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Your Editors: Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown & Natalie Dalley

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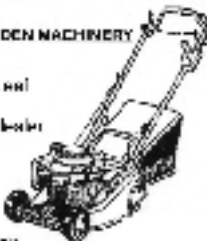
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*We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this picture taken in the New Inn.*

L-R Ted Tanswell, Mr Dennet, Mr Dennet Senior, Joe Hillier and Dennets Grandson.

Ted Tanswell was a carter and lived and worked on a farm in New Way Lane and was also in the Royal Sussex Regiment in the First World War. He retired in the 1950's.

Joe Hillier worked at the brickworks in Sayers Common and was in the First World War in the Royal Sussex Regiment.

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## GETTING READY FOR A GOLD SEPTEMBER!

Hassocks will be going Gold again for the whole month of September, to raise awareness of Childhood Cancer and to raise funds for vital research for better treatments.

This year's theme is Golden Teddy Bears and the month will be full of Gold themed fundraising events. Full details will be online on the **HassocksGoesGold facebook** page and in local press.

The Gold Poster Competition is open to all age groups, including adults! Just download a free entry form from the **Facebook/HassocksGoesGold** page or pick one up from QD Stationery. There are prizes for the best Golden Teddy Bear pictures and all entries will be displayed in the wonderful Parklands Road Street Exhibition. The deadline for entries is Friday **7th July** and the poster will be on sale and display from August. All proceeds from the poster this year will be going to help Teddy & the Big C.

Sponsoring a Giant Gold Bow can be done on our JustGiving page for a minimum £20 donation – please book yours before Saturday **12th August** – [www.just-giving.com/page/HGG2023](http://www.just-giving.com/page/HGG2023). The Bows can be dedi-



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cated to a friend, family, club or business and add a real sparkle to the village for the whole month. Last year we had 119 bows in our Gold Trail round the village, it would be terrific to match or even beat that number for 2023.

The ever-popular Gold Daily Auction will be back every day in September with prizes donated from local businesses and residents. We're also planning another Gold day of Stalls on Sunday **10th September**, a big Gold Extravaganza Evening on Friday **29th September** at the Hassocks Pub, a Gold Dodgeball Tournament, a Gold Tombola at the Hassocks Village Market, and there will be lots of other Gold events to fill the month too!

To book a Giant Bow, offer a prize for the Daily Auction, to hold a stall on the "Let's STALL Childhood Cancer" Trail or if you have a fundraising event that you'd like included please contact Rachel via [HassocksGoesGold@gmail.com](mailto:HassocksGoesGold@gmail.com)

*Rachel*

## EXHIBITION 'JOHN SKELTON AND HIS LEGACY'

will be held at Artelium. Wine Tasting Barn, Malthouse Farm, Streat Lane, BN6 8SA from **8th July - 5th August**, now the home of Skelton Workshops Open to the public Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 11 am to 5 pm.

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*Helen-Mary Skelton*

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** They say that every dog has his day, and today I find myself basking in self-satisfaction, having learnt from friends that weeds are 'in' this year at Chelsea! At last, we are in fashion!! To confirm the fact, I have just made a tour of our carefully neglected, 'designer' garden and counted over 80 species of weeds and wild flowers. These range from common dandelions and buttercups to the thugs of the garden, nettle, hogweed and bindweed, and from medicinal herbs such as woundwort, self-heal and solomon's seal to the scented delights of sweet rocket, honeysuckle, and woodruff. I even found a solitary twayblade, a green-flowered pygmy of the orchid family, which had sown itself in the sawdust of Michael's woodpile and was looking perfectly contented with its lot. Now, in case this looks like bragging, I have to say that I can take very little credit for such botanical profusion. There is a tale of a vicar who, enraptured by a beautiful garden, approached the aged gardener and exclaimed: "What a wonderful job you and God have made of this place!" To which the gardener drily replied: "Yes. You should have seen it when it was just God doing it!" Well, our little paradise has taken twenty years to develop, pretty much all by itself; the lack of human interference being due as much to practical as ideological reasons, i.e., lack of time and the fact that weeding brings me out in a rash! Sometimes things grow and flourish in the 'wrong' places and the garden adjusts itself accordingly. The paths wind round these adjustments and other plants migrate to avoid them. When the garden bullies become too dominant, I do try to take them in hand, but there is no way they can, or perhaps ever should be eliminated. They have their part to play, as do the bugs and slugs. The result is a space which feels somehow whole, in the old sense of the word: 'whole', 'hale', 'healthy'. Each year, new plants arrive and then as mysteriously depart or proliferate. Germander speedwell, cuckoo flower, wild rose, agrimony are newcomers. Gradually they intermingle to create the effect of jewelled carpets, which is how they seem to be happiest. Where balance is attained, even the thugs behave. Everything in this scheme of things is a gift. The blackcurrant bush, the bird cherry, a burnet rose, a viburnum of unknown variety, which is this year covered in flower buds - all are gifts from birds. Are they

planting their own garden to provide themselves with fruit and shade and safe places to nest? Two magpies claimed a birch with a prime view of the area for their nest-site this year. Their offspring are now clumsily flexing soft-feathered wings as they plunge from bough to bough, learning the skills of flight. I thought this would spell disaster for our songbirds. But we have had baby blackbirds, wrens, thrushes, nightingales even, and the continuous taunts of blackcap from patches of thicket. It seems that timing is all. Nature can do it, given the chance. And, though we think of this place as 'our' garden, it is not really necessary for us to know how or why it works. Indeed, there is magic attached to secrets which are left untold. Each year I collect a few handfuls of hawthorn blossom to make a tincture for angina. As with all 'wild-crafting', I browse, taking no more than a few flowers or leaves at a time. The scent of the may, the beauty of the flowers illumined against a blue sky, the sense of being embowered in song, make this one of the most pleasurable tasks of the year. This year I am struck by the uniqueness of the individual trees. They all grow in the same field and might be expected to be of the same genetic stock, yet not only do they bloom at different times, but their flowers are different sizes, are tightly or loosely packed, are creamy or white or tinged with pink. Each grows according to its own secret formula. The medicinal constituents in the flowers, no doubt vary, expressive of the same hidden intelligence. And it strikes me that this intelligence is the secret that lies at the collective heart of Nature and that respecting it, trusting it, is the real key to entering into communion with the wild. Mystery cannot be bought at a flower show, though it might sneak in the back way without a ticket! It is renegade. No respecter of rank. And no sentimentalist. Mankind is afflicted with longings for security, for permanence. But in Nature every moment is a surprise never to be recaptured - a birth and a death. When last I strolled through the Play Area, the mown grass there and the close-cropped adjoining meadow had become a nursery for young starlings. Dozens and dozens of new-fledged birds were waiting and calling as their parents darted about, collecting grubs to feed them. Each pair recognised without hesitation, the calls of their own young, crammed the food into their gaping mouths and took off again with dazzling

