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No. 564 December 2023

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

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*We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for these pictures of Cowdray Cottage in Policemans Lane, Hurstpierpoint. The one on the right was taken in 1947 when covered in snow.*



Cowdray Cottage,  
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**Chris and Jill Kitcher, hope that all of their friends and acquaintances have had a great year and would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.**



**Rod and Judy Jenner, wish everybody a Happy Christmas and Healthy 2024.  
Thank you for all your kindness and support over the past year.**



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*We thank Keith Payne for the following email of thanks:-* I had the misfortune to trip, and fall down, at the junction of Mackie, and Manor Avenues, on the morning of the 16th October.

I have a mobile phone, so I was able to call my wife to come and pick me up, but prior to that, four passers-by, came to my assistance.

Two of the ladies and the gentleman, who helped me, are known to my wife, and she was able to thank them later, on my behalf.

However, the fourth lady is unknown, and I would very much like, via the Talk About, to thank her, and the others, for their kindness, and assistance.

It is times like this, that serve to restore my faith in Human Nature. Thank you all.

*We thank Shirley S for the following email of thanks:-* On the evening of 9th October my friends and I were walking down Keymer Road to Adastra Hall when two of us tripped and landed flat out on the pavement. A passing car stopped, and the driver kindly helped us get up. I had hurt a couple of fingers, so he got out his first aid box and dressed the bleeding. He then asked if I was OK, or would I like him to run me home, but I was OK to carry on. Unfortunately, I did not ask his name. We would just like to thank him most sincerely for his kindness.

**Deadline for the January 2024 issue  
is 1st December 2023**

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**VOLUNTEERING IN OUR COMMUNITY** Beacon Good Neighbours, as the name implies, was set up to help those needing a lift to their GP, Hospital and other welfare organisations. We also befriend those in need of company through loneliness or just looking after someone who is disabled for short period on behalf of their carer or partner.

We played an important supportive role for the community during covid when many elderly and disabled people became housebound and needed essential groceries and medications to be collected.

Our services cover Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat and due to an increasing demand, we need more volunteers to continue our supportive role and vital work in the community.

When we receive a request for help, we send an email to our list of volunteers to find out who is free to help. Perhaps you have some spare time to become one of our valued volunteers.

The role is not onerous in terms of commitment.

Or perhaps you might like to volunteer for a trial period to find out if it fits with your current routine.

If you would like to find out more or enrol as a volunteer, please call us on **01273 921668**.

*John Lowe*

### **MORE IDEAS FOR THE NATIONAL TYRES SITE IN HASSOCKS**

***We thank Nick for the following comments:-*** In the November issue 'Stephen' suggested having a Santander Building Society with a cashpoint. Santander is not a building society; it is a UK bank wholly owned by the Spanish Santander Group. There are however many British mutual building societies wholly owned by their members and not answerable to shareholders, of which Nationwide is by far the largest. Incidentally, there are free ATMs at Budgens and Sainsburys and probably elsewhere. If just cash is needed - and long may this continue - then the Post Office will also oblige, (it does in Ditchling among many other useful services).

\*\*\*\*\*

***We thank Jane for the following email:-*** I'm writing in response to Steve's article in the October Talk About. I would like to see a communal area on the site of National Tyres with benches and flower tubs. It could be the centre of the village. It would be good if the library was moved there as it would make it more inclusive.

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## THE MONDAY GROUP RECEIVES THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE



### The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Group supports Mid-Sussex communities and their visitors by preserving, maintaining and protecting public rights of way, making them as easy as possible for everyone to use. Our iconic stiles, originally designed by one of our 1960's founders, have been joined by signposts, gates, walkways and recently, an increasing number of kissing gates. "The whole team is delighted that our work has been nationally recognised with a King's Award. We meet every week – on a Monday – to make our beautiful Sussex countryside accessible to as many people as possible, while sup-

porting the needs of landowners and managers," said Monday Group chair Steve Brewis. "We make everything from scratch in our workshops, and our team are out in all weathers to improve paths and access for everyone who uses them. We love what we do and it's not unusual for our volunteers to continue into their 90s. "We will continue our work with our charitable status considerably enhanced by this prestigious award." The Monday Group is one of 262 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups from across the UK and Channel Islands to receive the prestigious award this year. Their work, along with others from across the UK, reminds us of all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them. The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and, following his accession, His Majesty The King emphasised his desire to continue the Award. Recipients are announced annually on 14th November, The

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King's Award winners this year are wonderfully diverse and include volunteer groups from across the UK, such as a social support network for disabled adults in Banffshire; a charity using a refurbished pool as a community hub in South Wales; volunteer doctors providing pre-hospital care across rural Cumbria and a village renewal organisation promoting sustainability, equality and social inclusion in County Antrim. Representatives of The Monday Group will receive the award crystal and certificate from Andrew Blackman, Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex next summer. In addition, two volunteers from The Monday Group will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May or June 2024, along with other recipients of this year's Award. The Monday Group began in the early 1960s as a small group of volunteers in Ditchling, and one founder-member was active in the organisation until very recently at the age of 100. Around 50 members meet weekly to carry out the Monday Group's work. This year, for the first time, we have created a second work session on a Tuesday to accommodate the increasing amount of work to be done as well as the waiting list for volunteers, some of whom cannot give time on a Monday. Volunteers clear overgrowth, maintain

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path surfaces and make, install and repair suitable furniture such as stiles, gates, walkways and way markers, in cooperation with landowners and other stakeholders. We work to support opening footpaths to less able users and are working with The Friends of the South Downs to make paths into the National Park stile-free. *Stephen*

### HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME 2023/24

Just a reminder that the deadline for the second submission of applications for the Hassocks Parish Council Grants Scheme is Wednesday **31st January 2024** for consideration by Council in February. The Council welcomes applications from local community groups or for projects and activities that will benefit local residents.

Full details can be found on the Parish Council's website

[www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk) or for further information please contact the Parish Council Office on **01273**

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*Parish Clerk*



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**HURST PLAYERS** Most people over the age of five will nod sagely in approval if told that the local annual panto is to be Red Riding Hood. Quite why the rather disturbing tale of a small girl who is likely to suffer the same fate as her Grandmother and become a wolf's breakfast should become the stuff of post-Christmas family entertainment is lost in fairy-tale history – but Panto being what Panto is, every version you're likely to see this year will have a touch of the horrors, lots of fun at its centre – and usually a happy ending!

The cast for Hurst Players' version though, has a few surprises for you – to begin with it's an original version by veteran member Bob Sampson – who is also directing – and with rehearsals now well under way the jokes [both verbal and physical] are being tried and tested ahead of opening night on **28th December** at 7 pm at The Players Theatre in Hurstpierpoint.

