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BRIGHTON CONSORT'S NEXT PERFORMANCE.

Brighton Consort has attracted quite a following in the local area in recent years, with a number of performances in Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint. Followers of the choir will therefore be interested to know that Brighton Consort's next concert will be a collaboration with the University of Sussex Chamber Choir. The two choirs will be presenting a programme entitled "Roots and Branches", which will take place at the end of February in the Meeting House of the University campus at Falmer.

The performance will illustrate how choral music from the 16th century Renaissance period still flowers in the present. The centrepiece of the programme will be the famous Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd (1543-1623), which will be sung by the combined choirs. Each ensemble will also contribute pieces that date from the Renaissance up to the present day, including works by Tallis, Morley, Gibbons, Mozart, Saint-Saëns, Holst, William Walton, Jonathan Dove and Dan Forrest (born 1978).

The concert in the Meeting House will take place on Saturday **25th February** at 7 pm. Programme details are on the Brighton Consort website



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www.brightonconsort.org.uk/index. For ticket information please ring **01273 833746** or visit the website. There is more information about Brighton Consort on the choir's Facebook page

www.facebook.com/brightonconsort.

Mike Clemens

HUG IN A MUG! A coffee (and cake!) morning for all. Held at St Cosmas and St Damian Church Hall, Keymer every Monday at 10.30 am and at Clayton Church Hall, Clayton every Tuesday at 10.30am.

Gary Pickett

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HURST PLAYERS would like to thank everyone who supported our first Panto for almost three years. "Treasure Island" was written by member Bob Sampson and directed by one of our most experienced in this genre, Annette Squire, who took over when the original director Richard Coney was taken ill [he's now recovered fully]. The production was sold out from its first performance on 29th December and at the time of writing there were just 8 seats remaining for the final shows – the last two of eight, on 7th January.

The Players have already started rehearsals for our spring production – Humble Boy, by Charlotte Jones, from **14th to 18th March** – more about that next month.

Making up for lost time Hurst Players are now working two productions ahead, with auditions for our summer production from **4th – 8th July** taking place early in February. We're presenting Alan Ayckbourn's "Table Manners" one of his trilogy of plays under the gen-

eral heading "The Norman Conquests". This very funny play will be directed for the Players by Vicki Wood who will be looking for three couples of varying ages.

If you're as interested as we are in keeping live theatre alive in mid-Sussex – we invite anyone interested to join us for the 'open' auditions [i.e. open to all] and by the time this magazine is published you will find full details of characters plus dates and times of the auditions on the Players' website: **www.hurstplayers.org.uk**.

And we're also pleased to welcome people who would like to work backstage rather than in the spotlight – in fact, putting the actors in the spotlight can be rewarding in itself! Let us hear from you via the website.

We shall have more news of imminent productions in the March publication of Village Voice, to whom we are grateful for getting our message 'out there'!

Anne Hopper

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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL It has been lovely to see the children and staff get off to an enthusiastic start to 2023 after enjoying the Christmas break!

Looking back to the end of last term, year 3 were busy ensuring that their topic books captured some key learning about the Stone Age and Iron Age history that they have been studying. We have been using drama to inspire the children and to embed key knowledge before retaining it by recording it.

Year 4 opened the doors to parents to explore their Ancient Egyptian Museum. Each class had a time slot to showcase their Ancient Egyptian singing, dancing and music before taking them on a tour of the galleries and workshops. These celebrated and presented their learning across the curriculum—including IT projects researching The Nile, writing describing finding Tutankhamun's tomb, the mummification process as well as incredible artwork. The children were also invited to dress up and create artefacts as an additional homework challenge. They were so inventive and creative.

Year 5 have been learning about the Vikings, Anglo-Saxons and Romans, producing some very

detailed and well-crafted writing, including exploring why the Romans left Britain and who came next. They also produced some stunning art work as part of this topic.

Year 6 have learnt all about Shackleton and his trip to the Antarctic. They researched the area and then wrote persuasive travel brochures which are very convincing with suggested holiday activities such as spotting the wildlife, skiing and photography!

On behalf of The Windmills



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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY We would like to start by wishing everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

We have chosen an extremely interesting and diverse programme of films for 2023 and are looking forward to welcoming you back and enjoying them with us.

Our second film of the new season will be on Thursday, **2nd February 2023** and is entitled Olga.

Olga is a rising star Ukrainian gymnast (played by Anastasia Budiashkina, herself a former member of the Ukrainian national team) whose shot for glory coincides with the 2014 Ukrainian revolution. When her mother's job as a journalist critical of the incumbent president, Yanukovich, places them both in immediate danger – a superb, visceral scene shows a deliberate, targeted car crash from the point of view of the terrified teenager- Olga is exiled to Switzerland. Her late father's Swiss nationality allows her to

compete on the Swiss team, but Olga's heart is in Ukraine, and is repeatedly broken by the scenes of brutality emerging from the Maidan protests. Budiashkina turns in an impressively textured performance, nailing the nervy uncertainty of not quite fitting in and the saturating grief of watching from afar while her former world falls apart. The power, athleticism and beauty of her gymnastics now have a new choreography of guilt and rage.

