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*We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this postcard of the top of New Road
now Cuckfield Road opposite the school taken before WW1.*

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We thank Roy of Hassocks for the following letter:- Can anyone, Councillors include it please explain why the council think it's a great way to spend our taxes on producing little profiles of cyclists on the road throughout the village up to Stonepound, and then to resurface the road covering them before spending more of our money redoing them. Apart from the cost, there was the traffic holdups caused by the work.

I am sure most road users, including cyclists would rather the money was used on correctly filling potholes and resurfacing the roads. I am not in any way anti-cyclist, but I am sure motorists do not require pictures of cyclists to know cyclists also use the road. I am sure cyclists/motorbikes would be more in favour of their safety of having the roads maintained. Will we next be seeing men painting little cars on the road?

THANK YOU! Can I say a big thank you to Brighton hospital where I was a patient for just over 4 weeks. The care they gave me as a patient was wonderful, I could not have had more care

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had I been royalty. Also, my family who stayed with me until late into every evening and encouraged me to eat and keep going, thanks kids! Thank you also to neighbours and friends for all your good wishes, it is nice to be home. Happy Christmas and a healthy new year to everyone.

Shirley Turner

ON WEDNESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER Alan had a bad fall in Hassocks on this day. In seconds the very very kind people of Hassocks came to help in any way. Alan dislocated his shoulder but he is on the mend. We were very touched by you all. Many thanks.

Alan and David

WE WOULD LIKE TO say thank you to Colin French who has been delivering your magazines in Beacon Road, Ditchling & also Andrew Calow who has delivered in Westmeston & Underhill Lane. Thank you for all your help. Should anyone wish to volunteer to deliver Westmeston & Underhill Lane please contact us 01273 846978.

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SOPHIA'S INTERNATIONAL GIRLGUIDING TRIP TO JAPAN 2024

My name is Sophia, I am a 14 year old Ranger in Girlguiding UK and I currently volunteer at a local Brownie unit. I have been selected for LaSER (London and the South East Region) 'Discover Japan' international Girlguiding trip, in August 2024, for which I aim to fundraise £3000.

An experience of a lifetime, which I am excited to be a part of. It will give me a chance to gain independence in international travel within a supportive environment, nurtured by the leaders and supported by my teammates. I will develop my skills in researching, planning and financial budgeting as we are working together to plan the whole trip including where we want to visit, how we are going to get there and where we are



going to sleep! We will be working as a team to discuss our plans, make key decisions, overcome unexpected challenges and form lifelong friendships.

I am looking forward to exploring Japan and learning about a new culture, which will give me a greater respect, understanding and appreciation that will impact my future and the way I see the world.

I have devised an extensive fundraising plan including craft sales, sponsored events, car boot sales and a quiz night.

All the money fundraised and donated will be used to support this trip and the associated costs. I have set up a Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/page/sophia-smith-1699561450444

Thank you for taking the time to read about my adventure. *Sophia*

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH JAN 2024.

As our pre-Christmas treat this year, we decided to spoil ourselves with a proper old-fashioned cold. Not just a common or garden cold, but one with all the trimmings. The Rolls Royce of colds, you might say, replete with splutterings and groanings to enliven the house as we indulged in alternate bouts of fever and delirium. A house in quarantine has a strange sense of abandonment. It is like a railway carriage which someone has stealthily uncoupled in the night in the middle of a dark wood. The rest of the train speeds away, carrying light and laughter towards the dawn, but here in the wood there is nothing but an intermittent creaking as the carriage settles on its track. No one is going anywhere. Accustomed as we are to constant dashing about, organizing things, stirring things up, helping the world to go round by not permitting a moment's inactivity, we feel extremely strange. There is nothing to do but put another log on the fire, drink whatever therapeutic syrups and teas and medicines are available and sit and wait as the

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body goes about the business of rebuilding its defences. It feels strangely like Christmas already – that weightless feeling you get after Christmas lunch when the washing-up is done, the presents are unwrapped and the frantic effort of trying to be in six places at once is temporarily stalled. And as I succumb to it, I realise that this *time-out* is a special gift. We are in limbo, which is what Christmas, and the pre-Christian days of the Winter Solstice were always considered to be. During this period, there is a pause. The Earth resets itself, aligning anew with the forces of regeneration and renewal which will later become visible in the green shoots of spring. Pagan solstice celebrations and the Roman Festival of Saturnalia all took place during this period of time 'suspended', and the Twelve Days of Christmas tucked themselves comfortably into the same space. For the duration of the Feast, normal conventions were turned on their heads. Work stopped and a spirit of anarchy prevailed. In the Middle Ages, it was the custom to appoint boys as bishops, who for

