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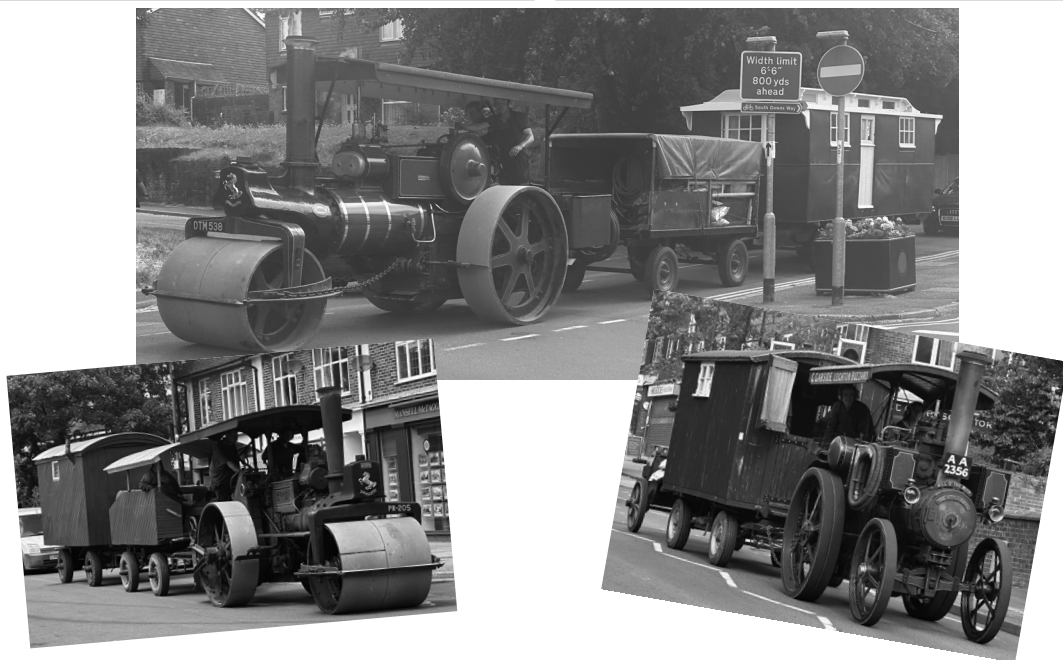
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WEEDING HAPPILY IN THE HERB GARDEN

the other day, I became aware of movement on the path beside me. A skitter of pinky-white flashed past, a blur of black spots and a tippy-toe scuffle on the sand: six baby piglets, having wriggled under the gate, were taking themselves for a walk, while their mother and three other siblings slept on blissfully in their pen. The piglets had the jubilant air of all proper truants and proceeded to explore their new world and its opportunities for mischief and play, egging one another on to new feats of daring. Not that their run back there was not large and leafy and full of interesting things, including a luxurious ark with golden straw for bedding and mother's milk on tap. But this, the novel taste of freedom, was as irresistible to their young sensibilities as it had been to their father when he went acorn hunting in the winter. Though less than a week old, they were following the instinct which teaches all young animals to step out and take the measure of their environment, absorb the lessons which will be vital if they are to survive in the wild. That these lessons can include such delights as pig-tag is an added bonus. The four herb beds, with their connecting paths provide a perfect setting for pig-tag, which involves bunching up together, the way children of my generation used to 'bunch' outside sweet shops. Two players then bump noses and both run away. Beyond this, the rules are completely free. Perhaps everyone will find someone to bump and all run away, calmly

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trotting back for another scrum and learning, in the meantime how to show a clean pair of heels when danger threatens. Next time I looked up from my weeding the piglets had vanished. I hunted up and down and finally found them curled up beside their mother. On their second foray, they explored further. By the fourth, they were scampering off towards the car park. Oh dear! Nowhere in our modern world is really big enough for an enquiring pig. For their own safety their exploits have had to be curtailed. Two days later a group of human tiny tots came round the Farm Centre, carefully monitored by their carers, made all the appropriate sounds in front of the various animals, and dutifully listened to the advice they were given. As soon as the grown-ups' backs were turned, these, just like their animal cousins before them, began to let their curiosity unfold. They too formed an excited huddle in front of a shed full of old hand tools and started to speculate about the things they could see. "What's in that shed?" They were already nudging one another, wary, alert, fascinated by the unknown. They were on the brink of a new game, telling stories, perhaps daring one another to explore further, when someone came back and herded them away. Curiosity has always been considered a dangerous thing. But curiosity is perhaps all we have left of our ancient ancestral ability to engage with the pathways of the world's patterning. Pig-tag is a beautiful example of such patterning. Clumping and dispersal, attraction and

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repulsion, the oldest form of play, which spins every electron on the planet, powers every storm, and pumps magnetic energy from pole to pole. We humans are besotted with patterns. If our curiosity is not crushed too soon, we respond with delight to the chaos patterns in nature, to the beauty of waves and the tessellated texture of tree bark, to the flecked and barred 'symmetry' of clouds and birds' feathers, the fractal intricacies of snowflake and fern frond. These things teach us to think freestyle, to make random and exhilarating connections which open up new ways of thinking. As we regard them we become part of the pattern. But a part only. The whole does not depend on us. It cannot be bound by our concepts of symmetry and completion and control. Our love of patterns therefore takes on a darker role when, as a self-appointed 'master' species, we try to impose our own synthetic systems on the fluid free-play of the wild. 'Order' in Nature is spontaneous - an unfolding, responsive to the slightest variation; essentially unpredictable. Lightning forks, just like a tree's roots, or the course of a river, not in a rigid way, but according to the moment-by-moment play of resis-



