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Your Editors: Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown & Natalie Dalley

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**PRIMROSE WOOD (THE DELL).** This lovely coppice was full of wildlife, badgers and birds etc and it was absolutely beautiful. It was off Langton Lane in Hurstpierpoint, but was cut down about 40 years ago. It was part of Bridge Farm.

The second picture was taken near Primrose Wood, mum Annie Faccenda (latterly Evans) on the left and Mrs Patch on the right with our family dog Patch.

*Dave Evans*

**VIRGINIA P.A. LEWIS-JONES**

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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. 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 - telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail [w.kent123@btinternet.com](mailto:w.kent123@btinternet.com).

*Bill Kent, Chairman*

**Lucy Locksmith.**

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## **NIGEL DEWDNEY WAS A MUCH LOVED CHARACTER IN THE VILLAGE.**



He grew up living in the close and lived in Hassocks all his life. Many will know him from walking his dogs in the park and chatting in Hassocks high street to anyone and everyone. Nigel passed away suddenly which was found to be because of a underlying undiagnosed heart issue. As this was in the middle of the pandemic, unfortunately the family were limited to 30 people for his funeral.

Izzy (his youngest daughter) is running the London Marathon on **23rd April** in memory of Nigel for the British Heart Foundation. She is doing a quiz and curry night at The Hassocks on **20th January** - teams of 8.

Or just giving page  
at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/izzydewdney2023](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/izzydewdney2023).  
*Izzy Dewdney*



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**NEWS FROM DOWNLANDS** It has been a fantastic start to the new school year at Downlands. Our new Year 7 students have settled into school life and some great events have taken place, like Battle of the Bands and our Quiz Night.

We've been able to hold some fundraising events including a #HelloYellow Day, which raised an incredible £879.44 and Children in Need non-school uniform day.

We had our Ofsted Inspection in October and I'm pleased to say that Downlands has been judged to be Good in all areas. The team of inspectors were in school for two days collecting evidence including interviews with senior leaders, teachers, support staff, pupils and Governors. The team also conducted lesson observations and surveys. The report is very positive and captures the real strengths of our school in terms of its ambitious curriculum, as well as inspiring teaching and learning, which enables all students to achieve fantastic outcomes - this year we are celebrating our best



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ever examination results with a Progress 8 score of +0.59. This in effect means that our students achieve over half a grade higher in every subject than similar students across the country. The report also emphasises the strength of our community, our expert teachers, the fantastic behaviour of our students, the warm and trusting relationships between our students and our staff, our strong pastoral care, and the range of opportunities available to students. It also recognises our work on character and how it is developing our students into successful learners.

Given the significant changes to the inspection framework since the school was last inspected, we are pleased that the school has achieved an overall effectiveness grading of Good. The report outlines some areas for improvements and we have fully taken on board this feedback. We are already working hard to ensure that plans are in place to address these areas.

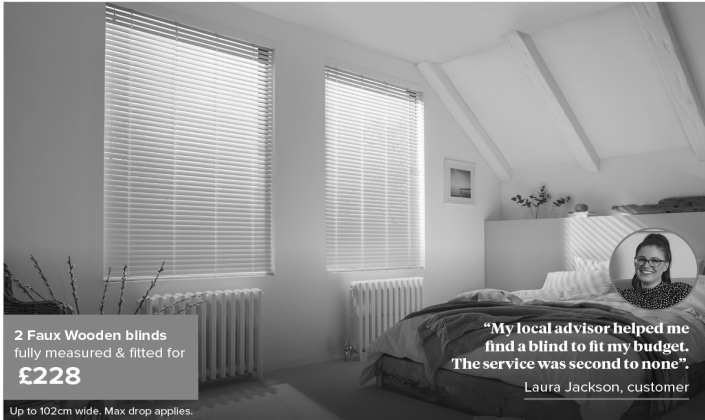
We would like to say a big thank you to our DSA and everyone that attended the Christmas Market on Saturday 26th November. The Downlands School Association raised a staggering £3880.00 for the school. This money will help for the revamp of the common room. It will be transformed into a more welcoming place for the students to enjoy. It was so lovely to see everyone enjoying the event, especially the students. The DSA have also been running their ever-popular Christmas Prize Draw, which at the time of writing has raised just over £4000.00!

We would also like to say a massive thank you

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to the wonderful community at Downlands who have helped us to donate over 1000 items for the Burgess Hill Christmas Hamper Project. We are blown away by the generosity!

We are proud of our wonderful school and would like to wish our students, families, staff and our community a happy and prosperous new year!

*Holly Spahiu*

**DANCING IS GOOD FOR YOU! THIS IS A PROVEN FACT** So how about getting your New Year exercise regime off to a good start by coming to dance with the Keymer Folk Dance Club on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 pm in the URC Church Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks, BN6 8AB (next to the Fish & Chip shop). We meet on the **1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays** of the month. So, our

first evening is **16th January**, followed by **30th January**. You don't need a partner, but bring a friend, if you can persuade someone else to join you. There is a small cost per session, but the first evening is free.

So put these dates in your new diaries now. Folk dancing is a great way to meet people and to shrug off the Winter Blues. It is also cheaper than putting the central heating on!

