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Your Editors: **Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown & Natalie Dalley**

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**GYMNASTICS COMPETITION TIME** Over twenty years ago Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club organised an Arts competition in which over fifty gymnasts performed. This year sees the 22nd Arts Competition which will now showcase over a hundred gymnasts performing routines with ropes, balls, on the beam and in Sports Acrobatic Sixes. The competition will be held in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre in the morning of the **25th March**. The gymnasts will be competing for the twelve silver trophies and scores of medals. Spectating for parents & friends is free. The following opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 39th Annual Championships on the **1st July**. The Club offers regular classes at affordable costs with fully trained coaches, free awards each term, two free entry competitions each year and subsidised clothing.

Forty years ago the Club was started with just twenty girls, now it has over 300 boys and girls, starting from just 3 years old. There are currently spaces to join most groups:- for boys and girls on Tuesdays, girls on Wednesdays and Thursday and Pre-schoolers on Fridays. If you want to join visit the website [hurstpierpointgym.co.uk](http://hurstpierpointgym.co.uk) and follow the link to an email enquiry. *(the above photo was taken from the last competition)* Andrew

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\*\*\*\*\*

**Lou Beckerman and Joss Peach with  
'A WEAVING OF JAZZ JEWELS & POETRY',  
Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint.**

**Saturday 18th March, 6 - 7:30pm**

Hello friends, Lou here - vocalist and poet.

With BAFTA award-winning pianist Joss Peach, I am delighted to be returning for another intimate, jazzy and poetic evening. There'll be a mix of music and a peppering of spoken word pieces - some newly written for an illustrated poetry collection due for publication in 2023. We're looking forward to sharing them with you. Joss's versatility and warm manner have made him a firm favourite. He loves to sing too so watch out for a duet or two... We've previously performed for this early-evening series of fundraising gigs in the church and love this glorious setting.

**Tickets are £7 and can be reserved  
by email: [margaret@112a.co.uk](mailto:margaret@112a.co.uk)  
or phone: 01273 835113.**

For info about 'A Weaving of Jazz Jewels...' visit [www.loubeckerman.com](http://www.loubeckerman.com). Very much looking forward to warmly welcoming those of you who can make it.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HASSOCKS FOOD BANK** This is open to anyone in need of support.

Held at the Powell House next door to the United Reform Church in Hassocks

From 10 am to 12 pm every Monday and Friday.

Donations very welcome! Collections points for donation are Bella and Meg's, Mansell McTaggart and Budgens in Hassocks.

*Gary Pickett*

**LOVE IS ITS OWN REWARD** A poem for NHS workers and everyone in caring professions who go on caring for others, even though they don't receive the recognition or respect or pay that they deserve. In spite of the main idea of the poem, love alone is not a sufficient reward. In my opinion care workers should be given generous pay awards.

**Love is its own reward.**

Some people stand apart,  
have no need of status,  
recognition,  
or the world's approval.

They have risen  
above the need for love or lovers  
because they have it all  
within themselves and love to spare  
and give it all to others.

© David Roberts 5 December 2022

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**BILL HUGHES** Sad to report that Bill Hughes of Wilmington Close died peacefully on Friday 20th January. He'd lived in the village for 50 years moving down from London with his wife Pat who died 14 years ago. He was always in Adastra park either doing his daily circuit or sitting on bench. He loved a chat with whoever he encountered and also loved all dogs since he lost his own. We're looking to put up a plaque or a bench of his own in the place he loved the most. *Lucinda Jones*



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## HASSOCKS TREE PLANTING SCHEME

Would you like a tree planted in the verge outside of your house?

If you live on a road maintained by West Sussex County Council and are willing to commit to watering a new tree, Hassocks Parish Council has a budget to fund the planting of a number of trees on grass verges in Hassocks this year.

More information, including a list of the available tree species to choose from, can be found on the Hassocks Parish Council website under Latest News -

**www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk.**

If you are interested in having a tree, just contact the Parish Council with your name, address and contact details to register your interest.

You can do this in person/by letter, Hassocks Parish Council, Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Keymer Road, Hassocks BN6 8QH by email:

**info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk**, or Telephone **01273 842714**, The deadline for registering for a funded tree is Friday **23rd June**.

*Ian Cumberworth*

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<p><b>Kings Weald Community Centre Burgess Hill</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TUESDAY MORNINGS</b></p> <p>9:15am Morning Yoga suitable for all</p> <p>10:25am Pelvic floor restore your core</p>	<p><b>Adastra Hall Hassocks</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEDNESDAY EVENINGS</b></p> <p>6:10pm Mixed ability Pilates</p> <p>7:15pm Pelvic floor, restore your core</p> <p>8:10pm Evening yoga</p>
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**SPRING SHOW AND PLANT SALE** This Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society event is at 2.15 pm on Saturday **11th March** in Hurstpierpoint Village Hall. Spring flowers, cookery, photography and children's section. Tea and home-made cake, plants for sale at bargain prices, raffle and end of show auction. Exhibiting is free to all. Pick up a schedule from Janton News in Hurstpierpoint High Street or email [hhs1886@btinternet.com](mailto:hhs1886@btinternet.com).

No Dig Gardening - 7.45 pm on Tuesday **14th March**. An illustrated talk by Martin Jarvis from Culberry Nursery. Martin will have a selection of herbs for sale.

*Kathy Green*

**HASSOCKS WI** - Adastra Hall 3rd Monday in the month.

Doors open 7.30 pm and evening starts at 7.45 pm.

Our February meeting was our AGM, so by the time you read this we will have thanked our retiring president Hilary for all her hard work, and hopefully welcomed a new president for the coming year. Like all societies and clubs members make things happen for the enjoyment and interest of everyone, so new volunteers for the committee are always welcome and their help appreciated. After the AGM there was a talk on BSL as requested frequently by our members.

There are lots of events in the wider WI in March. Sat-

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urday **4th March** 'Million Women Rise Day' takes place in London, a rally calling for no more violence against women. We will wear red and march together. Wednesday **8th March** is 'International Women's Day', West Sussex Federation is holding a meeting at Tangmere 'Break the Bias' calling for an end to gender inequality. Back in Hassocks our March meeting has an Easter theme.

Our April meeting is 'Tea at the Palace'.

The Craft Club meets **3rd April** at 2 pm in the committee room when we will be instructed in the art of making folios.

We sincerely invite visitors (donation), come along you can be assured of a friendly welcome, a warm hall, interesting time and to make new friends.