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tance and attraction. Wherever humans set out to control or 'improve' on nature, they have to contend with this chaotic principle, and where they succeed in excluding it, they eliminate the very spark that makes life vital. Attempts at patenting synthetic life therefore threaten the survival of Nature itself. That is not to say such attempts will succeed. If the 'pattern' of chaos is woven inextricably into the fabric of the cosmos, it may not be possible to contain it. (Even AI, the ultimate tool of human design, might mutate from its original blueprint and align itself instead with the 'higher' patterns of creation.) The Japanese get the idea when they include something dead in their ikebana flower arrangements. And the Persians get it when they include a mistake in every carpet. Such tiny blemishes represent the seeds of new beginnings. Perfection is a kind of death. The Western longing for perfection and power is eating the world. Our culture is consumed with desires which, supposedly cannot be satisfied, until we have secured other things first: affluence, security, comfort, posterity, salvation, supremacy... There is no end to the needs and the resources such needs require. They



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cut rigid grid-line, graph-line gashes right through the tendrils-patterns of Nature. I cannot help thinking that if only we could make our peace with uncertainty, imperfection, and rejoice in the way they inform the living patterns round us, we might find that less is infinitely more. We are an inalienable part something infinitely bigger than ourselves, *already* rich, already safe, already needed, which is why *any* extinction is a tragedy and a returning swallow a joy. Both are part of *us*.

If you would like a lesson in *joie de vivre*, come and see our piglets. Their lives will be short by our estimation, but they will not have wasted one minute. They will pack more living into each month than we might do in years. I am a town-bred sentimentalist and hate endings, but I am learning that in Nature's pattern there is no such thing as an ending. And that in the realm of pig-wisdom there is no place either for such human distractions as doubt or recrimination, envy, ambition or regret. They are immersed in a glorious NOW and perhaps if we could only emulate them, we might find we aren't so hungry. We could stop eating the world and recover the simple joy of playing tag

Gogga

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Rosemary

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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** or visit our for more information visit **www.hassockscroquetclub.net**.

Tony Bright

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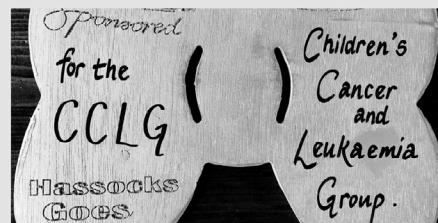
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HassocksGoesGold@gmail.com or visit the JustGiving link for this year's Hassocks Goes Gold to order yours!

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The trail of all the Giant Gold Bows will be up for the whole of September – a perfect walking, cycling or running route! Try and spot them all.

For all Hassocks Goes Gold news and events keep an eye on our Facebook page – plus of course the bargains galore every day in September when the auction starts! 🧡

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Rachel

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As the summer holidays arrive, we look forward to welcoming everyone to our services and activities. If you have family and friends visiting, why not bring them along to a time of Sunday worship in one of our beautiful churches? All ages very welcome! All of our churches are open throughout the week and they're truly precious spaces for prayer and quiet reflection: a perfect stop off during a country walk. If you enjoy singing and whether you think you can sing or not, please join us in St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 6 pm on Wednesday **2nd August** for SING! our monthly time of learning some new songs and sharing memories of our older favourites.

Services of morning worship will be held at St. Margaret's at 10 am on Sundays **6th, 13th and 27th August**.

On Sunday **20th August**, we'll be at St. Martins, Westmeston. Parking available opposite the church.

Our Wednesday @ 10 service of Holy Communion will be held each week in St. Margaret's and is an increasingly popular mid-week time of spiritual re-

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Sherrian Guest

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF RBL CLUB HAS
HASSOCKS MEMBERS.**

I am pleased to report due to the sterling work by your secretary John Burling the financial matters of the club being completed. We had a surplus of £922.03 which as agreed has been donated to St Peter and St James's Hospice.

On a personal note, it was a pleasure and privilege to serve as your chairman I wish it could have continued. My best wishes to you all.

Roy Coulthard

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HURST RETHINK - HOUSE MARTIN NEWS AND HURST VILLAGE MARKET UPDATE

Following our recent swift campaign we are working with local house martin enthusiast, Rebecca Rees, on a project to map and protect the house martin population on Hurstpierpoint High Street.

Part of this project has been to conduct a survey to identify active nests on the High Street and sites where we could help with artificial nests.

It's great news that we have an active house martin population in Hurst as these birds are now on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC). There has been a 72% decline of house martins in the last 50 years, and we are so pleased that some of the remaining 28% are living and thriving on our high street. It is very much our hope that we can work together to preserve these nests. The birds have arrived in Hurstpierpoint for their breeding season after their incredible journey back



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from Africa. They will spend the summer raising their chicks in their mud nests. Any disturbance or removal of these nests due to renovation or decorating work during this time will be detrimental to their success.