More details on our website: [keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk/](http://keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk/)

*Sean Goddard*

**CORRECTION** to last month's 'photos' from Dave they were from 'Pyecombe to Cuckfield with stops along the way' published by Mid Sussex Books. We apologise for this error.

*Ed*



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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** We are very pleased to announce that we are presenting a brand new programme for 2023.

Our season of films will start in January and finish in December. (There will be no screenings in August.)

Our first film in the New Year will be on Thursday, **12th January** and is 'Belfast' – It is August 1969 – surrounded by sporadic violence and growing danger, 9 year old Buddy finds himself confronted with the ugly reality of sectarian conflict. As the suffocating stranglehold of increasing turmoil tightens around his once peaceful working-class neighbourhood, the boy tries his best to understand The Troubles because after all, someone must be responsible for forcing people to flee their homes. Now Buddy and his family must come face to face with a nearly impossible, life-altering decision – whether to stay or start packing? Kenneth Branagh's terrific, semi-autobiographical film is made all the more

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memorable with the wonderful soundtrack featuring predominantly Van Morrison's music. The film, which stars Judi Dench, Jamie Dornan, Ciaran Hands and Catriona Balfe, won the 2022 BAFTA Film Award.

Director: Kenneth Branagh, UK 2021 English, 98 minutes, cert PG 13.

On Thursday, **2nd February** we shall be showing 'Olga' – a film about a dedicated, teenage Ukrainian gymnast who is living in exile in Switzerland dreaming of Olympic Gold and trying to fit in with her new team.

The films will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. Annual Membership available. Wine can be purchased by the glass. Films will start at 8 pm (doors open 7.30 pm) and please note that there is ample parking at the rear of the Hall.

*Rowena Cager and Melanie Samuel*

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### **THE MEMBERS OF THE MONDAY GROUP ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE RECOGNITION**

Recently given at the Mid Sussex Applauds for 2022. Mid Sussex District Council celebrated the fantastic work of a range of community champions with a special ceremony in November at the South of England Showground. The event was hosted by Mid Sussex District Council chairman Margaret Belsey and attended by the High Sheriff of West Sussex, James Whitmore. We are very pleased to have been nominated successfully in three categories; Stronger Communities Award – Commendation Take Pride in Mid Sussex Award – Joint Winner Peer Nominated Award – Winner The Monday Group was founded in 1961 as an organisation of volunteer workers in the heart of Sussex who build and maintain stiles, gates and walkways and other wooden structures on public rights-of-way, as well as working to keep them clear of obstructions and overgrowth. We respond to requests from members of the public, landowners and local authorities to help provide easier access to our beautiful countryside for all who wish to enjoy it. As a Registered Charity we are funded by donations from the public, and organisations who use the footpaths and by grants from Local Authorities in the area. For further information, or to contact us, please visit our website [\*\*mondaygroup.org\*\*](http://mondaygroup.org).

*Stephen Brewis*

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**HURST PLAYERS** We're in December – and it's almost Panto time! Hurst Players present their first pantomime for two years – Treasure Island – perhaps not quite as devotees of the Robert Louis Stevenson novel will remember it, but it will be a home-grown traditional panto – a rollicking tale of buccaneers and buried treasure, written by Bob Sampson and directed by Annette Squire.

We'll have Long John Silver and his band of renegades – a traditional Pantomime Dame – yes, really - and a Hairy 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 Hysteria – [an equal opportunities ship] - sets sail for warmer climes for

eight performances – beginning on **29th December** at 7 pm - **30th December** also at 7 pm – there are afternoon performances at 2 pm on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day – evening performances at 7 pm on **5th and 6th January** with the final two performances at 2 pm and 7 pm on **7th January**.

Tickets can be booked online from **www.hurstplayers.org.uk** and we have a family ticket available for two adults and two children.

"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 – we live in hope!!

*Anne Hopper*

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*Gary Pickett*

**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2023  
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**YOUTH CLUBS IN THE VILLAGE** Youth @ St Francis - Youth Group at St Francis Church. We have 2 groups running every Thursday during term time.

School years 4 to 6 meet 5 pm to 6.30 pm

School years 7 to 13 meet 7 pm to 8.30 pm

We have free time which includes pool, table tennis, games consoles, table football, board games, air hockey and outdoor spaces are used.

We then run an activity followed by free time again and we finish off the night with circle time where everyone gets to have a chance to speak and end with a pray to finish off our night. A small charge will be required.

**Messy Church** - Is a Churches Together event that runs every fourth Saturday in line with the village market

We meet in Hassocks URC 9.30 am for breakfast followed at 10 am by story, celebration and crafts.

The Next Messy Church is **22nd January**.



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**Toast Club** - Held at the Powell House next door to the United Reform Church in Hassocks every Monday during term time 3 pm to 5 pm for school year 7 to 11. Activities include pool, table football, uno, wii console and toast.

**BBT (Bumps, Babies and Toddlers)** - A group for play and chat. Held every Thursday in St. Francis Church Hall, Priory Road, Hassocks from 1 pm to 2.30 pm.

*Gary Pickett*

### **DITCHLING PLAYERS - NOVEMBER**

**2022 PRODUCTION** First of all, on behalf of the Ditchling Players, I would like to apologise for the last-minute cancellation of our production of 'Gaslight'.