*Gerry*

**SPRING SHOW** On Saturday **25th March**, Burgess Hill Horticultural Society are staging their Spring Show in the Cyprus Hall, 1.30 pm to 3.45 pm. Small admission charge. Come and enjoy some glorious springtime scents and colours; along with refreshments, homemade cakes, plant and produce stalls and a grand tombola.

More info from [www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com) or phone **01444 245509**.

*Flo Whitaker*



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**HURST PLAYERS** will present their spring 2023 production of 'Humble Boy' by Charlotte Jones from Tuesday **14th March to Saturday 18th March** at The Players Theatre in Hurstpierpoint.

This was the production due to be staged a year ago which became another casualty of the pandemic. The director, Ian Amos decided not to keep everything 'on ice' but to re-cast and start full-blooded rehearsals immediately following the Players' panto season. We think the play will be fresh to Hurst audiences – it hasn't been seen locally since its debut on Broadway and then in the West End around a decade ago.

A major challenge the Players face is the creation of the Cotswold Garden at the home of mother and son Flora and Felix Humble – we almost need to see the fruit trees shedding and the flowers growing as the family recovers from the sudden death of the head of the family, an event which brings Felix back into the family home. It may not be a joyful reunion, but playwright Charlotte Jones manages to find considerable humour in the unfolding lives of the Humble family and their associates – and the family's collection of bees, which inexplicably appear to have deserted their hive in the centre of the garden. Like many a dysfunctional family neither mother nor son listens to the other, though both talk earnestly and incessantly. Bring in the son's former girlfriend, now a single mother, and the mother's paramour together with a friend relegated to the status of servant, plus an enig-

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matic gardener and we begin to see the connection to the world of insects – queen bees, workers and drones. How they circle each other, service each other and deceive each other.

But the playwright has a light touch, the play will make you laugh and a second later, maybe hold back a tear.

Tickets can be booked online now from the Players' website: **www.hurstplayers.co.uk** and on dates to be announced, in person from the Theatre in Hurstpierpoint High Street.

*Anne Hopper*

### REGRET - NOT

Oh, woe is me,  
I'm not on Twitter!  
My friends scorn me,  
But I'm not bitter.

My life is mine,  
It's not for viewing.  
I do not pine  
For scandal brewing.

If they reveal  
What should be private,  
Time won't heal  
The grape so consummate.

© Jan

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**COMMON FROG** My friend Alf passed away a few years back. He loved Sussex and he loved wildlife but Alf's real passion was amphibians: newts, frogs and toads. Alf loved them so much his funeral service ended with that Paul McCartney Frog Chorus song. That's commitment for you. I spent the rest of the week with that annoying 'bom-bom-bom-aye-e-aye' tune rolling 'round my head. I'm sure Alf was laughing somewhere. While I was helping Alf's family clear his house I was honoured to be given one of his prized possessions: a clock that chimes each hour by playing a variety of frog croaks. Long ago Alf's wife Iris had made him take the batteries out because it was unbearable.

But there was no silencing Alf's pond each spring. Each year it would come alive with the sound of a real frog chorus. Alf was proud of his pond. Creating a garden pond, no matter what size, is one of the best things you can do to help wildlife in your garden. If you're lucky, in March it will turn into a hotbed of activity as Common Frogs return to mate and lay their eggs. After spending the winter hidden away in the garden, it's time to go a-courting.

Approach the pond quietly with a torch and you can observe the mating frogs. Look closely and you may be able to identify the male frog (darker with a bluish tinge to his throat) and the female (white granulations on her flanks). But if you can't notice these features then the males are on top and the females are on the bottom. The lustful male will hop on the female and grasp her as tight as he can. He even develops special extra-grip pads on his forearms and he'll use those powerful back legs to boot off any rival males who try to muscle in. In theory, the males with the longest and loudest croaks are the most attractive, but with females sometimes outnumbered ten to one by males the pond party can get loud,

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chaotic and confusing. Amorous male frogs will grasp anything: a log, a fish, even another male (males have a special croaking signal which politely informs other males there has been a misunderstanding). Female Common Frogs can lay up to 4,000 eggs, although 1,000-2,000 is more normal. These are fertilised by the male as they emerge and form into those familiar clouds of jelly spawn.

So, in tribute to Alf I decide to restore his croaking clock to full working order. I re-installed the batteries and nailed it proudly on my office wall. After two hours I turned it off. That croaking was unbearable! I'm still sure Alf was laughing somewhere.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

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

*Michael Blencowe*

**DITCHLING YODAH YOUTH GROUP** Open to those young people in school year 6 – 11 we meet at The Emmanuel Centre, 24 South Street Ditchling on a Tuesday evening 6.30 to 8 pm.

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*Gary Pickett*



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### **SOS - SAVE OUR SWIFTS, A NEW CAMPAIGN FOR SPRING**

Did you know that Hurstpierpoint used to have a thriving swift population? The high-pitched scream of swifts as they swoop high in the sky is usually one of the iconic sounds of the summer. However, all is not well with these migratory birds; their decline has been noticeable over the past few summers.

One of Hurst Rethink's main aims is to protect and encourage biodiversity in the village and when bird lover Rebecca Rees approached us to put together a project to protect our local swift population, we were only too glad to help.

Swifts migrate north from Africa to the same nesting sites in the UK year after year. They favour nooks and crannies under the eaves of homes and other buildings. Modern building methods, loft conversions and the use of fascia on buildings has drastically reduced the number of nesting sites available to them. However all is not lost, Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS), who are supporting our project, have helped residents of Lewes install nest boxes to compensate for the lack of eaves.

We will do the same here. Rebecca's knowledge of where swifts have historically nested - around the Western Road and Cuckfield Road area - led us to identify Weald Close as a suitable location for 10 nest boxes to help returning birds breed successfully. We have signed up 10 house-

holds who would like to host a nest box and SOS have provided the funds to purchase the boxes.

We will install the boxes in March, before the birds arrive and will work with residents to provide information on how they can support these amazing birds. Swifts feed on "aerial plankton" - such as spiderlings, mosquitoes, aphids, flying ants, hoverflies and small beetles. The dramatic fall in the population of insects and invertebrates, attributed to widespread use of pesticides, reduces their ability to thrive and feed their chicks. We can help by planting native wildflowers and trees or making a pond, however small, in our gardens.