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efficiency and I stood, watching in wonder for some time. Instinctively, the regret bothered me that I had not got a camera to hand. It might have been possible to freeze this moment - the never-before-seen, touching intimacy, the sunlight on the grass, a grey heron winging overhead. It might have been possible to 'own' the moment and summon and use it in its photographic form at any time - a way of cheating time. But that would have been to violate in some way the gift which had been offered, for here was the chance to brush against something private and momentary and magical and let the moment go - passing on to the next experience as the heron had done. Being open, receptive, awake - relinquishing the need to appropriate everything for later - brings an attentiveness that is its own reward. We live in an age of illusion. The so-seductive advances of computer technology offer us the chance to assume lordship over life. We can save time, arrest time, re-play time. The present moment can be held on 'catch-up' for those too busy to be present. But doesn't this rob the present of its essence? Who is behind the camera? Where are they? What did they save? On a grander scale, people take the same approach towards the environment. The planet must be saved, preserved, conserved, encrypted, frozen in seedbanks for some impossible future when humans, it is imagined, will have finished pillaging their home. In Philip Brebner's fine novel about the history of Algeria, one of the characters talks of the colonists who have plundered his country. Even the kind ones, he says, are like the sparrow-catcher, who weeps as he wrings the sparrows' necks, but kills them all the same. Are we sentimental colonists? Loving the wildlife, we see on tv, but not wanting it to inconvenience us? The thing about a secret is that it is vouchsafed. Nature gives us the secrets we need to know, when we are ready to hear them. Those which are extracted on a pathologist's slab are already devitalised. Living secrets are vouchsafed - which means literally that we are 'summoned' or 'vouched' to receive them, *entrusted* with them. True secrets have

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no commercial value, confer no authority - they are a gift, an inspiration. The recognition that each breath is the cosmos breathing through us - that such breath is given and withdrawn and never returns as the same thing but opens the way for a new breath, should bring enough excitement to fire up an entire lifetime. What need for Artificial Intelligence, with all the environmental destruction and slavery it demands, when the Real Thing, our birthright, is available direct for free? Here is Kabir, dancing between being and non-being in 15th century India: *"Between the conscious and the unconscious, the mind has put up a swing:/all earth creatures, even the supernovas, sway between these two trees, and it never winds down./Angels, animals, humans, insects by the million, also the wheeling sun and moon;/ages go by, and it goes on./Everything is swinging: heaven, earth, water, fire,/and the secret one, slowly growing a body. Kabir saw that for fifteen seconds, and it made him a servant for life."*

So we hurtle on towards Mid-summer and Michael will say, as he does every year with a kind of perverse relish: "Well, it's downhill all the way, now!" Downhill? Uphill? Winter? Summer? All mere oscillations of the swing. But the important thing about sitting on a swing is the *exhilaration* and I wish you that, just that, every moment of these fleeting summer days. *Rosemary*

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## IN MEMORY OF MIKE & JUDY STOCK

Sadly, this year we have lost two very wonderful people from our World, our parents, Mike and Judy Stock, formerly of Bankside, Hassocks.

They were an immensely kind, open and generous couple who loved nothing more than a game of cards and a gin and tonic or three. Our childhood home was always full of people and laughter (and a lot of pets...)



Dad was from Temple Cloud in Somerset but soon spread his wings and studied Electrical Engineering in Manchester. Always a firm footie fan he loved going to matches up there and remained a supporter throughout his life. He worked on power stations up and down the country before heading overseas. He consulted on projects in Australia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Namibia to name a few - some amazing feats of engineering from hydroelectric dams to transmission grids. We were lucky enough to join him on some of his adventures and for those experiences we will be forever grateful. Dad passed in January, and we'd like to thank all those who joined us to remember him in April.

Mum was born up in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. She never stopped telling us about the loo at the end of the garden! She trained at Worcester to become a primary school teacher and worked all over the world from Hurstpierpoint to Hong Kong. She also loved community ventures and was an active member of the Preschool Playgroup Association, Mid Sussex Playschemes, the Mid Sussex Playbus Association, PHAB groups and of course the Hassocks Baby Sitting Circle. She made a huge number of friends along the way, and it would take an age to walk down the High Street as we always bumped into people she knew. In later life she continued to volunteer at Steyning Primary School and within months of moving to sunny Steyning it seemed like she knew everyone. She will be greatly missed.



**We are holding a  
celebration of her life  
on Sunday 2nd July.**

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*Abi and James and families.*

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Ayurvedic Facelift Massage works on the Marma points of the face, head and neck. It stimulates lymphatic drainage, improves skin tone, it boosts the immune system due to releasing stress, it promotes rejuvenating and restorative rest, pacifying the mind and body.

The Eastern concept Tsuboki Face Massage, is that beauty is more than skin deep. It works on the surface, the deep musculature and the skin. Japanese facial massage involves the practice of Anma,

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*Dawn Pumfrey*

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### DITCHLING PÉTANQUE CLUB EARLY SUMMER TOURNAMENT

A great day was had by all competitors on a beautiful sunny afternoon at our home venue at the St James Montefiore Cricket Club. After four games of boules had been played by each pair a Barbecue was enjoyed followed by a semi-final match and then the final. The Chairman of the club John Bannister ably supported by his wife Gunn-Eva secured a victory in the final against Helen McCarthy and her wife Sally Wentworth-James, two other founding members of the club. Great cheers and applause were raised in thanks to all those who participated and helped to organise this happy and enjoyable event.

*Michael Coward*

**TREFOIL GUILD** On the **8th May** we visited the Butterfly Gardens. We all enjoyed seeing the beautiful butterflys and the meal at the pub afterwards!

Our June meeting was a "Pot Luck Supper", held at our chairman's house. Lots of lovely food made by our members.

On 23rd June we visited Shoreham Lifeboat Station. A very interesting time was enjoyed by all. Beacon District Fair is being held on **8th July** at the Guide Hall. Trefoil are having a 'Jar of Sweets' stall.

A trip to Switzerland with a visit to 'Our Chalet' is being organised for next year.