We have a range of afternoon performances at 2 pm, with evenings at 7 pm – a total of ten over Christmas and New Year. You can find full details on the Players' website – **[www.hurstplayers.org.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.org.uk)** and we shall be taking bookings online from **25th November** – or if you'd rather book in person, come to the Theatre any Saturday from **2nd December** between 10 am and 12 noon.

Pantomime is often the first kind of live theatre to impress young children – and if it does, we can hold onto enthusiasm for theatre in general and Pantomime in particular throughout our adult lives. Proper family entertainment is a rarity these days – why not join Hurst Players for some this Christmas and New Year.

*Anne Hopper*

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH:** Hello Everyone. On behalf of our President, Mrs Virginia Lewis-Jones, Vice President, Mrs Juliet Smith JP, DL, Chair Mrs Catharine Robinson and the Branch Committee, we would like to thank the following who have supported our Poppy Appeal for 2023: Ditchling Hair Studio, Ditchling Museum of Art and Craft, Ditchling Pharmacy, Ditchling Post Of-

fice, Macs Farm, Mid Sussex Golf Club, Notcutts Garden Centre, Perretts Farm Shop and Café, St George's Shop and Coffee Shop, St Margaret's C of E School, The Bull Ditchling, The Green Welly, The Nutmeg Tree, The White Horse Public House. In addition, our wonderful collectors Bridget, Brenda, Colin, Dumbrells, Maz and Sue. Please accept a very grateful and heartfelt *thank you* to all of you who have given so generously. We will publish the total amount collected in the January edition of Talk About and Village Voice. On behalf of the Committee, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and successful 2024.

*Margaret E Bovill*

**HEBER OPERA** your local opera group, wishes all of you a very Happy Christmas.

Heber Opera rehearses in Hurstpierpoint and is a self-funded group bringing opera, performed in the round and sung in English to local communities. Thank you to all our supporters throughout Sussex, but if you aren't familiar with our shows contact me to join our mailing list and find out more about our future plans. Opera is not 'difficult' or 'elitist', it is musical theatre with themes no different from modern musicals - love, death, complicated relationships, loss, jealousy and all sorts of mix ups in love and families - and as Heber Opera always sings in English there is no language barrier.

New voices are the life blood of Heber Opera, so if you are a singer interested in taking part in our 2024 season please get in touch, all voice parts are welcome. Our style of performance is suitable for many community halls and Heber is always keen to hear about opportunities to bring a concert or stage performance to your local venue.

Watch this space for details of Heber Opera's events in 2024. Email: **[jenny@heberopera.co.uk](mailto:jenny@heberopera.co.uk)**.

*Jenny Hawkes*

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** Unable to wait any longer, I have decided to open my Advent Calendar early. As I prize open the first few windows, I recognise the old, familiar images which come flooding back with 'extra sparkle' every Christmas. Here are the inevitable robin, the Yule log, the figgy pudding, snowman and angel... I am a traditionalist and so, despite annual grumbles about the effort and expense and wastefulness of it all, I confess I am as enthusiastic in the quest for Christmas magic as any susceptible child. But sadly, this year, the glitter does not seem to satisfy. A need remains for something more and I am left wondering what I am really searching for. Is it, perhaps, the need to feel small and lost again in this universe where everything has now been labelled and logged on GPS? To feel connected to a wilder origin – recover a sense of authenticity and belonging? That being so, I have to admit to some wistful sighs over my advent calendar. A sense of belatedness, of redundancy seems to hover over it. Is the determination to be jolly itself somehow passé? With so much bad news around us in the world, should we be celebrating at all? The media fling us conflicting messages. 'Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we fry.' Is it possible that we now exist in the fading afterglow of a world taken too much for granted? A place beyond belonging? Is ours a society and an ecosystem in which 'we' are no longer welcome? And who the heck are 'we'? According to the thinker, Peter Lamborn Wilson, we are already living in the Future. In this new, cleaner, greener world, the displacement from all things natural seems to be accelerating to the point where our ability to tolerate and benefit from Mother Nature breaks down. Fear and guilt cast long shadows. That snowman, for instance, he must be an endangered species, as must that Christmas tree, and the robin probably has bird 'flu. As for figgy pudding, even if it is fruit-free, fat-free, flour-free and fully recyclable, is it energy-efficient even to *boil* a figgy pudding, for burning logs

is definitely out! Should we do the whole Yuletide thing in plastic instead, or in extruded soya, or, better still, enjoy it at second remove on a screen? I am overwhelmed by the collective shame of being one of 'us', homo culpabilis. Let Christmas be virtual then - *genuine imitation everything* - still custom dictates that something must go on the top of the tree and this tinsel angel looks just the ticket. Now I don't have a problem with plastic angels because I have never been able to believe in 'real' ones. Despite the great beauty of angelology in all the cultural traditions of the world and knowing that Christmas would not be Christmas without them, I have never considered them part of the Earth-born authenticity I seek. But in the past few months, this assumption has been challenged in a surprising way. The obvious, I suppose, has always been staring me in the face, but it has taken the Sufi poets of ancient Persia to point out to me that birds are angels. Angels, Lamborn Wilson explains, are messengers, bringing news from one world to another. Which is exactly what birds do. They still live in the world of pure experience and here at Stoneywish I have been privileged to be 'educated' by a great number of them, from the majestic peacocks of our early days; the guinea-fowl, always in a hurry; the wild geese and moorhens and summer migrants – yes, to the robin, who stands alongside his comrades, dunno and magpie, in an orderly queue, waiting to pick up scraps from Lollipop's breakfast bowl, (Lollipop being the last of my pampered flock of hens). I could tell you much about these birds: their population statistics, their habits, their diets, but none of this would relate to their essential role as angels. As such they come to speak to *us*. Did St. Francis really preach to the birds, or did he *listen* to them? What do they have to tell us about their native realm, the living community of earth-dwellers which the Progressives among us have decided we must leave, and which *cannot* be experienced remotely via documentaries on tv? If



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messengers are angels, Lamborn Wilson makes the logical step of classing books as angels too, though the jabber from books may not create the harmony of birdsong or the music of the spheres. Not all messages come from helpful sources. Journalists, the favoured messengers or news-bringers of today, feed us a diet of anxiety, alienation and grief, urging us to defer in perpetuity to authorities already committed division and control. Nature cannot be trusted, they tell us. Nature is out of control. Nature is full of germs. Nature is uncomfortable. But is Nature - besieged and wounded as she is - *actually* trying to drive her human offspring away? Or does she invite us to abandon the piratical practices of our 'destiny' and embrace a humbler role on planet Earth? The German scientist Theobald Fechner was a seeker, a pioneer in the fields of atomic physics, electricity and psychology in the 19th century. While walking in the countryside near his home one day he had a visionary experience which changed his life. The morning was a beautiful one and as he contemplated this beauty, he was overcome by the sudden perception that the Earth itself was an angel, a living, breathing body, of which he himself was an animated cell. The trees, rocks, birds, waterfalls around him no longer appeared as separate or disposable entities - mere matter - but as the vital organs, the eyes, ears, lungs, veins of this mysterious being. And the world itself, lay enclosed in the greater mystery of a living, pulsing cosmos. The energy waves of his scientific research, connected these elements together to form a conscious and sentient whole. Now this may seem no more than the despised animism of 'primitives' whom

