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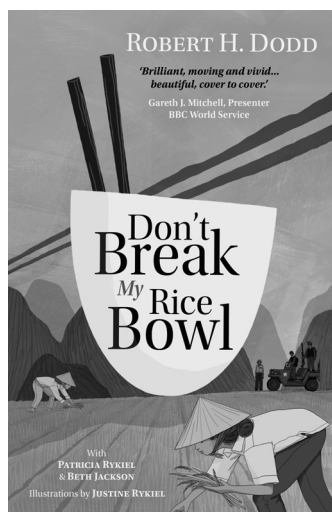
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DON'T BREAK MY RICE BOWL – **A BOOK HOT OFF THE PRESS FOR CHRISTMAS!**



This is a beautiful,
locally created
book!

Burgess Hill resident
Patricia Rykiel

(from www.loveyourcomputer.co.uk – if
the name sounds familiar) has brought
her father's long-lost
manuscript to life.
Justine, her illustrator
daughter, created the amazing
cover and hand-painted chapter
'spot' illustrations.

The book is semi-au-

tobiographical historical fiction set in Saigon, Vietnam
during the late 1960s. Robert Dodd was an agricultural
advisor in the area, sent by the US government. The feed-
back is 'Brilliant, moving and vivid' by BBC's Gareth
Mitchell; 'It's about survival, and so much more than a
story of war' from a prominent US political scientist.
Here at QD, we have had the privilege of printing the
'book' two times during the draft stage. We know this
project has been big and taken a while! To see the work
now: beautifully typeset, in glorious colour (in the eBook
and hardcover), plus a paperback, is quite something.

The book can be bought at Amazon, Waterstones, and
other bookstores.

All bookstores will be able to order it.

Phone Patricia on **01444 253702** if you are not online.

We hope to have a few copies at the counter as well. Well
done, Patricia (and Justine). We think your late father,
Robert Dodd, would have been amazed! To help give this
excellent book a community boost, please give it a 5
Star-wonderful review on Amazon and Goodreads; it
makes all the difference to an independently published
book.

TWO GREAT EVENTS FOR MACMILLAN were
held in the Village Hall, the popular Coffee Morning in
September and the now famous "Brunch" in October.
Despite heavy rain early on the Coffee Morning it was
very well attended with the main attraction (apart from
the lovely homemade cakes and jams) with a very large
chocolate "Colin the Caterpillar" in attendance very
much admired and nibbled!!

Our Sunday Morning "Brunch" was simply "the Best"
with a steady flow of Villagers and their family and
friends all hungry for the full English Breakfast and they
weren't disappointed!

At the end of the morning a big round of applause and
cheer was given to the two lovely Cooks Jane and Nicki
who work in the Community Shop all week but had vol-
unteered to cook more on their day off! Many thanks to
all who donated all the food for the Breakfast, washed
up (essential) and contributed in any way to the fund.

Total result to date is an amazing £1277.55! On behalf
of Macmillan - Thank you all. *Evelyn Hole*

Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha **CHIROPODY - PODIATRY**

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Rod and Judith Jenner wish all friends in
Ditchling, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint,
A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy
2023. Once again, we will be donating to
Sussex Cancer Care in Brighton who have
looked after Judith over the 25 years that
she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer.

Chris and Jill Kitcher, hope that all of their
friends and acquaintances have had a great
year and would like to wish you all very
Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

As we move
through Advent, looking forward to the Christmas
season, here are some festive dates for your diaries.
Our Christmas Services in St Margaret's, Ditchling
are as follows:

Friday **23rd December** at 6 pm - Carols by Candlelight

Saturday **24th December** at 4 pm - Crib Service

Sunday **25th December** at 11 am - Christmas Celebration with Communion.

If you can't come to the Carols by Candlelight in Ditchling, here are some other opportunities to sing carols:

Wednesday **7th December** come and SING in St Margaret's Ditchling at 6 pm to sing carols and



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learn new ones.

Sunday **11th December** at 4 pm - Streat Church
Saturday **17th December** at 4 pm - St Martin's,
Westmeston

Morning Worship with Communion takes place
every Sunday at 10 am in St Margaret's except
Sunday **18th December** when the Service will be
in Westmeston.

Everyone is welcome to all our services.

Please always check www.beaconparish.co.uk in
case of any last minute changes. *Sherrian Guest*

TREFOIL GUILD Our October meeting was our
Fundraising Event. We had an interesting talk from
St. Peter and St. James Hospice about its history
and services. We learned that it started out as a
donkey rescue centre and that now they work
mainly with patients in the community.

On 16th November we held our Christmas Craft
Evening.

Our Christmas Meal on **7th December** will be at
the Thatched Inn.

We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road at 7.45
pm. for 8 pm on the 3rd Wednesday in the month.

Visitors welcome. For more information call **07546
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**Deadline for the
January issue
is 1st December.**
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NORA CLIFFORD Just to let everyone in Hassocks community know my amazing mother Nora Clifford aged 102 years old nearly 103 passed away peacefully at her Hassocks home on October 16th 2022 having lived here since 1954!



Jac Clifford

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CARERS CHRISTMAS POP-UP Come and meet CSWS wellbeing workers along with expert partners, enjoy refreshments and find out how we can support you.

We'd love you to join us and catch up with our wellbeing workers and other professionals from Alzheimer's Society, Know Dementia, NHS Sussex and Social Prescribers from Mid Sussex Health Care.

This is being held at Age Concern Hassocks, Dale Avenue, Hassocks on **8th December** from 10 am to 12 pm. Please contact our friendly team to find out more call **0300 028 8888**.

www.carerssupport.org.uk.

Astrid Stubbs

BURGESS HILL CHRISTMAS MARKET Saturday 3rd December, Cyprus Hall, from 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. Hosted by Burgess Hill Horticultural Society: www.burgesshillhorticultural-society.com.

Flo Whitaker



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CROHN'S DISEASE Hi Everyone! My quarterly magazine from the Crohn's in Childhood Research Association makes the usual informative and interesting reading with articles from many specialists working in various hospitals in our country.

