropping because of retirement etc and we urgently need new members. We particularly would like to meet people who have recently moved to this area, and also people in Hassocks, Albourne and Sayers Common who are interested in local history etc. Please get in touch with me - contact details below.

We usually meet on the last Friday evening of each month, September to May inclusive, and our meetings take place in the in the Guide Hall next to Trinity Road car park.

On **25th November** the subject will be "The Art of the Goldsmith" by Anton Pruden of Pruden and Smith, Goldsmiths and Jewellers of Ditchling.

Our annual outing next year will be to St Mary's House and Garden in Bramber.

One or two volunteers to help run our society would be greatly appreciated. This doesn't involve a lot of work. So why not come along to our meeting on **25th November** and find out more about us? Or if you would like to know more beforehand contact me - telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail w.kent123@btinternet.com.

Bill Kent

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Who enjoys visiting the farmers market? We have one once a month for three hours on the last Saturday of the month on the National Tyres forecourt a great deal of you it would seem judging by the crowds of people and full car parks.

That in mind the new owners of Halfords should enjoy the kudos of hosting it, to show that they care about local events and enter into the community spirit, but it seems I'm wrong. Our Saturday Market has been given its marching orders and very shortly will no longer be welcome on the site it has occupied for such a long time, remember it's only for three hours once a month. Who can see the harm in that, anyway the scouts are out looking for a new site and at the moment the Age Concern car park has been put forward as an alternative site, but in order to move there you have to have planning permission and apparently it takes six weeks or longer for Mid Sussex District Council to visit the site. Now I know they are experiencing financial cut backs, but I didn't know they had switched to using donkeys to travel around on, why else would it take so long, but council cogs do move very slowly and they may even decide it's not safe or suitable, what happens then could that be the end of the Saturday market?

Personally, I think Halfords are meanies it looks good where it is, a focal point that makes people want to stop and have a look, and my shop is always busier when the market is on but stuck around the corner where it can't be seen will make it less busy and not so attractive to the new stall holders. We must of course not blame the staff for this lack of community spirit by the new owners.

The magnificent Station Garage and Chris Bere who have been around almost as long as me offer a great tyre service and are very reasonable, then just round the corner you have Wheels R Us another fine gentleman whose considerable talents with car wheels are legendary in these parts. I will just mention that another site mentioned is the road outside Budgens called Orion Parade what do you think about that one?

Those of you who use wood pellets either as a cat litter or horse bedding will be aware of the massive price rises we're getting with anything to do with wood products. This winter promises to be quite a challenge but what may be of help is we now sell a straw pellet which still comes in a 15kg bag but sells for only £6.50. It makes excellent cat litter and perfect horse bedding if they don't eat it – the horse that is!

When Tookie and I arrived in London at a studio in Covent Garden which had been made to look like a typical English Pub with wooden tables and chairs. It was full of people wearing different colour rosettes, Red, Blue, Yellow which was obviously for the 3 main political parties, sitting on a perch in a corner on the far side was a ropey looking toucan which Guinness had, had made, it was operated by remote control and really just looked like a badly made childrens toy. The make-believe pub was really noisy all the actors were having a great time because the theme of the advert was "Guinness brings people together" even if you believe in different things as all political parties do. Anyway, the time had arrived, the dummy toucan was removed, I got Tookie out of his travelling cage and placed him on his perch, now would he stay or would he go? The choice was his. All the production team held their breath as the photographers started to record the scenes in order. Unfortunately, the photographs were never used as the Election never went ahead.

Steve

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