Look out for more details on our Swift project, including a launch day on social media and our website,

**[hurstrethink.org](http://hurstrethink.org).**

*Charlotte*

### **OLDLAND MILL TRUST VOLUNTEER REQUIRED**

We are seeking a new membership secretary. The trust has an active membership of around 350 members and volunteers. The Trust restored and now operates Oldland Mill in Keymer. The Mill dates from around 1700, first being recorded in local records in 1703. It is one of the oldest regularly working mills in the country producing flour from Sussex wheat. The flour can be purchased from local outlets, including Budgens. Our current membership secretary, after providing excellent service to the Trust for several years, has decided to step down. We are looking to recruit a replacement. The role would include maintaining our existing membership list, dealing with membership fees and issuing new membership cards when required. The membership secretary also administers the Club 200 prize draw. The role is not excessively taxing but does require someone who is committed, enthusiastic and computer literate. Records are maintained on Excel and most payments are made by BACS. Full training and support will be given. If interested in volunteering please contact the Trust via our e-mail address: [info@oldlandwindmill.org.uk](mailto:info@oldlandwindmill.org.uk), which can also be found on our website **[www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk](http://www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk)** where you will find more about the Mill and the work of the Trust. *Dr Steve Waite*



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**HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET** Thank you to everyone who came to support #hassocksvillagemarket in January at its new location in the Age Concern car park, Dale Avenue. It was a huge success as the new venue allows the market to feel more relaxed and there was a fantastic community feel on the day; Age Concern were delighted with all the visitors to their cafe and charity shop and The Repair Cafe was very busy too.

We will have more stalls in February, with our regulars back as well as new stalls. Plus we have received several new stall enquiries so please do come along and support our community market on the 4th Saturday of the month, as well as The Repair Cafe on the same Saturdays. If you would like to make contact please email [hassocksvillagemarket1@gmail.com](mailto:hassocksvillagemarket1@gmail.com). *Amanda*

**DITCHLING BABY & TODDLER GROUP** A group for play and chat with coffee & cake.

Held every Thursday in The Emmanuel Centre South Street Ditchling from 8.45 am to 10.15 am Term Time.

*Gary Pickett*

**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 a venue in Burgess Hill, where it meets on the second Monday of every month.

Members also meet in 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.

Tricia Bentley, co-founder of The Group, explains, "It can seem daunting but 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, gal-

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leries, 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](http://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](http://www.thegroup.org.uk).

*Tricia*

**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON**

We'll be welcoming in the new month at SING! in St. Margaret's Church, Ditchling at 6 pm on Wednesday **1st March**. Do join us.

Our Sunday service of Morning Prayer with Communion will take place at St. Margaret's on Sundays **5th, 12th and 26th March** at 10 am. On Mothering Sunday, **19th March**, the service will be at Streat Church, at 10 am.

Our Wednesday@10 service of Holy Communion will take place each week at St. Margaret's, ideal if you'd like to find a time of tranquillity in a busy week.

If you have, or care for, any young children, why not come along to our Baby & Toddler Group on Thursday mornings in the Emmanuel Centre, South Street, Ditchling from 8.45 am to 10.15 am to enjoy play, chat and refreshments? You'll be made very welcome.

*Sherrian Guest*

**Deadline date for the April issue is:  
1st March**

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** As I write, we have a bit of a crisis on hand and the plumber, who brilliantly responded to our S.O.S., is busy sawing holes in the ceiling. Three nights ago, an upstairs pipe began to leak, and the water permeated gently down, as water always does. Within hours the plaster on both sides of a downstairs wall began to weep, sending rivulets running behind paintings and books, while great water droplets collected alarmingly overhead. The saga of our plumbing woes is as long and convoluted as the path of the leak itself and now that Alex Drew has so skilfully tracked the latter to its source, I will spare you details of the former. Nonetheless, I am left wondering about the miracle of water and about the uncanny way it disrupted our house on the very day I finished reading a book called "*Tao – the Watercourse Way*"! Tao, or 'The Way' of the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, is a method of living which takes inspiration from the effortless action of water. Water always seeks the lowest and humblest place, and yet is one of the most formidable forces on earth. Water is playful and responsive – passive and dynamic – when it is obstructed and restrained its crystalline structure and life-giving properties are destroyed. When it flows freely once more, it recovers. The movement patterns of water are to be found running throughout the natural world. The Chinese word *Li* describes these patterns but also denotes the essence or dynamic principle they represent. So, *Li* is to be found in the swirling patterns of steam, rising from a cup of tea. It is the in the grain of a piece of jade, the flowing form of bark on an old tree trunk, the swirls and eddies in a mountain stream, the sometimes turbulent flow of blood in our own arteries. *Li* is in the wheeling movements of clouds; it spirals through columns of gnats, through flocks of starlings on the wing, and expresses itself in the ripples of waves, or of wind across a cornfield. Together these elements combine, from spinning particles to whole galaxies, in one great cosmic dance. The old Taoist painters of China devoted themselves to the celebration of *Li*. A Master painter would not merely depict the forms of things but would feel their essence in his

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heart before translating it into spontaneous brushstrokes. And the Chinese were not the only painters to do so. Many of the world's greatest paintings have an immediacy and spontaneity which give them a dynamic 'aura'. And this aura communicates the flow of energy or inspiration directly from artist to observer. The Canadian painter Emily Carr spent her last years painting patches of old growth forest in her native British Columbia. Though she trained in Europe, she finally rejected all she had learned in favour of lessons direct from Nature – a style responsive to the wildness and vastness of the West. Her trees became eddies and vortices of free brush strokes, whose energy triggered eddies of colour all about them. In order to paint them she had to work on large canvasses which allowed for the 'free swing' of her arm. Her paint, thinned with petrol, took its own course. Eccentric and utterly intrepid, she sat alone among the great cedars of Goldstream Flats, surrendering to the sense of life "throbbing to the tops... and above into the live air". She crept inside the hollow trunks, or gazed up into the branches, allowing herself to be terrified by their "appalling majesty", letting them as she said "take me where they would." What she captured, in her pictures was not the appearance so much as the essence of the trees. This is intoxicating stuff. But a photograph will hardly ever do a painting justice. Like tap water, the mass-produced picture tends to be flat. In order to experience what Emily saw one would need to do what she did and go to Nature direct. Therefore, following my visit in the snow, I have been returning to the Stoneywish pinetum, to spend time with the trees. There is a good feeling here. The energy seems harmonious, soothing and uplifting. These trees are too young to have *great* character - for that they need a few more hundred years - but with each season they acquire a little more, reaching for the mature form that was encoded in them as seeds. Energies flow uninterrupted to the tapering ends of their branches like fine calligraphy. One can stand under the canopy of our largest mountain redwood and drink in an atmosphere which is already like old wine. Everything about this tree is flowing. It began life as a