The suffering, research and hope in the magazine makes me even more grateful to people like Andy Twine, our local butcher, and his staff who have housed a collecting can for CICRA in his shop

All charities, as we all know, are suffering still because of the 2 years of pandemic because so much purchasing in shops is paid for with 'a card' but gradually some people are reverting back to cash and I am very pleased to receive £35.70 from the can that Andy has just given me. My thanks to all you generous customers who have kindly donated for Crohn's Disease in this way. It is sad to read the stories written by folk with Crohn's Disease or Colitis especially those from youngsters who are writing of their journeys through sometimes unpleasant steps of diagnosis and medication and it is humbling to read how brave they have been, and are, coping with having to live with serious illness for which at the present time there is no cure. The journeys of these children, particularly through school years can

be difficult to say the least with part of the illness requiring the need for the toilet at short notice. Very embarrassing in front of class mates. Having to watch your child with illness can

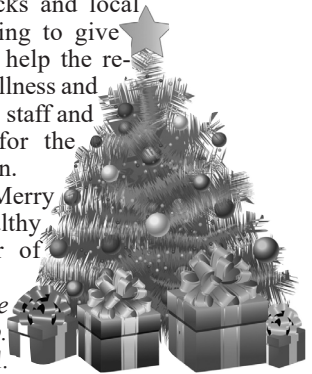
leave one feeling somewhat helpless as a parent and it is not always easy to help- and support in those difficult times - I know from personal experience.

On a positive note - in the magazine are articles from Professors, Doctors and students - many of them actually being funded by CICRA - giving encouraging news on research they are conducting in an effort to learn more about the disease and to find such a cure. I understand that research results are regularly shared with research being conducted in many countries throughout the world - surely a sign of hope! Over the years many new drugs to help control the illness have been introduced which lessen or dismiss the side effects of the medication.

We all know how cruel some side effects can be. I hope this article demonstrates just how grateful I am that people in Hassocks and local communities are willing to give their small change to help the research for this serious illness and I again thank Andy, his staff and generous customers for the support they have given.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and 'safe' New Year of 2023.

*Dorrie
West Sussex Rep.
CICRA.*



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ROSE TRAIL



Next year, dear Hassocks, may I propose
We make a trail to enjoy The Rose?
Our avenues many, and especially Grand,
Show sumptuous samples of roses. And

An expert could be good to find
Present with knowledge of each kind
But, if not, well then, never mind,
These blooms we'll love, though undefined.

Sometimes, it takes me twice the time
To reach wherever going I'm.
To gaze at, touch, sniff these cult flowers
Adorning gardens consumes the hours.

We know, also, they taste divine -
On cooling rose petal jam I dine.
Mum Nature indulges every sense
And eating I'm no longer tense.

Unfold potential benefit,
Challenge your stress, my friends, and sit
Alongside any rose, sweet rose
And hear, yes, hear its salient prose.

By which I mean they communicate,
Not just in literature we generate.
Consciousness, if one is still,
Reveals itself. Know, if you will

The plants we pass on journeys all,
Birds, too, all folk that fly, swim, crawl,
Are waiting to be, by us, recognised
As conscious. Deep down, are you surprised?

Meditate, and when one's still
Question a rose, "What makes you thrill?"
One answer I've heard in reply
Is "Insects tickle and make me sigh".

Telepathy with plants? Insane!
But us guys, kings, queens, all can gain
The blissful realm. Comms with a rose?
Let's attentively trail it and heaven knows.

© Sarah Platt



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WITH REFERENCE TO THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SCOUT CAMPS, shown in the November issue of the Hassocks in Keymer Talk About, the old cliché of “behind every picture there is a story”, springs to mind.

The ones depicting Stonehenge bring back especially happy memories, which started with the First Hassocks Troop, way back in the 1950's. Patiently waiting at Hassocks Railway Station, anticipating an exciting weeks camp on the Isle of Wight.

The arrival of the County Commissioner, put a cat amongst the pigeons as it were. He informed our skipper, that due to an outbreak of Infantile Paralysis on the island, and for the safety of all, it was strongly thought, inadvisably to proceed to the restricted area.

With all of our equipment already dispatched days ahead, to the island, our skipper Cyril Charman was faced with a massive problem. Calm and resolute as ever he responded. Right lads, one party led by myself will go to the island today and retrieve the equipment and return it to the mainland. The rest of the troop under the care of Ben Bryant and Mr George Preece will make their way to the New Forest. So it transpired, like the phoenix rising from the flames, a case of keep calm and carry on, to the immense relief of all, so far so good.

The main troop found a perfect campsite in the forest at Brockenhurst. A small party waited at Brockenhurst Sta-

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tion well into the late afternoon, waiting for our equipment to arrive from the island. When unloaded from the train, the services for transporting our gear to the campsite, were willingly donated by local pig farmer, in the form of a flatbed truck.

By nightfall, all tired but happy, we were all set for our weeks camp of which part, was the visit to Stonehenge. Happy days.

The photograph showing a group of scouts with the funicular lift in the background, many will recognise as a Hastings location. This was taken whilst at a summer camp late 50's at Lower Lidham Farm, Guestling Thorn situated NE of Hastings just off the A259.



Left to right John Charman, Spiv Baynton, Neil Charman, Pat Price, Mr Wolly Elsworth,
Front Gerald MacIntosh, Eddie Cherriman, Micky Stephenson.

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Now he is a challenge for a vigilant local residents. Where was this photograph taken? It depicts the first Hassocks Scout Troop at a Saint George's Day Parade, being inspected by Sir William Campion in late 1940's. Front left to right Mr Ben Bryant, Don Lewry Sir William Campion, Cyril Charman (Scout Master) Mr Hubbard (County Commissioner). Middle left to right Gerald MacIntosh Derek Earl, John Charman, Steve Rye, Neil Charman, Mike Dawes? John Perks?



Back row left to right Frank Jones, Dave Dilloway, Pete Bibby, Paddy Heany? Stan Holt, ??? Spiv Baynton?

The clue is the giant Sequoia type tree right in the photograph that obscured the scout parade. It has never moved except upwards, and today it still stands majestically, silently watching the daily comings and goings of our village inhabitants, to and from a popular location. *Derek Earl*



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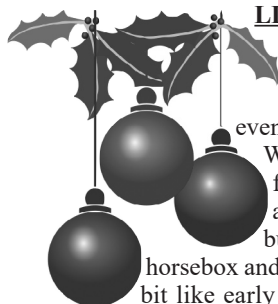
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LIGHT UP HASSOCKS is fast approaching and the team is working full pelt to bring you a wonderful event!

We've got a few new things for you this year including a cocktail van, a gourmet burger and German sausage

horsebox and some lovely craft stalls. A bit like early Christmas gifts! Rest assured there will be plenty of old favourites too and lashings of live music, both at Proper Cycling and Coffee, and at the Mid Sussex Radio stage.

We hope you'll come out and enjoy the fun and be part of the incredible community spirit that we're so lucky to enjoy in Hassocks.