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civilization has driven to the brink of extinction. But angelic voices also reach us from wisdom traditions which have known and rejected the techno-industrial world-model, with its conquests and wealth accumulation, and chosen in its place more peaceable and joyful ways of survival. Such wisdom traditions speak of *belonging* to Nature, not engineering it; of following a path of beauty, of patience and silence, allowing each part of the cosmic body to fulfil its function unimpeded. For it just might be that the Earth needs us, in the same way we need our own vital organs. And no living thing can survive long if the finger is poking the eye out or the stomach starving the heart. 'Progressives' like to think that humans represent the collective mind of the universe and that their brain-children, the engines of AI, will run things when 'we' are too apathetic or enfeebled to cope. But minds also dream, and so there is always an alternative possibility - which is that the longing-quest for a more authentic, deeper reality will manifest in our thoughts, bringing renewal and hope. Belonging, community, vitality, flow through the macrocosm like the extra-cellular matrix which nourishes each cell inside our bodies - the primal ocean where life exchanges began. Is this the magic I have been looking for? To recognise the stardust all creation is made of. By this token, Lollipop is angelic, though I shan't tell her as she already thinks too much of herself. My Christmas tree does not *need* an angel - it is one. Actually, it is taller than our house and growing in quite the wrong place, but the birds come and talk to it and the rain glistens on its branches and it communes with the moon while I am asleep and knows the things be-

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yond my imagining. Fechner believed in the interior consciousness of plants and the scientific world is only just beginning to catch up with him. So, who knows, perhaps his Earth-as-Angel idea, mad as it sounds, provides a place where jaded mankind can learn to be small and lost once more and receive the gifts of wisdom. That just leaves the figgy pudding... and I hope you enjoy yours, however you make it!!

*Rosemary*

### **BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

On Saturday **2nd December** we will be having our Christmas Market in the Cyprus Hall, 10 am to 3 pm. An array of stalls in support of local good causes and craftspeople. Refreshments available. Free admission!

[www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com) Flo

### **HURSTPIERPOINT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - MUSIC AND WINE EVENING: CHRISTMAS WITH THE SUSSEX WAITS**

The next concert in this series will be on Saturday, **16th December** 6 pm to 7.30 pm, and will feature The Sussex Waits. This local early music group will perform their repertoire on shawms, sackbut, curtal, crumhorns and recorders. If you don't recognise these instruments now is your chance to come along and find out about them! The programme will consist of music about birds and by Byrd (William Byrd, who died exactly 400 years ago), together with quite a few pieces with a dis-

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tinctly seasonal flavour.

For tickets please email [margaret@112a.co.uk](mailto:margaret@112a.co.uk) or telephone **01273 835113**. You can also just turn up and pay on the door. The doors open at 5.30 pm and there will be a licensed bar. *Mike Clemens*

**SANTAS FUN SUNDAY** In Hurstpierpoint is on **3rd December**. The High Street will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland from 12 noon - 5 pm. The road will be closed to traffic during this time. Please come and support your local village and grab some bargains.

### **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME, OR DONATED, TO TEDDY'S WINE TASTING**

on 27th October which raised an amazing £17,133!!! It was a wonderful evening, excellently hosted by Giles Cutlack of South Downs Wine Cellars and I could see how much people were enjoying the wines and chatting to their friends old and new. Huge thanks also to everyone who helped run the event – we couldn't have done it without you. Most importantly the evening raised much needed funds for Teddy.

Teddy's Vintage Champagne Raffle continues to run until **15th December** and tickets cost just £5 each. Imagine winning an amazing magnum of 2012 vintage rose Laurent-Perrier champagne worth 950 Euros! Tickets are available from Bella and Megs café in Hassocks, or by emailing me on [amandajanefelix@outlook.com](mailto:amandajanefelix@outlook.com). *Amanda*

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**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - HAS-  
SOCKS POPPY APPEAL** Hello Everyone - I  
would just like to thank the following shops and  
businesses that have supported the RBL Poppy Ap-  
peal for 2023.

Keymer: Aroma Café, Keymer Stores, The Grey-  
hound.

Hassocks: Bakeout, Budgens, Corner Café, Down-  
lands Community School, Hassocks Fish & Chips,  
Hassocks Hardware, Hassocks Infant  
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Café, QD Stationery, Sainsburys, The Hassocks  
Hotel, Tea Thyme, Thatchers, The Thatched Inn  
and The Windmills Junior School

In addition the No 16 Army Cadet Force, Hurst-  
pierpoint, have also street collected.

Please accept a very grateful and heartfelt *thank*  
*you* to all of you who have given so generously. I  
will publish the total amount collected in the Jan-  
uary edition of Talk About and Village Voice.  
Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a  
healthy and successful 2024. *Margaret Bovill,*

*RBL Ditchling & District Branch,*

*Poppy Appeal Organiser for Keymer and Hassocks.*

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HASSOCKS**

Carols for All Sunday **17th December**, 3 to 4.30  
pm Adastra Hall. Informal carol singing with  
mulled wine, tea and mince pies.

Friday **22nd December** Churches Together Christ-  
ingle at the URC 4 pm.

**Christmas Eve** - St Cosmas & St Damian Keymer  
BCP Communion Service 8 am Keymer, 9  
Lessons and Carols at 6 pm. Midnight Mass at  
11.30 pm.

St Francis Priory Road Crib service at 4 pm St Ed-  
wards RC Church 5 pm First Mass of Christmas.  
URC Church 10.30 am Worship 6 pm Carols by  
Candlelight.

**Christmas Day** BCP Eucharist at Keymer 8 am.  
Mass at Keymer 9.45 am St Francis Communion  
9.45 am BCP Eucharist at Clayton 11.15 am St Ed-  
wards RC Church Lodge Lane 9.30 am Mass URC  
Church Christmas Day worship 10 am.

*Juliet Strange*

## **HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GE- OGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**

meets on the last Fri-  
day of each month in the Guide Hall by Trinity  
Road Car Park. At each meeting we have an ex-  
pert speaker. On 24th November Monica Walker  
from St Thomas's Hospital spoke on Surgery in the  
18th and 19th Centuries, and on **26th January** Ian  
Gledhill will speak on The Rise of the Modern Mus-  
ical. Meetings start at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome.