We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road at 7.45 pm for 8pm on the 3rd Wednesday in the month. For more information call **07546 495433**. Visitors welcome.

*Pam*

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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** This month's film is *Hit the Road* by Panah Panahi on **6th July**.

As the title suggests, this is a road movie: a family trip by Mom, Dad with his leg in a cast, an eerily taciturn young adult son who drives their packed SUV, his hyperactive little brother and an ailing dog in the back. We're never explicitly told any of the family's names, where they're going or even why, though the older brother's marriage arrangements are vaguely mentioned.

At first, when his parents realise their youngest has smuggled a cell phone along to play music, it seems like a mere cheeky prank – until the mother cuts up the SIM card and promptly hides the handset off-road.

*Hit the Road* is a tale of family flight and survival, sudden loss and stoic perseverance. In it Panahi Jr weaves together slice-of-life realism with fantasy sequences inspired by Stanley Kubric's 2001: A Space Odyssey. In this culturally eclectic film Panahi Jr is aided by superb performances from his central cast: stage actors Hassan Madjooni and Pantea Panahiha as the parents and long-lashed Rayan Sarlak as the firecracker kid.

This is not only a fantastic film but being set in stunning scenery makes it a must to see on the big screen.



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Certificate 12. Running time 93 minutes. Persian with English subtitles.

We'll be having a summer break but back in the Village Hall on **7th September** showing *Aftersun*. A film which won Charlotte Wells many awards, including a BAFTA for an Outstanding Debut for a British Director.

DFS has an annual membership which runs from the time of joining and gives you free entry to 11 films and you can join at anytime. Members receive a 20% discount for a film night meal at The Bull pub in Ditchling! (pre booked and showing annual membership cards). Guest entry is also available on the door

The film society holds screenings 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.

There is comfortable seating and there's plenty of parking next to the hall. Go to our website **[ditchlingfilm.org.uk](http://ditchlingfilm.org.uk)** for membership news and join our mailing list to keep up to date with our films each month. Follow them on Instagram

**@ditchlingfilmsoc** and Tweet **@Ditchlingfilm**.

Hope to see you at the next film.

Kate

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**SUMMER FETE- HASSOCKS GUIDE HUT** are excited to welcome you all to our summer fete on Saturday **8th July** 12 to 2 pm. Free entry! Stalls include face-painting, books, toys, sausage sizzle, cakes, games and more! We also have several exciting volunteer opportunities available, please email [beaconguidingdc@gmail.com](mailto:beaconguidingdc@gmail.com) or register your interest at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/getinvolved/become-a-volunteer/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/getinvolved/become-a-volunteer/).

*Kathleen*

**THE DITCHLING BEACON AND COMMONS CHARITY** are holding walks this summer led by Dr. Phillip Cribb, plant and Orchid specialist at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Oliver Whaley, a naturalist and environmental scientist, specialising in plant conservation to explain what's special about the rich biodiversity on the common land.

Ditchling Beacon walk – Sunday **16th July** - walk led by Phillip Cribb. Meet at 11 am at the Underhill Lane car park at the bottom of the Beacon ie at the junction of Beacon Road and Underhill Lane. The car park is in a poor state and we would advise that you consider car sharing where possible and if parking in the car park to take great care not to damage your car. There is little or no parking places on Underhill Lane (east or west) so wherever you park do so consider-



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*Hugh Felton*

**WELL DONE TO ALL THE BEAVERS, CUBS & SCOUTS** who took part in the The Big Help Out on Monday the 8th May!

Litter picking, weeding, clearing pathways, helping the elderly, fundraising and collecting for the food bank were just a few of the volunteering tasks undertaken. Whilst more are planned throughout the month of May.

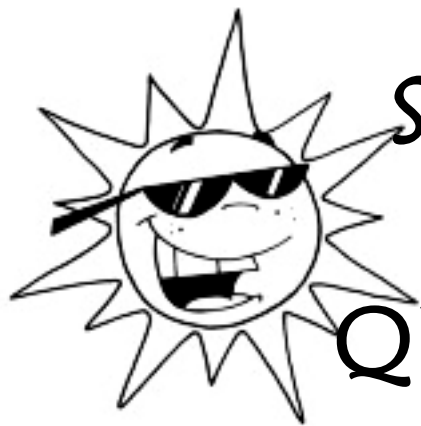
Thank you to everyone who got involved and earned their special Kings Coronation badge.

*Fiz Louden*

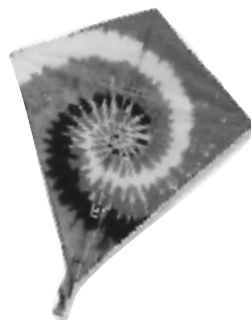
**ST LAWRENCE FAIR** will be celebrating its 710th anniversary this year. Fair day is **1st July** on South Avenue rec. 12 pm sees the Harris Fun Fair, stalls and Street Food Market open. 1 pm procession starts from Marchants Road and arrives at the rec at 2 pm. 2.30 pm the fair officially is opened and comes to a close at 5.30 pm.



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**HURST PLAYERS** One of the very best British comedies - "Table Manners" - will be the summer production for Hurst Players – with five performances from **4th to 8th July** inclusive, starting at 7.30 pm.

It is the first of Sir Alan Ayckbourn's trilogy of three overlapping plays under the banner "The Norman Conquests" featuring the same six characters. Of all three plays "Table Manners" is the one to establish the characters as they spend time attempting to arrange romantic trysts whilst consuming several meals, from breakfast to dinner. The seventh character is the unseen elderly owner of the house, but it is her influence which derails all the carefully planned assignations with spectacularly funny results.

Like most of Ayckbourn's writings the play takes a gentle dig at ostentation – and while most of any audience will be able to identify certain characteristics in those they know – and love – the fun is in watching carefully made plans uproariously disintegrate! Will Annie and Norman manage to escape to their love-nest – or will Sarah manage to outwit their plans? Who manages to snare Tom, the local vet and is he the intended catch in the first place?

Director Vicki Wood, working with the Players for the first time, invites you to come along and spend a couple of hours away from the cares of the world as the Players approach the end of their rehearsal period and get set to entertain you.

Tickets are available online from our website – **www.hurstplayers.org.uk** and on Saturday mornings up to **1st July** you can book in person at the Players Theatre Box Office between 10 am and 1 pm.

*Anne Hopper*

**VILLA ADASTRA GARDEN FETE** After several years of absence due to COVID, we are delighted to tell you we are planning to hold a Garden Fete at Villa Adastra on Saturday **22nd July**, 2pm - 5pm.