If you'd like to know in more detail what you can look forward to, and the running order for performances, please keep an eye on our Facebook: www.facebook.com/LightUpHassocks

Let me also take this opportunity to say - we're enormously grateful to Mid Sussex Radio for their help with staging and sound. We couldn't do it without them.

And a big thank you to Bowleys, Adastra Market and Deli, and Proper Cycling and Coffee for their help before and after the event year on year, and to our kind donors. This event is run, never to make a profit, only to cover costs, so without our donors and sponsors, including our very own shopkeepers, it simply wouldn't happen.

Finally, a hefty thank you to Halfords for letting us use the National Tyres forecourt again this year. See you on **Friday 2nd December** at 4 pm!

Light Up Hassocks is a Hassocks Community Organisation Project.

Erika and the Light Up Hassocks Team: Alison, Shaun, Bernard, Jonathan and Fred.

P. S. Santa hats encouraged!

HEBER OPERA CONCERT 3rd December.

Heber Opera is staging an afternoon of seasonal music, mulled wine and mince pies in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on Saturday **3rd December**, starting at 2.30 pm. Tickets can be purchased online via our website <http://heberopera.co.uk> or by calling **07340 251875**. If you can't come but would like to join our mailing list, please email Jen.hawkes@btinternet.com.

Jenny Hawkes

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY

On Thursday, **1st December** our film will be *Love Actually* – a Christmas themed romantic comedy drama written and directed by Richard Curtis. The film delves into different aspects of love as shown through several separate stories which involves a wide variety of individuals, many of whom are interlinked as the story progresses. It starts 5 weeks before Christmas and is played out in a weekly countdown until the holiday and is followed by an epilogue which takes place a month later. More popular with audiences than critics, this feel-good film was a big box office success and features a great ensemble cast composed predominantly of well-known and loved British actors including Hugh Grant, Laura Linney, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy and Keira Knightley. Filmed mainly on location in London, it is also a fitting tribute to our beautiful capital.
Director: Richard Curtis UK 2021, 135 minutes, Cert 15.

The film will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall and will start at 8 pm (doors open 7.30 pm). As it is the season to be merry, we will be serving mince pies and mulled wine before the film. Please note that there is

ample parking at the rear of the Hall.

Finally, we are delighted to let you know that our brand new season of films will be running from January to April 2023, with our first film being screened on Thursday, **12th January**. Full details of the films to be shown and Club Membership will be available in our next publication.

Rowena Cager and Melanie Samuel

HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

Our Federation Day in October was well attended by other Sussex based Guilds and everyone enjoyed their fish and chip lunch. At our October Guild meeting, we were entertained by Jonathan Cann who gave us the history of Punch & Judy followed by a performance featuring Mr Punch, Judy, The baby, The crocodile and Ghost, he even brought the striped hut for the show, he expertly assembled it in no time. Our November meeting featured Dr. Janet Pennington on the history of shoes. Our Christmas Party meeting is on **13th December** when we will be mystified by a magic man, followed by a party tea. We will also enjoy a Christmas Lunch at The Thatched Inn on 8th December. We meet at Age Concern on the fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month at 2.30 pm.

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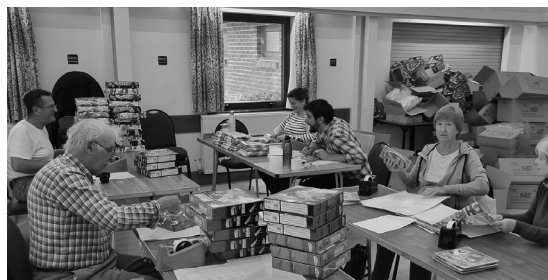


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IT'S A WRAP FOR SANTA Over 4,000 children's presents were dutifully wrapped by willing volunteers in readiness for Santa's charity grotto in Hassocks.

A team of all ages organised the massive wrap and the hunt is now on to find enough elves to staff the grotto at South Downs Heritage Centre.



"An enormous thank you to everyone who came along and helped us make ready the thousands of festive gifts", said Clive Gravett, founder of the Budding Foundation which runs the grotto. All the monies raised are used by the Sussex charity to help disadvantaged young people across the county through numerous projects.

"Tickets are already going well for the grotto sessions", adds Clive. Booking is online at the charity's website thebuddingfoundation.co.uk.

Anyone who fancies becoming a charity elf should email clive@thebuddingfoundation.co.uk.

Trevor Butler

HASSOCKS WI - Meet Adastra Hall 3rd Monday in the month. Doors open 7.30 pm Start 7.45 pm.

It seems ages ago we had a fabulous October evening, Helen, a caricature artist entertained us with tales of her work as an artist on cruise liners.

While extolling the virtues of kind caricatures,

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pointing out the features to highlight and mentioning she always draws the captain. We do not have a captain but one of our members went home with a delightful drawing. I believe it may be a surprise Xmas gift for her husband.

We were also entertained by Burgess Hill Musical Theatre Society showcasing 'Made In Dagenham'.

Lots of tickets were sold, you missed it? Look out for their shows in 2023, their members are so good, professional and local.

In October members also made a substantial collection of goods for the Food Bank. Thank you.

Next up in November we enjoyed a 'Murder, Mystery Evening', twisted plot, surprise endings, many clues, and of course refreshments. Again thank you Marie and Stella for your hard work in providing a good evening.

Our December meeting is a Christmas Celebration.

We will have our usual extra special raffle and all things yule tide to enjoy. Craft Club - Monday **5th December** committee room 2 pm at Adastra Hall. Visitors are welcome (donation) come along for a warm and friendly evening.

Gerry

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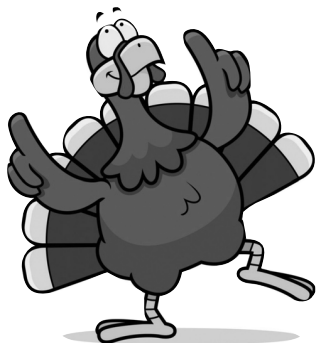
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MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL October flew by in a flash, with fantastic learning and some really important events. We had a great first half term! The children have enjoyed a harvest assembly and as part of this made donations to the local food bank. Our families were so generous and we couldn't believe how much we collected and the food bank were incredibly grateful. This teaches the children such important lessons about working as a community; with those that can supporting others who have less.

10 of our year 4 children took part in a Netball skills festival run by Mid-Sussex-Active (MSA) and year 9 Downlands students. MSA run two types of events; festivals for children to experience a new sport and competitions where we put in a team. This was the first netball experience for some of our children. They had a great time and demonstrated fantastic attitudes to learning something new.