As I'm sure you'll appreciate this decision was not taken lightly and we're sorry for the disappointment this caused to you, our audience. We have some good news, however, and that is that 'Gaslight'; will be returning to the Ditchling stage on the **9th to 13th May**. this year. Please note that the performances will run from Tuesday to Saturday for this production only as we're unable perform a matinee. So do make a note of these dates and we look forward to seeing you then.

*David Tetttersell*

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### THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL

It has been a really, really busy month once again at The Windmills.

We want to say a big well done to our girls football team who not only made it through to the Mid-Sussex Girls football final, but were crowned the Champions! They now move on to represent Mid-Sussex in the County Cup Finals in January. Congratulations to all the girls for this fantastic achievement – we are really proud of them.

The boys football team was also in action this month in the Mid-Sussex Boys football tournament. They played some fantastic football and were agonisingly close to qualifying for the next round. They played superbly well as a team and modelled our school



values to all that they came across. Congratulations to all the boys who took part.

Our year 6 children have been busy doing

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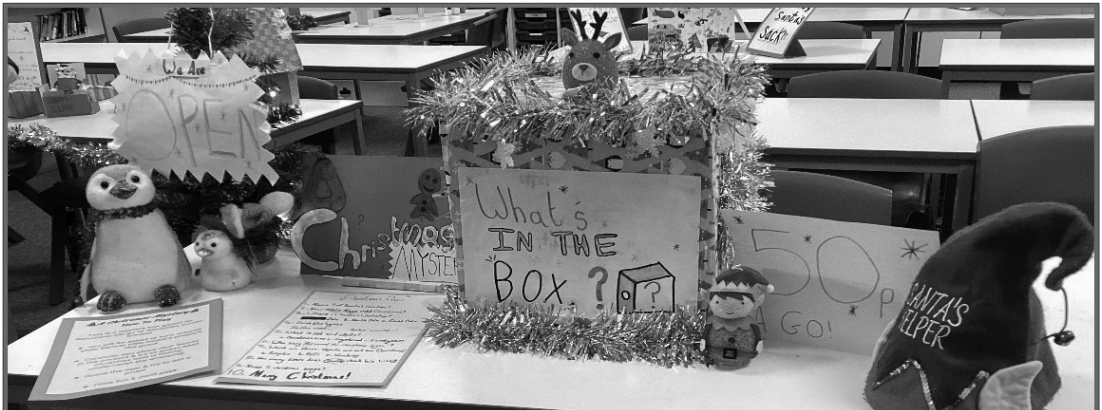
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their 'bikeability' cycle training to give them the confidence and skills to be able to ride on the roads safely. Some of the children had to bravely contend with some of the worst weather that could possibly be thrown at them. Well done to all those that took part.

Year 3 were lucky to have the amazing Sports Leadership students from Downlands come to Windmills and show us the brilliant games of Boccia and New Age Kurling. The children had so much fun working in teams and cheering each another on.

Year 5 have been working on persuasive writing. They were given a fictional environmental scenario to inspire their writing and made impressive written arguments for and against.

Inspired by the 100 year anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, year 4 created their own tomb to 'discover', complete with glowing hieroglyphics, spooky sound effects, tunnels to crawl through and an actual mummy

in a sarcophagus. The children had a brilliant learning experience.

And finally, our Christmas Fair – what a success! The 'Friends of Windmills' did an absolutely amazing job, as did our year 6 children who designed and made free standing Christmas games for the fair as part of their D.T. learning. All the children all did such a great job of getting us in the festive mood with their angelic singing. Thank you so much to everyone involved for the extraordinary amount of hard work that this took to coordinate – you have helped to raise a huge amount of money and it was such a joy to see the school positively brimming with Christmas cheer.

*On behalf of Windmills*

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**HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET IS MOVING!** As you may or may not know the national tyres site where we have been holding the village market for the last 19 (!) years is earmarked for development. The timings of these changes (and the implications on the market) are out of our control. For this reason, we have decided to move the market to a new location in the village.

From January 2023 the new market location is the Age Concern car park, Dale Avenue, Hassocks, BN6 8LW.

We are very grateful to the National Tyre Centre for accommodating our market over all these years - thank you!

We're really excited about the move as there is more space at the new site and also the Age Concern building will be open on market mornings with their cafe serving tea and coffee and light refreshments

Local charity, Age Concern, will have their shop open and they will have their own stall. Market visitors will also be able to purchase hot drinks and light refreshments from their cafe.

Additionally, the increasingly popular local HKD Repair Café will relocate to Age Con-

cern which will increase footfall to both Age Concern and Hassocks Village Market – it's a win-win situation for all.

Please do come along and support the market in its new home on **28th January**. We look forward to seeing you all there. The hassocks village market committee, **Hassocksvillage-market1@gmail.com**.

*Catriona Hawksley*

## **VIVACE! CHOIR TO CELEBRATE ITS 20TH BIRTHDAY**

With Christmas carols becoming a distant memory, the Ditchling-based choir Vivace! is already preparing for a series of concerts in the first half of 2023. Founded in 2003, Vivace! has been described as "a good choir for good causes" because it has a great track record of performing at fund-raising charity events all over Sussex.