Director Elie Grappe, Switzerland 2021, French, Ukrainian, 85 minutes, Cert 15.

As the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine approaches, we would like to offer **free tickets to local Ukrainian refugees and their host families for the February film.** Please contact info@ditchlingfilm.org.uk for more information or make yourself known on the door.

On **2nd March** we will be screening The Quiet Girl – a moving Irish-language drama adapted from a book by Claire Keegan. Set

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in 1981, the film is about Cait, a withdrawn 9 year old girl from an impoverished, dysfunctional family, who is sent to live with distant relatives for the summer. She immediately gets welcomed into their home by the mother who shows her love and kindness and teaches her how to do chores around the home and farm. Staying with the middle-aged couple, Cait discovers a new and more emotionally fulfilling way of living. The film arrived in cinemas “on unprecedented waves” of acclaim according to the Irish Times and it certainly deserves the hype. Although there is a “pervasive sense of unspoken menace lurking just outside the frame”, the film is ultimately a celebration of uncomplicated human kindness. Director: Colm Bairread, Ireland 2022, Irish, 94 mins, Cert 15+.

The films will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. 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.

For the February film we are offering free entry to our local Ukrainian refugees and their host families.

Rowena Cager

HELP NEEDED - Keymer and Hassocks Cricket Club are looking for some help ahead of the coming season to accommodate our overseas player for the summer of 2023.

Do you have a spare room that you would be prepared to rent out? If you do, then we would love to hear from you. We have a candidate

identified – a mid-20’s guy from Perth, Australia. He will be spending the summer playing for the club in Adastra and coaching the communities youngsters as well as working locally. The aim is that he will arrive in mid-April and depart early September.

The club will pay a weekly fee for housing the individual. We have had great success in the past with people housing individuals who have really enjoyed the experience.

If you would be interested or could help out in any way, then please do contact me on **07748 967314**.

Ross Watkins

MESSY CHURCH Is a Churches Together event that runs every fourth Saturday in line with the village market (date changes for December).

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

The Next Messy Church is **25th February**.

Gary Pickett

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THE BEATLES RETURN Tribute Band on Saturday **18th March** at Adastra Hall, Hassocks. Doors open 7.30 pm, starts at 8 pm. Live music and dancing to all the classic Beatles hits, with licensed bar. Ticket profits to Cancer Research UK available from ticket-source.co.uk/thebeatlesreturn. *Sam Clarke*

ALL THE RIGHT NOTES had a very successful Christmas concert in December, with a full house raising £430 for the British Heart Foundation. Rehearsals resumed in January, but now take place in the hall to the rear of the United Reformed Church in Hassocks (rather than in the church itself) which can be accessed down the side passageway. They continue to be on Wednesdays from 7.30 pm to around 9 pm, with a free taster session available if you want to give us a try. For more details check our website, www.alltherightnoteschoir.com or contact me on **07808 922715**. *Paul Simpson*

GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME COMES TO DITCHLING We are delighted to be welcoming BBC Radio Four's Gardeners' Question Time to Ditchling! Mark your calendars for the recording of two radio shows on the evening of **28th February** at Ditchling Village Hall. This legendary show poses questions from a



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Tickets are limited. These will be on sale from **1st February** from the Ditchling Post Office.

Claire McQuillan

HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our meeting on 24th January we held our special Christmas tea which had to be cancelled in December due to the icy weather. Our February meeting is on **28th February**.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2.30 pm at the Main Hall at Age Concern Centre sheilasouthwell@hotmail.co.uk

Sheila Southwell

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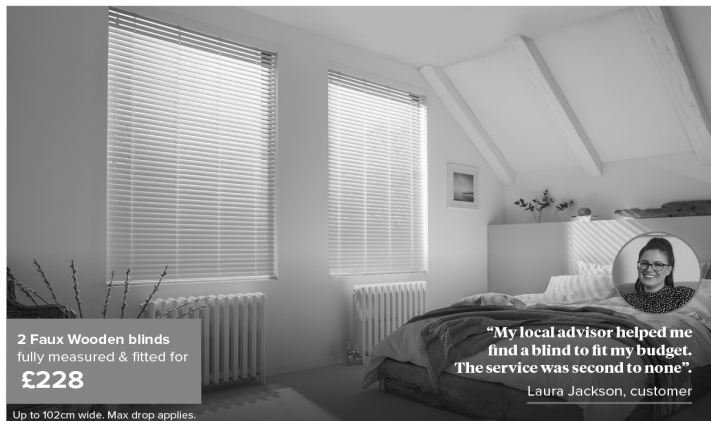
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HASSOCKS WI meet Adastra Hall 3rd Monday in the month. Doors open at 7.30 pm and start at 7.45 pm.