12 children were selected from across year 6 to be trained how to be sports leaders. Children were given the opportunity to put themselves forward for the role and then the teachers selected from these. The selected children are outstanding role models and are committed to supporting others. Well done to all those who were selected. They took part in an active training session where they learnt games that they could then adapt for the younger children.

This month, Year 3 have thrown themselves into their English learning and writing. They have used 'The Stone Age Boy' as inspiration for their writing. We imagined the pictures had all been lost for the book and the children had to paint the pictures by using their words. This took hard work and some good planning by the children. They also enjoyed their first exploration of our fabulous outdoor learning space and made a 3D map of the area by making use of the natural resources around us. They took part in a game of 'Leaf Bingo', using images of leaves, flowers and trees from the woodland they had to see how many they could spot. Great fun was also had making berry paints and creating art using totally natural products. Year 4 have become expert embalmers and have been learning how to mummify dead pharaohs! As no dead pharaohs were available, they practised their new skills on teddy bears, giving clear and precise instruc-

tions verbally and in writing. Some of which were very gruesome, for example;

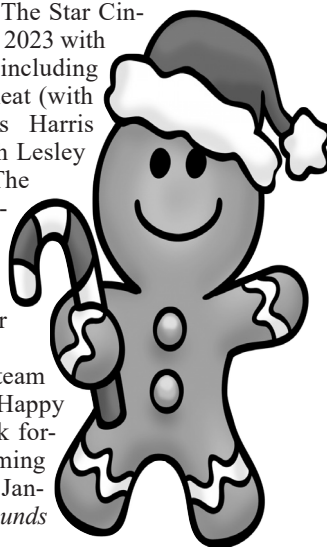
"Get a sharp metal hook into one nostril and wiggle it around to break the connection with the head. Pull it back out (with the brains)".

Meanwhile, year 5 have been learning all about Mountains. They started the topic by learning about the different types of mountains and how they are formed. The children then learned what the key features of a mountain are and how to show a mountain on a map using contour lines. The children were tasked with creating a mountain out of playdough. The tricky bit was then creating their own contour diagram of this mountain using card. They turned out brilliantly! They finished the topic by collaborating on Google Docs to create a shared information poster all about the famous mountains we have here in the UK.

Year 6 have been studying 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' by Brian Selznick this half term. The author is also the illustrator of this brilliant book and we set the challenge of recreating some of the drawings. The children have developed their skills in showing tone and form from previous years and created some incredibly effective pieces of artwork. *Paula Greenfield*

STAR CINEMA The Star Cinema will be back in 2023 with some great films including Operation Mincemeat (with Colin Firth), Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (with Lesley Manville), and The Lost King (the unearthing of Richard the Third's long-missing remains in a Leicester car park).

Meanwhile the team wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you once again in January. *Liz Edmunds*



MERRY CHRISTMAS

BELLA JUNE FLOWERS

 Happy Christmas!
 From Kelly
 & the team at
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FOX Christmas is almost here folks and it'll soon be time for that fella in the red coat to come sneaking around. Yep, your neighbourhood Fox is on the prowl and shortly after Santa has finished pulling presents out of his sack, your local Fox will be busy trying to pull half a turkey out of your bin bag.

Foxes have lived among us for centuries and, just like Christmas, they're celebrated in folklore and myths all around the world. Whether the story belongs to the Greeks, Japanese, Celts, Native Americans, Disney or Roald Dahl it is always the same – the Fox is portrayed as cunning, slippery and devious. I prefer intelligent, adaptable and resourceful – and it's these traits that have helped the Fox to survive in the modern world. It was the modern world that transformed the Fox's wild woods into endless agricultural fields, towns, cities, tower blocks and cul-de-sacs. Traditionally, in the face of development Britain's wildlife has silently been displaced and died. But where others fled destruction the Fox, like any shrewd opportunist, saw a brave new world of golden opportunities where the dustbins overflowed and where the streets are paved with cast away kebabs and finger-lickin' chicken.

And for me this is the chapter in the Fox's story that does indeed seem mythical: that in urban Britain there are wild dogs living among us. I can look out my bed-

room window and see a relative of the Wolf, Dingo, Jackal and Coyote casually sauntering across my lawn. It's a touch of the Serengeti in sub-urban Sussex. Studies undertaken by the University of Brighton have estimated that there are 20 Foxes per square kilometre in the city. Of course, tradition dictates that some people do not like Foxes. As I child I always viewed the Boxing Day hunt as the antithesis to Christmas; a reminder that amidst this season of goodwill there are still people who are proud to dress up in costumes in a public celebration of their cruelty.



It's in the bleak midwinter that Foxes are at their most vocal. The blood-curdling, human-like scream of the vixen sounds like something from a Hammer Horror film. This foxy lady is only fertile for a few days and her scream advertises her availability and sparks bow-wows, barks and bickering from amorous dog Foxes. Her cubs will be born about fifty-two days after mating and emerge from their earths in April.

So this Christmas if you've had it with the plastic snowmen, the fake tree and the fake sentiments take a short walk away from it all and out into the darkness. Listen for the sound of wild dogs howling at the moon, the sound of survival. Let it stir something wild in your heart. Merry Christmas everybody and best wishes for 2023.

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. 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*

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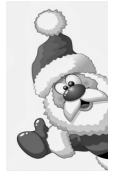
*We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint
for these lovely photos of
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Commemorative run of the London to Brighton coach in the 1930s - passing Clayton nursery

Edward Allwood, James Allwood,
George Allwood and Robert Allwood
standing outside the back of the Cottages
in Brighton Road in 1935.

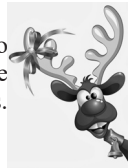
Horses and Carriage on the Commemorative run
of the London to Brighton coach on the 1930's
outside Allwoods Nursery, Brighton Road



Edward Allwood, James Allwood, George Allwood and Robert Allwood at Clayton Nursery in 1935



Mr Pearce driving from Wivelsfield to
Allwoods in Brighton Road. Mr Pearce
daughter worked for Allwoods now Tates.

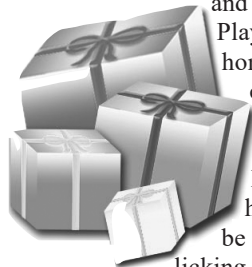


Allwoods Nursery was originally
situated on the Brighton Road (now
Tates Southdowns Garden Centre).
The Allwoods Brothers Montagu,
George and Edward Allwood pur-
chased the 4 acre Clayton Nursery
in 1922. They were originally from
Lincolnshire. The three Cottages
that are still there today were at the
front of the Nursery and so George
Allwood moved into the Middle one
and his foreman Bill Pointings to
the right and George Russell to the
left.