In 2023 these will include performances at Newtimber Church on **22nd April**, at Keymer Parish Church on **17th June**, and, to celebrate our 20th year, a grand concert with refreshments at Danny House, Hurstpierpoint, on **28th June**.

The repertoire for 2023 includes a selection of popular and lesser-known pieces from Baroque to Rock and the tuneful Little Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott, accompanied by jazz piano.

The Vivace! Choir would love to welcome new recruits, soprano, alto, tenor and bass. You don't necessarily have to be able to read music, as long as you can follow it and enjoy singing in harmony."

If you think you might be interested, please contact **info@vivacechoirsussex.org.uk**.

Or, why not come along to one of the concerts and see what you think? *Richard Ware*

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**HASSOCKS WI** meet at Adastra Hall on the 3rd Monday in the month. Doors open 7.30 pm, start 7.45 pm.

Craft Club is the **9th January** at 2 pm in the Committee Room.

January Looking Back/Facing Forward -The wonderful party celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was our highlight of 2022. Our ongoing projects making breast cancer cushions and collecting donations for the Food Bank continue. Companionship is shared through our Book Clubs, Walking Groups and Creative Writing Sessions. Our new venture afternoon Craft Club its proving very popular.

We enjoyed Arty outings, theatre trips and other organised events. All these as well as our monthly evening meetings gave us a varied and interesting year. Thank you to everyone who helped out. Don't feel lonely come along to a meeting for a friendly welcome.

As you may be aware the WI is a unique organisation shaped by its members since 1915, helping members raise awareness and campaign nationally on many diverse topics. Our current campaign -'Thinking Differently: Autism and ADHD Women and Girls' will be talked about during our January meeting, which is a Knit, Natter and Catch Up with Cake (please), along with resolutions.

Visitors are welcome (donation), come along

and try something new in 22 - Oops - should be come and see in 23!

*Gerry*

**AGE CONCERN** Dale Avenue, Hassocks. Main office **01273 844461**, **[www.achas-socks.co.uk](http://www.achas-socks.co.uk)**.

Happy New Year to all! Come along and keep warm and have a coffee or lunch in our cosy dining room, we serve lunches Tues to Fri and a brunch on a Monday. (Mondays no need to book).

Please do call us on **01273 844461** to book a place. Do let us know by 10 am on the day at the latest. Our Menu is always on our website. If you need help with transport to come for lunch, the bus runs on a Tuesday and a Thursday, do enquire in the office. Our Coffee Shop is open from 9 am – 3 pm serving refreshments. Our Charity shop and Coffee shop are also open on Saturday mornings 9 am - 11.45 am.

New Activities – Chair Pilates on a Monday 2 – 3 pm, Craft mornings on a Monday, Bingo Wednesday mornings at 11 am. Knit and Natter also on Wednesday morning, come along and bring your knitting and chat to others.

Art Group Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon.

Age Concern will be closed on Monday **2nd January**. *All at Age Concern*

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### **THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT AND WESTMESTON**

A very Happy New Year from us all in the Beacon Parish. We invite everyone to join us at any of our welcoming and friendly services.

There will be a 10 am service of Morning Praise and Holy Communion in Ditchling on each Sunday during January except Sunday **29th January** when the Service will take place at St Margaret's Primary School at 10 am.

Wednesday@10 services of Holy Communion will take place each Wednesday during January. Do come and join us for our friendly SING! session on Wednesday **4th January** at 6 pm in St. Margaret's to sing some favourite worship songs and learn some new ones. A lovely sociable time together.

Visit our website **[www.beaconparish.co.uk/](http://www.beaconparish.co.uk/)** for details of any changes or additions. At the time of going to press, we are unable to live stream our Sunday services but please check our website for updated information on this.

*Sherrian Guest*

**HEBER OPERA** needs new voices for a new year!

With a full year of musical events in the diary, Heber Opera would love to hear from you if you enjoy singing and want to join in the fantastic world of opera. The plan for 2023 includes a spring concert of opera choruses, a masterclass/workshop, and a fully staged production of The Tales of Hoffmann (Offenbach) in September. Heber always sings in English,

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and rehearses every Sunday evening in Hurst-pierpoint Village Centre, the first rehearsal will be on Sunday **29th January**. You are welcome to just come and try on that date, but if you want more information, please contact Michael Withers on **[michael@heberopera.co.uk](mailto:michael@heberopera.co.uk)**, or **07892 735190**.

*Jenny*

**70S & 80S DISCO IN AID OF DITCH-  
LING PAVILION** in Ditchling Village Hall on **4th March** at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are available from Ditchling Post Office (closer to the date) or via email **[nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk](mailto:nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk)**. Kindly sponsored by Chatt Estates.

*Nikki*

**CAMEO** (Come and meet each other) on Monday **23rd January** 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*

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Would the residents of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common support a local gap between the A2300 and Chalkers Lane to stop coalescence between Burgess Hill, Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common.

Happy New Year. Councillor Dave Evans

Please call me for further information

07496 143194

\*\*\*\*\*

### HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

'Hurst Meadows – how it is being managed, what has happened so far and what is planned'.