Our January meeting was interesting and thought provoking after the Christmas frivolities. We had an overview of the many campaigns backed by the WI over the years. Our current campaign 'Thinking Differently, Autism and ADHD Women and Girls' was highlighted. Four new resolutions were discussed, and a vote taken by the members on the campaign to go forward nationally for 2023. Thank you to those who gave the presentations. All the details are in the WI Life magazine which is posted direct to every member. We enjoyed cake and chat too.

The February meeting is our AGM. Please come along, join the committee, everyone matters and everyone is valued. There will also be a speaker. Our March meeting is light hearted Easter Basket and a game?

Next Craft Club is **6th February** at 2 pm in the committee room at Adastra Hall.

Visitors are welcome (donation) come along

for a friendly evening finding out about the wider issues WI is involved with, and of course cake.
Gerry

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BRIMSTONE It's around about now that I start getting a bit bored of winter. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy a bit of bleak beauty: bare trees, frosted landscapes and all that. But now I need something to get my heart racing. Send me a sign – some life in the graveyard of winter, a promise of those dynamic spring months ahead, a flash of colour. In February my light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming butterfly.

On sculpted, vibrant yellow wings the Brimstone makes his elegant entrance into the New Year on those bright February days when you feel the warmth of the sun on your face. Its distinctive yellow wings have given birth to a legend – that this 'butter-coloured fly' inspired the word butterfly. This claim may not entirely be true. Also untrue is the notion that these February Brimstones are the first signs of the year's new life. Because by the time Brimstones appear in February they are already on their last (six) legs.

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Fresh Brimstone butterflies emerged from their chrysalises in late summer, so by February they could be seven months old – and in butterfly years that's ancient. Admittedly almost all of that time they've been asleep in a hedge, sheltered from the storms under Holly and Ivy. Yet despite the worst winter weather they always emerge immaculate in the spring. They must be made of Teflon.

When they awake the (bright yellow) males search for a mate, they mate, the (pale yellow) females lay eggs and then both die. Still, an adult life of over ten months earns them the title of our longest-lived butterfly. An insect OAP.

The Brimstone's caterpillars feed on the leaves of Buckthorn and Alder Buckthorn, unobtrusive shrubs which, like the butterfly, are widespread across Sussex. When I first became the proud owner of a garden it was only a matter of days before I evicted the gnomes and planted an Alder Buckthorn. The follow-

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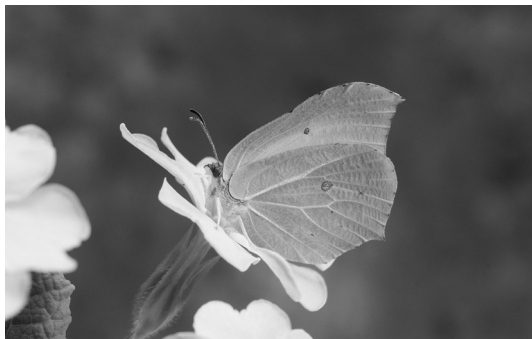
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ing spring I was excited to watch a Brimstone laying her tiny skittle shaped eggs and I studied the caterpillars as they hungrily defoliated my tree. It's funny, people often complain to me about caterpillars eating their plants – especially cabbages (the food of Small and Large White caterpillars). Why people are concerned is beyond me. Cabbages are horrible. The only reason I would ever plant a cabbage is for the pleasure of watching something else eat it.

The first Brimstone sighting in February doesn't exactly mean that spring is starting but it's certainly a sign that winter is starting to end. And right now, that's good enough for me. Either way this yellow butterfly is a welcome messenger of what's to come – the first sulphurous spark to ignite the blaze of spring. 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 guidebook, Discovering



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THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX presents a Talk and Afternoon Tea with guest speaker Jane Metcalfe (former member of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company).

On Sunday **26th February**, at 2.45 pm at Adastra Hall, Hassocks.

Tickets include a delicious selection of cakes and sandwiches.

Pre-booking essential due to catering needs, contact gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

Pennie Ingram

BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY will meet on Wednesday **1st February**, Open Meeting entitled 'Borde Hill - Its History and Gardens', the speaker will be Andrewjohn Stephenson-Clarke, owner of Borde Hill.

We meet at Cyprus Hall, at 7.45 pm, (doors open 7.15 pm) Admission to members free. Visitors welcome for small fee. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com. Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Flo Whitaker

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP will meet on **1st February** at Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint at 2 pm. 'Oklahoma to Phantom of the Opera - The modern Musical' with Ian Gledhill.

Our **1st March** meeting will again be at 2 pm 'The Alzheimer Society' with Dawn Fairbrother.