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a few days, held sway over their ecclesiastical elders; masters and servants swapped places; jesting and conning, quizzing and fooling became the order of the day under a Lord of Misrule. (We still wear the crowns and pose the riddles when we pull our Christmas crackers, today). The daily dictates of self-gratification gave place to sharing and giving. Somewhere under all the tinsel and techno-gadgetry of our modern times, lies the ghost of Old Christmas, the strange, unsettling feeling of a world vaster and more complex than we can imagine, turning over like a sleeper and showing us an unfamiliar face. And here is the magic of it all. The face we see is our own face – which has been all along silently attuned to values we may scarcely recognise in our everyday lives. We are made so uncomfortable by these values we call them childish and then say ‘Christmas is really only for children’ and all the while, we secretly long to be to be a Christmas child and believe in magic again. Somewhere



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under the heaps of baubles and solar lights is a yearning for connection to something *other*, yet intrinsically our own: the life-sap of our planet home.

At Christmas the greenwood comes indoors. It may be only a plastic spray of holly, or a picture on a Christmas card, but the liminal, other-worldly mystery of the season is nowhere stronger than in this threshold-crossing. Bringing in the ivy and holly, the Yule-log, the fir boughs, goes way back beyond the time of the Druids. Early clerics tried to ban pagan greenery in churches, but they could not get the people to give up their attachment to it. Even under the Puritans it was common to bring mistletoe into church and the poorest cottage would have its jug of holly. Evergreens were the mainstay of the vegetal world-spirit in our cold Northern hemisphere. All powerful healing plants in their own way, the bay and rosemary, ivy, juniper and holly, celebrated in Christmas carols and poems, brought the vibrant aromatics of their health-giving terpenes and volatile hydrocarbons into every Christmas home. In the early days at Stoneywish, we would make a natural Father Christmas grotto for our Christmas customers. Michael would cut great swathes of evergreens till the stable-space was dark and pungent and filled with palpable plant magic. It was strange and a little bit scary but it opened the heart in an inexplicable way!

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This same *viriditas*, energy of the greenwood, traditionally brought people health and hope through the darkest days of the year. In pagan times the greenery would stay up until 31st January, when new life and the returning light of the sun could be celebrated in a new festival. Candlemas on 2nd February is the Christian Festival of Light and by then snowdrops could come indoors to replace the redundant holly. Now all greenery is taken down by Twelfth Night. After that, normality returns. The ox goes back to his yoke, the peasant to his plough, the merchant to his trade and the rest of us to a Health Farm for slimming and de-toxing and whatever the current gurus prescribe!

But when the Christmas tree has been sent to the recycling, and the baubles are back in the attic, wouldn't it be wonderful to keep a sprig of that greenwood magic in our hearts? To remember stillness? Not having an agenda? So that when we step out of our homes, we come as health-givers, life-givers, to the green world which lies beyond.

Happy New Year, one and all! And may your holly fend off every bug and hobgoblin this side of Easter.

Rosemary

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KEYMER AND HASSOCKS POPPY APPEAL: THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH

On behalf of our President, Mrs Virginia Lewis-Jones, Vice President, Mrs Juliet Smith JP, DL, Chair, Catharine Robinson and the Branch Committee, we would like to thank those Shops and Businesses in Keymer and Hassocks, Hassocks Infant School, Windmills Primary School, Downlands School, Hurstpierpoint Cadets and to Everyone who has supported and donated to the 2023 Poppy Appeal. This year the total has so far reached £3,000 for which we are so very grateful. Please accept a very heartfelt thank you to all who have given so generously. The Branch would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy and successful 2024.

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AGE CONCERN Dale Avenue, Hassocks. 01273 844461 www.achassocks.co.uk Facebook - Age Concern Hassocks.

Firstly, we would like to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year from everyone at Age Concern.