As well as preserving active nests it is possible to fix artificial nests to areas where nest remnants can be seen and if you are interested in this and live on or near the High Street, we can provide details of a local supplier.

Hurst Village Market summer break - Hurst Village Market is now taking a break for the summer and will return in September.

When we return in September, we're looking for someone to help us source new stalls. This will involve visiting local markets and identifying stalls who would do well at our market. We also need help with publicity, putting up and taking down signs in the village in the week before market day. If either of these small tasks is of interest, please email hurstrethink@gmail.com.

Charlotte

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THE HURSTPIERPOINT NSPCC committee are holding a Cream Tea on Wednesday **16th August** between 2.30 - 4.30 pm in the Guide Headquarters.

The HQ is located in the corner of the Trinity Road car park, Hurstpierpoint.

The tickets include a delicious cream tea and cakes! There will be a raffle as well.

Looking forward to seeing you there. *Jo Marshall*

Mr Wasp



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WATER SHREW I love Jaws, the 1975 movie which sent three men out into the Atlantic on a fishing boat in search of a marauding Great White Shark. There's another aquatic monster hunting in the ponds and shallow streams of Sussex. But to find a Water Shrew...you're gonna need a smaller boat.

Water Shrews weigh 15g and measure just 16cm. Unlike other shrews they have an amazing ability to swim and hunt underwater. They're covered in dense fur – vital insulation against the cold and wet. This sleek wetsuit also traps air bubbles, transforming the shrew into a furry Aero helping it stay buoyant. Powerful, extra hairy hind feet propel this tiny torpedo through the water.

Water Shrews and Great White Sharks have a common feature that sets them apart from their close relatives. They both have a striking demarcation between their dark upperparts and their white underparts. Looking from above, their black backs blend with the pond bottom or seabed. From below, their pale bellies make them invisible in the sunlit water. It's a submarine survival strategy that helps conceal both hunters and hunted. And the

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Slice open a dead shrew's stomach and rummage inside and you'll find bits of beetle legs, snail shells, and fishbones.



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They are relentless, frenetic hunters. If the shrew goes without a meal for more than an hour it will die. What we are dealing with here is a perfect engine, an eating machine. All this machine does is swim and eat and make little shrews. Between April and September, the mating of the shrew can produce 2-3 litters of 3-15 young. hey live a fast, brief life. Few of them will survive for more than a year. The best way to see a Water Shrew is to sit by a Sussex stream as the sun sets. Bring a couple of friends and some Apricot Brandy, share some tall tales, and wait for a shrew to strike.

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 regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book, Discovering Wildlife.

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Michael Blencowe

THE HURST PLAYERS are pleased to announce their Hurst Festival production, which will be staged **18th - 23rd September**.

ART, written by Yasmina Reza in 1994, has enjoyed enduring world-wide success, attracting a host of celebrated actors at the top of their profession.

Close friends for 15 years, three men reveal the cracks in their relationship when one of them buys (for a huge sum of money) a controversial work of art. This is a funny, acerbic and thought-provoking play which puts the value of friendship and the value of art equally under the spotlight. Please be aware that there is some adult language.

This play showcases the talents of three long-time Players' members who will be playing the following characters:-

Serge - a successful dermatologist, divorced, rather superior and socially aspirational.

Marc - an aeronautical engineer, in an unsatisfying relationship, outspoken and short-tempered, with health anxieties.

Yvan - a reluctant sales agent for his fiancée's family stationery business. The sensitive peacemaker of the trio.

Tickets are available online at www.hurstfestival.org or in person the Festival Box Office from **21st July** Friday & Saturday from 10 am until noon.

Jo Kearns

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Come and join the Food and Growing Group of HKD Transition and let's pool our ideas to make a greener, healthier, and more resilient community. Maybe you already have a project and need support to get the word out there and grow.

Many people still aren't aware that we have a community garden in the village – the Hassocks Community Veg Patch. Why not come and visit? The garden is the beautiful plot behind the Age Concern building. It already has some fruit trees donated by HKD Transition in the past and, bit by bit, we're transforming it into a productive vegetable garden. We have a fabulous bunch of people, and we'd love to welcome more. We're all learning new skills. I'd certainly never wielded a drill and built

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a raised bed before! Come and see how the creative juices of a group of midweek Patchers produced a stunning herby spiral.

We tend to meet on the 2nd and the 4th Saturday of the month. The 4th Saturday coincides with the Repair Café and the thriving market, also at Age Concern. There's a real buzz. We often meet for a garden in the middle of the week too. Our aim is to create a peaceful, friendly environment where anyone can come and garden or just have a cup of tea and be. No gardening skills required.

To find out more about what's going on, join our Facebook Group – Hassocks Community Veg Patch. If coming along alone sounds too daunting, I get it, I've been there. Just message me, Annabel Alder, via Facebook.

If the HKD Transition Food and Growing Group sounds like your thing, email me at

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A Hassocks family-run garden centre has been awarded for its continued support of a local hospice.

St Peter & St James, in Chailey, has recognised the ongoing help from Bates Garden Centres who have supported the charity for a number of years.