Visitors Welcome for more information contact me on **01273 649023**.

Ann Tranter

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DITCHLING TRAFFIC PROBLEM (replying to the article Ditchling Traffic Problem Solved? In Talk About number 552 December 2022)

I agree that Ditchling is a beautiful village and the traffic coming through the village as a short-cut to Brighton is dreadful, but what stupid suggestions to improve it.

Doesn't this man realise if his ideas were implemented the traffic would come through Ditchling at breakneck speed with nothing to slow it down and no-one to enforce the speed limit.

Some residents are not fit enough to walk far and have a right to park near their homes.

The new car park is supposed to be for people visiting our lovely village.

If the pinch-points were removed even more cars from the numerous new estates built by Mid Sussex Council would bomb through the village which was built many years ago and as you say was not designed for this amount of traffic.

A pedestrian crossing would help villagers and visitors alike, but that would slow down the traffic and we must not do that?

Ditchling needs a bypass pure and simple, but that costs money.

There were plans for a Ditchling bypass in 1970-72 lodged at Lewes District Council and ready to go, but perhaps the many new houses built have taken the land. *Valerie*

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

Why not come along and have a good SING! with us in St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 6 pm. on Wednesday **1st February**. A lovely start to the new month. Do you have a favourite hymn? Come along and let us know so we can all join together in singing it. Whatever you think of your singing ability, you'll be made very welcome!

Our friendly Morning Worship services take place at 10 am each Sunday. We'd love to welcome you whether you live locally or are visiting the area.

On **5th, 12th and 26th February** the service will be at St. Margaret's Church, Ditchling and on Sunday **19th February**, we'll be at St. Martin's Church, Westmeston.

Wednesday @ 10, a short service of Holy Communion will take place every Wednesday in February at St. Margaret's Church, Ditchling.

For further details and to check for any last-minute changes, please visit our website www.beaconparish.co.uk/

Sherrian Guest

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday **25th February** 10 am at the Greyhound Pub, pay for your breakfast and then join us for breakfast and some great chat. All welcome.

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH Three weeks ago we woke to snow. The hoar frosts of the previous few days had prepared us. We dug out mittens, socks, vests; abandoned the idea of driving anywhere and set off with buckets to feed the animals early on foot. In the pre-dawn half-light, the snow glimmered like a new page, already scribbled over with animal tracks. These tracks are inscribed on the land every night, like a message written in invisible ink. We are scarcely aware of them. But the snow acts like lemon juice, bringing the text to light. Here one could see where a cat had skirted the chicken run, his tracks crossing over those of a hopeful fox. Down by the ponds were plentiful rabbit trails and smaller prints, perhaps a squirrel checking his larders in case the freeze persisted. There were bird signatures in the farm centre, the free birds, crows, robins skirmishing for dominance over scatterings of corn; red-

wings darting from the cover of the hedgerows. Only the chickens hate to set foot in the snow. They sit on their perches all day with their toes tucked under their breast feathers and prefer to starve! They have been lycocoddled by their mistress (who also likes to tuck her feet up) though their defeatist attitude, apparently so decadent, has a practical rationale. They are saving energy. Aren't we all advised to do that? This pattern continues for several days. We traverse the farm dispensing feed, morning and afternoon. At noon, the sun brings a brief thaw and the snow on the orchard trees melts and congeals in lumps of ice the size of pigeons' eggs. In sunshine these dazzle like brilliants on a chandelier – an effect I have never seen before. But then the weather reveals the hidden structure of things in many ways. The trees in the pine-tum each have their own way of responding: the delicate needles of the Himalayan pine, droop, offering no resistance to the snow, the redwood shoulders its burden with muscular stoicism, the monkey puzzle is a pagoda of ice, the cryptomeria stoops, bent over like a Sherpa. After a week, there is a change. We are greeted one morning by a red sky which blazes in the east for more than an hour, bloodying the snow and casting a baleful light on the frozen ponds. The sun passes straight into cloud and by afternoon, rain is washing the snow away. My lifelong delight in watching the weather is often tempered now by anxiety. Seeing the cross-hatchings of chem trails



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which so often seem to prefigure some meteorological disaster or other, I am no longer a happy sky-watcher. But this snow has proved a blessing. Though it made hard work for us, it brought the Christmas card concept of winter actually into our lives. I had been painting snow for a card design and suddenly it was under our feet and the frost was nipping our fingers and there were golden maple leaves trapped in ice and the croak of a heron crossing the moon – and the world reminded us that poetry is still alive. Now, after a week of dismal slop, the sun has shown its face again and is setting behind a screen of pastel clouds. The weather reports are full of doom and gloom once more. NASA's eye view of Earth is of a marbled bubble about to burst. Our weather has become a narrative of grim Necessity - trial by fire, trial by water – there is a Judgement Day ring to it, reminiscent of other brimstone narratives. But knowing *about* something is not at all the same as *knowing* it. If the authorities are right and there are ice storms ahead, do I want to experience more cold morning exhaustion? No, no I want to stay in bed, like the chickens. But if it snows, will I get up and help Michael again? Yes, yes! Because it offers a chance to feel LIFE raw and kicks consciousness out of its lazy corner. Like snowfall, such direct experience reveals a hidden and forgotten world. Under its influence, the comings and goings of the innumerable unsuspected feelings and thoughts, written in invisible ink in our lives, are exposed to view and we see a

