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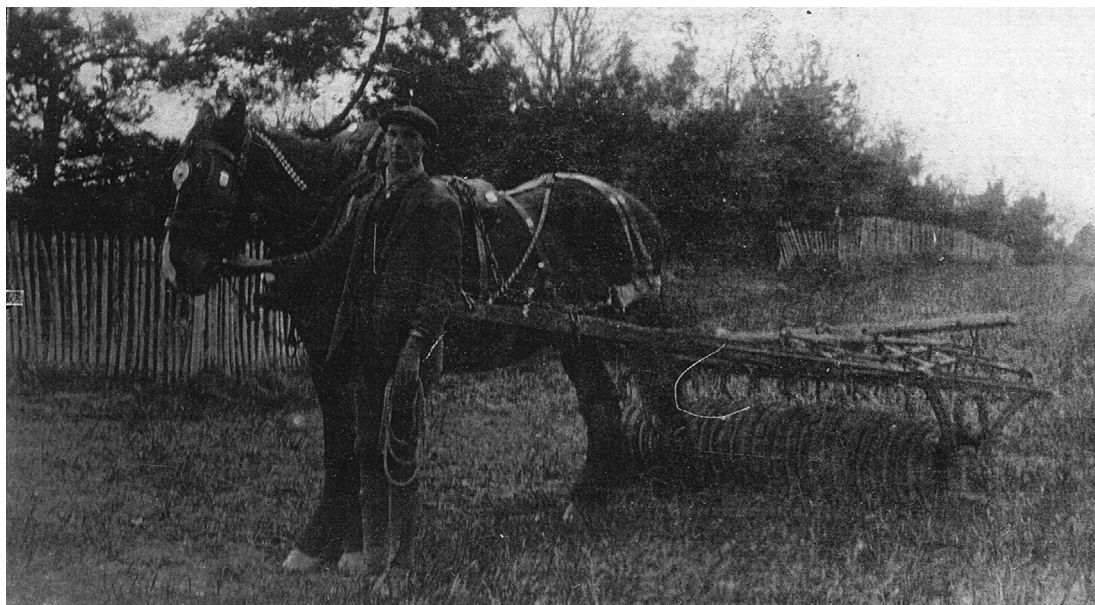
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We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this picture of Mr Frank Sayers rolling the grounds at Old Mill House, Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint. He was born in Olds Cottages, Naldretts Farm which was owned by Col. Bridge.

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TEDDY'S APPEAL Hello everyone, we are Kat and Alastair, Hassocks residents and parents to Teddy 3 and Rupert 1. Devastatingly, last year Teddy was diagnosed with an aggressive type of childhood cancer called neuroblastoma.

You may have seen on posters around the village, on Facebook or in the local media that we are fundraising for him to receive potentially lifesaving cancer treatment abroad, with support from UK registered charity Solving Kids Cancer - you can find our fundraiser at www.solvingkidscancer.org.uk/teddylichten

We have a big target to hit - approx. £250-300k by the end of the year - so we'll need to be busy bees. Not only that, but we'll need lots of help from the wonderful residents of Hassocks and the surrounding area too! Are you interested in finding out more about our campaign, and how to get involved?

Come along to Adastra Hall on Sunday **16th April** from 2 pm to 4 pm to meet Team Teddy and find out how you can help.

From volunteering for bucket collection days and manning stalls at local fairs, to organising events, to completing a sponsored challenge, or just displaying some posters, the options are endless.

Would love to get involved, but can't make it? Please email us on teddyandthebigc@gmail.com

Kat & Alastair Lichten

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Marchants Estate Agents are delighted to be expanding their team and require an additional member of staff for the Hassocks office. The role will include conducting viewings, reporting feedback to clients and answering both telephone and email enquiries.

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NEED HELP WITH YOUR LAPTOP OR SMARTPHONE?

The Repair Café Hassocks is glad to welcome the Spire IT team offering 1:1 free help with computing and phone problems. The Spire IT volunteers are associated with Digital Unite and also offer weekly support sessions at the Spire Café in Burgess Hill. The team can help with things like: Copying your files and photos from an old phone or computer to a new one. Setting up Anti-virus software. Installing new apps. Customising your phone e.g. notifications, power settings, security. Avoiding online scams. Helping you get the most out of your phone or computer.

If you have an old device that you'd like to donate to charity the team can help by erasing all your data and restoring the device back to factory settings. They work with a charity called Computers for Kids who recycle and donate any device that a child can use to learn remotely. So don't let your old devices gather dust, put them to good use.

Come along to the Repair Café at Age Concern on Dale Avenue on the fourth Saturday of the month (**22nd April**), between 9.30 and 11.30 am to chat about how we can help. Remember to bring your power supply or phone charger. *Juliet Merrifield*

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CITIZENS ADVICE IN WEST SUSSEX CALLS FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP IN COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

Citizens Advice in West Sussex says it needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people during the cost-of-living crisis.

The charity is launching an appeal for new recruits who can give their time to help people struggling with energy prices, rising household bills, debt, employment issues, and housing issues.

Last year, the charity saw unprecedented demand, supporting 35,781 people. Citizens Advice in West Sussex can only do this work thanks to the strong team of volunteers.

Whatever your experience or however much time you have to give, you'll be making a valuable contribution to the people of West Sussex. Citizens Advice in West Sussex have lots of roles and if you are not sure which is right for you, they will help you test them out.

As an organisation, they value diversity, promote equality and challenge discrimination.

The Volunteers at Citizens Advice in West Sussex come from all walks of life and choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. They include students, people getting back into work after career breaks, people with part-time jobs, carers, unemployed, people who've retired, those who have lived experience and those who want to make a difference to their community.

Volunteers are often looking to gain valuable experience or to use their existing skills in new ways. Many want to have an impact in their community



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and find a sense of purpose in helping others.

For students in the area, volunteering can help build confidence and support career development with different learning opportunities.

"Volunteers are at the heart of our service, helping people in their community with the difficulties they are facing. Volunteers make a huge difference to people's lives giving valuable information and advice. We would love to have you on our advice teams across West Sussex." – Patti, Volunteer and Development Lead.

For more information, visit www.advicewestsussex.org.uk/volunteering/ for Citizens Advice opportunities across West Sussex

For more information contact: Volunteer Team
 Email: Volunteer@westsussexcab.org.uk

Beth Paine

DITCHLING SINGERS do you like singing and are thinking of maybe joining a choir? Then come along and join the Ditchling Singers! We are very friendly choir who enjoys singing a variety of great popular songs and would love to welcome some new members. No auditions and the first session would be a free taster.