Recent contributions by the Bates family business have include providing a van and two drivers for the hospice's Christmas tree collection and sponsoring their Open Garden Season currently taking place in gardens across East Sussex.

Receiving the award on 7th June, Gavin Mumford and Selena Peace from South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks said that the hospice is a popular charity with both staff and customers.

"The hospice is part of our community; a service that many of us who live locally will come into contact with at some point in our lives. It makes a difference to so many", said Selena.

"We are proud to support such a wonderful cause and absolutely delighted and honoured to receive this award," she added.

The award is for Corporate Team Fundraising Contribution.

Trevor Butler

Gavin Mumford and Selena Peace from South Downs Nurseries receive the hospice's award.



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High Street (145), Trinity Road (36), Idenhurst (new builds) (150),
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College Lane , inc Wolstenbury Close & Lytton Close (194)

HASSOCKS

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Villa Adastra, Stafford House, Library (3 copies), Ewart Close (10),
The Poplars (Culpepper Mews) (14)



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HURSTPIERPOINT OPEN GARDENS We hope you're sitting down! Hurst Open Gardens team is delighted to announce that our wonderful community raised a stunning £8,000 for St. Peter and St. James Hospice; one of our best ever results. The plant stall was a sell out and no less than 400 slices of cake were enjoyed, with not a crumb left!

Under the bluest of skies our sponsors', Freeman Brothers, posh limo was kept busy ferrying the foot-weary in style and the ever-popular Cycling without Age trishaw was in high demand giving lifts and smiles to passers-by.

A full list of all those who so generously contributed to this successful day will be published shortly but, meanwhile, hats off to everyone who pitched in: the stalwart gardeners who threw open their gates; the bakers for their delicious cakes; the stall-holders who drew the crowds; our immensely talented and entertaining musicians; the generous plant donators; SO many kind village businesses who donated raffle prizes and never forgetting the quiet heroes who poured tea, cut cake and took entrance fees and on and on.

Finally, a huge 'thank you' to every single visitor who made the day complete and helped us to achieve another outstanding result to support our much-needed St. Peter and St. James Hospice. *Prue Peters*



STOP PRESS!

WONDERFUL BONUS FOR HURST OPEN GARDENS' DONATION TO ST. PETER & ST. JAMES HOSPICE We are now even more elated to announce that an extra £5,000 has been added, bringing the total raised to £13,000 for our Hospice! This extra £5,000 is a matched funding donation from Legal & General. A massive thank you to Dave Batchelor from the 'Crystal Clear Trio' (who entertained on the day) for applying for it and, of course, to Legal & General for their very generous donation.



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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL On Wednesday 14th June we took our athletics team to Burgess Hill Academy to compete in the yearly athletics competition against other local primary schools. It is one of the highlights of the sporting calendar. The track and field events happen simultaneously so children can either take part in track or field events and each child can only do a maximum of two events. The team were brilliant; they worked hard to do their best in their own events and then supported the rest of the team.

When it came to finding out how well we had done we were a little nervous – we had held the trophy for the last 7 years and another school was focussed on ending that run. However, this year we held onto both the year 3/4 trophy and the year 5/6 trophy which meant that we were winners overall - we were absolutely delighted!

National School Sports Week took place between the 19th and 25th June and what better way to end it than with our fabulous sports afternoon. It was amazing to see so many parents at our sports day – there was such a buzz. The children absolutely loved taking part in such a big event. It is only as special as it is because of the community involvement so thank you to everyone who worked towards making it happen and who joined us on the day.

On 20th June our year 3 choir travelled to London Mead school in Burgess hill to take part in this year's Big Sing. All the children learned two new songs and each school performed a song to the other schools. Our year 3 choir performed 'I am the Earth' beautifully and had an enjoyable morning out singing as part of a massive choir. This term, year 6 were set the challenge of devel-

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oping an idea that could create a positive change in Hassocks. They learnt about climate change, what we could do to protect our local environment and how these issues might affect Hassocks. The children split into small groups and worked from scratch to research, plan and create a presentation about their idea to present on stage to an audience. From a local food waste exchange to local rewilding projects and ways to tackle litter in the village, the children spoke passionately and eloquently and included lots of well-sourced facts. Everyone who came said how impressed they were by the range of ideas and the quality of the talks. Well done everyone involved.

'on behalf of The Windmills'

HEBER OPERA'S PRODUCTION of The Tales of Hoffmann by Jaques Offenbach is taking place in September/October, and the box office is now open; tickets may be purchased by going to www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera or calling **07340 251875**. Performances are in Lindfield (**23rd September**), Steyning (**24th September**), Uckfield (**30th September**) and Hurstpierpoint (**1st October**).

There are still a few spaces at Heber Opera's craft fair on 18 November in Hurstpierpoint and any crafters who would like to join us for this event should contact me for details on **07770 762811** or jenny@heberopera.co.uk.

Jenny Hawkes

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HURST FESTIVAL 2023 We are excited to bring you our latest programme for Hurst Festival 2023 – our 19th year! www.hurstfestival.org.

As always, we have the ever-popular Hurst Open Studios, Cinema in the Garden, Live Band nights, Blues, Soirees, Children's Shows, Hurst Players Theatre, Talks, Wellbeing Events and much more! Stephen Grant returns to compere the traditional Friday Night Comedy nights and bring us the fabulous new and up and coming comedians that we are so proud to have in our Village!