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sympathetic magic at work. We are not data in a seismic equation. But sparks of life, each precious, each capable of responding to beauty and the vital frequencies which create coherence in Nature. This is the power of poetry and it shows us a view of Earth which I believe is more true than anything one can project from outer space. This view will not provide a practical cure for the planet's ills, but it could open a few hearts and nothing is going to get better until that happens. In the depths of a brutal winter, the poet Coleridge, huddled over his dying fire, put quill into frozen inkpot to pen one of his finest poems. *Frost at Midnight* was written in February 1798, while Europe, in the grip of war, endured the miseries of a mini-Ice Age, yet the poem gleams out from that waste of dark and cold, like a candle flame. An ash-flake, fluttering on the fender during the poet's night vigil, becomes catalyst for a reverie about solitude, loss, hope, and the power of beauty, which, like the frost outside, works miraculous transformations through a 'secret ministry'. There is too much in the poem to make a reduction of it here, but the blessing which concludes the work seems to me to be just the view of Earth we need if we are to find an antidote to Judgement Day nihilists. It is a

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plea for peace. Be still enough, quiet enough to receive. Here, surely, is a better kind of weather advice and one more likely to inspire the reverence needed if we are to continue to be part of Nature's pattern. In a New Year loaded with dismal warnings, I wish Coleridge's blessing could be heard, inviting people to turn an ear instead to the 'eternal language' of the living world:

"Therefore, all seasons shall be sweet to thee,
Whether the summer clothe the general earth
With greenness, or the redbreast sit and sing
Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare branch
Of mossy apple-tree, while the night that
Smokes in the sun-thaw;
whether the eave-drops fall
Heard only in the trances of the blast,
Or if the secret ministry of frost
Shall hang them up in silent icicles,
Quietly shining to the quiet Moon."
Has she finished? Yes! Thank goodness for that. Let's have a cup of tea!

Rosemary

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YOUTH @ ST FRANCIS Youth Group at St Frances Church. We have 2 groups running every Thursday during term time. School years 4 to 6 meet at 5 pm to 6.30 pm.

School years 7 to 13 meet at 7 pm to 8.30 pm. Small entry fee and optional tuck money.

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.

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WOMEN'S BREAKFAST Thursday 9th February 10 am at the Greyhound Pub, pay for your breakfast and then join us for breakfast and some great chat. All welcome.

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REPAIR CAFÉ HASOCKS IS MOVING!

From January 2023 the Repair Café will be alongside the village market at the Age Concern Centre on Dale Avenue. Bring items for repair between 9.30 am and 11.30 am. We try to complete simpler repairs that morning by 12.30 pm. More complex tasks can be taken home by our repairers for pick up later. No need to book, but if you're not sure we can work on something please email, phone or message us on Facebook.

In our second year the Repair Café received 246 items for repair: a wide assortment of household equipment like vacuum cleaners, radios, toasters, clocks, mixers and food processors, along with jackets, shirts and coats needing zips and buttons, toys, wood furniture and ornaments. More unusual items included a 60-year-old doll missing an arm, a raclette grill, a violin, a 70 year old leather holdall needing some stitches and a toy rabbit that had been chewed by a puppy. Thanks to generous donations we covered all our costs and ended the year with a small surplus.

Our amazing and talented repairers achieved an 80% success rate. While some things can't be repaired because parts are not available or electronics have failed, our repairers can have a look and can often get things fixed. We can also offer advice on items that you may be able to fix yourself or refer you to professionals who can help with things that we can't.

We're always keen to recruit new repairers to keep up with rising demand so if you're good

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Idenhurst (new builds) (150), Cuckfield Road (from Idenhurst down to just past Fire Station) (90)
College Lane inc. Hurst Wickham Close, College Place, Lynton Close & Wolstonbury Close (191)

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CHARITY GROTTTO VISIT Seven young families supported by YMCA Sussex visited Father Christmas thanks to The Budding Foundation which provided the tickets to the grotto, at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks.

It was lovely to meet and spend time with everyone who came to Santa's Magical Woodland Retreat.

YMCA Downs Link group provide supported accommodation to vulnerable young people aged 16-25 and ensured the group could make the journey. Their spokesman said: "Thank you so much to the Budding Foundation and to Tates Garden Centres for creating a truly magical experience for our young families. We felt lucky to enjoy a day out all together and the children who just loved meeting Santa and his elves. Thank you for your continued support."