*Bill Kent*

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We serve a 3- course lunch Monday to Friday and run a bus Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, picking up from Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint. Please ask the Office to book transport and/or lunch at any time up to 10 am on the day you'd like to join us. The menu changes weekly and is on our website. Everything sold in our Charity Shop is a donation and it all helps to keep the Centre running. It is open 9 am to 4 pm every weekday and 9 am to 12 pm Saturdays. Donations are most welcome. While you are visiting the Charity Shop why not stop by for a hot drink and cake in our Coffee Shop, open 9 am to 3 pm weekdays and 9 am until 11.45 am Saturdays.

October activities at the Centre included music from the Sundown Ukelele Band and a visit to Camelia Botnar Garden Centre and in November a Christmas shopping trip to Horsham Town Centre.

Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday **16th December** 9 am to 1 pm alongside Hassocks Village Market. Our Coffee Shop will be selling take-away refreshments. Come along and browse the

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market and our Fair stalls – there's something for everyone.

We look forward to seeing you. *All at Age Concern*

**THE GROWING NETWORK** We are a freely-giving community network that supports 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 will be joined by volunteers from a Touch of Gentleness who will be offering free hand massages!

**Saturday 9th December** 10.30 am to 12 pm at Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST

This is the Quaker Meeting House (not to be confused with the Old Meeting House in the Twitten) Feel free to bring any seeds, seedlings or produce to share. Or just bring yourself!

For further information please contact

[julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk](mailto:julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk) *Julie & Kate*

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**HOLLY** I'm sure you'll agree that these are crazy times, folks. Back in Ancient Rome they had a festival – Saturnalia – which saw their society turn upside down for a week each December. It seems Saturnalia's traditions of chaos and mayhem are now the daily norm for us Brits but, as we career towards Christmas, we have another thing in common with Saturnalia. We will soon be paying our respects to the Holly tree.

Holly has been celebrated in many traditions over the centuries because, as a native evergreen, its vibrancy in the dead of winter could easily be mistaken for immortality. Holly was the sacred tree of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture. In pagan tradition, the Holly King ruled over the Oak King from Midsummer to Midwinter. Holly was easily adopted by Christians, who saw many links between the tree and the life of Christ. Today, Holly remains a centrepiece of our Christmas decorations, cards and cakes.

Each Holly tree is either male or female. While both produce delicate white flowers in May, it's only the female Holly that bears a berry as red as any blood. When these berries are produced in profusion, it's taken to be a sign of an oncoming hard winter – although in reality it's the outcome of a successful spring. Holly's prickles provide protection for nesting birds, their flower buds are food for the Holly Blue butterfly's caterpillar and their ripe berries are essential for thrushes.

If you're after a tree filled with folklore, then Holly must take a bow. So, if you're planning to deck your halls with boughs of the stuff this Christmas, here's a quick user guide. First off, *never* cut down a Holly



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tree – that's guaranteed bad luck, a superstition which has spared many Holly trees from the woodsman's axe. And make sure you leave Holly trees in your hedgerows to prevent witches from running along the top. If you bring Holly into your home at Christmas, it'll help protect you from those pesky festive faeries. Only female Holly leaves under your pillow will allow you to predict your future in your dreams. Oh, and don't forget to get rid of your Holly decorations before Twelfth Night (but don't burn them, that's bad luck too). Holly trees will protect you against lightning strikes (I'm not sure if this has been scientifically proven so don't blame me if you still get zapped). And don't eat the berries, they're poisonous, but if you have smallpox, you can drink an infusion made from the leaves.

Stick to those rules folks and you'll have a peaceful Christmas. Me? I've had enough of the state of the world today. I'm going to pour some wine, put on my toga and pretend I'm in ancient Rome. Somebody pass me my fiddle.

*Michael Blencowe*



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*Josh & Blake*



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**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON** As we prepare for the Christmas season, we look forward to welcoming the local community to join us as we celebrate God's gift of Jesus.

Wednesday @ 10 services of Holy Communion at St. Margaret's, Ditchling will continue throughout December, with the exception of Wednesday **27th December**.

Our Sunday services during December are as follows:

Sunday **3rd December** and Sunday **10th December** at St. Margaret's Church Ditchling: Morning Worship at 10 am with a Little Beacons session for our younger visitors.

Sunday **17th December** we'll be at Westmeston for Morning Worship at 10 am.

On Sunday **24th December** there will be a service of Morning Worship with Holy Communion at St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 10 am.

Saturday **9th December** sees the first of our Carols by Candlelight Services at Streat Church at 4 pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Westmeston Church will be hosting our second Carols by Candlelight at 4 pm on Saturday **16th December**, with mince pies and mulled wine.

Ditchling's Carols by Candlelight will be at 6 pm on Sunday **17th December**, again followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Do join us for our much-loved Crib Service in St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 4 pm on Christmas Eve, Sunday **24th December**. All children and adults are very welcome.

On Christmas Day, a Christmas service with Holy Communion will be celebrated at Westmeston at 10 am and at St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 11 am.

As we see out the old year on Sunday **31st December**, do join us for Morning Worship at 10 am at St. Margaret's, Ditchling.

Coffee, Chat & Play will be held at the Emmanuel Centre in South Street Ditchling at 10 am on **Thursdays 7th and 14th December** before resuming in January after a Christmas break.

We look forward to welcoming you to at least one of our seasonal services and wish everyone a very happy Christmas and every blessing for a healthy and peaceful 2024. Please check our website for any alterations to the above and to watch those services from St. Margaret's which have been live streamed and can be watched later.

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*Sherrian Guest*

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## GOOD NEWS FROM HAS SOCKS RAIL GROUP



Additional rush hour services to/from London Bridge reinstated from December 2023.

The Hassocks Rail Group was originally formed in 2000 to campaign for a new station and to improve train services at Hassocks.

After the initial successes of getting the new station built and rail services improved, the Group continues to represent the interest of Hassocks rail users.

The Rail Group's ongoing stakeholder engagement work, led by one of Hassocks Community Organisation's Trustees, Catherine Cassidy, has been critical to continuing to get things done and facilitating communication. Catherine has regular meetings with GTR which enables her to feed concerns of Hassocks rail users directly to senior management. The Rail Group is pleased that this has recently resulted in another success.

At the end of 2022, peak hour services to and from London Bridge were halved from 4 to 2 per hour with the withdrawal of the Hassocks stop on the Brighton - Cambridge services. Commuters on the Rail Group brought to the Rail Group's attention how this had adversely impacted on commuters and Catherine subsequently arranged a meeting with GTR's stakeholder and timetable managers to discuss this. They looked into the impact this had

had on commuters and the spread of passenger loadings on the peak time services and as a result this important peak time service is to be reinstated at Hassocks from the next timetable change, **11th December**. There will now be 4 trains per hour to and from London Bridge in peak hours, and the first off peak service of the day will again stop at Hassocks. This is good news for Hassocks commuters. Following the covid pandemic, a reinvigorated Rail Group resumed meeting every quarter to ensure that residents and rail users continue to have the means to engage rail company managers.