The Allwoods Nursery Staff.

HURST PLAYERS IT'S ALMOST PANTO TIME!



Not quite yet, but at the end of December and into January 2023 the Hurst Players will present a very home-grown version of the classic tale "Treasure Island". Loosely based on the famous novel by Robert Louis Stevenson [actually, hanging by a thread!] it will be a traditional panto – a rollicking tale of buccaneers and buried treasure, written by Bob Sampson, and directed by Richard Coney.

We'll have Long John Silver and his band of renegades – a traditional Pantomime Dame – yes, really – and a Fairy Mermaid plus our variation on some of the characters from the book, Squire Trelawney, Billy Bones, Blind Pugh – now renamed Blind Poo – this is a panto! And not forgetting our hero 'Jim Lad' Hawkins.

We hope you'll join us as the men and women of the good ship Hispaniola – or should that be Hysteria – it's an equal opportunities ship – sets sail for warmer climes for eight performances: **29th & 30th December** at 7 pm, **31st December** at 2 pm, **1st January** at 2 pm, **5th & 6th January** at 7 pm and **7th January** at 2 pm and 7 pm.

Tickets can be booked online from www.hurstplayers.org.uk – but if you prefer the personal touch come and see us at the Theatre Box Office, 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint – any Saturday morning from 10 am to 1 pm.

"Avast, me hearties"! [actually we're not quite sure what that means but we don't think it's anything to do with walking the plank!!]

Anne

DITCHLING TRAFFIC PROBLEM: SOLVED?

For years the beautiful village of Ditchling has suffered the daily torment of noisy, smelly traffic jams which clog the narrow streets, endanger pedestrians, pollute the air and destroy

the peace. Now that work has at last begun on the construction of a new, hugely-needed village carpark,

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- **Applicants must be 60 years old or over and not in paid employment. Any exception to these conditions will be at the discretion of the trustees.**
- **The applicants must be capable of looking after themselves and are fit enough to keep their accommodation clean and tidy.**

Issued by St. Christopher's Home Trustees – November 2022

local politicians have a wonderful opportunity to cut this ruinous traffic disruption at a stroke.

It would take just three simple steps. First, remove parking rights on Ditchling High Street, while heavily reducing parking on approach roads. This would allow traffic to flow freely.

Second, guarantee selected local residents alternative space in the new carpark.

Third, rip out the useless pinch-points which were clumsily installed on local roads many years ago, and replace these monstrous queue-points with simple speed-bumps of the kind that already keep cars to sensible speeds on the Lewes Road.

That's it. Politicians should act at once. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that should be seized with both hands if Ditchling is to remain one of the most lovely communities in the South East.

Nicholas Roe

JOHN RUSSELL

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Carols Together Sunday **18th December** at Adastra Hall from 3 to 4.30 pm. Informal carol singing with mulled wine, tea and mince pies.

Christmas Eve - Crib Service 4 pm at St Francis Church Priory Road. Nine Lessons and Carols 6 pm and Midnight Mass 11.30 pm at Keymer Church. St Edward's RC Church, Keymer Mass at 5 pm
Christmas Day - BCP 8 am and 9.45 am Mass at Keymer, Communion at St Francis at 9.45 am and BCP Eucharist at 11.15 am St John the Baptist Clayton. St Edward's RC Church, Keymer at 10 am. URC Keymer Road. Christmas Day service at 10 am.

Juliet Strange

ALL THE RIGHT NOTES are looking forward to seeing everyone at their Christmas concert which will be held at the United Reformed Church, Keymer Road, Hassocks on Wednesday **7th December** at 7.30 pm (it doesn't clash with the World Cup!). As usual there'll be pieces from the choir as well as Christmas music for the audience to join in, including our traditional rendition of The 12 Days of Christmas. A glass of wine or orange juice and a mince pie are included in the ticket price, and there will be a raffle in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

Tickets From choir members, or reserved by emailing alltherightnoteschoir@gmail.com.

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Marie Ioannou MAFHP

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH The clocks went back last night. Feeling we should mark this event in some way, we indulged in a long, lazy breakfast with sautéed hedgehog mushrooms, freshly foraged from the mushroom stall at Lewes food market. Delicious! As for the rest of the day? Encouraged by the prospect of another 'lie-in' till daylight tomorrow, I now feel I should be able to relax and unwind, sinking into winter's dreamtime. ... *Fat chance!* Slacking – taking time off, disrupts the busy schedule of the day. Hours will have to be found to pay for the lost time somehow, for there are always deadlines looming. And now it will take me a while to catch up to where I would have been if the clocks had simply stayed where they were before. Does this make sense? Not to me. But does it sound familiar? Running to stand still? Even in this quiet corner of Ditchling, we are under orders not to fall behind. News filters through that Christmas, not to mention the End of the World, is at hand. The TV tells us that Time (the Alice-in-Wonderland variety) is speeding up and if we want to survive, we must wire ourselves up to the fastest technology in order to keep in the running. If we don't, we will have failed. We will be a thing of the past. But are we missing something? It seems to me that technology is like the electric hare at a dog race. It goes *just* too fast for the fastest runner. But if all the runners slowed down, the hare would have to slow down too, otherwise it would vanish out of sight and the hounds would give up the chase. The race-track merry-go-round for humans is

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driven by anxiety and fear of losing out. Not having enough fairy lights or crispy nibbles to go round. Not enough space in the freezer. Not enough oxygen or soil on the planet. The demand is for ever larger batteries, ever-more sophisticated gadgets to buy us time, provide us with the security we crave. Spares for tomorrow. Even though such inventions encourage society to consume more, waste more, and continue the age old practices of exploitation and plunder which started the problem in the first place. Can anyone now remember a time when we were not in a state of emergency? Not needing to be somewhere else? Not under stress? And the thing in shortest supply, of course, *is Time* – Time, the antagonist, that eats our days, steals our lives and stalks us with stopwatch in hand.

I would like to propose the existence of a different kind of time. A time which is not a human artefact. Which has no agenda beyond sustaining life on earth. We can subscribe to it free without any need for security passwords, PIN numbers, apps, or penalty opt-out clauses. It is our birthright and it is beautiful. It circles above us and the mad phosphorescence of our virtual plasma world. It is in the silence of the stars, the sap of trees, the waves breaking on the shore. It regulates the frenzy of our own distracted hearts. It is an unfathomable mystery, coursing through every atom of the universe, giving coherence to complexity and balancing the pendulum swings of excess.