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seed from the Sequoia National Park in California, and was brought to England and propagated by a passionate naturalist, who planted his infant tree in Ditchling churchyard. After the storm of 1987, when two large pines fell on the church, the authorities decided they did not want a giant redwood growing there. Given time – that is aeons of time – a Sequoiadendron Wellingtonia is one of the world's true giants, growing to over 275 feet. Mr. Stokes dug up his redwood and asked us if we could give it a home. Today the Big Tree, as we call it, is still a comparative pygmy, a mere 30 feet tall, with a trunk girth of 12 feet plus at the bottom. But it is going up! The branches spiral round towards the top in a dizzying whorl. The bark runs in rivulets - a landscape of rifts and plateaux, patinated with green algae. The air in this sanctuary space is dusky and piquant with the scent of resin and foliage turpenes. As I stand and inhale, a connection grows, until in the end I am not quite sure whether I am breathing in the tree or being breathed by it. I begin to entrain to a different perspective – the thousand-year perspective of a piece of Old Mother Earth. This cannot be hurried or improved upon and the experience is transformative. But it can only be got direct. Jerry Mander, an advertising-agent-turned-environmental-campaigner, worked with the Sierra Club on early projects to save sequoias from commercial logging. In the end he confessed that his media techniques had failed to convey the magic of the ancient trees. Essays, propaganda leaflets, photographs and films, however good or well-intentioned, flattened and narrowed the experience. The mystery, the 'aura', was lost. Once a redwood became the scenic backdrop to a holiday snap, or a piece of promotional material or a political bargaining chip, it ceased to be itself. It was de-natured and reduced to something arbitrary. At this point Ronald Reagan's infamous remark that: "When you've seen one redwood you've seen them all," took on a certain validity. Without experiencing the 'aura' of things, the mind loses its capacity to be awed or absorbed in delight. Its vibrant sensitivity is blunted. Of course, we cannot always find a sequoiadendron to commune with. But the gentle art of reading auras need not, *must* not be confined to impressive subjects. Urban



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trees have much to tell us too. The poplars on the boundary of the Black Swans were brutally topped last month at our neighbours' request and when I look at them, I sense a forlorn chaotic energy still streaming from the stumps. It is not pure fancy. Kirlian photographs of injured leaves show the energy of the whole leaf persisting some time after parts have been cut away. A tree is a water fountain - a giant flow-form. From root to leaf and back again, invisible pathways carry the essence of life between earth and sky. When a tree is truncated these pathways, like an interrupted brushstroke are cut off – harmony of form is broken – beauty destroyed. Ripples from such an event spread outwards into the wider environment – to the birds which need somewhere to roost and nest and to the insects which need somewhere to live – to the secret worlds of bacteria and the underground ecosystems which depend on a healthy labyrinth of roots. They and their sufferings belong to a wider picture which includes us too. When whole swathes of land are disrupted for 'progress', the 'aura' of distress generated can become almost unbearable. But we need to be sensitive to it before the seductive language of propagandists persuades us it is all acceptable for the greater good. The Watercourse Way is also known as *wu-wei*, the art of non-doing; the practice of surrendering rather than controlling; of being still and listening and letting the world speak. If we are lucky, we will hear what it says to us in

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the language of *Li*, the language our own bodies are composed of. For we too are flow-forms and able to respond to the "sweep and freedom" of Nature, with "life throbbing to the tops." What better beginning for hope in troubled times? To wake up to the beauty of life; to the miracle of *being breathed* by the world which brought us forth; to realise that we do not have to lord it over everything, and drive ourselves and all of creation to the brink. There is much to be said for a softer, kinder way. First comes a trickle of relief, which seeps and permeates, saturates, and irrigates the tiny channels of our being. After a while the trickle becomes a stream, then a river, then an irresistible flood... It is not too late to turn our backs on a sterile and lonely future. We may be the prodigal offspring of the Earth but we are still part and parcel of it and we belong to it. If only we could stop grabbing and smashing things up we would find ourselves in a very different place. Developing a taste for 'auras', and observing Nature's 'watercourse way' in action might be a wonderful place to start. See, by now I've got water on the brain! How pleasant it is going with the flow... I'm almost glad a previous plumber put a screw through our pipe!

*Rosemary*

## THE COMMUTERS DREAM

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A snippet from your pretty face  
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and when all about are fast asleep  
I open my wallet and take a peek  
perhaps they sleepers dream of girls  
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**STAR CINEMA** The film for Friday **17th March** at the Adastra Hall will be *The Lost King*. It's a 2022 British comedy-drama based on the book 'The King's Grave: The Search for Richard III', and is a dramatisation of the story of Philippa Langley, the woman who initiated the search to find King Richard III's remains under a car park in Leicester, and her treatment by the University of Leicester in claiming the credit for the discovery. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets on the door (cash only please). Tea, coffee, wine and the usual popular raffle. The Star Team look forward to welcoming you.

*Liz Edmunds*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **DON'T BREAK MY RICE BOWL** **by the late Robert H. Dodd,**

a semi-autobiographical novel highlighting an unusual aspect of the Vietnam War and the sacred grain of rice, is rapidly rising the Amazon book charts. Local IT consultant, Patricia Rykiel, rediscovered her father's forgotten manuscript in Lockdown and decided to get it published! The hand-painted illustrations (which the veteran illustrator John Vernon Lord approves of) and the descriptive writing build a detailed image of Saigon and the rice paddies.

**You will feel transported East!**

It also includes some book club questions at the end. Patricia, Justine and Beth, the collaborators, will keep us supplied with signed copies in QD Stationery.

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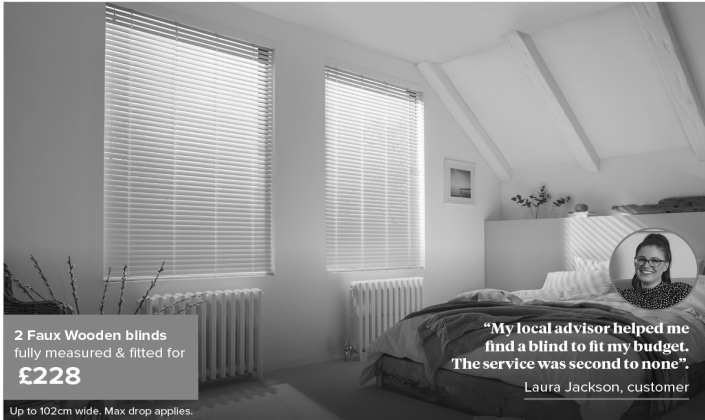
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**HURST FESTIVAL** ([www.hurstfestival.org](http://www.hurstfestival.org)) was founded 19 years ago and has succeeded in drawing our diverse community together with an inspirational and inclusive programme of arts, events and activities.