This fundraising event has proved very popular and well supported in the village in the past and helps us provide some added benefits and treats for the elderly residents at this wonderful Salvation Army Care Home.

A really important part of our fundraising effort on the day will be the silent auction which has raised many hundreds of pounds in previous years. We are seeking further items to add to our silent auction and hope that businesses in Hassocks will again support us.

The Chaplain - Major Ali Stone - and other members of staff from Villa Adastra will be collecting items, if you have an article, a voucher or an experience that you could donate we would be grateful.

E-mail **allison.stone@salvationarmy.org.uk** if you can donate.

*The Committee*

*Friends of Villa Adastra*

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Enjoy the view as the camera flash dashes  
And jeers as it steers all the careers, that career out of view.

The fulcrum, the sum  
of all our fears as we try to sleep  
A hundred ovine though far from divine  
Spill their myoglobin in the reporters gully  
And from the photo worthy counted sheep, mutton becomes.

You tear at the seams, spilling the beans  
Wielding the cleaver of civil unrest  
Talk up the down side and fan the flames  
of multi-storey culture  
Feed the mulcher  
Rip at the flesh, lest we digress  
You are everything that is wrong with the world  
Your sense of order knows no border  
Unless you are incumbent power  
But support the opposition.  
God please save The King, for God's sake?

You're inhumane punctuation  
You set the scene of no serene  
Life after life, what's the point in acts that vicariously fail to anoint  
You boil the sinew, reduce collagen to gelatine;  
You are loathed to report any positive spin.  
No Covid '23 death tally to add to the hospital waiting time clamour  
Where would we be now without you to report?  
You are loathed to tell of good news

Other than sport or weather  
The storm or calm before  
Who is the native, that has returned?  
Demand an apology from the old Empire that doesn't more dare  
To comment for fear you will topple with a back handed Strike.  
Back to the wall, fans, the flames of tyrannical struggle  
Televised debate, drone view drama of new Citadel option  
Not far from the gothic Hell of a Parliament left to lament  
The Sky News guillotine to prevent any ferment  
A passion for life, it's all just strife  
But every twenty four hours as a murderer cowers  
and the super rich admire their ivory that towers  
Above the din and the overflowing bin that can't be cleared  
For the strike that appeared to appeal to the masses  
While inflation tide rises aside the negative strain of a stationary underground train  
To be the best, cardiac arrest  
That appeal for witnesses to civil unrest  
Fill the long empty pews with up to the minute news  
But guard the truth from the sensitive youth of our multi-cultural society, that dismissed piety and abandoned their party  
Some time ago for a better story  
That will stab like a blade caught on CCTV camera  
The minimum wage, in a living cage  
That serves to report that the prisons are full  
We have no where to run, it's a hopeless task  
To bail the water that drowns out  
The slaughter of another Liverpool daughter  
Or of good news ask to at least fill the flask  
And barely warm our stone cold ironic submission  
To this constant transmission  
In the new order of trans right fight that serves to usurp,  
Just tramples over, jumps the queue  
Putting the concrete crush hell, death and earthquake plight  
out of our sight.

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**THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL** The children excelled themselves with the FOWs bake off challenge as part of our celebrations for the King's coronation. 6 children were selected to judge each year group and they were impressed with the quality of the cakes – both tasting and looking good! The children absolutely loved dressing up for the day and taking part in a year group playground party—we were blessed with the weather.

Year 4 visited Butser Ancient farm in Hampshire to see the replica Celtic roundhouses from the Iron age and the Roman villa to complement the learning they have been doing in school. They examined how these houses were built and tried their hand at the ancient craft of cordage (used for binding thatched roofs). They constructed walls of wattle and clunch and even practised their archaeology skills.

Year 3 have been enjoying some great PE this term. They have been really working hard on improving their athletic skills including throwing, jumping, running and skipping. In addition, they have had some super coaching from University of Brighton PE students which has helped them to improve their skills for fielding games.

Our all-conquering girls football team travelled to Ardingly College on 17th May in a bid to defend their title from the previous year. The final started off rea-

sonably tight but after finding a breakthrough, the girls went from strength to strength and comfortably ran out winners. They were therefore crowned as Champions (again!!). We are all so proud of this team and they were recently all awarded an Outstanding Contribution to Sport award, being the most successful sports team in the school's history (as far back as anyone can remember anyway!)

On 18th May, our cricketers travelled to St John's Park in Burgess Hill to take part in the Burgess Hill and District year 5/6 cricket tournament. A fantastic afternoon of very competitive cricket was had by all and, as always, our children represented our school superbly.

Year 6 took part in a science workshop amazing science workshop about renewable energy which is key learning within our environmental project. They used solar panels, wind turbines and even lemons, oranges and potatoes to create circuits to power lights, radios and giant calculators.

*'on behalf of The Windmills'*



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**Breaded Scampi**

**Southern Fried Chicken Fillets**

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**Chicken Burger & Mature Cheddar**

**Vegan Burger (v)**

**Large Battered Cod**

**Breaded Mozzarella Sticks (v)**

**Breaded Garlic Mushrooms (v)**

**Breaded Scampi**

**Steak Pie**

**Chicken, Ham & Leek Pie**

### ***Childrens Basket meals £5.25***

*all served with French Fries*

*upgrade to curly fries or sweet potato fries for 50p*

**1/4 Pounder Beef Burger, Battered Chicken Nuggets  
Mini Sausages, Fish Fingers or Mac 'n' Cheese Bites (v)**

### ***Jacket Potatoes***

*All served with a choice of salad*

**Cheddar £7.95, Beans £7.95**

**Prawns with marinara sauce £8.95, Tuna Mayonnaise £8.50**

**Cheese & Beans £7.95**

### ***Ploughmans***

*All served with a choice of salad, pickled onions & Marmite*

**Cheddar £7.95, Prawns with marinara sauce £8.75**

**Tuna Mayonnaise £8.50, Sausage £7.95**

### ***Side Orders***

**French Fries £4.50**

**French Fries & Cheese £5.25**

**Southern Fried Curly Fries £4.70**

**Southern Fried Curly Fries & Cheese £5.25**

**Sweet Potato Fries £4.70**

**Beer Battered Onion Rings £4.70**

**Garlic Bread Slices (4) £4.70**

**Salad Bowl £4.70**

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**DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING?** is the theme of the forthcoming concert to be given by the u3a Singers at St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer on Friday **7th July**.