The station you see now and the services it provides would not have happened without the hard work and determination of the Rail Group. If you are interested in joining the Rail Group to help ensure Hassocks and surrounding villages continue to have the services they need, please email Catherine on [cc@hassockscommunity.org.uk](mailto:cc@hassockscommunity.org.uk) The Rail Group would particularly like representation from train users who commute to London Victoria or to Brighton or are frequent leisure travellers.

*Catherine Cassidy*

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**LIGHT UP HASSOCKS** is on Friday **1st December** 4 pm to 8 pm and this year we are celebrating some of the wonderful activities and forms of entertainment that our village offers for young and old alike. Come along and see for yourself; watch the parade and visit the various community group stalls to get a taste of the fun to be had just outside your front door! Music from the brilliant Stanmer Band and our ever-so-cute local school choirs, funfair, games, gifts, arts and crafts, food and drink, and Christmas magic all available for your enjoyment too!

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pm and that the high street will be closed between the mini roundabout and Budgens 4 pm to 8 pm.)

*Erica*

**KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** The Keymer Folk Dance Autumn season has been really successful and lively. New members have joined, and we have also welcomed back some who danced with the club previously. The club's last meeting before Christmas will be on Monday **4th December**, and the first meeting in 2024 will be on Monday **15th January**. The club meets at the URC Church Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks from 7.30 pm. You can always check our website for more details about what we do: [www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk](http://www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk) or just type Keymer folk dance club into your search engine.

*Sean Goddard*

**STOOLBALL** Ditchling held its 3rd annual fund raising 'Curry & Quiz' night at The Hassocks Hotel on Friday 20th October.

The evening included the 2023 awards.

Left - Right:  
Lana Malet  
(Most Improved Player) Perry Cragg for his (Contribution) and Abigail Lock (Most Valuable Player)



the nominations were made by the players.

*Michael Stratford*

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**HASSOCKS WI** Meet 3rd Monday in the month at Adastra Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm start 7.45 pm. Hassocks WI made cakes, sausage rolls, biscuits and served the teas and coffee for 'Hassocks on Show'. It was a resounding success. Grateful thanks to everyone for their help. We had a WI table and received a lot of interest, hopefully we will welcome some of you to one of our monthly meetings. You know who you are, come along. Our October meeting was spooky Halloween with witches and ghosts around. Our November meeting 'Deck the Halls' will be made and created Xmas things. We will have a stall at 'Light Up Hassocks' on **1st December**.

Our **18th December** meeting will be a party together with our fabulous Xmas hamper raffle. The Craft Club will meet Monday **4th December** 2 pm. Looking towards our January 2024 meeting (can you believe it) we will discuss Resolutions and enjoy improvised comedy from our local Jen.

A Happy Christmas to everyone, just remember visitors are always welcome (donation) and the cake is wonderful. Don't be lonely come in and enjoy time with us.

*Gerry*



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**AFTER THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC** we decided to merge Hassocks & Keymer Talk About (est. 1976), The Ditchling Dialogue (est. 1984) and Village Voice (est. 1996) magazines.

This free village magazine is delivered in Hurstpierpoint, Sayers Common, Albourne, Clayton, Hassocks, Keymer, Streat, Ditchling, Westmeston and Pyecombe by street volunteers.

We have a few streets we are hoping to find some volunteer deliverers to post this magazine through doors once a month.

The roads that need to be covered are Trinity Road, Hassocks Road, High Street, College Lane, Wolstonbury Close, Lynton Close, St Georges Lane and St Georges Place, Willow Way, Willow Close and Blackthorns in Hurstpierpoint. Part of Henfield Road, The Street, Barn Close, Barleycroft, The Twitten, Church Lane and Leyfield in Albourne.

If you have some spare time and can deliver any of these roads, we will drop the bundles to your door about a week before the end of the month, please call QD Stationery on **01273 846978** and speak to Heidi or email us with your contact info and we will call you back.

*Editor*

**DITCHLING MORRIS** are recruiting new dancers and musicians. Have you ever wanted to give Morris dancing a go? We practise in Hassocks on Thursday evenings in the United Reformed Church hall at 7.30 pm. The hall is conveniently situated in the centre of Hassocks and only 5 minutes' walk from Hassocks station. Our fun and friendly mixed side dance in the Cotswold tradition to live music, so if you are interested in joining as a musician please come along - we will be delighted to see you all!

*Squire*





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**CAN YOU HELP FIND THE OLDEST TREES IN SUSSEX? NEW "LOST WOODS" PROJECT CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS**

A new project to restore and protect ancient woodlands across the Low Weald and Downs is looking for volunteers to help locate all the area's ancient trees.

The Lost Woods project, supported by a £2m grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, is looking for volunteers and community groups across Sussex to join a team who will receive training in identifying ancient trees and making records of their condition.

They are also appealing to the public to send in sightings of old trees within the project area, including those in their own gardens.

The project covers 314 square kilometres, spanning from Lewes in the east to Storrington in the west, and volunteers will be asked to survey 1 sq km patches at a time in the search for ancient or veteran trees.

Ancient woodlands are the richest and most complex terrestrial habitats in the UK and are home to more threatened species than any other. Despite this, ancient trees have little legal protection.

Lost Woods project manager, Sarah Williams, said: "Across Sussex and the UK as a whole, we don't know where all our ancient trees are and so we can't protect those facing threats from development. The majority of ancient trees don't have any legal protection, even though they're really important living habitats and they're often beloved local

landmarks.

"We really need to find our ancient trees and we'd love communities in Sussex to get involved in this giant citizen science project; either as a trained volunteer to go out and make records of our oldest trees, or by telling us about an ancient tree they've spotted. We're really excited to see what trees are discovered."

Using the ancient tree locations, the Lost Woods team will identify land that can be planted with new trees or left to naturally regenerate so that some of Sussex's ancient woodlands can be reconnected. This will create new nature corridors and strengthen habitats. The project team will also work with landowners on plans to restore ancient trees.

Bob Epsom, Woodland Trust outreach adviser for Lost Woods project, said: "Ancient trees are incredible habitats, a single ancient oak tree can be home to over 2,000 species of wildlife, plants and fungi. We hope people will join us as volunteers to find these irreplaceable trees that have been a part of our communities in Sussex for centuries." All records will be added to the national Ancient

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and Veteran Tree Inventory, which is available to the public, planners, developers, and ecologists to help identify where our most important trees are located.