Aiming to bring a smile to local faces as well as joy to the heart, the Festival has caught the imagination of those within, and well beyond, the local community.

The festival has grown in size and stature whilst remaining faithful to its core principles and each year: a number of events are free and others are subsidised to benefit the whole community; events are created to appeal to all ages and interest; local talent (of whatever age) is actively sought, encouraged and showcased and events are delivered in easy to reach locations, frequently using well known social and community spaces.

Each year, as a registered Charity, Hurst Festival's 'on the ground' organisation relies on the committed and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, all drawn from the local community, and we are actively looking for new Volunteers to help deliver these fabulous Community Events. By joining our happy and active band of Volunteers you can help in a variety of roles from manning the box office, helping distribute brochures locally to helping on the door

at events or the bar in return for free tickets.

If you have some time to help during the summer and especially for the 2 weeks of events from **16th - 30th September** or have a talent or trade stall to offer please email [admin@hurstfestival.org](mailto:admin@hurstfestival.org).

*Kate*

**HEBER OPERA** is holding a Craft Fair in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on Saturday **18th March**. The fair is open to the public from 10 am and closes at 2 pm. If you would like a stall, which includes a table; please contact me, details below.

Another Heber Opera date for your diary is **15th April**, also in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, when we will be holding an all day Workshop on Offenbach's opera, The Tales of Hoffmann. The day will include a talk on the opera and its composer, a chance to sing a section of the show and some simple production - all the steps we go through to put on a full opera. All singers are welcome. More details on the day will be available in a few weeks, but please contact me to register your interest.

For information on both the Craft Fair and the Workshop please get in touch: [Jen.hawkes@btinternet.com](mailto:Jen.hawkes@btinternet.com).

*Jenny Hawkes*

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# *Cobbs Mill*

Langton Lane, Hurstpierpoint was built in the 19th Century  
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*The top two pictures were supplied by  
the owners back in the 1970s.*

*The bottom right picture is supplied by  
Ecotecture and shows the completed  
restoration by Les Thorpe circa 2005.*

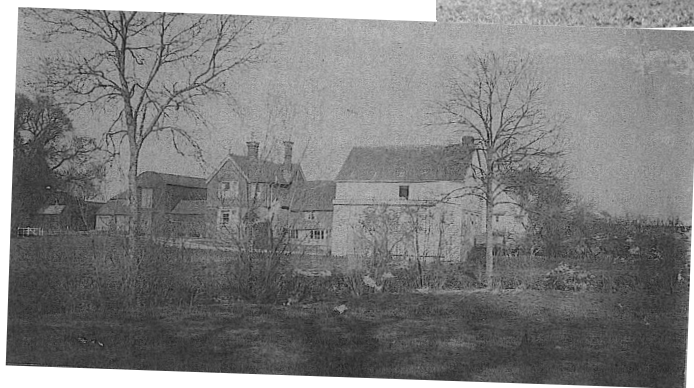






*This picture again has been supplied by the owners of the mill in the 1970s.*

Also thank you to Hurstpierpoint Historical Society for helping source some of these pictures.



*These bottom three pictures have been supplied by Michael Alford from Stoneywish.*



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High Street (145), Trinity Road (36), Idenhurst (new builds) (150),  
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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** is back and going strong.

We've already shown *Love Actually*, *Belfast* and *Olga* and there's a great programme lined up for the year ahead.

We're keen to take on new members. The annual membership runs from the time of joining and gives you free entry to 10 films. You can join anytime. We're also happy to announce a 20% discount for a film night meal at The Bull pub in Ditchling! (pre booked and showing annual membership cards). We hope to add more treats for members in the future so keep an eye out for updates on the website. Guest entry is also available on the door.

The films show on the first Thursday of the month at Ditchling Village Hall. Doors open at 7.30 pm and you can buy a glass of wine before the showing at 8 pm. There's plenty of parking next to the hall.

Our next film on the **2nd March** will be *An Cailin Ciuin* (The Quiet Girl) directed by Colm Bairéad. BAFTA nominated both for Best Adapted Screenplay and for Best Film Not in the English Language.

Set in rural Ireland in 1981 Bairéad took the English novella "Foster" by Claire Keegan and determined to make a film of it in Irish. Shown with subtitles, The Quiet Girl's characters seem hardly able to express themselves.

The story is of Cait a reserved and almost silent child of 9 who is sent from a dysfunctional family with an overbearing father to stay with a childless couple.

Despite being recognised as an Irish-language artwork, "it's a story about the limitations of language and how we (the Irish) kind of struggle oftentimes to articulate ourselves emotionally" says Bairéad.

It's certainly a quiet film, which has real depth and stays with you long after it's over. Great cinematography and astute writing.

Going on to April we have "The Duke" which has a 5 star recommendation on the film review website Rotten Tomatoes! It's based on the true story of Kempton Bunyon a 60 year old taxi driver, who, back in 1961, stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. Why did he do it? Why did he decide on the Duke of Wellington? He spun a web of lies but was ultimately a good man trying to change the world and save his marriage.

Directed by Roger Michell and starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren *The Duke* makes for a colourful romp. Come and join us for a glass of wine and a great film on the first Thursday of every month. For full details of our future program and for updated news of membership benefits go to our website [ditchlingfilm.org.uk](http://ditchlingfilm.org.uk) where you can also subscribe to our mailing list. Follow us on Instagram [@ditchlingfilmsoc](https://www.instagram.com/ditchlingfilmsoc). Tweet [@Ditchlingfilm](https://twitter.com/Ditchlingfilm). Hope to see you there.

Kate

**TREFOIL GUILD** We have held our AGM and a new committee was elected. It looks like an exciting fun year ahead!

Why not come and join us on Wednesday **15th March**! We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road at 7.45 pm for 8 pm on the 3rd Wednesday in the month. For more information call **07546 495433**.

Pam

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## THE GROWING NETWORK - NEW VENUE

The Growing Network is a community network that supports all local people to grow and share food, with no one left out. We are an all-inclusive network of gardens, gardeners, food growers, would be food growers and recipients of freshly grown produce, freely shared amongst our neighbours and communities.

We are now meeting each month at the Friends Meeting House in East Gardens.