This Singers' group was formed in 2016 and is one in almost 50 interest groups within the Hurst Hassocks and Ditchling u3a. Currently a mixed choir of about 35 in number, it continues to attract new members. The initial idea was to help promote the healthy benefits of singing together, particularly the mental awareness aspect. Enjoyment in singing is an important part of the mix and we have also managed to raise useful sums of money for charities through our annual concert.

Over the years we have sung items from most musical genres, for example - folk songs, operatic items, church music, selections from musicals and 'pop' standards - so our repertoire ranges from Bach to Bacharach! We'll be including a wide variety of items in our concert which will also feature some piano and organ solos during the evening. The concert begins at 7.30 pm and admission is free with a retiring collection divided between Church funds and Sussex Vale Rotary local charities.

*Marcus Martin*

**THE GROWING NETWORK** is a community network that supports all local people to grow and share food, with no one left out.

We meet each month over a cup of tea to share seeds, seedlings and extra produce along with gardening tips and friendship. We'd love to meet you whether you're a veteran gardener or would-be grower of vegetables and if you'd like to find others to help you get started. You don't even need to have a garden!

This month we are meeting on Saturday **8th July** 10.30 am to 12 pm at the Friends Meeting House in East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST.

Feel free to bring any seeds, seedlings or produce to share. Or just bring yourself!

For further information please contact

**julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk.**

*Julie Ulbricht & Kate Sherman*

**BEE SWARMS** During these next few weeks, some honeybee colonies will grow too big, and split, with half leaving the hive to find a new home. They are usually at their most gentle but can look alarming to onlookers.

These bees are precious, they will gather in a large 'ball like mass', whilst they consider their next move! When they have gathered is the time to phone for us. Please can you ring Heather **07792 551413** or Ken **07970 635034** and we will come and take them safely away. We do not charge for this service.

*Heather McNiven*

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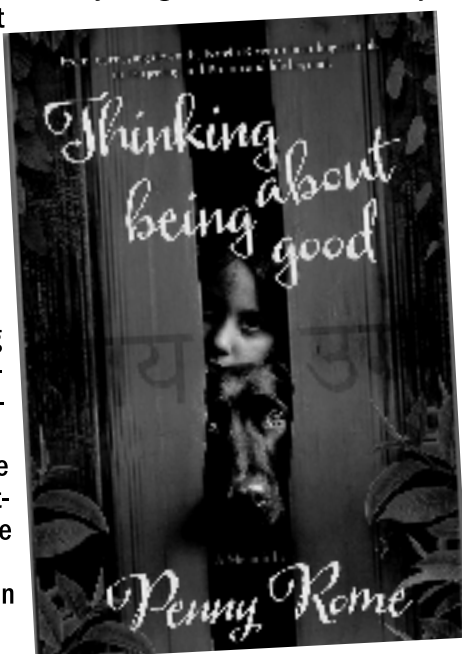
## THINKING ABOUT BEING GOOD - a memoir by Penny Rome

From journeying down the Borelli River to boarding schools in Darjeeling and Britain and life beyond. Penny's light-hearted and humorous memoir reconstruct a child's perspective as she grows up on a tea plantation in India's plains of Assam, bringing in an abundance of tales of adventure and, later, life in London. Born in India in the 1950s after Independence, the days of the Raj remain evident as the white man is still very much in charge. The author reflects on life within patriarchal society without the guidance of parents physically and emotionally close, and the impact on forming relationships.

Penny guides us through family generations conveying honest and unique accounts of others' misgivings, misfortunes, love, motherhood, repression and, finally, fulfilment with life in present day Sussex.

This charming memoir is sure to remain in mind for a while to come; She pulls us along in a satisfying motion, chatting throughout as a friend would. She will firmly make friends with you, the reader, too....

Copies of this book are available from QD Stationery in Hassocks at £10 or from Amazon.



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*We thank Lynn of Hassocks for the following email:-* I wanted to alert the many dog walkers I know are around Hassocks to the dangers of drugs to dogs. My dog collapsed last Saturday evening in the garden. He had just come in from his walk and was running around the garden. The next time I looked he was lying down on the grass unconscious.

My husband carried him into the house and we realised he was breathing evenly but completely unaware of anything. We rushed him to the emergency vets in Brighton who were amazing. They diagnosed that my dog had eaten something, possibly the stub of a marijuana smoke, and he was suffering from the effects of the drug. My dog stayed in overnight and we picked him up at lunchtime the next day. He was almost back to normal but took 2 to 3 days to fully recover.

My point is that if people want to smoke even just ordinary tobacco. Please do not leave the stub on the ground. It isn't just dogs but wildlife generally who may suffer. There are plenty of bins around the park to use. Thank you.

**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON** On Sunday **2nd July** at 10 am at St. Margaret's Ditchling we're going to start the month with one of our lively and popular family services. A great welcome is available to all for this time of joyful worship together with Holy Communion. We'd love to see you!

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Do join us for SING! on Wednesday **5th July** at 6 pm at St. Margaret's: a lovely time of fellowship. Come to sing your heart out or, maybe, just to listen.

A Sunday service of Morning Worship with Communion will be held at 10 am on Sunday **9th July** at St. Margaret's.

Also, on the **9th July**, come and celebrate what we pray will be a warm, sunny afternoon and enjoy tea, delicious cakes and some great hymn singing at St. Martins Church, Westmeston at 3.30 pm.

Sunday services of Morning Worship with Communion will be held at 10 am on Sunday **16th July** at Streat Church, Sunday **23rd July** at St. Margaret's and Sunday **30th July** at St. Margaret's.

We look forward to seeing you and any visitors you may have with you during July. All are very welcome.

Do check our website for any alterations to the above. **www.beaconparish.co.uk.**

*Sherrian Guest*

**TWINEHAM SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR** Sunday **2nd July** 12.30 to 3.30 pm, Church Road, Twineham, RH17 5NR.

Dog show, traditional games, tug of war, hot food, bar, candy floss, sweets, ice cream, auction, raffle, and much more, free parking.

*Nicola*

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**DITCHLING PLAYERS - NOVEMBER 2023 PRODUCTION** Following the success of 'Gaslight' in May the Ditchling Players are now looking forward to November and their production of "If I Were You" between **22nd and 25th November** with a 2.30 pm matinée on the Saturday.