We rehearse on alternate Sunday afternoons. Our April dates are Sunday **2nd April** 4 pm to 6 pm at The Old Meeting House, 30 East End Lane, Ditchling and Sunday **16th April** 4 pm to 6 pm at Keymer Church Hall, Church Mead, Keymer. Just come along on the day or contact me on **01273 845627**.

Erika

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH Just the mention of the word Spring is enough to make the heart leap. So, despite squally winds, and biting frosts and encouraged by the presence of snowdrops and crocuses and the drumming of woodpeckers and the first pale leaves on the weeping willows, I set out yesterday to make a start on tidying the herb garden. It seems someone was there before me. A Cistus bush and a bed of Apothecary Roses, had been neatly pruned as far as a deer's neck could reach - all the early growth and sweet side buds chewed off, leaving a crown of blackened rosehips on the top! The lush parsley, which I was hoping to pick, had also been stripped bare. So, our wild visitor had helped himself to a delectable breakfast and didn't even email to say he was coming!

This set me thinking about roses and about the pleasures of contemplation. In their book on visualization, Mike and Nancy Samuels explain the chemistry behind 'Seeing with the Inward Eye'; the fact that a single image or word can be enough to affect our mood, our heart-rate, our digestion, in short, every cell in our bodies. We know that seeing something violent or sad, (say 90% + of any news programme), is enough to depress us for hours, set our blood boiling, reduce us to tears of frustration and given long-term exposure, wreck our health. Conversely, images of vibrant living forms, give us joy and energy. This is true, even if the images are not immediate in the

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physical sense, but products of imagination or memory, as Wordsworth's much-maligned '*Daffodils*' were. A word such as 'rose' conjures involuntary images in the mind, and these in turn trigger powerful signals from the pituitary and hypothalamus in the brain, just as if a real rose had materialised in the hand. What better way to experience the pleasures of summer on a bleak, dark day in February! So, with that in mind, here is a little experiment. I am going to take an imaginary stroll round some celebrated rose gardens, collect samples of the blooms, distil them and see if the exercise will banish the merrims of winter. If you would like to join me, please come along and see how it affects you too. (If at this point, you find yourself raising your eyes to heaven and saying - *Oh No! She's off again* - I can only say, please spare a thought for Michael, who has to put up with this sort of thing at breakfast every day.) Roses have an extraordinary potency. They are beautiful and fragrant, yes. But they also bring long trails of associations with customs, poems, folk-memories, sayings and aphorisms which date back to ancient times and intensify our perception. The connections are so strong one cannot shut them off. Despite years of sentimental exploitation or sickly-sweet adulteration, the piquant astringency of the true rose, its delicacy and sharpness, remain truly intoxicating. One of the oldest garden varieties, the Apothecary's Rose or *Rosa Gallica*, was grown in the Shaker

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herb gardens of North America for the production of medicinal rose water. The early Shakers were warned against enjoying the perfume or sight of their flowers. They were to be for utility only. And the faithful were assured that any enjoyment would amount to idolatry and imperil their souls. But such attitudes could not last. The flowers themselves spoke a more persuasive language and before long the communities were indulging in rosewater apple pies and setting vases of blooms on their windowsills! Roses were known in the Classical world and much beloved by the Romans who strewed their banquets and their streets with the petals and crowned themselves with flowers at every opportunity. In Ancient Greece, roses were sacred to Aphrodite, and later Christians and Muslims alike recognised a purity or holiness in the flowers. When Saladin entered Jerusalem in 1187, he had the walls of the Omar Mosque washed with precious rose water. But the first great rose gardens were probably planted in Persia where the native rose was the *Rosa Damascena*, or Damask Rose. This is said to have the sweetest scent of all. Persian poets of the 12th to 14th centuries, a time of war, intrigue and great danger, took refuge in gardens of contemplation as their gateway to spiritual enlightenment. Our word 'paradise', says Coleman Barks, the poet-translator, comes from the Persian, 'firdaus', meaning a walled garden. It was such a garden which inspired the poet Sanai to write his book, *'The Walled Garden of Truth'*, in 1131. After him came Attar, a pharmacist-poet, who specialised in distilling essences, including Balm of Fir and Attar of Roses, which he dispensed daily to the hundreds of patients who flocked to his shop. His rose 'attar' was medicine for the body; his poetry balm for the soul. Saadi was born in 1200, twenty years after Attar was killed by the Mongols. His poem 'Gulistan' translates as *'The Rose Garden'*. Mahmud Shabistari followed later with his work *'The Secret Rose Garden'* but none of these books contain poems about roses – the poems are the roses. For 'garden', read 'the world', and for 'roses', the hearts of men. Cultivating the garden thus becomes a symbolic task – tending one's heart and soul. In the Epilogue to his poem, Shabistari says: "This bouquet of scented blossoms/ I have plucked from that garden/ and have called it *'The Secret Rose Garden'*." In it are blooming/ roses of the mysteries of the heart/ untold before... Do not seek to find blemishes, or the roses will turn to thorns as you gaze..." Saadi's aim, says the Sufi teacher Inayat Khan, was "...to explain to man how the heart can be turned into a flower. In reality it is a flower, it is made to be a flower. It is made to spread its perfume. If only you trained it and tended it, it would show the delicacy and beauty and fragrance of a flower, and that is the purpose of your life." Crusaders, captivated by the gardens they saw, brought the roses and their legends back to Europe and cultivated roses have been exerting their magic over us ever since. From medieval monastery gardens to the grounds of royal palaces and

from vast distillery fields to humble cottage gardens, the quest for the perfect rose continues. There is not time to visit them all here, but even the names of the cultivars take us to exotic places: Musk roses, Burgundy Roses, Moss Roses, Cabbage Roses, China Roses (which only arrived in the 19th century) Tea Roses, our own native Dog Roses and Sweetbriars, so favoured by Shakespeare... Their colours range from deep magenta, almost black, to crimson, flame, pink and creamy-white. They come with single petals, or double or in fine swirls of overgrown sepals, sometimes, splashed with variegated hues. Have you got the scent of them yet? Or of all the syrups, sweets, hydrosols and ointments which have been made over the centuries – the pot-pourris, rose-petal teas, and rose-honey, or melrosette, which the Elizabethans compounded? Not to mention the rose wine which existed in Persia and was served with a rose as a bottle stopper, to create the ultimate sensual experience? And English country sandwiches, layered with rose-infused butter and fragrant petals, cooling on a hot summer's day? In herbal medicine, the rose is a tonic for the heart. It is slightly astringent and antiviral, good for the kidneys and gall bladder, but above all a comforter and balm for the emotions. Enough ingredients, for an elixir, I think. Now, with the heady mix of all these scents and flavours, the swirling forms and colours in mind, the trick is to let the weight of knowledge drop away. Collecting knowledge is interesting, and makes a pleasing occupation for the brain but it is an effort to hold on to dry facts, preserve them, authenticate them. Pleasanter by far to let them blend together and mature into something new (as Ezra Pound said 'true culture begins when one has forgotten more than one knows'). This way, spontaneous feelings can arise. Eventually one reaches the state Wordsworth was in when, lying on his 'pensive couch', he recalled his daffodils. His 'emotion recollected in tranquillity' is the creative dream state from which true poetry and 'vision' is born. And that is a potent medicine in itself. One could bone-up on facts the livelong day, but to savour the message of life it is sometimes better to take the lid off the memory jar and simply inhale! Roses offer the perfect antidote to stress. So maybe it's a good idea to keep a mental pot of them at hand. We all deserve a 'Secret Rose Garden' to retreat to for moments of restoration.