In Finnish legend there is a tale about a miraculous mill called the Sampo. Forged by a mythical blacksmith, this Sampo has a many-coloured top, woven from the exquisite colours of the rainbow, and the shaft of the mill is triple-sided: one side grinds out corn, another salt and the third money. In the morning the mill produces things to eat; then things to sell at market; finally, household

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supplies. The Sampo is a kind of cosmic clock. Its top represents the beauty of the sky and as the stars revolve they bring the blessings of a simple life: sustenance, craft and domestic happiness. Beneath its pillar, (the World Tree), its roots are buried deep in the earth. This Sampo, so the story goes, is one day stolen and lost at sea. Only fragments can be recovered and though Ilmarinen, the blacksmith, sets about welding the pieces back together, the new Sampo he creates is missing some of its old magic. It no longer forms a causeway linking all parts of the cosmos. As I see it, this second mill is more like an agricultural calendar and its workings are subject to the vagaries of the weather. Sometimes it brings plenty, sometimes scarcity and it requires much labour and skill to keep it turning. Over the centuries, the system has been abused and overthrown. Today we are left with substitute, mechanical technologies which ape the bounty of heaven but leave the world poorer than before. In its latest incarnation, Agriculture has all but lost its links with Nature, and become an industrial 'science', producing food which people are afraid to eat. The 'super-fast' Sampo has turned the Feast of Life into an angst-fest, spewing out short-lived luxuries but leaving behind a trail of destruction, debt and redundancy. Today's global, industrial mill grinds ever faster in order to produce more for less. And its distribution of wealth is unequal. What is its real purpose, one might ask, and then again, what powers it? Whose food, whose money, whose skills go into it? Is it even possible that this pseudo-Sampo has become a *devourer* of life, rather than a provider? A slave-driver rather than a gift-giver? And do we have to dance to its tune? Here are insights by two indigenous thinkers who say 'No': First, Martin Prechtel, on the question of haste: "All these people saying we need to do something quick – it's the 'quickness' we need to do

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something about. Otherwise life is a constant emergency with no time to live, no future. This is what makes the unregulated toxicity of the whole mess."

Second, Pierre Rabhi, an Algerian-born visionary, who devoted the last years of his life to restoring lands in the chemical- and drought-ravaged Sahel. In his book, 'L'Offrande au Crépuscule', he contrasts the expansive and easy-going 'natural time' of his African-peasant students, with the frenetic clock-watching of the West. People from both cultures work hard but in drastically different ways. "It is unusual", says Rabhi, "to see an authentic peasant hurry." (*My translation*). Does that sound familiar? Our own Sussex peasants were once characterised by their refusal to be 'druv' by overseers. True peasant folk the world over, like their animals, move in step with the rhythms of the cosmos: the rising and setting of the sun; the seasons of growth and decay. They do not consume time and their time does not consume life. Indigenous time is the unfolding of life. They *make* time by singing it in their songs, fashioning it with their hands, giving birth to it through their children. For them, the Western mantra of 'time is money' has no practical meaning. As Rhabhi notes, their time is an internal vastness, hard for us to imagine. It may not be easy for us, as outsiders, to step into this space or understand how precious it is to those who live there. But it might do us good to try. Somewhere, between the cultures of old and

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new, I feel there must still be holy, common ground, where seekers from either world can celebrate kinship and sanity together.

When life gets too crazy for words, perhaps we should all slow down and remember the first Sampo. It might be the best thing we can do for our beleaguered planet. And for ourselves. We can step out under the sky at any time to reassure ourselves that there will be no shortage of stars this Christmas. And never mind the Economy. 'Economy' does not mean making a profit or scrimping and saving. The root of the word 'economy' means 'housekeeping' and keeping a good house, means simply opening the door and inviting people in and making beauty and sharing the good things you have, however humble they are. Who knows? If enough people try it, we might even get the heavenly mill working properly again! For year upon year I have made myself ill, trying to keep up with the Christmas Rush. This year, I say: 'Down with it all!' The Roman mid-winter festival of Saturnalia was a time of rest and merriment. A celebration of the Golden Age before Saturn/Chronos/Old Father Time was kidnapped and clapped in irons. So this Christmas I wish you the bliss of a little idleness, time to tuck into your figgy pudding and listen to the whispers of the trees and may you find therein much Peace and Joy!

Rosemary



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HHDu3a's TENTH BIRTHDAY, LOOKING BACK AND PLAN- NING AHEAD

Over a hundred people packed into the Adastra Hall on 21st October marking the tenth anniversary of the Hassocks, Hurst and Ditchling u3a.

And the celebration was a dual one, both the achievements of the last decade and that, fingers crossed, we were emerging from the worst of the Covid crisis. The results of both were evident. The displays showcased all the groups that had survived the lockdown. Country walks, board games, foreign languages, musical instruments, badminton, poetry and play reading were just a few examples and it was impossible to ignore the beautiful examples of art work and photography.

After a welcome from chair Marcus Martin, committee member Louisa Sewell provided a history of the u3a, both locally and nationally and in a fitting tribute to the pioneers u3a stalwarts Diana Gould and Jo Wilsdon cut the birthday cake.

Going forward, there were announcements that the regular Monthly Meetings will be in both Hassocks and Hurst with some on Zoom for those uncertain about getting out but still want to be part of it. And

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the group is exploring ways to reach out to new members, especially the newly retired.

Many visitors signed up as members and were already offering ideas for new groups. So all the signs are that the u3a motto of 'Learn, Laugh, Live' is resonating across the village.

Jeremy Weinstein

GYM CLUB NEWS Hurstpierpoint Gym Club is in full swing with all classes running back to normal – well the new post covid normal.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Family Bonfire, where we enjoyed the best firework display we have ever had, and congratulations to the winners of the best gym competition.

The 29th and 30th November and the 1st December will be our awards evenings with parents invited in for the last ten minutes of sessions to witness the presentation of over 100 awards gained this term.

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

For the up-to-date position, please contact us www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk.

Andrew



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CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND GIFT IDEAS AT 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT

4Sight Vision Support is getting ready for Christmas with its annual Christmas Concert and Grand Draw, as well as providing its supporters with card and gift ideas. Proceeds will help the charity in its work supporting blind and sight impaired residents of all ages throughout West Sussex.