This play by Alan Ayckbourn is an interesting study on family interactions and perceptions. On the surface Jill and Mal Rodale seem like an ordinary couple but the spark has gone out of their marriage, their teenage son resents his father, and their married daughter has recently become a mother and is facing problems of her own. Although they all give and receive advice on how to cope, no one is really listening – until one day – when Jill and Mal have different views of their behaviour, which gives rise to many hilarious situations.

Obviously, we're looking to cast the play and 5 actors are needed. Jill and Mal (40s), their daughter, (mid 20's), their son (15 – but must be 16 or over in "real life"! ) and their son-in-law (late 20s). We are also interested in hearing from you if you'd like to get involved as there is more to putting on a play than "treading the boards". Sound, lighting, wardrobe, make-up, props, front of house set paint-

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ing and building to mention just a few.

The Auditions on Monday **3rd July** from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, Ditchling Village Hall, Upper Hall. If you're unable to make these dates, but are still interested, please contact the director, Penelope Bennett, by email [director@ditchlingplayers.org.uk](mailto:director@ditchlingplayers.org.uk).

*David Tetterzell*

**HASSOCKS CROQUET CLUB** Croquet is a sport for everyone. New members are welcome to join us. If you live locally and would like to learn how to play Croquet or are already an experienced player, why not consider joining The Hassocks Croquet Club. We are a friendly local club who play Croquet most weekdays in the daytime during the season (from April to October) at The St. James's Montefiore Cricket Club, Keymer Road, Hassocks (On the right-hand side of the Road from Hassocks to Ditchling - Look out for our Green Sign) Basic training will be provided. New players are able to borrow the Club's mallets.

For further details please send an e mail to [tony.m.bright@gmail.com](mailto:tony.m.bright@gmail.com) or visit our Website [www.hassockscroquetclub.net](http://www.hassockscroquetclub.net) for more information.

*Tony Bright*

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**HASSOCKS WI** - meet 3rd Monday in the month at Adastra Hall Doors Open 7.30 pm Start 7.45pm. Firstly, we were sorry to hear the long-established Townswomen's Guild has closed. Thank you for the generous donation you have made to Hassocks WI. Of course, we welcome any former members to our meetings, come and join us.

In May we listened intently to the interesting talk on the vital work of The Air Ambulance, given by speaker Terry Flynn. Some members shared they had been cared for by this very necessary charity in getting speedy health assistance. Some of us ventured out of our comfort zones playing New Age Kurling organised by WS Federation. A happy evening meeting other WI members and discovering new talents. All Federation events are open to all members. Details are in WS news and on the website.

June meeting was a light hearted cheese and wine tasting event with other surprise tastings. We also welcomed Burgess Hill Musical Theatre Society showcasing 'The Wedding Singer', which they are staging in July. Tickets were purchased. Keeping to the musical theme we enjoyed a theatre trip to London too. Thank you, member, for organising the tickets. The Craft Club held a knitting and crochet help session.

Our July meeting will be on herbalism and natural beauty. Come and listen about the power of centuries old flowers and herbs in helping us today with our busy lives to find balance and calm.

There may be the opportunity to buy products. At our Craft Club 3rd July 2pm Committee Room we will be making Summer lanterns (no, not the sort that frightens animals). July 17th is International Justice Day and the WS Federation is holding an event in Arundel. Again, all details are in WS news and on the website. As I hope to attend this during the day and our meeting is in the evening, I may need chamomile tea.

As usual there is no formal meeting in August but we will organise a picnic in the park, date tba, weather dependent look out for the email. As our Craft Club is so popular, we will be continuing on Monday **7th August**.

We welcome everyone to our meetings, come as a visitor (donation) stay as a friend.

*Gerry*

**DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT** has been judged one of three runners-up in a nationwide competition run by the National Archives with the British Association for Local History. The '20sStreets Local

History Competition' asked for a story with a link to the 1920's and relating to the 1921 census. The story told by DHP is about the Ditchling stone-carver Joseph Cribb. We knew from Joseph's war time diaries that he had fought with the Royal Sussex regiment, was wounded in 1916 and later returned to the Somme area with



the Royal Engineers where he was engaged in marking out the war cemeteries. After the war, until his death in 1967, he worked as a stone carver at the Guild of St Joseph on Ditchling Common. Returning from France, Joseph was busy carving names on war memorials, including the 20 names on Ditchling's memorial, a job completed by August 1920 when the memorial was unveiled. We were then able to trace him, through the 1921 census, to Great Dunmow in Essex where he was in lodgings with his wife Agnes and young son Peter and employed carving 85 names on the town war memorial.

During the Second World War Joseph served in the Home Guard and, when the war was over, he was once again employed both in Ditchling and in Great Dunmow adding the names of the fallen in that conflict. The story was read by a panel of experts from The National Archives, the British Association for Local History and external historians who scored the entries based on agreed criteria. The full story has been published on the National Archives website and you can also read it on the Ditchling History Project website at

**[www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org](http://www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org)**. Janet Cragg

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

Date for your Diary- We will be holding a Summer Fair here on Saturday **2nd September** 10 am to 2 pm with a ploughmans lunch, cake stall, tombola, raffle, plant stall, face painting, ice creams, childrens toys and books for all ages.

Come along and have a coffee or lunch at our Centre, we serve lunches Monday to Friday, with our bus running currently on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you or anyone you know would benefit from some company, then do come along and meet us. Please call us 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, 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

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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:

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- 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 – May 2023

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*All at Age Concern*

**COME TO MID SUSSEX MUSIC AND ALE FESTIVAL** for a couple days **26th and 27th August** at The Mid Sussex Music Hall, The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East, Hassocks to discover and fall in love with a variety of family run ale companies.

Come see wonderful acts like Danny and the Champions of the world who are one of the best live acts around, Michele Stodart from 'Magic Numbers' who won an AMA UK award this January, Hannah Rose Platt, Blair Dunlop the BBC Radio 2 Horizon Award winner and many more.

We are hosting an amazing line-up of artists this year and Brighthelmstone are proud to bring music into Hassocks once again. After many shows played at Mid Sussex Music Hall and more to come like Laura Cantrell (sold out show), we are excited to announce the early bird tickets are available for the festival at QD Stationery or on the Brighthelmstone Promotions website.

Record of the month: Dixie Darling - Change Me'. Hope you like it.

*Jessica Dralet*

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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

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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).

*Hurst Festival Team*

**SUSSEX SEWING CLUB** Come join us on Saturday **8th July**, 10 am to 4 pm, at Westmeston Parish Hall. Sussex Sewing Club is a monthly get-together for people who love sewing. Bring your own project, your sewing machine, and spend the day working on your project in a relaxed environment, chatting all things sewing! Small yearly membership fee, and each monthly session attended there is a small fee too. Please email

[sussexsewingclub@gmail.com](mailto:sussexsewingclub@gmail.com) for more information and the booking link.