December activities at the Centre included music from Downlands School Choir – thank you to Miss Lincoln and the Students for such enjoyable entertainment. We also held four Christmas lunches which are a very popular part of our Centre's Christmas celebrations, and we thank everyone for their support. Our Christmas Fair, which was held on the 16th December, was a huge success – we will let you know how much we raised in the February issue. We are very grateful to Tates Garden Centre for the very generous donation of a Christmas Tree and Budgens, Boots, Day Lewis, Beauty Aesthetics, Hair by Helen and Manicures by Laura for their very kind raffle donations.

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lunch the day before or up to 10 am on the day you'd like to join us. The menu changes weekly and is on our website.

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We are hoping to provide various trips, talks and musical entertainment throughout 2024. Come along and see what we have on offer.

We look forward to seeing you.

All at Age Concern

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Upstairs, where angels
keep discerning.
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they persist,
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begins to desist
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my date profound,
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Frank,
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Memories though.

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HURST PLAYERS If you weren't able to visit "Red Riding Hood" – the Hurst Players Pantomime for 2023/4 before Christmas – the good news is that performances continue at our welcoming High Street Theatre through to **6th January**. Quite why the rather disturbing tale of a young girl set to become a wolf's breakfast should become the stuff of post-Christmas family entertainment is lost in fairy-tale history ... but ...

If you're in luck and we still have seats available, you can make personal bookings at our Theatre Box Office between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday **30th December** and Saturday **6th January**.

But if you prefer to make your booking online, please visit our website: www.hurstplayers.org – and head for the What's On section where you'll find full details of ticket prices for adults and children, family tickets and dates and times for the remaining performances.

What better way is there to round off the Festive Season than with a touch of the horrors, lots of fun, audience participation and, of course, a happy ending? We don't think there is one!

Anne Hopper

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON Happy New Year to everyone in the Beacon Parish. Whether you're new to the parish or have been part of it for some time, do come and join us at our regular services. Everyone is very welcome, and you'll feel at home very quickly.

Our Sunday services resume their normal pattern

in January:

10 am service of Morning Worship with Holy Communion at St. Margaret's, Ditchling on **7th, 14th and 28th January**.

We welcome families to all of our services and on Sunday's **7th and 14th January**, we have stories and activities especially for younger visitors, who can make new friends at our Little Beacons sessions which take place during the 10 am service.

On Sunday **21st January**, the service will be at Streat church at 10 am.

Sunday **28th January** at 10 am will be one of our popular family services, with activities for children available in the chapel area throughout the service. Why not come along and invite another family as well?

Refreshments are available after each service.

Our Wednesday @ 10 services of Holy Communion will be held at St. Margaret's each Wednesday this month.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Please check our website www.beaconparish.co.uk for any changes to the above. *Sherrian Guest*

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY meets on the last Friday of each month in the Guide Hall by Trinity Road Car Park. At each meeting we have an expert speaker. On **26th January** the speaker will be Ian Gledhill who will give an illustrated presentation on The Rise of the Modern Musical – from Oklahoma to Phantom of the Opera. The meeting starts at 8 pm. Visitors are welcome.

Bill Kent

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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 every 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 paying a visit to Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society, and we are delighted that Jo Morphy, the founder of the Growing Network, will be giving a talk.

Tuesday **9th January** at 7.45 pm in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Do come along to find out more about what we do!

Julie Ulbricht & Kate Sherman

NEWS FROM DOWNLANDS SCHOOL SUCCESSFUL PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR AND NEWS OF A COMEDY NIGHT COMING UP IN MAY

Hassocks and the surrounding areas came together again and generously visited and spent their cash at the Downlands School annual Christmas Market School Fair over the weekend of 25th November. Hundreds of visitors made their way through the school Christmas tree lined entrance and into the school hall to be greeted with 20 local business stall holders selling locally made goods while the school choir and orchestra entertained them. Over 120 year 7 children had over 40 stalls offering games and fun events and there were lots of PTA themed tombola's giving everyone a

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chance to win a prize to go home with... the fair raises money exclusively for the school and looks to have raised around £6000 this time... there was even a visit from you know who... Santa! Who came to see the younger children... The school's Christmas and Summer Fairs are a brilliant opportunity to see the school close up - especially if your hope is for your little ones to attend one day...

The next big event is a comedy night with local comedy superstar Stephen Grant as one of the performers - along with special guests on **10th May** - keep an eye out for ticket info on local facebook pages or follow on facebook "Downlands School Association"

The Downlands School PTA

WHO KILLED THE GRAFFITI ARTIST?