An illustrated talk by Georgina Judd, Hurst Meadows volunteer ecologist and councillors Claire Majasai and Allan Brown.

Followed by a social with drinks and nibbles at 7.45 pm Tuesday **10th January** in the Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre.

Sheffield Park and Garden Past Present and Future – caring for our Horticultural Heritage.

An illustrated talk by Assistant Head Gardener Chris Skinner at 7.45 pm on Tuesday **14th February** in the Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre.

*Kathy Green*

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Dates for this year are **10th January, 14th March, 9th May, 11th July, 12th Sept., and 14th Nov.** Doors open 11.45 am Jazz starts at 12 pm to 2.45 pm. Entrance fee includes lunch. Please book in advance by calling Jo **01444 235986** or Margaret **01444 235639**.

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*Alan Cresswell*

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DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH** On behalf of our President, Mrs Virginia Lewis-Jones, Vice President, Mrs Juliet Smith JP, DL, Chairman Mr Tom Jones and the Branch Committee, we would like to thank all the Shops and Businesses in Ditchling, Ditchling C of E Primary School and to Everyone who has supported and donated to the 2022 Poppy Appeal. A special thank you also to our wonderful Collectors. In addition, we would also like to thank those Shops and Businesses in Keymer and Hassocks who also supported our Branch Poppy Appeal. This year our total has reached £4,500 for which we are so very grateful. Please accept a very heartfelt thank you to you all who have given so generously. The Branch would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very healthy and successful 2023.

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**TREFOIL GUILD** 16th November was the night of the floods. Some members braved the weather as did the ukulele band. Our Christmas Meal was at The Thatched Inn. A Merry Christmas to all our members and a Happy New Year! We will be at the Guide Hall for our meeting on **18th January**. 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 495433**.

*Pam*

**HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD** Our New Year's Meeting will be on Tuesday **17th January** when we will hold a Bring & Buy Sale so if you have any Christmas pressies you can't use bring them along and proceeds will go to our children's charity. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2.30 pm at Age Concern Main Hall.

*Sheila Southwell*

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**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** My New Year's resolution is to try and be more positive about the future - but I already feel like banging my head repeatedly against a tree. Standing out in the street this morning, I heard a noise that reassured me that I'm not alone.

The drumming of the Great Spotted Woodpecker is a familiar sound throughout February, surely earning this striking black and white bird the reputation as one of Britain's most famous drummers along with Ringo Starr and Phil Collins. The bird's drumming serves an important function because the Great Spotted Woodpecker realises it can't sing and doesn't attempt to. Sadly, the same can't be said for Ringo Starr and Phil Collins. Instead, its drumroll is a percussive proclamation that hammers home the message to other male woodpeckers to stay away from its territory in the treetops. It also serves to drum up support from female woodpeckers in the

vicinity who may be looking for a pied partner.

This 'song' may not be as sweet as the melodies sung by the Robin or Blackbird but it still gets its message across. Indeed, the drumming can carry the bird's message across half a mile of countryside, with a male broadcasting up to 600 drumrolls a day. Each drumroll consists of up to 10-16 beats, typically in a one second burst. Of course, if I did attempt to take my frustrations out on a tree in a similar way, I'd suffer some form of concussion - but woodpeckers are specially designed to avoid this by having shock absorbent tissue between the base of their bill and their strengthened skulls to cushion the impact.

Their incredible beak is more than just a drumstick, it's also a pickaxe which allows them to chip away at trunks to excavate their own nest hole; and a chisel with which the woodpecker prises open tree bark to find food. That mighty beak is a formidable weapon too,



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which sends other birds on the peanut feeder scarpering pretty sharpish. And Great Spotted Woodpeckers are becoming more greatly spotted, as it is a British bird which is actually increasing in numbers. The pecker's population leapt in the seventies and nineties, with some estimates stating they have increased by 300% over the past five decades. The availability of dead wood thanks to Dutch Elm Disease and the availability of peanuts thanks to British bird lovers being among of the reasons for this increase. See, I ended the article on a positive note, maybe I won't break my New Year's resolution after all.

Well done to me, I'm feeling upbeat about the future. Now to put the kettle on, put my feet up, and turn on the news...

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our

rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join me on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join).

*Michael Blencowe*

## **HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME 2022/23**

Just a reminder that the deadline for the second submission of applications for Hassocks Parish Council Grants is Friday **27th January 2023** for consideration by Council in February. The Council welcomes applications from local community groups or for projects and activities that will benefit local residents.

Full details can be found on the Parish Council's website – [www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk) or for further information please contact the Parish Council Office on 01273 842714 or email [info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk). *Parish Clerk*

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** On the threshold of this New Year there is not a lot to report from Stoneywish. Except that the black-bird is gorging himself on the last of the frost-split crab apples in our garden and that there seems to be a spirit of revolt abroad amongst the local pigs. The boar at Stoneywish, being housed in his winter quarters in the paddock and growing tired of his confinement, let himself out for a walk the other day and discovered a feast of fallen acorns just a few yards from his pen. Since then, he has been breaking out on daily basis. Michael has found him several times, sated and fast asleep under the big oak tree, tempted him back to his run with a bucket of food, and secured the fence once more. But when the longing for acorns comes upon him, the wily boar simply unpins the wire with his powerful snout and lets himself out again. And who can blame him? Then, a few nights ago, young Mike was called out to some neighbours who found a stray pig in their garden. However, this pig was not from Stoneywish and this one, a renegade from a neighbouring farm, had no intention of placidly following a bucket and I believe had to be sedated before it could be got home! Is this simply a case of the grass on the other side looking greener, or are pigs smarter than we think and know there should be more to life than boredom and pig nuts?