And talking of things 'recollected in tranquillity', Michael has set up a new exhibition which starts on **1st April**, when Stoneywish re-opens. Anyone interested in viewing some lovely tranquil scenes of East End Lane in old postcards and photographs, please phone or email to make an appointment and enjoy your own guided tour. The office will be open every day from **1st April**. Phone no **01273 843498** or email **stoneywishnatyurere-serve@gmail.com**.

Hopefully our rose bushes will have grown new leaves by then! Happy Easter and happy dreaming!

Rosemary

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HASSOCKS WI meet at Adastra Hall 3rd Monday in the month. Doors open 7.30 pm, start 7.45 pm. WI subscriptions are due in April but as we have an extra special evening, it would help if the annual subs could be paid at the March meeting. Don't forget you can always pay your subs online.

March is Easter themed. We used our skills to make delightful little Easter baskets plus we were each given an Easter egg to put into it. Thank you crafty member for providing template and instructions.

April (members only event) - 'Tea at the Palace' - by invitation only (bring it with you - prize) Posh frocks and fascinators. Come and enjoy tea and excitements fit for the Coronation. Prompt start - tables of eight. Please mingle on arrival.

A spontaneous friendly tea was popular in February, shall we do it again? Some of the Arty Club saw the Kaffe Fassett exhibition in London. March walk was in Shoreham.

At our Craft Club on **3rd April** we will be making jewellery, come along at 2 pm committee room in Adastra Hall.

At our May evening meeting will be a talk on the Air Ambulance.

All visitors are welcome to the Craft club and May evening (donation). Come along for a friendly time and cake. *Gerry*

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

Art Group Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon.

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.

We will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Happy Easter. *All at Age Concern*

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GREY SQUIRREL of the Sussex Wildlife Trust I'm crouching behind my sofa, hiding from a squirrel. While I'm here, peering angrily out of the patio window, it has given me time to reflect on the emotional journey that led me to this place. There was a time I was nuts about squirrels. As soon as I could walk, I was out shrieking through the autumn leaves, trying to grab a squirrel's bushy tail as it nimbly skeddaddled up the nearest Sycamore. Looking back now, I'm not sure what I planned to do with a squirrel, had I ever caught one. It's actually illegal to release a Grey Squirrel once caught because, despite their cute appearance, they can be extremely destructive. The main problem is that they shouldn't really be in Britain. The Grey Squirrel is a North American species, and we can blame Herbrand Russell, 11th Duke of Bedford, for inviting them. Herbrand's hare-brained plan was to import Grey Squirrels to embellish his estate at the start of the last century. Distributing squirrels as gifts, he and his landowner chums assisted their spread across England. Our wildlife and landscape just weren't designed to accommodate this brash new American and the native Red Squirrel, already in decline, was hit particularly hard. Attempts have been made over the years to control Britain's Grey Squirrel population and protect the remaining Reds, and the battle continues, but across most of England it seems the Greys are here to stay.

The Foot Nurse

Marie Ioannou MAFHP

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In the last few weeks the battle has arrived in my back garden. I recently purchased a bird feeding station, an elaborate chandelier draped in peanut feeders, fat balls and coconut shells. Yet the Nuthatches, tits and finches are being usurped by a Grey Squirrel. I'm paying pounds and getting peanuts and it's the squirrel who is packing his cheeks. It feels like I have laid on a buffet for my friends, only to find some American bloke (who I don't particularly like) has turned up to scoff the whole lot. For weeks, we have been locked in an ongoing arms race. I don't want to hurt him – I just want him off my new bird feeder. I've deployed Vaseline, peppers and counterbalances but each time I've been outwitted. He is agile, acrobatic and very clever. Today I cracked. I purchased a squirrel proof baffle: a large Perspex dome, 100% guaranteed to make my peanut feeder impregnable. I installed it as the squirrel watched curiously and, with a confident laugh, I returned to my front room...to find the squirrel was already back on the peanut feeder. I have no idea how he's doing it and he's too smart to climb there if he's being watched. So here I am, behind the sofa, trying to find out his secret. Whether trying to beat them nationally or just in our own back gardens, it really isn't reassuring to know we're being outsmarted by a rodent.

Michael Blencowe

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HURST RETHINK COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

THIS SPRING Hurst Rethink groups are busy over the next few months with several projects on the go. Here's a round-up of our main activities.

First up is Hurst Village Market, a collaboration between the Hurst Rethink Green Consumer group and The New Inn. The market will take place on the first Saturday of each month until July, when St Lawrence Fair takes over the village. The market has two halves; in the covered marquee in the back garden we have food and drink stalls, all featuring local Sussex produce. In the function room of the pub we have home-wares, beauty, jewellery and arts/crafts. If you're after a present or a treat, it's the perfect place to go and you'll be supporting a local business run by one of our community. Please support our market as a huge amount of effort goes into putting it on from the Hurst Rethink team. Equally, if you have any suggestions for improvements, we'd love to hear them.

Secondly, our Biodiversity group is launching a 'Save Our Swifts' project. With funding from SOS - the Sussex Ornithological Society, we are installing 10 nest boxes in the Weald Close area to help migrating swifts breed successfully this year. The boxes are being installed by Attic Asset in March ahead of the birds' arrival. We are also planning a biodiversity talk on Wednesday 14th June with a swift expert so we can all learn more about these birds whose call for many is the sound of the summer - watch this space for more details.

The Hurst Rethink Community Group are also busy

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organising a follow up to last year's incredibly successful Hurst Jumble Trail. This village wide event will take place on Sunday **2nd April** from 10 am and is the perfect chance to declutter and have a spring clear out as well as pick up a bargain. Wander the streets of Hurst on the day, chat to residents and browse the stalls. It should be a fantastic day for the village.

For all details on our events, check our website, hurstrethink.org.

Charlotte

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Although Ditchling Film Society has been running for 40 years it is still developing and growing.

We've already shown *Belfast*, *Olga* and *The Quiet Girl* in 2023 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 11 films and we plan to run a special event in September. 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 good wine before the showing at 8 pm.