We have three large Saturday night events for your pleasure. The first Saturday, 16th September is Absolute Bowie, Winners of the National Tribute Music Awards, with a full live band for you in the Holy Trinity Church.

The second Saturday, **23rd September**, we are pleased to announce that Mid Sussex Sinfonia will be in concert and on the last Saturday we have a fabulous Motown Party for you with the amazing live singers All that Soul bringing true soul and party vibes to our community!

We are also delighted to announce a fabulous new addition to our Super Sunday community event on the afternoon of **17th September**, 'Hufts' - the new Hurst Festival Dog Show!

To add to the excitement, we are very pleased to

have secured Brigadier Humphrey Portleroy Trotter and Judge Janey – two extremely experienced Official Judges to oversee proceedings at the Arena on South Avenue Recreation Ground.

Also, on Super Sunday in the afternoon, we will be having a large Barn Dance for everybody on South Avenue Recreation Ground courtesy of the amazing live band and callers – "Shenanigans".

Remember on Super Sunday the Hurst Festival Bar on the Recreation Ground helps pay for all the free entertainment on the day so please support our bar. Indeed, at all of our events the income from the Bar ensures that the festival is able to continue and helps us keep ticket prices low and provide the free entertainment – so please don't bring your own alcohol to events.

Next year will be our 20th Anniversary Year and we will be inviting all our old favourites to perform – do let us know if there is anyone you would love to see again.

We look forward to seeing you all during the 2 weeks in September – Book Tickets asap!

As a registered Charity Hurst Festival relies on our brilliant team of volunteers – if you wish to help out during Hurst Festival or before, please contact us at admin@hurstfestival.org.

Hurst Festival Team



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**A TALK BY LEIF BERSWEDEN ENTITLED
WHERE THE WILD FLOWERS GROW** The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group invite you to an illustrated talk by the distinguished writer, botanist and science communicator Leif Bersweden entitled 'Where the wild flowers grow'.

It will take place on Tuesday, **15th August** at 7 pm in the Main Hall at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY.

Leif Bersweden possesses a face-down, bottom-up approach to watching nature and has a fascination for wild plants. From a young age, his afternoons were spent hunting for and cataloguing wild plants in a landscape that is fast disappearing. Climate change, habitat destruction and declining pollinator populations mean that the future for plant life looks bleaker than ever before. Many people are now unable to identify or even notice the plants that grow around them. His talk aims to highlight and hopefully rectify this trend. It will immediately follow a brief introduction by The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group.

Using his botanical knowledge, Leif undertook a mission to explore the plants that the UK has to

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offer and meet others who also spent time searching for them. His year long journey around the country allowed him to highlight the unique plants that grow there, their history and the threats that face them. He highlights the joy and positivity that can be found through understanding nature and why it is so desperately important to protect our wildflowers.

He is a busy person so we are very pleased he has found time to speak to us. We strive to organise eminent speakers to improve our knowledge so please join us to make the most of this opportunity. Entry is free (although voluntary contributions are welcome) and all are invited. Please bring any interested friends. There is a car park opposite the building.

Michael Nailard

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HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS CLUB
 put on a fantastic display at St Lawrence School
 Fair this year.

No fewer than 162 gymnasts performed routines
 and moves, vaulting and some rhythmic ribbon
 work to a variety of musics. Hundreds of parents,
 friends and fair-goers enjoyed the spectacle with
 gymnasts from 3 to 16 years old performing syn-
 chronised agilities.

The last week of
 June saw over a
 hundred gym-
 nasts gaining
 their gymnastics
 awards, with
 proud parents
 watching on.

On the first Satur-
 day of July, over
 eighty gymnasts
 then demonstrated their skills as they competed for
 the trophies available for Solo, Sports Acrobatic
 Pairs and Vaulting in the Club's 39th Annual
 Championships.

In the Junior age groups, honours were shared
 around the competitors with over thirty gymnasts
 gaining medals or trophies in the different sections.
 In Year 3s Olivia Sparks-Carolan completed a rare
 clean sweep, winning the Solo Floor, the Vault and
 the Sports Acrobatic Pairs with her partner Diddie
 Smith in their first ever Pairs competition.

In Year 4, Scarlett Thwaites won the Floor, Gracie
 Allen-Laverty the Vault and Ava-Mai Hotten and
 Arabella Turner the Pairs. Year 5 & 6 Solos was a



*School Display -
 What a week !*

success for Ellea Seymour, the Vault won by Jaden
 Ncube and Alicia Aitken. The Year 5 Pairs was
 won by Isla Lovell & Scarlett Thwaites and the
 Year 6 Pairs by Alicia Aitken & Katie Church.

In the Senior sections, the Floor was won by Isabel
 Faulkner, the Vault by Cleo Groman and the Pairs
 by Isabel Faulkner and Grace Balcombe.

Olivia Sparks-Carolan's points from her three
 wins, rewarded her with the 'Stan Brown Memo-

rial' cup for
 being the
 Overall Top
 Junior. Isabel
 Faulkner's
 double win
 gave her the
 Senior Over-
 all trophy.