This New Year, one might be forgiven for looking with a wistful eye over the fence to freer and more affluent times. Hemmed about with injunctions and warnings about every conceivable matter, we find life squeezed into a smaller and smaller space, where almost everything once deemed pleasurable is now taboo. If we can't break out and console ourselves with forbidden acorns, what can we do? A line from Dickens runs in my head these days: "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." Are we fortunate or unfortunate? Have our Christmas pleasures been curtailed or intensified? And what of the future? Dickens was one expert on Christmas and Louisa May Alcott, author of 'Little Women',

was another. "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents!" is the most famous line she penned. Louisa churned out sentimental Christmas stories by the dozen for childrens' magazines, counting the dollars they made with canny calculation. She was hell-bent on being a breadwinner for her impoverished family, for she had known much hardship in her youth. With a philosopher father who was quite incapable of providing practically for his family, and a capable and intelligent mother ground down by domestic chores; with siblings to clothe, feed and educate, and a powerful awareness of the social evils which every Alcott fought against, Louisa turned her hand to sewing, house-maiding, teaching, nursing,ing - whatever would bring in the cash. The winters were bitter in Vermont. They often lived on charity food. 'Little Women' was autobiographical. Louisa's journal entry for Christmas 1860, shortly after the death of her sister, reads: "A quiet Christmas, no presents, but apples and flowers. No merry-making for Nan and May were gone and Betty under the snow. But we are used to hard times and as Mother says: 'while there is a famine in Kansas we mustn't ask for sugar plums.'" Yet the Alcotts had a vital inner resilience. They had imagination and when they could not change their immediate circumstances, they willed their hearts into a better place. "All the philosophy in our house," Louisa wrote, "is not in the study; a good deal is in the kitchen, where a fine old lady thinks high thoughts and does kind deeds while she cooks scrubs." The 'high thoughts' goes with 'simple living' and is a buried quotation from Dorothy Wordsworth, who also knew a thing or two about freezing at Christmas! These women seem good companions for the present time. They are feisty, passionate and inspired. They despaired and they picked themselves up again. What would they do with our January Blues?

I decided to draw up for myself a random list of Resolutions, or New Year gifts, such as can be found in their writings, to fortify the spirit

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**COME AND HAVE A BROWSE.**

when times are lean. Mine are pure self-indulgence and I make no apology for that. But they might just make the place a bit brighter and more cheerful. So here goes... 1. Share and enjoy whatever food is in the house. 2. Sing (Emily Carr, the Canadian artist used to sing to her canvases as she painted them!) 3. Write real letters to friends 4. Develop the art of conversation. Talk to people and find out what they think. 4. Feed life with beauty – put flowers in the window 5. Fight boredom. Learn something difficult 6. Keep the hearth warm and welcome people in 7. Make gloomy people laugh 8. 9. Cultivate the art of ‘small is beautiful’. Children know this and their world is full of wonder. 10. Keep close to Mother Nature 11. Never say die!! etc. etc. What else? What would it take to turn our ‘worst of times’ into ‘the best of times’? In ‘Doctor Zhivago’, Yuri’s father-in-law prophetically says to him that the freezing penury of peasant life with his family might prove the happiest time of his life. The Victorian philosopher J.S. Mill famously asked the question: which would you rather be, unhappy Socrates, or a happy pig? Is it better to face uncomfortable truths or bury one’s nose in acorns? For him there was only one noble choice, but he made two question-

able assumptions: first, that a philosopher cannot have the imagination to fill life with consolations while facing the worst, and secondly, and perhaps more regrettably, that pigs cannot think or dream. Both notions, I think, are possible and desirable. Sarah Bernhardt, the great French actress, and another champion against adversity, made herself two resolutions: ‘to be a legend while I am alive, and not to be dead before I die.’ I am sure our piggy would approve. I have tried to make him famous. Happy New Year!

*Rosemary*

**SUSSEX SEWING CLUB** This is a friendly sewing group for adults that like to meet up & spend a day sewing!

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We meet at Westmeston Parish Hall, Lewes Road, Westmeston BN6 8RL from 10 am to 4 pm.

Dates for 2023: **21st January, 11th February, 11th March, 8th April, 10th June, 8th July, 9th September, 14th October, 11th November.**

For more information & booking details email: [sussexsewingclub@gmail.com](mailto:sussexsewingclub@gmail.com)

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*Dianne Bowles*

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### HOVE CHARITY'S BOOST FROM HASSOCKS BUSINESS



A women's centre in Hove has received a generous donation from a Hassocks nursery as it prepares to re-open. The Gateway Centre, run by Off the Fence charity, took delivery of much-needed plants and horticultural sundries from South Downs Garden Centre.