Showing on Thursday **6th April** we have "*The Duke*". Directed by Roger Michell, the film was awarded 5 stars by The Guardian and The Telegraph when it was premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2020.

The Duke is a great film to watch right now. In a time when it's hard for us to feel that what we do as individuals can make a difference, this film confronts that sense of despair. In this true story Kempton Bunton was a cause celebre and well deserves to be remembered today.

To my mind there are two Dukes in this film, *The Duke of Wellington* and *Kempton Bunton*: the epithet "one man stood firm" applies to both of them. Bunton stands by his strong sense of justice and his belief in the rights of the common man and takes his own determined road to challenge the arbitrariness of bureaucracy wherever he finds it. Taking place in 1961 when Britain was still struggling from the effects of WW11, Bunton is a champion of the war veterans and OAPs. He is running a little acknowledged campaign to bring free TV licenses to OAPs.

The principle characters in the film are *Kempton Bunton* played by James Broadbent, his wife *Dorothy* played by Helen Mirren and Jackie their loyal son played by Fionn Whitehead. They carry the threads of grief and hardship through a story that is at the same time full of warmth and humour. Broadbent plays a man who cannot be deterred from his sense of justice no matter the personal cost to both himself and his wife while Mirren treads a fine line between portraying an overburdened grouch and a much loved wife.

I'm not going to tell you the story but as Bunton

stands in Court 1 at the Old Bailey charged with stealing *Francisco de Goya's Portrait of The Duke Wellington* from the National Gallery, he has this exchange with his defending Barrister:

Barrister "Your father fought in the First World War at Ypres."

KB. "Wipers. He wasn't an Officer."

Barrister. "He came back in a wheelchair".

KB. "A tank ran over his legs".

Barrister "How did that make you feel about Germans?"

KB. "Never a bad word for them. Germans never had tanks".

And there's the nub of it.

Certificate 12. Running time 96 minutes.

Limbo is our next film on Thursday **18th May**. A British comedy-drama directed by Ben Sharrock.

Put the first Thursday of every month into your diary and join us for a glass of wine and a great film. There's plenty of parking next to the hall. Go to our website ditchlingfilm.org.uk for membership news and join our mailing list to keep up to date with our films each month. Follow us on Instagram [@ditchlingfilmsoc](https://www.instagram.com/ditchlingfilmsoc) and Tweet [@Ditchlingfilm](https://twitter.com/Ditchlingfilm).

Hope to see you at the next film.

Kate

A TALK BY CLARE BLENCOWE The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, a volunteer organisation dedicated to protecting local countryside and wildlife, invite you to a talk by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre Manager, Clare Blencowe.

It will take place on Wednesday **12th April** at 7.30 pm in the Club Suite at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY.

The talk entitled 'Making Nature Count' describes the essential work the Biodiversity Record Centre does in maintaining nature records to ensure the preservation of our countryside and wildlife. It records all species discoveries submitted by the public and nature conservation groups to monitor natural world populations and identify areas of concern where urgent remedial action is required. It will immediately follow a brief introduction by The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group.

Entry is free and all are welcome. There is a car park opposite the building.

Michael Nailard

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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL As part of their topic 'Meet the Greeks' Year 3 had a wonderful time taking part in Greek Day just before half term. All the children looked the part by dressing up in amazing Greek costumes and enjoyed a fantastic workshop learning what everyday life was like as an Ancient Greek child and taking part in the retelling of Theseus and the Minotaur, Odysseus and the Cyclops, and Oedipus and the Sphinx. In the afternoon they played a game to help us understand the different ways that Greece was ruled. Did you know the ancient Greeks had the first democracy? We all had a great time!

Year 4 have been learning about Judaism in their RE lessons, including how and why Jewish people celebrate Passover. We were very fortunate to have a visit from a Rabbi to answer some of our questions about Passover and tell us about his personal experience of being Jewish. We also had a real taste of Passover and the children had the chance to sample some of the symbolic foods eaten at a Seder meal (one of the key parts of the Passover celebration). We tasted parsley



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dipped in salt water, romaine lettuce, horseradish, matzo crackers and a paste made from apple, grape juice and dried fruit. Some of these foods were more popular than others!

Year 5 have been exploring various artistic techniques for creating a unique, final piece of art with hands as the subject. This included: paint, charcoal, pastels, paper, card, feathers, string etc. They began by taking pictures of their hands then considering: tone, texture, composition and frame. They discovered how these techniques impacted the atmosphere of our photographs with stunning results.

The Year 6 children have been studying the art movement Cubism. In particular, investigating how Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque began this new and exciting way to look at objects. We set the children a challenge to produce their own cubist-inspired art on the theme of 'Music'. The children began by sketching some musical instruments from life, then they investigated examples of work by Picasso and Braque to recognise the features of Cubism. Cubist painters believed that they could present realistic views of subjects in a different way by showing the objects from different perspectives and recognisable shapes.

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OLDLAND WINDMILL - The Oldest Working Windmill in Sussex will be holding an Open Afternoon on Sunday **2nd April** from 2 pm to 5 pm. The Mill will be run, weather permitting. Refreshments and Memorabilia will be available but no shuttle bus. Entry by donation www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk.

Karen Regan

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, WEST-MESTON & STREAT

Please come and join us as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate Easter in the Beacon Parish. There's a warm welcome and something for everyone, of all ages.

Sunday 2nd April Palm Sunday 10 am.
The service begins at the Vicarage, Charlton Gardens, from where we set out on the Palm Sunday procession through the village to St Margaret's to arrive for 10 am.

3rd April Monday of Holy Week - 6 pm.
The Way of the Cross at Streat Church

4th April Tuesday of Holy Week - 6 pm
The Way of the Cross at St. Martin's, Westmeston.

5th April Wednesday of Holy Week - 6 pm
The Way of the Cross and SING! at St. Margaret's, Ditchling.

6th April Maundy Thursday Easter Service, St George's Park, Ditchling Common - 11 am.
Passover Celebration, St. Margaret's, Ditchling - 6.30 pm

7th April Good Friday - 11 am
Gathering at the Cross, St. Margaret's, Ditchling

9th April Easter Day Celebration - 10 am
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Our service of Morning Worship with Communion on Sunday **16th April** will be at St. Martin's Westmeston and on Sundays **23rd April** and **30th April** at St. Margaret's, Ditchling. All at 10 am.

Wednesday @ 10 Communion services take place each week at St. Margaret's.

Please always check www.beaconparish.co.uk for any changes that may happen to services over this period.
Sherrian Guest

MYTH DISPELLED! Did you know that the current Bowls World Champion is 33 years old?

And you thought it was an activity for only older people!