The skills in-
 cluded in the

routines has increased dramatically with forwards
 and backwards walkovers, free cartwheels, splits,
 handsprings and somersaults almost became the
 norm.

The club meets in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre
 and has children from over 30 different schools as
 far apart as Lewes, Brighton and Haywards Heath.
 Further details can be obtained on 01273 832366
 or web-site **www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk**

There are currently vacancies in September in the
 Pre-school groups which meet Friday afternoons
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PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP 1 OF HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A, enjoys a

social outing once a month. Following each visit, members submit their best photos for discussion and voting. It is all very good natured and constructive criticism is welcomed!

A recent day out in June was organised by Penny, one of its members. The group first visited Driftwood, a unique garden near Newhaven, run by Geoff Stonebanks, who is a regular contributor to The Argus and has appeared on Gardeners' World. The group enjoyed wandering through many 'garden rooms', photographing a feast of plants, flowers, ornaments, and garden paraphernalia. Funds raised by Geoff go directly to Macmillan Cancer



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support. After coffee and home-made cake, and much photo taking, the group had lunch at Seaford Sailing Club and walked on the beach in glorious sunshine. Then it was on to the nearby village of Bishopstone, which provided further scope for keen photographers in the grounds of St Andrew's church, the historic cottages and lovely surrounding countryside! Penny said afterwards: 'The whole day had to be planned in detail, but members were so appreciative, and I received many email responses indicating their enjoyment'. If you are interested in joining the u3a, contact the Groups Organiser via the Welcome page on our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/hhd>.



Marie Fraser

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HASSOCKS – ROYAL BRITISH LEGION As many of you know the Hassocks Branch of the Royal British Legion has now closed. The Branch was a separate entity from the RBL Club, which has also now closed its doors. My name is Margaret Bovill and I am the Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) for the Ditchling and District Branch of RBL. As a temporary measure I have agreed to be the PAO for Hassocks and Keymer during Remembrance tide, with support and help from Tony Blanchard, Treasurer for Ditchling and District Branch. This will ensure that Hassocks and Keymer will be supplied with Poppy Boxes in the shops and businesses, some of whom I have already spoken to. I have also talked to Paul Bowley who has supplied me with a list of those Organisations that require Wreaths, which I will also order. If I can be of any help to anyone who requires any further information about Poppy Appeals and or Remembrance please do contact me on **01273 845319** and I will do my very best to help you. I will put further notices in the Hassocks and Keymer Talk About as it gets closer to Remembrance. Thank you for taking time to read this.

Margaret Bovill

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Film Society is having a summer break but will be back in the Village Hall on **7th September** showing *Aftersun*. A film which won Charlotte Wells many awards, including a BAFTA as an Outstanding Debut for a British Director. In October we're having a special screening for

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dance and film fans; *Pina*, dance, dance, otherwise we are lost. A film for *Pina Bausch* by Wim Wenders.

In November we'll be showing *The Farewell* directed by Lulu Wang. A true crowd pleaser which won widespread acclaim.

And then!!! We'll be publishing our new programme!

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** and Tweet **@Ditchlingfilm**.

See you in the Autumn!

Kate Odonnell

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HASSOCKS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION To be held Tuesday **1st August** at 7.30 pm in Adastra Hall. Come along to hear about the past year of achievements, works carried out to the Hall and planned projects. All welcome'.

Carolyn Barton

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ADASTRA HALL for you. Thanks! The good news keeps on coming at Adastra Hall! With the completion of our solar project our investment in the hall in the past 12 months has now topped £100,000 and it should mean that, with the sun shining we have plenty of electricity generated to see us through even the darkest winter days. In June, we also completed the installation of a new hearing loop system for our hearing impaired guests, and some work on the velux blinds to stop the strings breaking too.

We have also trained, and we welcome Emily Hilson as our new Bookings Administrator. Many people will know Emily from around the village and particularly for her work teaching piano. Kay, who's been doing the role for a number of years, is now our meeter-and-greeter, so will continue to be involved in the hall.

We have been granted planning permission for our 2 extensions - our new "green room" and an extension to the toilet area and with the great news that we have been awarded £224,000 towards the work from the Mid Sussex District Council Corporate Grants Scheme, we are off the blocks in funding that work too. There is much more to raise, and we have some grant applications in place so we will make a decision in October how to proceed. In the meantime, we would be keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in helping us towards our fundraising goal.

Finally, we have decided to try and resurrect the "Hassocks on Show" event - this was a popular showcase for Hassocks clubs and societies that ran for a number of years - and we would be keen to hear from organisations (both hirers and non-hirers of the hall) who would like to take part. Please contact us at chair@adastrahall.com, or via the website www.adastrahall.com.

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We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this photo of his father Les Evans holding Miss Cooper with his friend on the right. In the background is the A23 during the time of its upgrading in Albourne and Sayers Common around 1926/1927. Les was a Miner in South Wales near Caerphilly who was staying with the Cooper family in Yorke Cottage (North).

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HASSOCKS WI Meet 3rd Monday in the month at Adastra Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm start 7.45 pm. The June cheese and wine tasting went well, thank you Marie for your hard work. I hear the top taste test went to the most expensive wine, thank goodness. In July, we heard from Kate the drovers daughter, herbalist who makes produce from locally sourced plants and uses wool from her small flock of sheep, smiley faced pink nosed Poll Dorsets and white faced grey woolly Herdwicks. An interesting evening.