Please join us on Saturday **25th March** from 10.30 am to 12 pm.

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](mailto:julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk).

*Julie Ulbricht*

**WANTED** If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included please email us at [ed@villagemagazines.co.uk](mailto:ed@villagemagazines.co.uk) or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR. Deadline for the April Issue is 1st March 2023.



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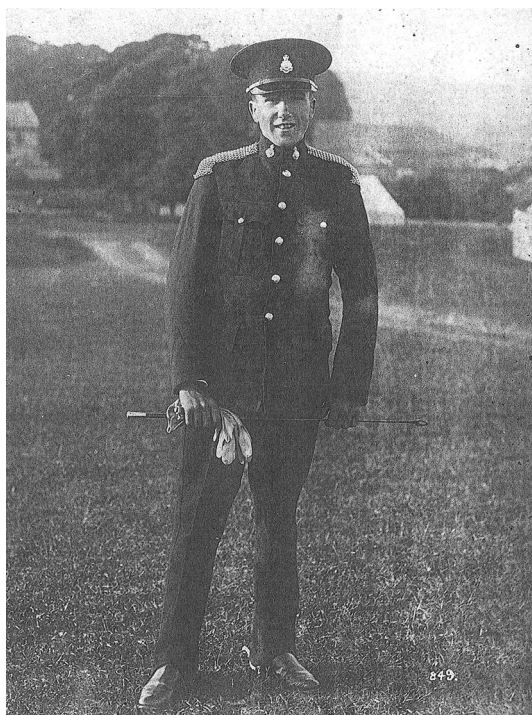
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*We thank Dave Evans for this picture of Jack Dutton. Jack was born in Newtimber. He became a chauffeur for Newtimber Place and lived in Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint. The photo was taken in Falmer – Royal Sussex Yeomanry in 1926.*

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### DEREK SWAINE (LEFT) PRESENTS THE CHEQUE TO CLIVE GRAVETT AT THE MUSEUM OF GARDENING

A village horticultural club forced to close down has ensured that its funds are going to a good cause.

After a hundred years of operation, Hassocks Horticultural Society has wound-up but its committee decided to donate their balance to help young people in the area.

Its members had enjoyed a talk by Clive Gravett who curates the Museum of Gardening, based at South Downs Nurseries, which supports the Budding Foundation which he founded.

Clive has now received a munificent cheque for £750 from Derek Swaine, former chairman of the horticultural group.

"I am delighted to receive the cheque", said Clive, "and am so grateful that the club's members wished to support the Foundation further in our work to support young people across the county to help improve their lives."

The charity works particularly to support those affected by social deprivation, trauma or disability.

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

*Trevor Butler*

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**HOSTING UKRAINIAN GUESTS** We have been hosts for a family from Ukraine (mother, father and two small children) since last June and it has been a really rewarding experience. We have watched the children grow up and have enjoyed time together with the parents. We have all kept our independence but have also shared some lovely times together. The husband now has a good job in this country, working from home as well as going into the office, and the little girl has thrived at St Lawrence school and now chatters away merrily in English as well as in her native tongue. Her little brother has settled in well and we have enjoyed having our surrogate grandchildren around! However, it is now time for them to move on and they are looking for somewhere to rent (a two/three bedroom property in Hassocks or Hurstpierpoint) so that they can continue with their lives in our lovely community. We are really hoping that somebody out there could help us find somewhere for them.

There is still a need for hosts in this area and whilst we appreciate it is not for everyone, it has been something that has enriched all our lives. If you feel you would like to help, either as a host or with a rental property for our family, or for others who are ready to move on, please do get in touch **07715 923646**.

*Michael & Annette Squire*

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**CHILDREN AT TWINEHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL** have pulled out all the stops this term to make their business ideas become a reality. Children as young as 4 were offered a 'seed fund' to create their own businesses and the results have surprised everyone including the teachers. Everything from drawing lessons to shooting galleries and freshly made pancakes have been on offer, with children setting their own prices, marketing their businesses and providing the service or product. In the run up to the scheme, children were offered the chance to consult teachers about how to make their business ideas work and finalise their plans. Lizzie Cotton, acting headteacher said 'this initiative is run every year by the PTA but this year we have worked really closely together to create an enriched learning experience, with lots of opportunities for maths, persuasive writing and design. I'm blown away by the creative ideas and talent that the children have shown and love how the whole school community have come together.'

At the end of the scheme, the children will be able to keep half of the profits, with the other half going towards the school. The overall winner will have the honour of having their name engraved on the coveted trophy in the school foyer.

*Nicola*

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**THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL** The biggest event this month has to be the next round of the girls' football. Having been crowned Mid Sussex Active girls champions last term, our girls' team travelled to Sussex Football HQ in Lancing to represent Mid-Sussex in the County Finals on 17th January. The girls were up against the other regional champions so we knew the standard would be high; our biggest challenge to date.

The girls rose to the challenge and their efforts paid off; they were through to the final! The final was end to end action with both teams pressing for the crucial first goal in front of an incredibly anxious crowd in the main stand! Southwater were a good side and matched the girls for fight and determination. After a very evenly matched game, there was nothing to separate the teams after full time or even extra time. The game went to penalties and the best of three penalties each would be crowned Sussex FA Champions. We missed our first penalty and Southwater scored theirs. Lissy then pulled off a fantastic save and we slotted home the next penalty making it 1-1. Another fantastic penalty save from Lissy meant that we were one penalty away from winning the tournament. Up stepped Pippa and sent her penalty rocketing into the far corner!! The Windmills Girls Football Team are Sussex FA County Champions!!! Well done girls!!

In other news, Year 3 have been delving into the Greek myths. They listened to and watched the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, got into character and pretended to be journalists interviewing Theseus about the sensational news that the Minotaur had been defeated!

Year 4 travelled back in time to embark on a memorable voyage; the maiden journey of the Titanic! The children were each given the role of a passenger travelling in 1st, 2nd or 3rd class for the day. They researched their passenger persona to dig deep into history and find out as much as possible about them. Some of the stories the children uncovered were fascinating and they were really intrigued, if not a little apprehensive, to find out about each person's fate.

Year 5 have been learning about the ancient kingdom of Benin. The children have had fun discussing artefacts, hunting down trade pieces, and using an image as a source of discussion about who the Oba (king) may be.

Inspired by the classic novel 'The War of the Worlds' by H.G. Wells, year 6 have written their own version of an alien invasion. It seems the Martians have landed near Hassocks and have brought a reign of terror to the area. The children were asked to consider three elements in their writing: fear, hiding and escape. Our creative writers produced some amazing narratives full of tension and cracking vocabulary which brought their stories to life.