*Dianne*

**THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX** presents "List and Learn." An illustrated talk featuring photographs to include early G&S recordings and Melvyn Tarran's museum on Sunday **23rd July**, 2.45 pm at Adastra Hall, Hassocks.

For Tickets which include refreshments email [gandstodaysussex@gmail.com](mailto:gandstodaysussex@gmail.com).

*Pennie Ingram*

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**HEBER OPERA** is currently in rehearsal for its autumn production, The Tales of Hoffmann, which will be performed in Lindfield (**23rd September**), Steyning (**24th September**), Uckfield (**30th September**) and finally in Hurstpierpoint on **1st October**. The box office opens on 1 July at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera).

Heber Opera's next Craft Fair is on **18th November** and there are still stalls available, so please get in touch to book one. [Jenny@heberopera.co.uk](mailto:Jenny@heberopera.co.uk) or **07770 962811**.  
*Jenny Hawkes*



**CORRECTION** Last month the photo I sent was not members of U3A Gardening Group 1 but infact was a photo of U3A Natural History Group 1.

*Marie Fraser*

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## DID YOU KNOW ??

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**STINGING NETTLE** In the shadows under the Oak trees my enemy awaits. There are hundreds of them, huddled together in a silent, ferocious mob. With their drab green leaves and insignificant flowers, the Stinging Nettle is a joyless plant infamous only for its ability to inflict pain. I can almost hear these nettles straining at their roots, desperately trying to reach me because I am in possession of something they crave: a pair of bare legs. When I started writing this article, I realised that I hadn't been stung by a Stinging Nettle for so long that I had forgotten what it felt like. So, dear reader, just for you I am wading into a nettle patch in a pair of shorts.

As my legs brush the underside of the nettles' leaves, I break the fragile tips off hundreds of hollow hairs, and I'm injected with histamine, serotonin and acetylcholine, with a splash of formic acid. This volatile cocktail acts like napalm on my knees – my skin itches and blisters and that familiar fiery, tingling, pulsing pain sears up my spinal cord. The plant does not inflict this agony as some sadistic vendetta against schoolchildren and writers. The nettle's hairy, hurtful suit of armour is a defence mechanism against hungry herbivores. Despite our hatred for the Stinging Nettle, we have found many uses for it over the centuries as cloth, medicine, and food. Seventeenth century Sussex herbalist Nicholas Culpeper claimed nettles – which “can be found by feeling in the darkest night” – cured everything from nosebleeds to leprosy. Celebrity chefs extol the virtues of vitamin-packed nettle soups, risottos and spanakopita. And the caterpillars of our most impressive butterflies

enjoy munching on nettles too. Red Admirals, Peacocks, Commas and Small Tortoiseshells all depend on them.

Halfway through the nettle patch all this is offering me little comfort. If I focus my mind, I can rise above it and the waves of pain can start to feel strangely invigorating. But not for long and I soon start frantically searching for a cure. Rubbing mashed dock leaves on my legs has soothed my stings since I was a schoolboy, so I was surprised to read that it's all a ruse. Scientists claim dock leaves are simply a placebo – and the searching and rubbing is just a distraction that numbs the pain.

Beyond the nettle patch I stumbled across an amazing glade of orchids, vibrant and stunning in the sunshine. In an instant the stinging stopped. Maybe it was all in my mind after all. Even when we are in our darkest night we need to keep pushing through the painful patches. There's something surprising and soothing awaiting us on the other side.

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

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

*Michael Blencowe*



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## HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLING CLUB CENTENARY GATE

Hurstpierpoint Bowling Club are celebrating their centenary this year and as part of those celebrations commissioned a new gate. The gate is a hand-crafted, art deco sunburst design reminiscent of the 1920's when the club was formed and made by local blacksmith Malcolm Johnson of Newtimber Forge.

Alex Mackay of Mishon Mackay the clubs sponsor cut the ribbon to formally open the gate assisted by Barbara Awcock the Bowling Club's Chairman. Alex then bowled the first wood of the day to formally open proceedings. To celebrate the Centenary on **29th July** a Centennial Tournament will take place for all clubs from the south east counties who are also celebrating their centenaries this year.

*Stewart Hall*



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## **2024 DIARIES & CALENDARS**

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## ~~~ WHAT'S ON IN JULY ~~~

**Clubs, Societies & Groups** please let us have your programmes and/or events to

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or send to **QD Stationery 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR.**

For more information call **01273 846978.**

### ~~~WEEKLY MEETINGS~~~

**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 th) and at St Johns Church, Clayton. Tuesdays 10.30 am.

**SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD** Clayton Village Hall, Thursdays 7 - 9 pm. Beginners to Advanced [sussexflydressersguild.org.uk](http://sussexflydressersguild.org.uk).

**MORNING PRAISE & HOLY COMMUNION -** The Beacon Parish 10 am **9th, 23rd & 30th** at St Margarets Church, Ditchling & **16th** Streat Church. Always check [www.beaconparish.co.uk](http://www.beaconparish.co.uk).

**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.

**WEDNESDAYS@10 -** The Beacon Parish, St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 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 10 am to 11.30 am term time.

**COFFEE & CHAT -** Emmanuel Centre, South Street, Ditchling. Thursday mornings from 10 am - 11.30 am.

**IRISH SET DANCING (Not River Dance!)** The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East, Hassocks. Most Mondays 7-10 pm. Phone 07802 847234 for more info. First session free.

### ~~~EVENTS~~~

**1st ST LAWRENCE FAIR** South Avenue Rec. Stalls & rides from 12 pm procession leaves Marchants Road at 1 pm arrives at 2 pm.

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

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

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

**2nd TWINEHAM SCHOOL** Church Road, Twineham 12.30 - 3.30 pm. Summer Fair - Dog show, games, tug of war, food, bar, auction & raffle

**2nd THE BEACON PARISH** St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 10 am. Childrens and Family Service.

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**3rd** HAS SOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

**4th** DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. 'Summer Party'.

**4th** POLICE BEAT SURGERY Parish Centre, Adas- tra Park, Hassocks 11 am - 12 noon Drop in surgery to chat to local PSCO's.

**4th - 8th** HURST PLAYERS Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint. 'Table Manners' Alan Ayckbourn's award winning play. Tickets [www.hurstplayers.org.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.org.uk).