Why not come along to Adastra Bowling Club, in the park and try it out?

We are holding three Open Mornings in May - Monday **8th May**, Saturdays **13th and 20th May** from 10 am to 12 pm. No booking is required.

Friendly members will be around to help you get started.

Just wear some comfortable clothes and soft, flat shoes/trainers.

The greens are open from 10 am to dusk, seven days a week.

You can play in teams or just with a partner.

There is a comfortable clubhouse, serving club priced drinks!

Give it a go and you may be pleasantly surprised with the gentle exercise in the fresh air.

Please contact me if you want any further information

01273 842360 / 07799 642992 or
dwebleyward@gmail.com. *Diana Webley Ward*

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DITCHLING: A GARDEN CITY PROPOSAL IN SUSSEX

The Times Monday 6th November, 1939.

A 'Development' Threat - The proposal to develop as a residential estate 700 acres of land near the charming little village of Ditchling, in Sussex is causing anxiety to many people.

Mr Frank Brangwyn writing from his home in Ditchling, declares that it is impossible to turn a village into Garden city of 2800 houses and 10,000 inhabitants, hotel and shopping centre without entirely destroying its present character.

The scheme provides for a 'very nice development round the pond' The pond is shown in this picture taken by a staff photographer during the week-end. In the background is Lodge Hill, on which the best sites of for the proposed garden city would be.



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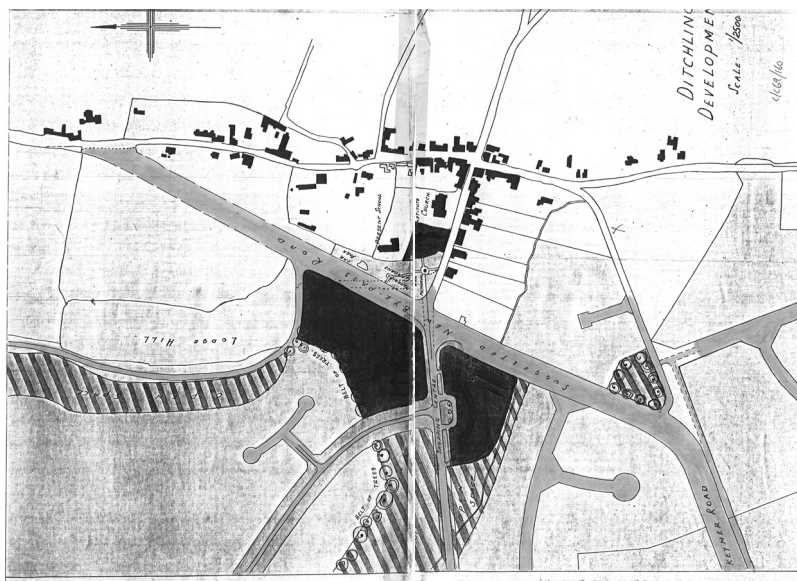
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Map showing the by pass and Southdown Estate

(estimated at 3500 vehicles per day). Further applications were also rejected in 1942 and 1949. During the debate two original paintings by Charles Knight had been presented to show the village of Ditchling's tranquillity.

Michael Stratford



One of the pictures by Charles Knight used to support the objection of Southdown Estate and Bye Pass

THE PLAYERS would like to thank all those who came to see "Humble Boy" in March and particularly those who responded with feedback about the production – pretty positive, we're pleased to say.

We're now about to begin rehearsals for our summer production which will be Alan Ayckbourn's "Table Manners" – one third of the Norman Conquest trilogy. We'll be presenting that at The Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint from **4th to 8th July** and in charge is Vicki Wood, whose theatre experience is immense – this will be her first production for us.

If you're reading this before 29th March we'd love to see you at the final audition to complete the casting.

Anne Hopper

DO YOU WANT TO TAKE UP A SPORT? Your local Bowls club is in Hurstpierpoint, South Avenue and we are holding Taster sessions on Wednesday **19th April** at 6 pm & Saturday **22nd April** at 11 am. We are offering free six weeks membership, free coaching and free use of equipment and Bowls. Apart from flat shoes (trainers are fine) you will not need anything else.

If you are interested in learning how to bowl at a very friendly and socially active club, then we would like to meet you.

Contact me on **01273 842770** or just turn up.

Anne Clifford

The proposed fusion of Keymer & Ditchling commenced in 1930 with houses valued at £900 - £3000

Mains drainage had been installed in Ditchling in 1914 by Burgess Hill Water Company and the proposed new site would have increase the usage by 10 times the present population.

In 1939 the project had been discarded owing to heavy earthworks, loss of agricultural land and the compulsory purchase of 10 properties in and around Lodge Lane, with estimated compensation of £5000 - £11,000) this combined with a 75% increase in traffic

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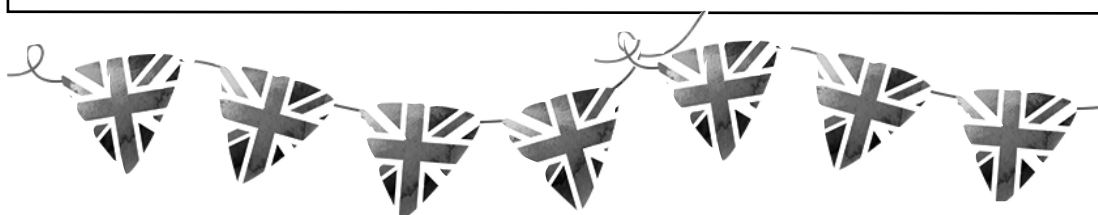


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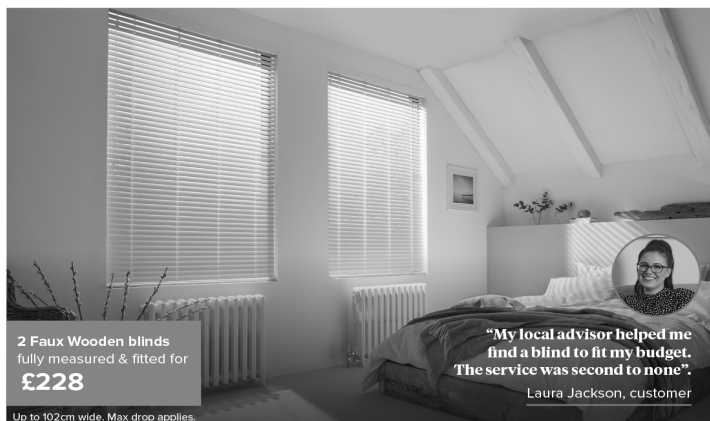
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GASLIGHT - 9th to 13th May. Rehearsals for our May production have now resumed, and the cast are busy reminding themselves of their lines, moves etc. We are also pleased to announce that they are joined by a new member - Rob Ternouth. Rob has 'trod the boards' elsewhere, but, as far as I'm aware, has never appeared with the Ditchling Players before so a very welcome to him.