*On behalf of The Windmills*



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### **30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OUR TWINNING CHARTER BETWEEN HAS- SOCKS, MONTMIRAIL AND WALD-MICHELBACH 18th to 21st May.**

Background - Montmirail is a small town situated to the North East of Paris in the beautiful Marne region, near to the historic town of Rheims and to the Champagne vineyards. It is a thriving community with a Town Hall, schools, sports groups, a cinema and many other facilities for the residents. Its chateau has Napoleonic connections.

Wald-Michelbach is an historic town situated in the rolling countryside of the Odenwald, a great place for walking. It is not far from the beautiful city of Heidelberg with its mediaeval castle. Wald-Michelbach is at the centre of a group of villages, most of which have links with the Twinning Association.



Hassocks Twinning Association was founded in 1985 and chose Montmirail, which was already twinned with Wald-Michelbach. A twinning agreement was

signed in 1987, followed by a partnership ceremony in 1992 at which the formal agreement was signed by representatives of the three local authorities and councils.

The aim of Hassocks Twinning Association is to foster understanding and friendship between the three communities. Over the years there have been successful visits by many groups including youth, football teams, tennis clubs, choirs and bands. There is a strong emphasis on youth and every year a prize is given at Downlands School for the best modern language student. A major strength of the Association has always been the links made between individuals, groups and families in the three towns, forging many long-lasting friendships.

**Celebrations 18th to 21st May -** We are delighted to be welcoming visitors from Montmirail and Wald-Michelbach for the weekend in May when we would like to invite all members of the



Hassocks community to join us in our weekend of celebrations. There will be a programme of events running for the three days including:

a Town Trail and Activity around Hassocks, visits to Oldland Mill and local schools with trips further afield to Brighton, the Bluebell Railway and London

A formal ceremony on Saturday **20th May** at 10.30 am when the Mayors from France and Germany with our Hassocks Parish Council Chair will renew the signatures on the Twinning Charters.

On Saturday **20th May** there will be a Barn Dance in Adastra Hall from 7.30 pm with a Fish and Chip Supper.

Come and join us and find out more!! If you would like to join in our celebrations then please do contact us; for general information about the weekend contact

**[Amandajenefelix@outlook.com](mailto:Amandajenefelix@outlook.com)** (Publicity Committee Member), **[carolynbarton33@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolynbarton33@hotmail.co.uk)** (Community Committee Member) or **[stephaniewhite@btinternet.com](mailto:stephaniewhite@btinternet.com)** (Chair Hassocks Twinning Association)

If you feel that you would like to host some French or German visitors for the weekend contact **[patsmale32@gmail.com](mailto:patsmale32@gmail.com)** or **[julietstrange@googlemail.com](mailto:julietstrange@googlemail.com)** (Hosting Committee).

I do hope that you will join us for our grand celebrations in May this year and please don't hesitate to contact us to find out more.

*Stephanie White*

### **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 **31st March** Andy Thomas will give his presentation "A Conspiracy History of the World"

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 **31st March**? 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*

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### **DITCHLING-BASED CHARITY THE TURNER-DUMBRELL FOUNDATION**

has had a busy start to the year with work commencing on the first phase of a long-term project to revitalise its land on Lodge Hill and the neighbouring Bowries Fields.

By the time this article is published the Monday Group will have started clearing the undergrowth from the verge on Boddingtons Lane, from the junction with Lodge Hill Lane to the footpath up Lodge Hill. Once this is completed a native hedge will be planted protected by a split chestnut post and rail fence, and native wildflowers will be grown in the verge.

Weather permitting, work is also due to start on rebuilding the derelict pole barn in Bowries Fields which was destroyed by storms some years ago. Once that is complete our tenant will be able to re-introduce livestock to Lodge Hill for the first time since before the Covid-pandemic. Unlike last time the intention is to fence off the ponds to prevent the livestock from damaging them, with water troughs available at the top of the hill.

The foundation has also been awarded a grant by the South Downs National Park Authority to carry out an ecological survey of Lodge Hill and Bowries Fields. This will examine the plants and wildlife on the site and feed into a longer-term management plan seeking to enhance the quality and diversity of the native flora and fauna.

Meanwhile the foundation is preparing for its grant giving which takes place every summer and charities and other local groups with projects in the village are being invited to apply for funding by the end of April.

Applicants should be either a charity or group, based in the village or the immediate locality, which has a project that benefits the community; or be involved in the practice of preventive cardiology. Many recipients satisfy both criteria by being both local groups and encouraging residents to take part in activities and sports that help to keep their hearts healthy.

Last year the foundation agreed to make grants totalling £20,000 to 11 different charities and groups in the village. If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation there is more information on the website, [www.turner-dumbrell.org.uk](http://www.turner-dumbrell.org.uk) or you can contact the sec-

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retary by email at [secretary@turner-dumbrell.org.uk](mailto:secretary@turner-dumbrell.org.uk). Please note the address has changed since last year with the addition of .uk at the end. *Secretary*

**AGE CONCERN**, Dale Avenue, Hassocks. **01273 844461** [www.achassocks.co.uk](http://www.achassocks.co.uk).

Come along and keep warm and have a coffee or lunch in our cosy dining room, we serve lunches Tuesday to Friday 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 to 3 pm serving refreshments. Our Charity shop and Coffee shop are also open on Saturday mornings 9 am to 11.45 am.

Chair Pilates on a Monday 2 to 3 pm, Craft mornings on a Monday, Bingo Wednesday mornings at 11 am.

Art Group Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon.

During the cold winter months we are operating as a weekday "Warm Space", meaning that anyone can come into our premises to keep warm and stay for as long as we are open (9 am until 4 pm, Monday to Friday). If people take advantage of this then Age Concern are able to get funding from MSDC to help offer subsidised hot drinks. If you know someone who would benefit, then please encourage them to come along to our Day Centre on Dale Avenue (BN6 8LW).

Village Market and Hassocks Repair Café will be held at our centre on the 4th Saturday of each month. Our Coffee Shop will be serving takeaway refreshments, along with our Charity shop open. *All at Age Concern*

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### ~~~ WHAT'S ON IN MARCH ~~~

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For more information call **01273 846978.**

### ~~~ 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 - Hassocks (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. Donations can be dropped to Bella and Megs, Mansell McTaggart & Budgens.

**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)

**SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD** Clayton Village Hall,

Thursdays 7 - 9 pm. Beginners to Advanced [sussexflydressersguild.org.uk](http://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.