There is no official meeting in August BUT on Tuesday **22nd August** 6 pm WI will attend Adastra Bowls Club for a training and fun evening. Wear flat shoes. Our Craft Club will meet Monday **7th August** 2 pm in the committee room. We also aim to hold a picnic in the park so look out for an email with full details. The noticeboard has all details about the 2023 WI Autumn Showcase Classes to be held at Ardingly show ground in September.

Get crafting, cooking, knitting, writing, sewing etc., etc., get involved.

Our welcome back meeting in September is all about Madagascan hats and crafts, come and learn about them. If the sun is still shining we will need new hats for sun protection.

As ever, all are welcome (donation) come and see what we aspire to, make new friends, find new interests, eat cake.

Gerry

TREFOIL GUILD On 23rd June we visited Shoreham Lifeboat Station. It was well worthwhile and afterwards tea and cake at Marks and Spencer, which was nearby.

Sussex Central Annual Meeting was held in Lancing on 1st July followed by Red around the coast. This was Sussex Central Trefoil Guild members on Lancing Beach Green who formed a 'Sea of Red' as part of the London and South East England (LaSER) celebration of Trefoil's 80th birthday. On 19th July we ventured out on the Hurst Trail and then enjoyed a fish and chip supper!

We are going to visit a members beautiful garden for our meeting on **16th August**.

We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road at 7.45 for 8 pm on the 3rd. Wednesday in the month.

For more information call **07546 495433**. Visitors welcome.

Pam

DO YOU HAVE BOOK KEEPING EXPERIENCE AND SOME FREE TIME TO OFFER TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH?

Due to the retirement of our current bookkeeper, the Beacon Parish is looking to find someone with experience of receiving and making payments and fees, issuing invoices, keeping income & expenditure records up to date and producing reconciliation data for regular Parochial Church Council and Finance Committee meetings which are held every 2-3 months. Familiarity with Microsoft Excel is essential. Our current bookkeeper will work alongside you during a handover period.

This is an interesting voluntary opportunity and anyone is welcome, so whether you are working or retired and would like to learn more, please contact **admin@beaconparish.co.uk** for a full description of the tasks involved and an informal chat by **1st September**.

Sherrian Guest

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HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

As some of you will know, I have been unwell with pulmonary fibrosis since last October and have been unable to attend any of our monthly meetings since then. I will have to give up the post of Chairman therefore, and we are seeking a new chairman. It's not an arduous job. The Chairman just has to open our monthly meetings, read out any notices and introduce the guest speaker. Our Treasurer and Secretary, and other committee members will give you help, advice and encouragement.

The Committee have invited me to become President of our Society, a post that has been vacant since the death of Ian Nelson who was the fount of all knowledge on the history of Hurstpierpoint, and I am honored to accept that position.

Our next meeting will be at 8 pm on Friday **6th October** at the Guide HQ in Trinity Road. If you are interested in the post of Chairman or would like to know more about our society please contact me on **01273 832280** or e-mail **w.kent123@btinternet.com**. *Bill Kent*

STAR CINEMA Dates for your diary for the next season's film nights....Friday **29th September**, Friday **3rd November** and Friday **15th December**.

Please note the new hearing loop system has been installed in the main hall. It is advised that those who are hard of hearing sit towards the edge of the room as the loop aerial runs around the edge of the building itself. Hopefully this should make a great

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difference to those who are hearing impaired.

The Star team look forward to welcoming you in September. *Liz Edmunds*

SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB

Do you enjoy country walking? Would you like to discover some new walks, and find like-minded people to walk with?

SPRC are an independent club with over 200 members who share a common interest in walking for pleasure in both East and West Sussex and sometimes beyond. Normally there is a 5-6 mile walk on Saturdays and a full day walk of 9-11 miles on Sundays. Generally, members make their own way to and from the meeting point.

If this appeals to you, just turn up on a walk and introduce yourself to the walk leader. You should wear suitable clothing and footwear for the season. Go to the Sussex Pathfinders website **www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk** for full details of all our walks.

I look forward to hearing from you. *Diann Clarke*

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING.

Streat & Westmeston is currently looking for a new Treasurer. This is an interesting and varied voluntary job which currently covers budgeting and financial forecasting, overseeing investments, VAT and Gift Aid recovery, the preparation of our Annual Report & Accounts and reporting to the Charity Commission

If you have relevant current or previous experience and would like to be involved in working with our friendly and supportive finance team, initially alongside our current Treasurer, please contact **admin@beaconparish.co.uk** for more details and an informal chat by **1st September**. Thank you.