Tickets are now available from either TicketSource or via our website - ditchlingplayers.org.uk with performances starting at 7.30 pm.

Please note that there will be no matinee performance for this production and a booking fee applies to any online bookings.

If you would like to purchase your tickets in person the White Horse, in Ditchling are kindly operating as our box office but this is for Cash Only payments.

I understand that tickets are going well already so don't delay and get yours now to avoid disappointment.

David Tetersell

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

We are a very friendly society, and we have regular meetings with excellent guest speakers who give illustrated presentations on a wide variety of subjects with historical or geographical themes.

We usually meet on the last Friday evening of each month, September to May inclusive, and our meetings take place in the in the Guide Hall next to Trinity Road car park. On **28th April** Melanie Gibson-Barton will give her presentation "Votes for Women" about the Suffragists and Suffragettes.

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 **28th April**? Or if you would like to know more beforehand contact me - telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail

w.kent123@btinternet.com.

Bill Kent

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TREFOIL GUILD For our February meeting we had a splendid presentation and talk from Tanya, who had recently been to Antarctica. She told us all about the penguins and showed us photos and videos.

We also held a raffle. Donations to go towards the Turkey/Syrian earthquake. We managed to raise £43 for this appeal.

On 15th March we held a Hot Cross Bun blind tasting and craft evening. Lots of fun!

19th April Trefoil Guild 80th Anniversary Challenge. "Small Acorns to Giant Oaks".

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**. Visitors welcome.

Pam

THE GROWING NETWORK 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.

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

Please join us on Saturday **29th April** 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.

Julie Ulbricht

AS THE WEATHER WARMS, NATURE IS WAKING UP.

As are the Honey Bees. It is natural for them to split sometimes, if the hive gets crowded and this results in a swarm. (A large collection of bees gathered in a tree, bush or even on the ground. Usually the size of a football)

The bees are usually good-natured and just want to find a new home. Please don't try to kill them, as they are precious to our health. Just ring Heather **07792 552413** or Ken **01273 842458** or **07970 635034** and we will come and remove them to a safe new home. We do not charge a fee. Just say thank you - to you.

Heather McNiven

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YOUNG GROWERS' DELIGHT When a village school decided it wanted to create a new garden, they found all they needed at their local garden centre, with grateful thanks to a Sussex-based charity. Ditchling Primary School are making a forest garden and with help from The Budding Foundation, visited South Downs Nurseries in neighbouring Hassocks to pick-up the essential elements.

"It was lovely to welcome the children to come to collect their donation of trees and flowers", said Clive Gravett who founded the charity to help improve the lives of young people in the county. "Encouraging the next generation of gardeners is an important part of education so that children can learn about our eco-system and the importance of the natural world around them."

Trevor Butler

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MURDER, MYSTERY AND MAYHEM – A FORENSIC FUNDRAISER WITH 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT!

4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is inviting everyone to put on their deerstalkers and take part in a fun Murder Mystery Evening this April. The event will raise funds to help the charity's work supporting blind and sight impaired residents of all ages across West Sussex. Hosted by the Goring Region Occasional Players Ensemble, it promises to be an evening of intrigue, drama, speculation and of course good food!

The Murder Mystery Evening will take place on Friday **21st April** at 7.30 pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kings Walk, Shoreham-by-Sea. The tickets include a fish and chip meal, or a vegetarian option. The Goring Region Occasional Players Ensemble is a small amateur dramatics company based in Worthing. They write their own material and the play for the evening is entitled 'Murder: A Fete Worse Than Death'. As the plot develops, clues are disclosed enabling an astute observer to work out who committed the murder, what their motive was, and how they did

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it. At the end of the evening the audience has an opportunity to question the characters if further information is required, before declaring their solution. There is a prize for coming up with the right solution (or closest to it!).

Tickets for the evening must be booked by Monday **17th April**. For booking details and further information please visit www.4sight.org.uk/murder-mystery-23/ or call the Fundraising Team on **01243 828555** or email fundraising@4sight.org.uk.

Cathy Clark

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There is currently a One Bedroom Flat vacancy within St Christopher's Home, Hurstpierpoint.

Vacancies occur occasionally in a building that residents regard as a safe and happy home, so if you are interested in finding out more about the current vacancy, please contact the manager, Michael Nailard on telephone number 01273 834001 or email: dralianmarine@aol.com

St. Christopher's Home is a not-for-profit charitable organisation that provides reasonably priced rented accommodation to local people who meet the following criteria:

- Applicants are selected primarily from persons who have lived in the West Sussex County Council area for the previous three years, with preference being given to those from Hurstpierpoint, Sayers Common, Albourne, and neighbouring parishes. Others not fitting these criteria will be considered at the discretion of the trustees.
- Applicants should be 60 years old or over and preferably not in paid employment. Any exception to these criteria will be at the discretion of the trustees.
- The applicants must be capable of looking after themselves and are fit enough to keep their accommodation clean and tidy.

Issued by St. Christopher's Home Trustees – March 2023

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AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY KENT SURREY SUSSEX (KSS) NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) needs your support! Having just announced that 2022 was the busiest year in its 33-year history – the life-saving charity responded to 3,224 incidents last year, with 947 call outs in Sussex - KSS is urgently seeking to recruit more volunteers in order to help with more events and activities in the coming year.

The charity, which provides world-leading pre-hospital emergency care 24/7, currently has over 150 volunteers who help with a wide range of activities including managing collection boxes, marshalling at events, speaking at community events, office tasks and more. Volunteers offer a few hours on an occasional basis or regular hours each month.

Bridget Pepper, from the KSS Volunteer Development Team said, "Our volunteers are highly valued members of Team KSS, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who donates their time to support us. Over the last year, KSS has benefited from over 4,000 hours of support from volunteers and our volunteers were involved with raising or collecting over £250,000 on our behalf."

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"This year, with demand for our service at an all-time high and the need to raise even more funds due to the increased costs of operating our service, we need to recruit more volunteers and we have lots of opportunities available to suit people of all ages and abilities." "Alongside providing our charity with critical support, volunteers enjoy many benefits from working with us, including meeting new people, attending events and feeling a sense of pride in supporting an incredible charity in their local community."

"We hope people from across the communities we serve will get in touch with us and find out more about how they can get involved. We really appreciate all the support we receive."

KSS is an independent charity. It costs £16.6M a year or £45K per day to operate its world leading, life-saving service. This is a significant increase from the £15.2M required in 2022. 87% of KSS's total income is raised through the incredible generosity of its supporters and 10% through NHS commissioning funds. If you are interested in finding out more about being a KSS volunteer, please contact volunteering@aaakss.org.uk or visit www.aaakss.org.uk.