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UNATTACHED PEOPLE LOOK TO THE NEW YEAR FOR A NEW BEGINNING

Many people find that those weeks after Christmas and New Year provide a time to reflect and make decisions about changes, they would like in their lives.

The Group, a Sussex Club for unattached men and women aged 55+, has venues in Burgess Hill, Worthing, Brighton, Lewes and Horsham. The Group isn't a dating agency, but it does offer a great opportunity to meet new friends of both sexes in a welcoming atmosphere.

It can seem daunting but actually it isn't. Once people cross the threshold, meet our members, and see our diary, they usually become actively involved with our events. And we have a great time. So, my message would be "Push open that door, come in and join us. You'll be very welcome."

There are walks, pub evenings, theatre trips, golf, galleries, lunches and dinners, live music, holidays, and much more.

The Group has been going for 17 years and has over 300 members. The Group's website www.thegroup.org.uk tells you everything you need to know. Going into a room full of people you don't know can be difficult, but not with The Group. You'll get a good welcome. Where do they meet? Take a look at www.thegroup.org.uk.

Tricia

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Members enjoyed a final Christmas dinner at The Hassocks. The Chairman, Derek Swaine, warmly thanked all members past and present for all their support over the years. The current members of the Committee were presented with a token gift. *Derek Swaine*



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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS, NEW YEAR'S RECYCLING!

As we welcome the New Year and many of us try to keep our New Year's Resolutions, what better time to reaffirm a commitment to recycling our everyday items to do our bit for the environment.

West Sussex charity 4Sight Vision Support has a long-established recycling scheme which helps to raise funds to support blind and sight impaired residents across the county. Additional items have recently been added to the scheme, many of which would otherwise go to landfill. Items include stamps from everyday post or stamp collections; old or foreign coins and notes; jewellery, watches, games consoles, cameras, tablets and mobile

phones (any condition or age) and ink cartridges (except laser toner cartridges). You can recycle cracker, biscuit and cake wrappers,

Pringles tubes, mini cheese nets, and cheese packets – but please wash them first! They would even love to have your old car, as they have the resources to turn old cars into cash via auction or scrap!

In addition, if you received a gift that wasn't quite 'you' this Christmas and don't want it to go to waste, 4Sight Vision Support would love your new and unopened items to use as raffle and auction prizes in future.

Items for recycling can be dropped off at their Head Office in Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, and unwanted Christmas gifts

can be dropped here or at the charity's Shoreham Centre in Pond Road, all during normal office hours. For further details, or if your business/club/society/café would like to become a public recycling point, please call the Fundraising Team on 01243 828555 or email fundraising@4sight.org.uk. Cathy Clark



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STAR CINEMA On Friday **17th February**, the film at the Adastra Hall is Operation Mincemeat, starring Colin Firth and a stellar cast. It is the true story of a successful British deception mission of the Second World War to disguise the 1943 Allied invasion of Sicily. Doors open at 7 pm, and the film starts at 7.30. Tickets on the door (cash only please). Tea, coffee, wine, plus the usual popular raffle. The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Edmunds

SING WITH HEBER OPERA If you missed our first rehearsal of 2023 on 29th January, there is still time to come along and try a rehearsal with us. We rehearse on Sunday evenings in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre from 7.30 pm. The spring season will be rehearsals for an opera concert in May, followed by our main production of the year: The Tales of Hoffmann by Offenbach, to be staged **1st September**. For more information please contact Jen.hawkes@btinternet.com. Don't be shy, we'd love to meet you!

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Join us for an introductory meeting on Saturday **18th February** from 10.30 am to 12 pm at Ditchling Village Hall.

Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books / tools you don't need. Or just bring yourself! Children welcome.

For further information please contact julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk.

Kate Mayhew

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ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY branding to highlight support services to those caring for people with dementia across the county.

This initiative was made possible by the West Sussex Joint Dementia Strategy to provide opportunities and services for people to live in inclusive and compassionate communities and to reduce inequalities.

Contact details for the two organisations will also be included on each community transport vehicle.

With rates of dementia in West Sussex set to increase rapidly, Carers Support West Sussex and Alzheimer's Society have joined forces to raise awareness of the support on offer.

There are currently more than 16,000 people with dementia in West Sussex and this is set to rise to 22,000 by 2030.

The first branded vehicles will set off from Community Transport (CT) Sussex Crawley depot during December 2022. Matt Roberts, CEO of CT Sussex added "we are delighted to work with Carers Support West Sussex and The Alzheimers Society in getting their message of support out to all corners of the county

using our vehicles and those of other local voluntary car schemes"

People passing the vehicles will be able to scan a QR code to go directly to West Sussex's Connect to Support website, which includes details about accessing a memory assessment. Carers Support West Sussex has nearly 30,000 carers registered, of which 5,200 carers are supporting someone living with dementia. In the UK, a silent army of 1.8 million friends and relatives save the UK economy £13.9 billion per year.