To sign up as a volunteer to map ancient trees or tell the team about an ancient tree in your garden or on land you own, visit [www.lostwoods.org.uk](http://www.lostwoods.org.uk). The five-year project, made possible thanks to National Lottery players, will support disadvantaged community groups in Sussex to access and enjoy woodlands, restore ancient woodlands across the project area, and offer subsidised training courses in woodland management and green woodworking skills. There are many opportunities to get involved or volunteer in the project's programmes. Top tips on how to spot an ancient tree.

Old trees can be identified if they have some or all these features: A wide trunk and a smaller canopy

compared to trees of the same species, a hollowing trunk, rougher or more creviced bark, stag-head-ness (dead antler-like branches extending beyond the canopy)

To sign up to volunteer or tell the Lost Woods team about an old tree you've spotted, visit

[www.lostwoods.org.uk](http://www.lostwoods.org.uk).

*Katie Kennedy*



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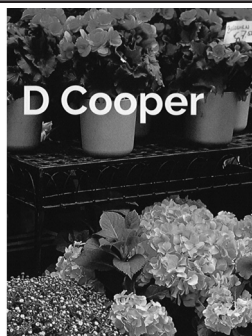
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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Our last film for 2023 showing on **7th December** is Licorice Pizza. The film, directed by Thomas Anderson, was released in 2021. No Christmas classic here but there will be mulled wine and mince pies available on the night. Set in the San Fernando Valley in the 1970's Licorice Pizza is a partly autobiographical, pugnaciously romantic coming of age story for a teenage actor and a hectic trip of self-discovery for a twenty something dreamer.

Certificate 15. Running time 133 mins. English.

To tempt you in to taking out an annual membership here's a brief run-down of the films we're showing in 2024.

We kick off with Barbie (2023) in the winter gloom of January, move swiftly on to horror in February with Saint Maud (2019) and Return to Seoul (2022) in early spring. We'll cascade through the year with The Banshees of Inisherin, Bergman Island, Past Lives, The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, The Eight Mountains, Anatomy of a Fall, Pinocchio and finally Rye Lane.

Full details are already up on the website **ditchlingfilm.org.uk** and printed programmes are available.

Why not buy a Ditchling Film Society membership

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as a Christmas present?

Annual membership for the Ditchling Film Society runs from the time of joining and gives you free entry to 11 films and any extra "Special Events". You can join anytime, and Members can take advantage of 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 films are shown 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 show, which starts at 8 pm.

There's plenty of parking next to the village hall.

*Kate O'Donnell*

*We thank Judy for the following letter:-* I was very humbled to be told I had been nominated for an award for fundraising for Headway East Sussex. I have supported Headway since our 24 year old son Matthew was killed when someone hit him with a baseball bat 27 years ago. I was amazed when told I had raised £30,000 pounds over the years from my sewing. Just a reminder I have an open house on the **12th December** at 34 Farnham Avenue from 10 am - 1 pm raising funds for Headway.

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**THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL** Despite there being only 3 school weeks in October we managed to squeeze an awful lot in!



We have taken part in lots of sporting events including more incredible football performances from both the girls and boys teams, netball and tennis festivals, and a new running club for years 5 and 6 three mornings a week

no matter what the weather; we are so impressed with their grit and determination get fitter and improve their running.

Gary our local Youth Worker and Dave from the United Reform Church came to The Windmills to teach the children all about harvest. He also spoke about how important it is to be kind and how we can show kindness in our day to day lives. A big thank you to our families for their donations to the local food bank. It was great to see such a variety of different items, which will all go to support others in our community.

This month we have been celebrating Black History Month. We have learnt about the importance of celebrating black lives and have learnt about the incredible



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ble contribution black people have made to our society. We have explored the concept of diversity and how our differences make us special and should be celebrated. We joined the Great Big Live Assembly, which celebrated Sisters through showcasing some of the stories of amazing Black women who have made our world a better place.

Year 6 started the year with a bang by heading straight out onto our annual residential to the Windmill Hill PGL site. The week was a great opportunity for us to show off many of our school values—Courage, Per-



severance and Independence in particular. Many of the PGL instructors also noted the amount of respectful and kind behaviour that the children displayed. The children enjoyed



so many activities, including climbing, abseiling, archery and rafting. It was a truly memorable week and everyone was exhausted by the time we were back in Hassocks.

We now have many Christmas activities to look forward to, including the Friends of Windmills School Christmas Fair after school on 24th November, Light Up Hassocks, a design a snowflake competition, and our class Christmas parties.

*'on behalf of The Windmills'*

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### **BLIND AND SIGHT IMPAIRED PEOPLE INVITED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES WITHIN THE NHS**

4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is delighted to announce its participation in a major new Sussex-wide NHS initiative. The charity, in partnership with East Sussex Vision Support, has received funding from an NHS Sussex Health Inequalities grant to talk to people across Sussex to identify the issues faced by people living with sight loss and feedback to the NHS on the results.

Both charities are inviting blind and sight impaired people across Sussex to have their say and talk about their experiences with NHS services on what works well and what hasn't worked well. Importantly this will allow 4SVS to make recommendations on positive change and demonstrate how NHS Sussex can break down barriers and improve access for patients. Kirstie Thomas, CEO at 4Sight Vision Support comments, "This project brings us an exciting and important opportunity for the first time to help NHS Sussex to understand the experiences of sight impaired people, and we invite everyone to tell their story about accessing NHS services.

4SVS provides free support, specialist information, advice and services to blind and sight impaired people

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of all ages, and their families and carers.

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**HHDu3a MONTHLY MEETING** The theme for Karl Foulkes-Halbard, from the Filching Manor Motor Museum, was the intriguing story of the Blue-bird K3 hydrophone. Malcolm Campbell, scoring retirement despite breaking successive land speed records, turned his attention to water sports and went to break the water speed record four times: in 1939 reaching nearly 142 mph in Coniston Water in the K4. The earlier Blue Bird model, the K3, also broke records but, superseded, ended up displayed on the forecourt of a London car dealership, then Thorpe Park. In 1990 Karl's father bought it, set on rescuing and restoring it. First the much neglected hull was stripped and rebuilt, then the engine, clutch and drive system reinstated. Finally, it was tried out on water, initially 'a pretty wild experience'. Then in 2018 Karl took the K3 to Switzerland and, cheered on by enthusiasts, it took to the water on Lake Maggiore where 80 years previously K3 had broken the then record. The success belongs also with Karl, a tribute to his remarkable team and their work over 20 years. This iconic boat. K3 can be seen at the Filching Manor Museum.