Tamsin Williams



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OUR FRIEND, JO SPICER, HAS BEEN TRACING HER FAMILY. Jo's family moved to Bristol around 1950 but she has discovered that her relatives lived in a house named 'Walltop', in Hassocks. Jo wondered if anyone knows where this house was/is sited or knew of the family.

The family were Harry Walter Hedges (died 1936) and his wife Mary (nee Chase), who died in 1950, and their daughter, Vivian Staunton Hedges who was born in 1905 and died in 1987.

If anyone has any information, please could they contact Jo via us on **01273 842507**.

Stephen and Josephine Horne

THE HOFFMANN WORKSHOP Come and spend a day with Heber Opera learning about The Tales of Hoffmann by Offenbach. Ian Gledhill will introduce this curious and magical opera at the start of the workshop, followed by an opportunity to sing some of the music (in English) under the baton of Heber's Musical Director Michael Withers. To close the day Ian will direct some stage action to allow performance of the musical extracts.

Saturday **15th April** in Hurstpierpoint Village Cen-

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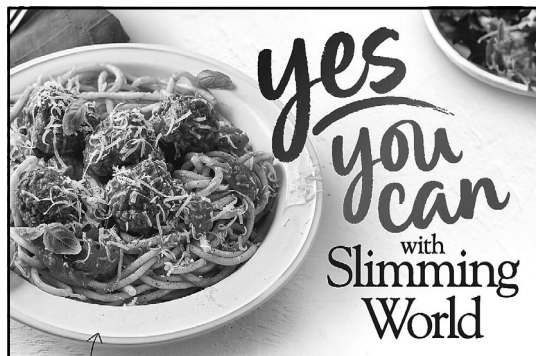
tre, 10 am to 6 pm. The fee for the day includes homemade cake and tea/coffee. Bring your own packed lunch. To register your interest and receive more details please email jenny@heberopera.co.uk.

This is a wonderful opportunity to sample the world of opera with your local friendly opera company. To find out more about Heber Opera visit

www.heberopera.co.uk

or [www.Facebook.com/heberopera](https://www.facebook.com/heberopera).

Jenny Hawkes



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HHDu3a MONTHLY MEETING All Ray Hale's experience and expertise as a natural historian did not help him spot an elephant just a few feet in front of him, hidden by a tree. So much more difficult, then, when it's a spider or a butterfly or to realise that the scorpion you flinch away from is actually just a harmless ant. All these, examples of camouflage and trickery in the animal kingdom, all helping to protect these species, to escape predators, or to hunt more successfully. Ray's talk highlighted the role of natural selection in this process. A theory identified with Charles Darwin but Ray pulled out of Darwin's shadow another naturalist, a local man, Alfred Russel Wallace. He too was developing his ideas about evolution and sharing them with Darwin but it's the latter who is the most remembered. This was especially interestingly for the u3a member in the audience who actually lives in Wallace's house in Hurst.

It was a fascinating talk, generously illustrated with photos, mostly taken by Ray's wife Angela and drawing on their extensive trips through South East Asia but many taken in more familiar territory, Camber Sands, Beachy Head or even a Sussex back garden. If you're interested in finding out more about HHDu3a google <https://u3asites.org.uk>hhd>.

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ADASTRA JUNIOR STOOLBALL CLUB Here we are again with the thought of light evenings and warmer weather not so far away. We would like to welcome any girls between 8 years and 16 years who would like to play and learn the skills and tactics of our olde game of Stoolball, founded in Sussex over 100 years ago - a senior league is still run through Sussex with a final tournament in August held in Seaford.

Sadly, Junior Clubs have depleted a lot with parents having to work longer hours and finances as they are, activities take a change.

We start our training evening for Junior Girls on Wednesday **12th April** 6 pm to 7.30 pm in Adastra Park at Sports Pavilion. For more information please ring **01444 236782** mobile **07986 584228**.

Joy Mans

STAR CINEMA Friday **21st April**. April's film at the Adastra hall is *A Man called Otto*, starring Tom Hanks... When a lively young family moves in next door, grumpy widower Otto Anderson meets his match, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world upside down. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets available on the door (cash only please). Wine/tea/coffee/raffle. The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

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SASSY & SOBER IN SUSSEX Katherine and I first met in an online sober community forum. Both middle lane drinkers who had decided that alcohol was not serving us anymore. Realising we lived in adjoining villages and had a love of cold-water swimming, a friendship quickly formed. Katherine a PR consultant and myself an ex-specialist nurse turned Pilates and fitness Instructor. Our lives on the face of it were pretty good.

Our stories are different, but neither of us drank daily. We weren't waking up and pouring vodka on our cornflakes and had no rock bottom. However, we had both developed an unhealthy relationship with alcohol, and realised moderation was not something we were good at. So ditched the booze all together.

Absolutely loving our new sober lives and all the benefits it brings, we wanted to meet other like-minded people and support them in their journey. We have decided to start a local sober community covering Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Ditchling and surrounding areas for women who are sober curious, already sober, or just don't drink. We want women to realise that sober isn't boring and you don't have to drink alcohol to have fun. It's not always easy going against the grain when alcohol is so normalised and glam-

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ourised in everything we do. However, having a sober community to lean on can make the journey a whole lot easier. You can expect coffee catch-ups, walks on the Downs, sea swims, meals out, Pilates, lots of laughter, new friendships and a whole lot more as the community grows. If you can relate to our story and you'd like to join us, we have a private Facebook group called Sassy and Sober in Sussex. Hope to meet you soon.

Lucy and Katherine



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~~~ WHAT'S ON IN APRIL ~~~

1ST HURSTPIERPOINT GIRLS' BRIGADE, Methodist Church Hall, Hurstpierpoint, Wed term time. Age 4 to Sch Year 3 5.15 pm. Yrs 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. Mon & Fri. Donations can be dropped to Bella and Megs, Mansell McTaggart & Budgens.

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

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

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB 1st, 3rd & 5th Mon URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm. You don't need a partner - just come along.

www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

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

THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Praise & Holy Communion - 4th & 5th Sun. www.beaconparish.co.uk.

TOAST CLUB Powell House (next to United Reformed Church) Hassocks. Mon (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, Wed 10 am. Holy Communion.