The Christmas Concert with Seaford College Chapel Choir will be held on Monday **12th December** at St Mary de Haura Church in Shoreham from 1 to 2 pm. This year is particularly special as the event was cancelled due to the pandemic for the last two years. Tickets include festive refreshments, and can be pre-booked or bought at the door, first come first served. The Grand Draw has a number of fabulous prizes, including £250 cash, and two Ruby High Definition Electronic Magnifiers worth £355 each, kindly donated by Optelec.

Christmas cards are available with a variety of seasonal and fun designs, and there are gift ideas for those living with sight loss including large print playing cards, large print Scrabble, large print calendars and diaries, as well as equipment such as talking kitchen scales. For those who enjoy walking, a book of 35 'Short Rambles in the Sussex Countryside And Days Out' by volunteer Jane Aston features walks carefully designed to be suitable for everyone including those with sight loss or vision impairment.

For further information about the Concert and Prize Draw and to purchase tickets, and to enquire about Christmas gifts, please call **01243 828555** or email fundraising@4sight.org.uk.

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

4Sight Vision Support is a registered charity founded in 1921. For over 100 years the team has been providing face-to-face specialist advice and support to

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over 2,500 people living with sight loss in West Sussex each year. 4Sight Vision Support also supports parents, carers and other family members whose lives are impacted by sight loss. It works across West Sussex and all of its services are free. Its holistic and person-centred approach ensures that a diagnosis of sight loss is not a one-way road to loss of independence and reduced health and wellbeing outcomes. It delivers outreach services in urban and rural settings, social support, emotional support and advocacy, provides daily living aids and accessible technology, transport, as well as eye health information, including preventative information to help people retain and preserve their sight. 4Sight Vision Support achieves this with a small, highly skilled and dedicated team, and with the support of around 200 volunteers.

Cathy Clark



The image shows some of 4Sight Vision Support's Christmas Gift ideas.

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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.

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.

There is no meeting in December.

On **27th January** Ian Gledhill, an expert on old forms of public transport, will present "Halfway to the Stars" - an illustrated talk on the cable cars of San Francisco

We urgently need new members to help run our society. This doesn't involve a lot of work. So why not come along and meet us on **27th January**? Or if you would like to know more beforehand contact me - e-mail w.kent123@btinternet.com, telephone **01273 832280**.

Bill Kent, Chairman



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Our Coffee Shop is open from 9 am to 3 pm.

Our Charity shop and Coffee shop are also open on Saturday mornings 9 am - 11.45 am. Charity Christmas Cards are now available.

Carer's Support Information Morning will be held on Thursday **8th December** 10 am to 12 pm all are welcome, come and have a chat to find out if you are getting enough support.

Activities – Chair Pilates on a Monday 2 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 December** from 9 am to 1 pm. Come along for Festive Fun, Coffee, Mince Pies, Mulled Wine, Hamper Raffle, Tombola, Cake Stall, Christmas Gifts and Produce, Books & Bric a Brac Stall. All Welcome.

Age Concern will be closed on **24th, 26th and 27th December and 2nd January 2023**. Happy Christmas!
All at Age Concern



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

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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. 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 FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Love Actually. Cert 15.

1st MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

2nd LIGHT UP HASSOCKS Keymer Road, Hassocks 4 - 7.30 pm. Stalls, live music, food, drink.

2nd JAZZ ETC Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Christmas Special. Aneesa Chaudhry singing Blues, Jazz Classics and Asian Fusion. Tickets Ditchling Post Office.

2nd MID SUSSEX COELIAC SOCIETY Southdown Garden Centre Cafe 9.30 - 11.30 am. Pop down if anyone wants advice about this disease.

3rd HEBER OPERA Village Centre, Hurstpierpoint 2.30 pm. Seasonal Music. Call 07340 251875 for tickets.

3rd AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS, 9 am to 1 pm. Christmas Coffee Morning.

3rd HURST VILLAGE MARKET, New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 10 am to 1 pm. Sussex Products and Gifts.

3rd BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. Christmas Concert Vivaldi and Schubert. Tickets 07522 493966.

3rd BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 10 am - 3 pm. Christmas Market.

4th HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

4th HURST SANTA'S FUN DAY High Street 12 - 4 pm. Stalls, entertainment and much more.

5th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.30 pm. Craft Club. All welcome.

6th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. Christmas Party.

7th THE BEACON PARISH St Margaret's Church, Ditchling 6 pm. Sing! Carols. Learn new songs and revisit old. All welcome.



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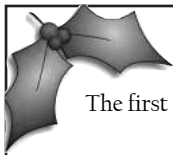
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History of Christmas Cards

The first Christmas card was created and sent in 1843. A man named John Calcott Horsley printed the first Christmas card for Sir Henry Cole, the friend who had given him the idea.

Sir Henry Cole, a wealthy British businessman, wanted a card he could proudly send to friends and professional acquaintances to wish them a "Merry Christmas."

The card depicted a typical English family enjoying the holiday, and people performing acts of charity. An important part of Victorian Christmas spirit. A thousand copies of the card were printed and sold for one shilling. This is reportedly the first Christmas card to be produced and sold to the public.

7th THE BEACON PARISH Streat Church 4 pm. Sing! Carols. Learn new songs and revisit old. All welcome.

7th HAS SOCKS TREFOIL GUILD Thatched Inn, Keymer, 7.45 pm. Christmas Meal.

9th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 999 Emergency Comms - Steve Shorey.

11th PYECOMBE CHURCH 6 pm. Carol Service all welcome.

11th THE BEACON PARISH Streat Church 6 pm. Sing! Carols. Learn new songs and revisit old. All welcome.

11th CARERS SUPPORT GROUP Age Concern Hassocks 10 am. Come and meet CSWS wellbeing staff and expert partners and find out how they can support you.

11th DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling, 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome!

12th HAS SOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Christmas entertainment for members and their guests.

13th HAS SOCKS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD Age Concern Hassocks 2.30 - 4 pm. Christmas Party with special guest speaker. Visitors welcome.

14th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

15th 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.

16th HURST, HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.30 pm The Day the Music Died, the Story of Rock and Roll - Mike Grillo. All welcome.

17th THE BEACON PARISH St Martins Church, Westmeston 4 pm. Sing! Carols. Learn new songs and revisit old. All welcome.

17th HAS SOCKS VILLAGE MARKET National Tyres Forecourt, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

18th CHURCHES TOGETHER, Adastra Hall, Hassocks 3 pm. Informal carol singing with mulled wine, tea and mince pies. All welcome.