For more information about the u3a, its Monthly Meetings and nearly 50 member led groups go to **[www.facebook.com/HHDu3a](http://www.facebook.com/HHDu3a)**. *Jeremy Weinstein*







# What's On in December



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

## Regular Events

**THE BEACON PARISH DECEMBER** - Services of Morning Worship 10 am at St Margarets, Ditchling at 10 am on **3rd, 10th, 31st (family service)** and at Westmeston Church on **17th.**

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10 am at St Margarets Church, Ditchling **excl. 27th Dec.**

Coffee, Chat & Play Thursday mornings **7th & 14th** in the Emmanuel Centre South Street Ditchling from 10 am. Always check [www.beaconparish.co.uk](http://www.beaconparish.co.uk).

**16-25 GROUP** - New group that is designed as a Christian social group for those aged 16 – 25 we will be going out and socialising together once a month on the first Saturday of each month our next meeting is Saturday 2nd December, please check out our website for more information [www.clayton-withkeymer.org.uk](http://www.clayton-withkeymer.org.uk)

**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.

**BBT** - Hassocks (Bumps, Babies and Toddlers) - St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks. Thursdays 1 to 2.30 pm. A group for play and chat.

**COFFEE & CHAT** - Emmanuel Centre, South St., Ditchling. Thurs. **7th & 14th** 10 – 11.30 am.

**DITCHLING MORRIS** - We practise Thursday evenings in United Reformed Church Hall on Thursdays at 7.30 pm. Pop in if you feel like joining.

**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.

Pool, table tennis, games consoles and lots of activities finishing with circle time and prayers

**HASSOCKS FOOD BANK** - This is open to anyone in need of support. Held in Powell House (next to United Reformed Church), Hassocks. 10 am to 12 noon. Every Monday and Friday. Donations can be dropped to Bella and Megs, Mansell McTaggart & Budgens in Hassocks

**HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM** Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks first sunday of the month except January. 2 pm. All welcome.

**HEARTS OF SUSSEX BRIDGE CLUB** - Tuesdays at Age Concern Hassocks as well as Mondays online. For details see [www.hsobcbridgeclub.co.uk](http://www.hsobcbridgeclub.co.uk) or email [hsobcadmin@hsobridgeclub.co.uk](mailto:hsobcadmin@hsobridgeclub.co.uk)

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

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

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

**YOUTH GROUP** at St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks. 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, games consol etc.

## Daily Events

**1st LIGHT UP HASSOCKS** Keymer Road, 4 - 8 pm. Christmas parade, music, funfair, games, gifts, food, drink and many shops will be open late.

**1st HASSOCKS URC** Keymer Road, Hassocks 4.30 - 6.30 pm. Craft activities for young people during Light Up Hassocks.

**2nd BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 10 am - 3 pm. 'Christmas Market. Many stalls in support of local good causes & craftspeople. Refreshments & free admission. [www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com)

**2nd 16-25 GROUP** - New group that is designed as a Christian social group for those aged 16 – 25 going out and socialising together once a month more info. [www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk](http://www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk)

**2nd VILLA ADASTRA** Keymer Road, Hassocks 2 pm. Christmas Fayre with all the usual stalls.

**2nd BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY** St Andrews, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. Fantasia on Christmas Carols and Magnificat. See article for more info. To book 07522 493966

**2nd HURST VILLAGE MARKET**, New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 10 am to 1 pm. Sussex Products and Gifts.

**2nd SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** 10.30 am Ditchling Beacon 6 mile walk. More info [www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk)

**3rd HURSTPIERPOINT SANTA SUNDAY** High Street 12 – 5 pm. (closed to traffic). Food & Drink, Gifts, Grotto, Live Music & Entertainment.

**4th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** URC Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm New members always welcome. [www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk](http://www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk)

**4th HASOCKS WI** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

**5th DITCHLING DOWNS WI** Christmas Party

**7th WOMENS BREAKFAST** The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast and some great chat. Booking info [www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk](http://www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk)

**7th 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 DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Licorice Pizza Cert 15.

**8th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). Drinks & nibbles.

**9th THE GROWING NETWORK** Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling 10.30 am – 12 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books/tools you don't need. Touch of Gentleness are offering free hand massages. Children welcome too.

**9th HASOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB** The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Loxwood. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

**9th MENS BREAKFAST** The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast Christmas party and some chat. Book Booking info [www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk](http://www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk)

**9th STREAT CHURCH** 4 pm. Carols by Candlelight followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

**9th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** 10.30 am Lancing 6 mile walk. More info [www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk)

**10th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** 10.30 am & 1.30 pm Denton 4+4 mile walk join us for the morning afternoon or both. More info [www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk)

**10th HASOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB** The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Bognor Regis Town. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

**10th HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**, Hurstpierpoint 6 pm. Mid Sussex District Council's Civic Service, all welcome.

**11th CAMEO** Keymer Church Hall 2 pm – 4 pm. Christmas Party Open to all – come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

**11th THE GROUP** The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. [www.thegroup.org.uk](http://www.thegroup.org.uk).

**12th HEADWAY** 34 Farnham Ave 10 am – 1 pm Judy Tilbury Open House fundraiser.



[WWW.BRIGHTHELMSTONEPROMOTIONS.CO.UK](http://WWW.BRIGHTHELMSTONEPROMOTIONS.CO.UK)



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IN TALES OF DARKEST AMERICA

**MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL @ THE HASOCKS**  
**EARLY 2024**



**15th JAZZ ETC** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. The Month of Love. Christmas Special with Aneesa Chaudhry & K2 singing Blues, Jazz Classics and Asian Fusion. Tickets Ditchling Post Office.

**16th WESTMESTON CHURCH** 4 pm. Carols by Candlelight followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

**9th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** 10 am St Leonards Forest, Horsham 6 mile walk. More info [www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk)

**16th HOLY TRINITY CHURCH** Hurstpierpoint 6 pm. Music and wine evening featuring The Sussex Waits. Tickets 01273 835113.

**16th AGE CONCERN** Dale Ave, Hassocks 9 am - 1 pm Christmas Fair.

**16th HAS SOCKS VILLAGE MARKET** Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

**16th MESSY CHURCH** URC Church 9.30 am. Meet for breakfast and crafts with a story.

**17th DITCHLING CHURCH** 6 pm. Carols by Candlelight followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

**17th CHURCHES TOGETHER** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 3 pm. Carol Service for all, mulled wine etc

**17th HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**, Hurstpierpoint 6 pm. Candlelit Carol Service followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