"We were delighted to make this donation having been approached by the charity", said Rebecca Houghton-Knapp from the family-run business.

*Rebecca Houghton-Knapp*

*Plant supervisor Jason Anderson and plant advisor Hazel Still with a selection of items donated to the Gateway Women's Centre.*

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*We thank Don McBeth for emailing us:* He confirmed that the photo from Diana featured in the November edition is of Lodge Hill Cottage at the junction of Lodge Hill and Bodingtons Lane in Ditchling.



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**STAR CINEMA** January's film at the Adastra Hall is Mrs Harris goes to Paris on Friday **20th January** is the gentle romanticised true story of a widowed cleaning lady who falls in love with a couture Dior dress, and her subsequent adventure in Paris in the 1950s. Doors will open at 7 and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tea, coffee and the usual popular raffle. Tickets on the door (cash only please). The Star team look forward to welcoming you. *Liz Edmunds*

**HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** meets at Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint on **4th January** at 2 pm.

'Sussex Cheese Tasting' Visitors Welcome.

On **1st February** 'Oklahoma to Phantom of the Opera - The Modern Musical' with Ian Gledhill For more information contact me on **01273 649023** or Dianne on **01273 835284**.

*Ann*

**SOUTH EAST TOAD SUMMIT** Toad Patrollers and anyone interested in our native toads are all invited to attend this free event. It is an opportunity to get together, share ideas and learn more about how best to conserve toads.

Saturday **28th January** from 1.45 to 4.30 pm at Adastra Hall, Hassocks. To find out more and get your tickets visit **[www.toadsummit2023.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.toadsummit2023.eventbrite.co.uk)**.

*Jennifer*

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## ~~~ WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY ~~~

**Clubs, Societies & Groups** please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section.

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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.

**KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** 1st, 3rd & 5th Mondays URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm.

You dont need a partner - just come along.

[www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk](http://www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk).

**THE BEACON PARISH** St Margarets Church Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Praise & Holy Communion - 1st, 2nd, 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 Jan - 7th Jan HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS** Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint various performances. Panto time 'Treasure Island' Tickets [www.hurstplayers.co.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.co.uk).

**3rd DITCHLING DOWNS** WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. The History of the Picture House - Kevin

Markwick.

**4th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL CLUB** Guide HQ, Trinity Rd, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. Sussex Cheese Tasting. Visitors welcome.

**4th THE BEACON PARISH** St Margarets Church, Ditchling 6 pm. Sing! Learn new songs and revisit old. All welcome.

**4th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**5th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE** Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

**8th HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM** Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

**9th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Discovering Dewponds - Amphibian & Reptile ID & Habitats' Jennifer Hooper

**9th HASSOCKS WI** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 2 pm. Craft Club. All welcome.

**10TH LUNCHTIME JAZZ AT THE HASSOCKS** Hassocks Hotel, doors open 11.45 am for 12 pm. A set Lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01444 235986 to book.

**10th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 7.45 pm. 'Hurst Meadows - how it is being managed, what has happened so far & what is planned' Georgina Judd. All welcome.

**12th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Belfast.

**13th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). 'On Air Evening'.

**16th HASSOCKS WI** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Thinking Differently:Autism & ADHD Women & Girls' plus Knit and Natter along with Resolutions. Visitors welcome.

**17th HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD** Age Concern Hassocks 2 pm. 'Bring & Buy Sale'. Visitors welcome.

**17th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION** Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Ditchling Museum. All welcome.

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**18th** BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**18th** HAS SOCKS TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Visitors welcome.

**19th** MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

**20th** STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7 pm. Film - Mrs Harris Goes to Paris... Tickets on the door.

**20th** BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East. Quiz night run by Izzy Dewdney in memory of her Dad Nigel. Teams of 8. See article.

**20th** HURST, HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'The Art of the Goldsmith' Anton Pruden. All welcome.

**21st** 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](mailto:sussexsewingclub@gmail.com).

**22nd** MESSY CHURCH URC Church 9.30 am. Meet for breakfast and crafts with a story.

**23rd** HAS SOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'History of Gardens in South East England' Frances Farrer-Brown.

**23rd** CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

**27th** HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 8 pm 'Halfway to the Stars - The Cable Cars of San Francisco' Ian Gledhill. Visitors welcome.

**27th** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm.

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[www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). 'Talk by Mark Baldwin on Enigma'.

**28th** HAS SOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

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

**28th** SOUTH EAST TOAD SUMMIT Adastra Hall, Hassocks. 1.45 pm. Get together, share ideas & learn more about how to conserve toads. To book this free event [www.toadsummit2023.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.toadsummit2023.eventbrite.co.uk).

**29th** ST MARGARETS PRIMARY SCHOOL Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Praise and Holy Communion.

**MID SUSSEX RAMBLERS** As the Ramblers' group for the Mid Sussex area we offer a varied programme of walks throughout the year to suit all ages and abilities. Our walks programme is available on our website: [www.midsussexramblers.co.uk](http://www.midsussexramblers.co.uk) along with information about the group.

Walks are arranged on Tuesdays and weekends throughout the year and vary in length from 4-12 miles. During the summer there are short walks on Wednesday evenings, trial walks and leisurely nature walks.