18th THE BEACON PARISH St Martins Church, Westmeston 10 am. Morning Praise. All welcome.

19th HAS SOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.30 pm. Christmas Celebration. All welcome.

21st HAS SOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Christmas Celebrations. Visitors welcome.

23rd ST MARGARETS CHURCH Ditchling, 6 pm. Carols by Candlelight.

Christmas Eve CHURCH SERVICES

CRIB SERVICE Hurstpierpoint Church 3 pm

CRIB SERVICE St Francis Church, Priory Rd 4 pm

CRIB SERVICE Ditchling Church 4 pm

CRIB SERVICE Hurstpierpoint Church 4.30 pm

MASS St Edwards RC Church, Keymer 5 pm

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS Keymer Church 6 pm

MIDNIGHT MASS Keymer Church 11.30 pm

MIDNIGHT MASS Hurstpierpoint Church 11.30 pm

Christmas Day CHURCH SERVICES

BCP Keymer Church 8 am

COMMUNION Hurstpierpoint Church 8 am

MASS Keymer Church 9.45 am

COMMUNION St Francis Church, Priory Rd 9.45

COMMUNION Pyecombe Church 10 am

FAMILY COMMUNION Hurstpierpoint Church 10 am

MASS St Edwards RC Church, Keymer 10 am

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE URC, Hassocks 10 am

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION Ditchling Church 11 am

BCP EUCHARIST at Clayton Church 11.15 am

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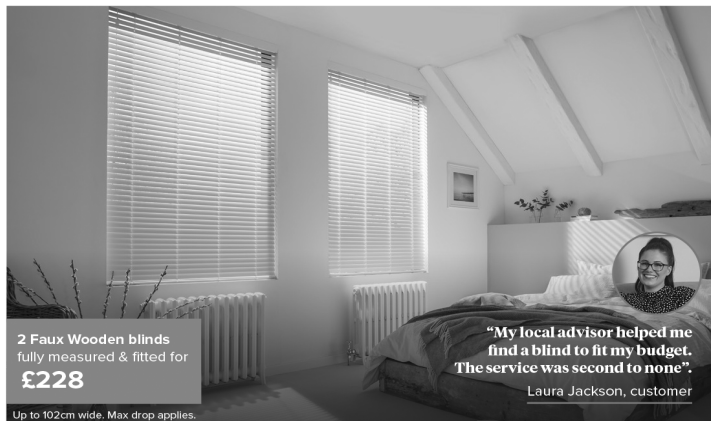
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St Peter and St James Hospice needed help to create two new raised beds at their Chailey headquarters. They asked family-run South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks for a suggested planting and the garden centre stepped in to make a gift of the necessary plants.

"The hospice wanted the beds to give year-round interest, take full sun in their exposed position and be drought tolerant", explains Kelly Loughlin, the plant manager at the Hassocks nursery. "Once established, over winter, the plants should fill out and create a wonderful display by the spring."

Rebecca Houghton-Knapp

South Downs Nurseries Plant Manager, Kelly Loughlin, with hospice volunteers who created the new raised beds.





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LIVE MUSIC FROM 8.30pm

STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Now this is interesting do you remember last month I wrote about the National Tyres aka Halford's had given the Saturday Market their marching orders, well on the 25th October a planning application appeared on the school patrol sign opposite my shop. We didn't take much notice of it to start with because they do the same thing every year, when Light Up Hassocks closes the Keymer Road for a few hours.

Eventually, one of the staff from National Tyres stopped and read it on his way back from getting a coffee, his reaction was to say the least quite eye watering, poor lad almost dropped his coffee. He immediately got on his phone and went inside. I hurried across the road for a quick read and was surprised to find out it was Star Garages applying to the council for the determination as to whether the prior approval of demolition and any proposed restoration to the site comprising of a single storey car workshop and auto retail centre at 60 Keymer Road, work is scheduled to start April 2023, does this mean they intend to knock down and rebuild it or is something else going on? I did try to contact Star Garages for some kind of comment but had no luck what's interesting is Halford's isn't even mentioned.

I see finally they've started work on the new Ditchling car park, not sure when it'll open but I can't imagine it will be long. It's free obviously but the idea is to try and stop cars from parking on the grass verges and damaging the pavement and grass verges. Something certainly needs to be done because certain days parked cars make Ditchling a nightmare to get through. The car park is situated just before the War Memorial signs directing you to it will appear shortly after it's completed.

Arden Grange dog and cat food has always been a good seller for us, it's a good quality food without being ultra-expensive, but before Arden Grange it was Graham and Wendy that originally introduced Eukanuba Dog Food into the country, I can still remember Graham coming into my shop with a bright pink bag of dog food with a silly name and a premium price telling me it was going to be huge and I should get on board. I said don't be silly Graham, no one's going to pay that for a bag of dog food. Wrong again Steve it made millions and eventually after a considerable payout Eukanuba took back the franchise from Graham and Wendy, which is when they decided to launch their own dog food and came up with Arden Grange which incidentally is the name of their quarantine kennels in Albourne.

Sadly, we lost Graham a few years ago bless him. Very recently Wendy has sold the brand Arden Grange to a German company, so although it remains to be British made it is now German owned and Wendy, I'm sure is enjoying a very happy retirement and well deserved it is too.

Back to Tookie - I was very impressed with the way Tookie behaved at his debut into the advertising world. He really was a natural, but as they decided not to use the poster, I thought that was the end of it, but approximately three weeks later I had a phone call from an executive from JWT asking if I could come up to their offices to discuss Tookies future with Guinness. They very kindly sent a car for me because the office was in the middle of London and wow these were some kind of offices, not what I expected, let's just say they were very plush. I tried to be very business-like but these guys knew what they wanted and that was a 3 year contract with exclusive use of Tookie for Guinness and to be at their beck and call for the 3 year campaign that had a budget of seven million pounds and Tookie was to be insured for ten million, a bit OTT I thought, however I did get a nice little fee, an expenses account and my own limousine and driver who was a very lovely man called Nestor to pick us up and take us wherever we were needed, then return us safely home. The whole thing seemed very surreal I was only in my late 20s and I'd walked into those very smart offices just a pet shop owner and walked out of the owner of the world's most valuable bird Tookie the Guinness Toucan and a whole series of adventures lay in front of us.

Christmas once again is upon us, but I have no doubt the year ahead will be as eventful as the one about to leave us, so thank you to each and every one of you who wants to see us survive on our High Street, your custom is literally life saving for all local small businesses.

Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392