The Church Players present a murder mystery play by Chris Martin Saturday **27th January** 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm at St. Francis Church Hall, Priory Road, Hassocks.

Tickets include refreshments and are available from **01273 846853**. There will be a retiring collection in aid of a local charity.

Join us and spend a couple of hours full of suspense and intrigue. To add to the fun, come dressed in an outfit inspired by the art world. It'll be a "Scream!"

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100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR

1st HASSOCKS GUIDE UNIT

1st Hassocks Guide Unit will reach its 100th Birthday on **1st February**. Several events have been planned to mark this occasion including creating a Timeline to record the development of Guiding from 1910 up to the present day. This will be displayed in Hassocks Guide Hall, itself is a historical building with a great past.

Alongside the general progress of Guiding over the past century, we want to look specifically at the history of 1st Hassocks Guides. If any past members, guides or leaders, have any memorabilia, such as photos or newspaper cuttings, that they would like to share with us, it would be great to hear from them. Written accounts would also be lovely. Please email using the details below.

The unit is also asking for help from qualified leaders, maybe recently arrived in Hassocks, who would consider stepping up to volunteer to join the District and take on 1st Hassocks Guides in September as it moves into its next century.

Alternatively, if one or two people with a willingness to take their Leadership Qualification (it's mostly on-line training these days!), could volunteer their services, a team approach would also work. It's great fun, rewarding and can enhance job application opportunities, too email penniethomson2000@gmail.com.

Guiding has come a long way since 1st February 1924 and it's still going strong with ten million members around the world.

Pennie Thomson and Dawn Batchelor



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THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB has two meetings in January, on Monday the **15th and 29th January**. We meet at the URC Church all, and start at 7.30 pm. The New Year is an excellent time to start folk dancing, the Keymer Club is very friendly and as well as doing some light exercise, you'll meet new friends. Most dances are performed to a regular walking step, so providing you can tell left foot from your right, you'll be just fine. In March the club will be holding a special event at the Adastra Hall. Sean Goddard, one of our long-established members will be given the Gold Badge of the English Folk Dance and Song Society: an award given to special people who have researched and taught folk dancing for a longer period of time. The Copper Family from Rottingdean will sing the Old Sussex Songs, and there will be a large Barn Dance. For more details about this event and the Keymer Folk Dance Club look at our website.

Sean Goddard

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ALL THE RIGHT NOTES It is with great sadness that I have to confirm that All the Right Notes will not be returning in January 2024 as my health has deteriorated beyond the point where the preparation of rehearsals and concerts is possible.

I really wasn't sure if we would be able to return following my heart attack, but we've had 15 more months of fun making music together, and we concluded in December with a concert for family and friends for which tickets sold out within ten days.

I would like to thank everyone who has been part of the community choir since its creation in December 2011, all those professional musicians who have joined us for concerts, and all those who have come along to those concerts at various venues around the local area, enabling us to raise thousands of pounds for charities.

Paul Simpson

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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL One of the things we have been so proud of recently is receiving our Bronze Autism Aware Award. Some of our wonderful children, parents and staff attended the award ceremony to collect our award. We are delighted to have been recognised for the support we provide our young autistic learners and how much they have taught us and their peers. The afternoon was a brilliant success with our children speaking about their time in our 'All About Me Group' and building new relationships with their peers. We are very proud of them; not only with how they spoke to a big group of adults, but with the exemplary behaviour they exhibited throughout the afternoon. They were the only children asked to attend to share their experience and the adults were blown away by them.

Some of our year 6 children took part in a Sportshall Athletics competition at Haywards Heath College. There were a wide variety of activities ranging from traditional events like long jump and foam javelin throwing, to more unusual ones like vertical jump and over and under obstacle relay. We were thrilled to find out that The Windmills came first out of the 13 competing schools. As overall winner, our teams will compete in the Sussex finals in April next year. Well done to the team—they were just brilliant. Year 3 got to experience life like people from the



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stone age. They looked at the jobs they would have had all that time ago such as hunter, gatherer, or flint knapper, and had to decide what they would choose to do and why.

This term, year 4 have been getting their teeth into a very important science topic; getting to know their teeth and, most importantly, how to take care of them. They did an experiment putting eggs in different liquids and seeing what effect they have on teeth after a few days. One surprise discovery was that orange juice left a really nasty stain; people think fruit juice is healthy but if we have it we really need to brush our teeth well.