Sonia Mangan, Carers Support CEO, added "What great partnership work in guiding those living with dementia to the help and support available for them and their carers"

Caring for someone with dementia can put a huge strain on a person's finances, physical and mental health, whilst straining relationships with other family members. An unpaid carer also needs support, so they can continue enabling their cared for to live well with dementia.

Alzheimer's Society is a vital source of support and a powerful force for change for everyone affected by dementia. The charity provides help and hope.

Ryan Tyler, Dementia Connect Local Service Manager for Alzheimer's Society in West Sus-

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sex added: "Caring for someone with dementia can be rewarding. It can also be tough and isolating at times but help is available."

"We want everyone affected by dementia in West Sussex to know that whoever you are, whatever you are going through, you can turn to Alzheimer's Society for practical advice, emotional support, and guidance. That is why increasing visibility of our work locally is so important."

"Life does not end with a diagnosis of dementia and with the right support people can continue to live fulfilling lives. Carers Support Groups allows carers to socialise and share experiences. Often if one person is dealing with a particular situation or challenge, it's likely someone else has already dealt with it."

To find out more about Alzheimer's Society services contact our phoneline on **0333 150 3456**.

Christine Virginie

THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB

continues to meet fortnightly during 2023. Our February meetings are on Monday evenings **6th and 20th February** at the URC Church Hall, from 7.30 pm. You can expect an extremely warm welcome. Do look at our website for more details: **www.keymerfolk-danceclub.co.uk**.

Sean

CAMEO (Come and meet each other) Monday **27th February** 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

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 Guide Hall next to Trinity Road car park. On **24th February** Matt Phelps of Knepp Castle Estate will give a presentation on Knepp Castle and the White Storks Project.

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 **24th February**? Or if you would like to know more beforehand contact me - telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail **w.kent123@btinternet.com**.

Bill Kent

TREFOIL GUILD Our first meeting of the New Year was held on 18th January. On **15th February** we will meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road at 7.45 pm for 8 pm. Visitors are welcome. For more information call **07546 495433**.

Pam

THANK YOU We would like to say thank you to Mr & Mrs Blackford & Ian Ritchie who have been delivering your magazines in Silverdale & Clayton Mills. Thank you for all your help.

Editors

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BSc(Hons), HCPC Reg.

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~~~ WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY ~~~

**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.

SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD Clayton Village Hall, Thursdays 7 - 9 pm. Beginners to Advanced sussexflydressersguild.org.uk.

THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Praise & Holy Communion - 1st, 2nd, & 4th Sunday.

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 HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL CLUB** Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. Oklahoma to Phantom of the Opera - The Modern Musical' - Ian Gledhill. Visitors welcome.

**1st THE BEACON PARISH** St Margarets Church, Ditchling 6 pm. Sing! Learn new songs and revisit old. All welcome.

**1st BRAIN WAVES CHOIR** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**1st BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. Borde Hill - Its History & Gardens - Andrewjohn Stephenson-Clarke.

**2nd DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Olga.

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

**4th HURST VILLAGE MARKET**, New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 10 am to 1 pm. Sussex Products and Gifts.

**5th HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM** Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

**6th HASSOCKS WI** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 2 Craft Club. All welcome.

**7th DITCHLING DOWNS WI** Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. The South Downs Refugee Project.

**9th WOMENS BREAKFAST** The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast and some great chat.

**9th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA** Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 7.30 pm. Film Petite Maman (PG). Tickets [www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com)

**10th 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'.

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

**13th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'The History & Heritage of Ditchling Parish' Tom Dufty.

**14th THE GROUP** Con Club, Burgess Hill, 7.30 pm. A Sussex for unattached men & women, aged 55+. [www.thegroup.org.uk](http://www.thegroup.org.uk).

**15th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**15th HASSOCKS TREFOIL GUILD** Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Visitors welcome.

**16th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

**17th STAR CINEMA** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7 pm. Film - Operation Mincemeat. Tickets on the door.

**18th JAZZ ETC** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. The Month of Love. Aneesa Chaudhry & K2 singing Blues, Jazz Classics and Asian Fusion. Tickets Ditchling Post Office.



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**18th** THE GROWING NETWORK Ditchling Village Hall 10.30 am. Exchange, donate & freely given. Introductory Meeting - see article.

**19th** THE BEACON PARISH St Martins Church Westmeston, 10 am. Morning Praise & Holy Communion.

**20th** HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. AGM. Visitors welcome.

**21st** DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Horticultural Society. All welcome.

**23rd** HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 6.30 pm. Film Othello. Tickets [www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com)

**23rd** LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY Hassocks Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am 12 pm. Sue Hutton MSDC Ward Member & Kirsty Lord WSCC Council Member. No appointment necessary.