New and experienced walkers are both very welcome and if you would like to try one of our walks please get in touch via the Contact Form on our website, email [msrpublicity@gmail.com](mailto:msrpublicity@gmail.com) or telephone our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Sue Blandford, on **01403 255654**.



## **HALLS FOR HIRE**

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**Albourne Village Church** - ring 07513 453679 or book online at [www.albourneparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.albourneparishcouncil.co.uk) for your business or pleasure bookings, some space is available for regular bookings.

**Sayers Common Village Church Hall** - ring Judy Miller on 01273 834640. Space available for regular clubs/bookings.

**Sayers Common Village Hall** - call Agatha Winters on 01273 833377 for bookings.

**Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church and Hall** - in Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint bookings can be made through Margaret Taylor on 01273 832286.

**Hurst Scout H.Q.** - has a hall and kitchen as well as a smaller meeting room. Ideal for parties, classes or meetings. Ring Heather Hush on 01273 831023 email: [bookings@hurstpierpointscouts.co.uk](mailto:bookings@hurstpierpointscouts.co.uk). Please Note: 1st Hurst Scouts have a website for hall bookings where users can view the diary, check prices and download the booking forms – <https://www.hurstpierpointscouts.co.uk/hq-bookings>

**Hurstpierpoint Village Centre** - has three spaces for hire, a hall that seats up to 200, a conference room for up to 20 and the Club

Suite for up to 40. The Club Suite is ideal for children's parties, offering its own kitchen and toilet facilities. The kitchen serving both the hall and conference room is also free of charge. Email [office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](mailto:office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk) or [www.hurstvillagecentre.org](http://www.hurstvillagecentre.org)

**Hurstpierpoint Guide HQ** - Kitchen and carpeted hall and lovely enclosed garden call Judy Leech on 01273 833954.

**Adastra Hall**, Hassocks has 3 rooms for hire, the main hall holds 240 seated (including performers and helpers). Weddings it seats 130, price includes the kitchen, stage, chairs, tables and everyday crockery and cutlery. There is a green room which is smaller and has a separate entrance, lavatory and kitchen, there is also a committee room which is ideal for meetings and also has use of the kitchen.

Bookings 07764 531246 or email [adastrabookings@outlook.com](mailto:adastrabookings@outlook.com)

**Court Bushes Community Hub**, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9TH

This building has a large function room and club lounge. For booking enquiries, please contact the Parish Council office on 01273 833264, email: [office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](mailto:office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk) or visit [www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk)



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## STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Just to keep you in the loop Hassocks Village Market will be moving to the Age Concern Car Park probably early next year. The site notices were put up early in December to see if anyone had any objections to the relocation. I can't see that anyone would but who knows these days.

If there's anyone out there thinking of becoming self-employed in the New Year then you may be interested in the Adastra Deli and Coffee shop which has just come on the market. It's online if you are interested – you could do worse it always seems busy and you can add some ideas of your own, put your own personality in to it.

I did hear a news programme on the radio which said over 400 new coffee establishments had opened since the end of the COVID lockdown, also hairdressers were on the increase but retail outlets were steadily closing down. It was sad to see that Gibsons the Greengrocers in Hurstpierpoint has closed down, he's been there for as long as I can remember and had a really good reputation for providing quality fruit and veg. Trouble is people have become predominately lazy in their shopping habits, they either have it delivered or pre-order it from the supermarket and pick it up with all their other shopping. If you don't want to lose these specialist retailers you have got to try and use them. More importantly after Mr Gibson announced he was closing down he had his busiest week for 18 months which was a little to late – but he can now enjoy his retirement and go fishing as much as he likes while the rest of Hurstpierpoint can ponder their loss and wonder what will take over the now empty premises.

I think this is a good time of the year to wish a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one of Britains oldest paper boys – Reg from McColls who has just reached 80 years old. Every morning without fail rain or shine he is out on his bike with the cart on the back delivering papers all over Hassocks. A familiar sight if you are up early in the morning, I'm sure all his customers will take time to say Thank You very much to Reg.

It's funny isn't it the things that as you get older suddenly cross your mind, when I'm dead and gone I wonder what I'll be remembered for, Toucan, Foxes, Cats or other? As I am still here and our wildlife needs all the help it can get at the moment. Just the other very cold night I was out feeding the local foxes, the ones I see and that's a lot are looking really healthy which is encouraging. As I walked down this lane I happened to glance into the window of one of the houses, as you do, I saw an elderly gentleman sitting in his armchair watching television, he was wearing an old grey overcoat with a woolly hat and gloves with a blanket over his legs. It makes you stop and think that we are almost in 2023 but this particular gentleman obviously was worried about turning his heating on. I couldn't help thinking it was more like a scene out of Victorian Britain and something that's going on in another country effects people like him that badly and sadly nothing is going to change for some time yet. To be honest I'm sitting in the back office of my shop writing this and freezing my \*\*\*\* off because I too am aware of the cost of energy and don't want to run up huge bills. I'm more concerned about keeping the animals warm especially Smokey the parrot if these types of parrot get chilly they can go downhill very quickly – I can wrap up against the cold, she can't.

That's it take care, don't do anything silly you don't want to end up in A & E you may be sitting around for a while.

Happy New Year - Steve

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