**5th** THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

**5th** HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL CLUB Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2-4 pm. 'Age Concern, Hassocks' John Rose. Visitors welcome. More info 01273 640023.

**6th** DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Hit The Road.

**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.

**7th** HURST, HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING U3A St Cosmas & St Damian Church, Keymer. Do you hear the people sing? Free (retiring collection).

**8th** HAS SOCKS GUIDES Guide Hall, Semley Road Hassocks, 12 - 2 pm. Summer Fete. Free entry, stalls, food & games.

**8th** HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEO- GRAPHICAL SOCIETY 'Outing to St Mary's House & Garden in Bramber'.

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

**8th** THE GROWING NETWORK Friends Meeting House, Ditchling. 10.30 am - 12 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books/tools you don't need. Children welcome too.

**8th July - 5th August** SKELTON WORKSHOPS EXHIBITION Artelium Wine Tasting Barn, Malt- house Farm, Streat Lane. Thurs, Fri & Saturdays 11 am to 5 pm. 'John Skelton & His Legacy'. More info call 07542 060037.

**9th** THE BEACON PARISH St. Martins Church Westmeston 3.30 pm. All Ages Service - teas, cakes and hymns.

**10th** THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. For the 55+ unattached. [www.thegroup.org.uk](http://www.thegroup.org.uk).

**11th** LUNCHTIME JAZZ AT THE HAS SOCKS Has- socks Hotel, doors open 11.45 am for 12 pm. A set Lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01444 235986 to book.

**12th** BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Has- socks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neu- rological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**13th** WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast and some great chat. Book with Tamara info on Keymer Parish Church website.

**14th** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). 'Radio Discussion Evening'

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**16th** DITCHLING BEACON & COMMONS CHARITY meet carpark at the bottom of the beacon Underhill lane junction 11 am. Ditchling Beacon walk led by Phillip Cribb. See article for more info.

**17th** HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Herbs for Health Natural Beauty Products. Visitors welcome.

**18th** DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Attic Club. All welcome.

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

**21st** 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.

**21st** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY The Bull Pub, Henfield. 7 pm. [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). 'Skittles Evening' Pizza can be ordered. contact Stella m6zrj@damianway.plusnet.com.

**22nd** VILLA ADASTRA Keymer Road, Hassocks 2 - 5 pm. Garden Fete all welcome.

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

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

**22nd** REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 - 11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info 01273 040110 or [www.hkdtransition.org.uk](http://www.hkdtransition.org.uk).

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**23rd** THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. Illustrated talk featuring photos to include early G&S recordings and Melvyn Tarran's Museum. Tickets [gandstodaysussex@gmail.com](mailto:gandstodaysussex@gmail.com).

**24th** CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

**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. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

**28th** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). Talk 'An Autistic Life' Ray Young M7AOE

**28th** HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

**29th** HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLING CLUB South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint. Centennial Tournament for all clubs from the South East Counties.

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# John Skelton & His Legacy

An exhibition of a few examples of John Skelton's smaller sculptures and drawings will be held at Artelium Vineyard, Malthouse Farm, Streat lane, BN6 8SA

There will also be contributions from others influenced by him and by students of Skelton Workshops who now have their teaching sessions at Artelium.

The exhibition opens on Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup> and runs till Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only 11.00–5.00  
Other days by prior arrangement are possible by contacting  
Helen Mary Skelton on 07343 060037 or by email:  
helenmaryskelton@hotmail.com

Many works will be for sale



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## STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Although it seems like a Millennium ago, I feel I must recount my evening at the famous Ditchling Ball and thank the organisers for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The theme was Moulin Rouge and a lot of people including Nola and myself threw themselves into the spirit of the Parisian era, which I must say was incredibly pleasing to the eyeballs. Dancers and acrobats took turns to light up the floor with a spectacular display and the Can Can Girls were an absolute delight. The food which has always been a touch controversial, because it was vegan, was very nice but, obviously not intended to fill you up and slow you down on the dance floor. The live band whose name I can't remember were very good. I'm one of those people who loves to dance, but can't dance. It's such a great form of exercise and fun, but I always look for the other revellers who are even worse than me and dance next to them, which makes me look not so bad. However, just as I was beginning to enjoy myself on the dance floor along comes this young lady dressed as a ring master and her little mate who were to say the very least, excellent dancers and they were good so I decided not to continue with my dad dancing and sat back down to watch them, perhaps I could pick up some tips? I'm not sure when the next Ball will be, rumour has it this was to be the last but, I'm sure new organisers will pick up the baton so it will continue to be the worthy fundraiser it has become.

A great number of people have asked me to say something about Tony Gasson, AKA Double Denim, who very tragically lost his life in a hit and run accident. When I first moved to Hassocks 50 years ago, Tony was a normal schoolboy who occasionally came into the shop with his mother Pam. Even at that young age he always wore denim and also wore it to school which is where he got the nickname Double Denim. His mother Pam Gasson ran the local riding school at Clayton, she was a very feisty woman, I used to deliver horse feed to the stables and often saw her give a tongue lashing to someone, but that was Pam and she was never about to change. Tony did not have the usual upbringing that most children do and after an unfortunate accident on his motorbike was left with brain damage. His life from start to finish was pretty tragic, he married and had three sons, but his wife died and all three sons were taken into foster care.

A lot of people did try to help him, but he was determined to stay at the cottage provided for him at Clayton stables. His walk from the cottage to Hassocks and back was always a dangerous journey and sadly it was inevitable that one day it would end tragically. Some people did try to get Social Services involved, but you can only help those who want to be helped. Tony lacked communication skills, when he visited the local charity shops the staff often came and got me because they were terrified of him, not that I could do much other than stand with him while he decided what he wanted. The cottage where he lived was recently cleared out, his entire life put in a skip and taken away, the lady who helped with the clear out said you couldn't communicate how awful it was inside. A very sad ending to a very sad life, Tony's funeral was last month RIP Tony

Please do your best to keep feeding the Wildlife be it with fur or feathers. At the moment they are all struggling out there to find natural food, what with habitats being destroyed and a very noticeable lack of insects, whenever I hear of yet another catastrophe somewhere in the world albeit fires, flood or famine my first thought is always for the innocent animals trapped in a world mankind is slowly destroying. Well on that cheery note I'd better be off to give as much love as I can to the animals. I can at least help in some way or another.

Steve – Its, half way to Christmas!

P.S. Please any towels you no longer want please can we have them.

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