**24th** HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 7.30 pm. Film Limbo (PG). Tickets [www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com)

**24th** HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes Community Hub, Hurstpierpoint. 2 pm. 'Camouflage & Trickery in the Animal Kingdom' Ray Hale. All welcome.

**24th** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). 'Radio Discussion'.

**24th** HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 8 pm 'Knepp Castle Estate - and the White Storks Project' Matt Phelps. Visitors

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|                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>Kings Weald Community Centre</b><br>Burgess Hill<br><b>TUESDAY MORNINGS</b><br>9:15am Morning Yoga suitable for all<br>10:25am Pelvic floor restore your core | <b>Adastra Hall Hassocks</b><br><b>WEDNESDAY EVENINGS</b><br>6:10pm Mixed ability Pilates<br>7:15pm Pelvic floor, restore your core<br>8:10pm Evening yoga |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

welcome.

**25th** HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

**25th** 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).

**25th** MESSY CHURCH URC Church 9.30 am. Meet for breakfast and crafts with a story.

**25th** MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast and some great chat.

**26th** HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 2.30 pm. Film Brian and Charles (PG). Tickets [www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com)

**26th** GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. Talk by a member of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company plus afternoon tea. Tickets [gandstoday-sussex@gmail.com](mailto:gandstoday-sussex@gmail.com).

**27th** CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

**27th** HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Brighton Aquarium - the World's Oldest Aquarium' Jackie Marsh-Hobbs.

**28th** DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall, 5.30 pm. BBC Radio Four Gardeners Question Time is being recorded. Tickets Ditchling Post Office.

**28th** HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD Age Concern Hassocks 2 pm. Visitors welcome.

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*We thank Dave Evans for the picture of Jack Urben standing proudly with his horses around 1920s/30s. He worked for over 50 years as a carter for Chas Packham and Son from Cobbs Mill in Langton Lane, Sayers Common. He lived in a cottage north of Reeds Lane near A23.*

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## STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I'm very sorry but last month I forgot to mention that the Royal British Legion Club that has been such a huge help to so many people has finally closed its doors for the last time. In its day it was the place to go for great entertainment and low-priced drinks but like so many of these venues overheads and finding people to take the reins and run it becomes impossible for it to keep going. So that's the end of yet another era.

Gibson's of Hurstpierpoint, which last month was set to shut down, has been given a reprieve and under new ownership it's re-launched itself which is great news, because independent Greengrocers are fast disappearing from our High Streets. In fact, it's not just Greengrocers but last year 50 shops a day closed down due to high overheads and lack of foot fall. However, you'll be pleased to hear that 1500 new bookshops opened up, all of a sudden, the public's love of books and reading has been rekindled, although I don't see one coming to Hassocks, but it doesn't have to because our local charity shops are absolutely full of them normally for about 50p each.

I notice that the Barber Shop in Keymer seems to have shutdown, I'm not sure if it is a permanent closure or just temporary. So, it now seems the other barbers in the village will be greatly benefiting from the extra business.

It shouldn't be long now before we get someone new in the ladies hairdressers that closed down last year on Orion Parade, the one I called the pink palace, will it be a dance studio as rumoured only time will tell?

Won't be long now before the new car park in Ditchling is finished and open. It may already have happened so let's be positive and hope it reduces the traffic issues which Ditchling is famous for. We've got a new car park in Hassocks it's called Ockley Lane.

Normally Ditchling has its famous ball every two years, but apparently another one is planned for this year, and with a Moulin Rouge theme, which is great news, I can dig out my dressing up box. I love a bit of fancy dress and if it's held in May, I can then celebrate my 71st birthday at the same time. Last year there was some controversy about the food, because it was vegan plant food, the Ditchling ball is not about the food, it's about raising money for local charities, letting your hair down and having a really good time, and with Moulin Rouge as the theme it should be double the fun, nowhere did I put that fancy dress box?

Do you know last year I served customers in my shop and put money in the till all 365 days of 2022. Now to a lot of people that would be hell because and you can't blame them, most people want days off and holidays, they need to rest, but my life is a holiday specially when you're surrounded by so many Beautiful Creatures. I suppose I should include the wife in that, my cats, fox, rabbits and parrots are just a joy to be around, and I need them as much as they need me, besides I want to survive these turbulent times and being there for people when they need you is one way to do it. I'm proud of my record and apart from all my beautiful animals I have I think something even more precious - my health.

Before I go can I just say a BIG Thank You to Maureen at the post office, she does an incredible job, mostly on her own, we all love and appreciate what you do, and I hope everyone will just say 'Thank You' it can mean a lot when you do such a stressful and necessary job.

Steve

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