**18th PARISH PUB CAROLS** The Greyhound Keymer, 7.30 pm.

**18th HAS SOCKS WI** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Christmas Celebrations. Visitors welcome.

**20th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**20th PARISH PUB CAROLS** The Thatched Inn, Keymer, 7.30 pm.

**21st MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

**22nd CHURCHES TOGETHER** URC, Hassocks 4 pm. Christingle Service.

### Christmas Eve CHURCH SERVICES

BCP EUCHARIST Keymer Church 8 am

MORNING SERVICE Hurstpierpoint Church 9.30 am

MORNING SERVICE Ditchling Church 10 am

WORSHIP URC, Hassocks 10.30 am

CRIB SERVICE Hurstpierpoint Church 3 & 4.30 pm

CRIB SERVICE St Francis Church, Priory Rd 4 pm

CRIB SERVICE Ditchling Church 4 pm

CRIB SERVICE Poynings Church 4 pm

FIRST MASS St Edwards RC Church, Keymer 5 pm

9 LESSONS & CAROLS Keymer Church 6 pm

CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE URC, Hassocks 6 pm

BETHLEHEM TIME Edburton Church 9 pm

MIDNIGHT MASS Keymer Church 11.30 pm

MIDNIGHT MASS Hurstpierpoint Church 11.30 pm

### Christmas Day CHURCH SERVICES

COMMUNION Hurstpierpoint Church 8 am

BCP EUCHARIST Keymer Church 8 am

MASS Keymer Church 9.45 am

MASS St Edwards RC Church, Keymer 9.30 am

ST FRANCIS COMMUNION 'VURCH' 9.45 am

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION Newtimber Church 10 am

FAMILY COMMUNION Hurstpierpoint Church 10 am

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION Westmeston Church 10 am

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP URC, Hassocks 10 am

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION Ditchling Church 11 am

CW EUCHARIST at Clayton Church 11.15 am

**26th CHURCHES TOGETHER** for those who are spending Christmas period alone, to book please email [claytonkeymer@gmail.com](mailto:claytonkeymer@gmail.com) or 01273 846853

**26th HAS SOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB** The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 11 am. (Mens) The Robins take on Haywards Heath Town. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

**28th Dec - 6th Jan HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS** Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint various performances. Panto time 'Red Riding Hood' Tickets [www.hurstplayers.co.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.co.uk).

**30th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** 10.30 am Chidham 5.5 mile walk. More info [www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk)

**SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB** members and friends will continue to happily wind their way across East and West Sussex through December and into 2024. Not all of us are disenchanting humbugs when it comes to Christmas, but we all enjoy good company and the feeling of wellbeing following on from a walk in the fresh air. There are 8/9 walks throughout December, some longer than others, and here are a few of the 4 to 6 milers. Saturday **2nd December** 10.30 am. Ditchling Beacon, 6 miles. Saturday **9th December** 10.30 am. Lancing Ring, 6 miles. Sunday **10th December** 10.30 am and 1.30 pm. Denton, 4 + 4 miles. Join us for the morning, afternoon or both halves of the walk. Saturday **16th December** 10 am. St Leonards Forest, Horsham, 6 miles. Saturday **30th December** 10.30 am. Chidham, 5.5 miles. We would love to see new faces at our walks. No pressure to pay a subscription or book a place. Just turn up and introduce yourself to the leader of the day. For full information of all our December walks [www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk) or please contact me [diann.clarke@outlook.com](mailto:diann.clarke@outlook.com). Our programme for January to June 2024 is underway and will be available for viewing soon.

*Diann*



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Hassocks resident

## Giles Turner

Your local financial adviser



I am a Chartered Financial Planner with over 15 years' experience. I work with people like you to help them secure their financial future by putting the right plans in place today.

I love being a part of Hassocks Village and feel lucky to be able to watch my children grow up within this inspiring community.

I can help you with all aspects of financial planning, including investment, pension and Inheritance Tax planning. It's the creation of a financial plan that is key to delivering your desired outcomes.

Please contact me if you are looking for guidance on planning for your financial future.

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Giles Turner, APFS Chartered Adviser

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SJP approved 06/06/2023



# David J Stevens

Property Maintenance



Feel free to contact me  
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## STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Thank you very much for the support you've shown regarding the planters outside the front of my shop. I know they are a bit the worse for wear, but you need a bit of green foliage in the middle of the village. A lot of the cyclists, kids and adults tend to cut through to the school up John Saxby Place, the others just use the pavements, but we will have to wait and see if someone comes to their senses and realises what a huge white elephant it is and pull the plug on the whole stupid idea.

It looks like we have new owners in The Greyhound in Keymer, in actual fact we've got a few changes in and around the village at the moment. I did speak to Shaun quite recently and he said that it was time to pass the reins onto someone new and give the pub a bit of a shot in the arm – so bye Shaun and Alison and good luck on your new venture. Also, the very likeable Russell Thatcher of Thatchers Barbers - the Godfather of Hassocks as I call him – it would seem he received an offer he couldn't refuse for his business and rather than risk the horses head (which is still firmly attached to the wall outside my shop) he decided to accept the offer and sell Thatchers - lock, stock, and scissors. However, as crafty as he is he'll still be working there four days a week which seems like a pretty good deal to me. Poison Ivy in Ditchling is also under new ownership. Good luck to all the new owners.

I know the cost-of-living crisis effects different people in different ways and some it just doesn't affect at all. When I look out of my shop window and see the continuous flow of very expensive cars and 4x4s, your first thought is I wonder what they do for a living? Then I glance to my left and noticed a lady looking through our re-cycle shoe bin – she saw me looking and came in to ask if I minded her taking a pair of the children's trainers which had been put in there because she was struggling to afford new ones for her child. I was more than happy to help and I'm sure the person that put them in the bin would have been pleased to know they've helped someone not so fortunate.

Then, the phone rings and on the other end is a lady who lives near the foot of the downs, she's heard these dogs barking for nearly 24 hours. On investigation she has found two dogs tied to a tree in a very remote area, they were obviously very cold, wet, and hungry both German Shepherds. Sensibly, she didn't rush to un-tie them but came away and phoned who she thought may be able to help – they told her to contact the local dog warden - well good luck with that one, obviously she couldn't contact him so thought who else can I phone? I know Steve, when she told me the story and asked if I could help, I said you bet your big kahunas I can. But that didn't mean jumping in the car and driving up their – that achieves nothing - so I immediately phoned someone with knowledge and authority who straight away on hearing the story got on with rescuing them. Just to be on the safe side it's always best to involve another expert, so with Julie and Nicky on the case the two abandoned dogs were in the right hands but what an awful thing to do. They were tied so short they couldn't move, and the area was so remote they may have never been discovered. German Shepherds are intelligent dogs, and they know if they keep barking while they had the strength to, someone eventually would come to help. They are now safe in the rescue kennels and looking forward to a Happy Christmas with lots of nice treats, surrounded by love for a change. Was it the cost-of-living crisis that drove someone to be so cruel when we've tracked them down? I'll let you know. Sadly, I've just been given news of another German Shepherd which has been found abandoned, underweight with a nasty skin condition, which is probably the reason he was dumped because of the vets' fees.

Horse owners please remember we offer a Rug Cleaning and Repair Service and our bedding still remains the cheapest around. HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PLEASE WHENEVER YOU CAN SHOP LOCALLY! Love Steve

**HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392**