Sherrian Guest



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~~~ WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST ~~~

Clubs, Societies & Groups please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section. Email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or send to **QD Stationery 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR**. For more information call **01273 846978**.

~~~WEEKLY MEETINGS~~~

THE BEACON PARISH CHURCH SERVICES - Services of Morning Worship at St Margarets, Ditchling at 10 am on **6th, 13th & 27th Aug** and at St Martins, Westmeston on **20th Aug**.

Holy Communion Wednesdays at 10 am at St Margarets Church, Ditchling.

Always check www.beaconparish.co.uk.

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.

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

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 HASSOCKS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.30 pm. AGM and planned projects ahead, all welcome.

2nd THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

3rd MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

5th HURST VILLAGE MARKET, New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 10 am to 1 pm. Sussex Products and Gifts.

6th OLDLAND WINDMILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer, 2 pm - 5 pm. 'Open Afternoon' - for all the family. All welcome.

6th HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

7th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

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

11th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'Radio Discussion Evening'

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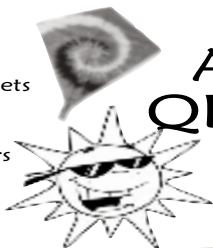
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4th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thegroup.org.uk.

16th THE HURSTPIERPOINT NSPCC Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2.30 - 4.30 pm. Entry includes cream tea, cakes and raffle.

16th HASSOCKS TREFOIL GUILD 7.45 pm. Members garden visit.

17th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

22nd HASSOCKS WI Adastra Bowls Club, 6 pm. Training and fun evening.

23rd BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

25th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'On Air Evening'

26th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

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WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK

YOU to Catherine Hinchcliff & Val Stavely who have been delivering your magazines in Ditchling & Hassocks. Thank you for all your help.

Editors

CAN YOU HELP? We are looking for a volunteers to deliver the Talk About. If you think you may be able to help us out once a month then please get in touch by calling on **01273 846978** or pop into QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road if you think you can help.

Editors

WANTED

If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included please email us at ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR.

Deadline for the September issue is 1st August

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Albourne Village Church - ring 07513 453679 or book online at www.albourneparish-council.co.uk for your business or pleasure bookings, some space is available for regular bookings.

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

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

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

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

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre - has three spaces for hire, a hall that seats up to 200, a conference room for up to 20 and the Club Suite for up to 40. The Club Suite is ideal for children's parties, offering its own kitchen and toilet facilities. The kitchen serving both the hall and conference room is also free of charge.

Email office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk or www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

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

Adastra Hall, in Hassocks is your community space and can be booked for parties, meetings and events. If you'd like to book, please take a look at our website www.adastrahall.com or email bookings@adastrahall.com.

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

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

Ditchling Village Hall - attractive, well equipped and versatile venue, comprising large main hall with stage, smaller hall and kitchen. Suitable for a diverse range of occasions and activities such as parties, plays, weddings, exercise classes and certain indoor sports. See website www.ditchlingvillagehall.uk for full details and pricing. Email the booking secretary on bookings@ditchlingvillagehall.uk for enquiries.

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JAZZ LUNCH Come to the Hassocks Pub Function Room on the second Tuesday in January, March, May, Jul, September and November for great food, great jazz and great company. You will be entertained by The New Muskat Ramblers.

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Firstly, I would like to apologise to Tony's family for calling him Tony Gasson when in fact he was Tony Burrow. I'm sorry if I offended readers last month about Tony's story but also my thanks to all those that came in to say thank you for mentioning him.

At the back of my shop where the service area is there are a couple of drains which take away the excess water when it rains. Over a period of time they became blocked with leaves and other debris very much like the ones out the front of the shop. I thought it would be a good idea to get them cleared out before the winter, so I found a company who have lorries that suck out drains. They were very helpful and said they could send a lorry out to do the job at a cost of £500 per drain - stunned silence - I'm sorry did you say £500 each, you're having a laugh - aren't you - no Sir that's our standard charge per drain £500 including VAT to suck it out, the whole operation is about 5 minutes max, I declined and got in touch with West Sussex Council to ask if they could suck out my drain, but they politely reminded me that the drain is on private land and therefore couldn't help. However, I said to them do you know what I've just been quoted to it suck out he replied I suspect about £500 because that is what we have to pay our contractor to clear each drain in West Sussex at a cost to us of over £2 million a year, the drains should be cleared every May and November, however it has come to our attention that not all drains are being cleared as required like the one out the front of your shop which wasn't cleared in May as required. We have therefore sent out a team to inspect all drains and report back their findings because blocked drains contribute to the flooding of people's properties when we have torrential rain, which these days is happening more and more. Anyone know where you can get second hand drain suckers from?

Apparently, the Government and the Lawn Tennis Association have got together and taken over all small council run tennis courts. These Tennis courts, ours included, will all have a total refurb which is already happening to the Adastra Park one, but instead of coming to me to pay and get the key you'll have to go online to book, please phone the local council offices and they will direct you. After reading that Boots chemist was to close 300 of its stores I thought I'd see if I could contact them for a comment on our local branch and this is what their spokesperson told me - it's highly likely that the Hassocks store will close they only have two staff which will be easy to relocate, also there is another chemist in the town and footfall is also down considerably. However, no decision will be made until September, also the figure of 300 stores is likely to go up, please don't worry as cogs turn very slowly in this business. So that's it in a nutshell we just have to wait and see what the big bosses decide, but footfall in the village is considerably down - let's hope we all don't go same way. Thank you ever so much for all your towels you've been amazing.

Our horse bedding prices this month - Shavings £10, Bedmax £8.50, Aubiose £11.50, Miscanthus £8.75 and Miscanthus Pellets £7.00.

Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392