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

YOUTH GROUP St Francis Church, Priory Road. Thurs 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 Tues 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 Thurs in The Emmanuel Centre South Street Ditchling from 10 am to 11.30 am term time.

~~~EVENTS~~~

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

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

2nd DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling, 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome!

2nd THE BEACON PARISH The Vicarage, Charlton Gardens, Ditchling. Palm Sunday procession through the village arriving at St Margaret's for 10 am. All welcome.

2nd HURST RETHINK COMMUNITY various Streets in Hurstpierpoint, 10 am. Hurst Jumble Trail.

2nd OLDLAND WINDMILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer, 2 - 5 pm. 'Open Afternoon - for all the family. All welcome.

3rd THE BEACON PARISH Streat Church, 6 pm. Holy Week - The Way of the Cross. All welcome.

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3rd HAS SOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 2 pm. Craft Club - Jewellery making. All welcome.

5th THE BEACON PARISH St Martins, Westmeston 6 pm. Holy Week - The Way of the Cross. All welcome.

4th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. 'An Architect's Collaboration with Three Ditchling Artists.' David Robson, Deman Ginnet - Knight & Cribb.

5th THE BEACON PARISH St Margaret's Church, Ditchling 6 pm. Holy Week - The Way of the Cross and Sing! All welcome.

5th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. 'A Stroll Along an English Country Lane' Ray Hale. All welcome.

5th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL CLUB Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. 'The Monday Group, their work on Footpaths & Rights of Way' Steven Brewis. Visitors welcome.

6th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - The Duke.

6th THE BEACON PARISH St George's Park, Ditchling, 11 am. Holy Week - Maudy Thursday Easter Service. All welcome.

6th THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6.30 pm. Holy Week - Passover Celebration. All welcome.

6th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

6th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, 7.30 pm. Film - Mustang.

6th POLICE BEAT SURGERY Parish Centre, Adastral Park, Hassocks, 11 am - 12 pm. Come along and chat to your local PCSO's about the issues that are important to you.

7th THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 11 am. Holy Week - Gathering at the Cross. All welcome.

8th 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.

8th HAS SOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. The Robins take on Crawley Down. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

9th THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Week - Easter Day Celebration with chicks, lambs & egg hunt. All welcome.

10th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Burgess Hill, 7.30 pm. www.thegroup.org.uk. A club for unattached men and women, aged 55+.

11th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 7.45 pm. An illustrated talk by Emma Martin.

12th WOODLAND, FLORA & FAUNA GROUP Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 7.30 pm. 'Making Nature Count' Clare Blencowe. Free entry.

12th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

12th ADASTRA JUNIOR STOOLBALL CLUB Adastra Park Sports Pavilion, Hassocks 6 pm. Training evening starts call 01444 236782.

14th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'Construction Contest'.

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15th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 10 am - 6 pm. The Hoffmann Workshop register jenny@heberopera.co.uk.

15th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast and some great chat. Book with Tamara info on Keymer Parish Church website.

16th DITCHLING SINGERS Keymer Church Hall, 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome!

16th THE BEACON PARISH St Martins, Westmeston 10 am. Morning worship with communion. All welcome.

17th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

17th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Invitation only event - Tea at the Palace.

18th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Turner Dumbrells. All welcome.

19th HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS, South Ave, Hurstpierpoint 6 pm. Free Taster Session - no need to bring anything just flat shoes/trainers required. Call 01273 842770.

19th HASSOCKS TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. '80th Anniversary Challenge - Small Acorns to Giant Oaks'. Visitors welcome.

20th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, 7 pm. NT Live performance of Good starring David Tennant.

20th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

21st HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, 7.30 pm. Film - The Worst Person in the World (15)

21st 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT Church of Good Shepherd, Kings Walk, Shoreham by Sea. 7.30 pm. Murder Mystery and Mayhem include fish & chip meal. Tickets 01243 828555.

21st STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7 pm. Film - Man called Otto. Tickets on the door.

22nd HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS, South Ave, Hurstpierpoint 11 am. Free Taster Session - no need to bring anything just flat shoes/trainers required. Call 01273 842770.

22nd HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. The Robins take on Eastbourne Town. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

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

22nd BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. Petite Messe Solennelle. Tickets 07522 493966

22nd MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Breakfast and great chat. Book with Fr Alex info on Keymer Parish Church website.

22nd HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

22nd REPAIR CAFE & SPIRE IT Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 10 am - 1 pm. Bring items for repair book your slot call 01273 040110 or www.hkd-transition.org.uk.

23rd GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. 'A Concert Version of the Pirates of Penzance' Godalming Operatic Society. Tickets gandstodaysussex@gmail.com

23rd HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, 2.30 pm. Film - The Courier (12) starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

26th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

27th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY Hassocks Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Sue Hatton MSDC Ward Member & Kirsty Lord WSCC Council Member. No appt necessary.

28th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks. 2 pm. 'I never knew Geography would be so relevant so why didn't I concentrate more at school?' William Avenell. All welcome.

28th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 8 pm 'Votes for women- The Suffragettes and Suffragists' Melanie Gibson-Barton. Visitors welcome.

28th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'Meet the Committee'.

29th 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.



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In Loving Memory

~~ Pat 1942 - 2023 ~~

This month, I'm going to go back 45 years. We'd been at the shop five years and were finding it hard to cope with just the two of us, so we put an advert on the window for a part time member of staff. A couple of days later a tall blonde lady came into the shop and announced, she had come about the job. Out of politeness I asked her name Patricia Delanougerede was her reply. Wow I thought a striking lady with a name to match, but most people call me Pat Dela, Pat eventually became my manageress and was amazing. The shop was her life, devotion and dedication are just two words I'd use to sum her up, but much more than that she was our friend, as were her lovely family, husband Mick and children Joanne, Christine and Richard.

Over the years we had some great times together but not once were we invited to her house for a meal. Pat was convinced she was an awful cook but that didn't matter they came to us instead. As a young girl Pat trained to be a seamstress at a large department store in Brighton, her skills at dress making were extraordinary. She could run up an amazing outfit in a couple of days, such a talented woman and then came the cat breeding. Pat decided with the help of Annabel her pedigree Chinchilla to breed the most beautiful kittens, many of which were sold in the shop in the days when we sold animals. Everything Pat put her hand to she did with perfection, we worked together in the shop for 42 years and nothing it seemed would stop her doing what she loved. Parkinson's came along, that wasn't going to stop her, those awful things called leg ulcers, painful as they were didn't stop her, but along came COVID and because she was vulnerable that was it. It was like someone had cut off my right arm, not having her there by my side helping me to run the shop was very difficult and now with a very heavy heart three years after she stopped working I have to inform you Pat passed away on the 8th March at 10 am peacefully at the Princess Royal surrounded by her family. I had seen her the day before, to say goodbye to the best colleague and friend a man could ever hope for - God bless you Pat and thank you. Pat was 80 years old and will be buried at the natural burial ground.

Out of respect for someone so special to Nola and I I'm going to leave it at that this month. I hope you understand and lets hope life will return to some kind of normality next month, see you then Steve.

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