**DITCHLING YODAH YOUTH GROUP** - Open to those young people in school year 6 - 11 we meet at The Emmanuel Centre 24 South Street, Ditchling on a Tuesday evening 6.30 pm to 8 pm.

We have pool, table tennis, games consoles and lots of activities.

**BABY & TODDLER GROUP** - A group for play and chat with coffee & cake. Held every Thursday in The Emmanuel Centre South Street Ditchling from 8.45 am to 10.15 am term time.

### ~~~EVENTS~~~

**1st HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL CLUB** Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. The Alzheimer Society' Dawn Fairbrother. Visitors welcome.

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

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

**2nd DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - The Quiet Girl.

**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 DITCHLING CHARITY BALL** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 70s/80s Disco. Dress to impress. Tickets from nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk.

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

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

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

**7th DITCHLING DOWNS WI** Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. 'The Women of Herstmonceux' Melinda Stone.

**9th WOMENS BREAKFAST** The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast and some great chat. Book with Tamara info on Keymer Parish Church website.

**10th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'HF High Power Double Loops for Small Spaces' Mike Underhill.

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Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 2.15 pm. 'Spring Show and Plant Sale. Schedule from Janton News.

**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.

**13th HASOCKS FIELD SOCIETY** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'The East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service' Trevor Weeks.

**14th THE GROUP** Con Club, Burgess Hill, 7.30 pm. A Sussex for unattached men & women, aged 55+. www.thegroup.org.uk.

**14th LUNCHTIME JAZZ AT THE HASOCKS** Hassocks Hotel, doors open 11.45 am for 12 pm. A set Lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01444 235986 to book.

**14th - 18th HURST PLAYERS** Player Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint various performances. Humble Boy by Charlotte Jones. tickets www.hurstplayers.co.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 HASOCKS 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 - The Lost King. Tickets on the door.

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**18th** CANCER RESEARCH UK Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'The Beatles Return' Live music and dancing. Tickets [ticketsource.co.uk/thebeatlesreturn](http://ticketsource.co.uk/thebeatlesreturn).

**18th** HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 10 am - 2 pm. Craft Fair.

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

**20th** HASOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Easter Theme'. Visitors welcome.

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

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

**24th** HURST, HASOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks. 2 pm. 'The Making of Local Madagascan Crafts' Jane Muddle. 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). 'AGM'.

**25th** BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 1.30 - 3.45 pm. Spring Show.

**25th** THE GROWING NETWORK Friends Meeting House 10.30 am. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books/tools you dont need. Children welcome too.

**25th** HURST GYMNASTICS CLUB Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. 22nd Arts Competition club event.

**25th** HASOCKS 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).



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**25th** SUSSEX CHORUS St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill, 7.30 pm. Dvorak - Stabat Mater. Tickets from 01444 412579. [www.sussexchorus.org](http://www.sussexchorus.org).

**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. Book with Fr Alex info on Keymer Parish Church website.

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

**27th** HASOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Sussex Windmills' Peter Hill.

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

**29th** BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**31st** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). 'Surplus Equipment Sale'.

**31st** HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 8 pm 'A Conspiracy History of the World - From Ancient Rome to Al Qaeda' Andy Thomas. Visitors welcome.

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## STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

It's a funny thing but sometimes how wrong can you be? A couple of months ago here I was giving National Tyres a really hard time about kicking off the monthly Saturday market from their forecourt. Luckily they found a new home in the car park outside the Age Concern building in Dale Ave and although it's had only one session the feedback from those who attended has been incredibly positive. If you want to you can go into the Age Concern building and have a hot drink - also inside is the Repair Cafe where you can take precious items and have them brought back to life. The footfall was good and some of the stall holders reported record sales, you see how wrong I can be, I thought it would be the death nail for them but instead it's been the best thing that's happened to them, so next time it's on pay them a visit and enjoy the new experience.

As I mentioned in last month's Talk About this is allegedly the last ever Ditchling Ball and it's going out with a bang! There is a full cabaret act by Showlesque, circus performers and a live band and with its Moulin Rouge theme we all get the chance to dress up. Now as it's the last one I thought OK Steve let's knock this out of the park let's really go to town and stir things up a bit and give them something they won't forget I'll dress up as one of the Can Can girls that should really do it. I'll just run it past the wife and see what she thinks. Now there is a look which is unique to the female of the species which speaks a 1000 words and I got it big time with the last four words being "don't be a \*\*\*\*!" Shame, I was looking forward to having a full head of hair for once in a very very long time. So instead I found a character called Santiago which features in the film, he's an interesting guy but I'll have to lose some weight if I'm going to squeeze into the leather trousers he wears. There are still tickets available for this unique event so come along and have a laugh at me and enjoy the spectacle here is the link for the tickets: [nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk](mailto:nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk)

I'm not sure what planet the Big Honcho from the bank comes from but if he thinks inflation is coming or slowing down then he needs better advisors, every week we get price rises from at least one company but last week once again we had a massive price increase from Nestle and the Mars group, these companies produce a great deal of popular pet foods and it really is just taking the 'P' how on earth can they justify such a price rise? Once again let me give you just one tiny example - tins of Chappie last month I was selling them for £1.25 each, which was up from 99p four months ago, now they are costing me £1.40 each with the retail price of £1.60 they want me to sell them and make 20p on a can which is ridiculous, what's the point? There is no point stocking it for such a crazy margin but this is what's happening - wholesale price up and margins slashed. These companies are making huge profits and we the small businesses are not, if it carries on who knows what the future holds and spare a thought for our OAP's who can't make demands for money or go on strike and haven't got the massive private pensions afforded to a lot of government workers.

We are going to take on the Carnilove range it is a good food at a reasonable price, they also do the odour lock cat litter which once again is a good product and they don't keep on having these massive price hikes.

Those of you who come into my shop must have met our Tom, he's been with us now for over 8 years he's very talkative and sometimes a bit loud but everyone loves him, but sadly he wants to go and live with his mum in Gloucester which is a few miles away he won't be easy to replace but replace him we must. It's a varied job. You wouldn't need a gym membership because there's plenty here to keep you fit and healthy. There's a lot of cats and other animals to keep you calm also a lot of pee & poo so you can't be squeamish. It's a unique job like no other. Horse feed and bedding lorries have to be unloaded. If you are interested e-mail me on [hassockspetcentre@gmail.com](mailto:hassockspetcentre@gmail.com) - it could change your life.

Love Steve - who could Can Can yet

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