Year 5 enjoyed becoming Vikings for a day. They assigned themselves Viking names to use and had a Viking packed day, making shields, having a rowing race on long boats in the hall, writing letters in Viking script, and painting sea and landscapes.

They also were lucky to have a visit from the Burgess Hill Fire and Rescue Service for a fire safety talk; they were all very excited to see a fire engine parked up in the playground, and loved having the chance to find out more about the equipment and machinery that they use every day. The highlight for most of the children was having a go on the water hose!

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THE HURSTPIERPOINT NSPCC committee held their very popular Quiz in the Bowls club in November, and it was a very successful fun evening. They had a waiting list as well!

A very big thank you to everyone who supported them, raffle prize donations, Hurst Bowls Club bar staff Brian and Tony, the quizmaster Andrew and a very big thank you to Dave and his team at Crossways for the fish and chip suppers. They really worked hard to cook so many!

The grand total of £835 was raised which is an excellent amount.

Thanks a lot, to everyone who came and hope to see you next year.

Jonet Marshall

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who supported the Race and Music Quiz night on Friday 24th November whether buying an advert, sponsoring a race, owning a horse or joining us for a fun evening. Also thank you to The Hassocks again for supporting another one of my fundraising events. I'm sure I said the last one was my last but as I head towards retirement it may well be but I can't promise!

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We raised £2071 for The Honeypot Children's Charity which will be matched by Charity extra so £4142 going to this worthwhile cause.

One big thank you Chris Lambe from The Hassocks, he is one of a kind. When you do a charity event or anything for the community he does not get the credit he is owed and the family as well, they always support him.

One big thank you to everyone and what a great total Hassocks you are amazing.

Sharon Saunders

STAR CINEMA Friday 19th January at the Adastra Hall. January's film is The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton... Harold is an ordinary man who has passed through life, living on the side lines, until he goes to post a letter one day.....and just keeps walking. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available on the door. Tea, coffee, wine, and the usual popular raffle.

The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Edmunds

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SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING

CLUB It's probably difficult to remember now, but summer seemed to last well into October, with warm and sunny days which encouraged our members to turn out for the varied and interesting walks devised by our leaders. But suddenly the weather changed, the rain turned our chalky uplands slippery, and our river valleys sticky with mud. Did that mean no more walking? Of course not! Pathfinders are intrepid adventurers, and great believers in the saying that there is no bad weather, only inappropriate clothing.

But I know that however inclement the conditions may be, at least some of my fellow Pathfinders will assemble, stride out, and enjoy the comforting glow that comes from finishing the walk and getting back into a warm dry car! Our English weather is nothing if not fickle, and even in the depths of winter there are often days of glorious sunshine, when the absence of foliage enables longer views, the cold air is bracing, and a flask of coffee provides all the comfort anyone can need. So, when the barometer is set fair, I look forward to walking and talking with you! Our new programme for January through to June 2024 is now available to read online at www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk.

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HH&D U3A Happy New Year! Learn about your local Hurst, Hassocks & Ditchling u3a. We have around 380 members from our three villages, and 50 interest groups. There is an Annual membership and most groups are free. Visit our website: www.u3asites.org.uk/hhd/home. "u3a is a cooperative movement, where we all take an active part. u3a is a means of continuing to learn, continuing to live, continuing to enjoy life. Every day you learn something new, and you meet new people, and it's just a wonderful way of stretching out your social network and meeting like-minded people who enjoy doing the same things as you." Quote by Ann, member of Edinburgh u3a. Marie Fraser

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Happy New Year and welcome to our first film of 2024.

Barbie (Dir. Greta Gerwig), a sunshine-soaked film, kicks off the year on the **11th January**.

And yes! It's about Barbie the Mattel doll! A riotously entertaining candy-coloured confection that manages simultaneously to celebrate, satirise and deconstruct its (apparently) happy-plastic subject.

Some call it a feminist fable and it definitely plays on stereotypes, both male and female. You will recognise them! It's very pink. It's very funny. And you know there's some quite serious stuff in there as well.

Barbie, 12A, (2023). 114 minutes. English.

Saint Maud (Dir. Rose Glass). We're turning to horror on the **1st February**.

In her directorial debut Rose Glass has created a very well-crafted horror film; a psychodrama with astute character observation and strong performances by Morfydd Clark and Jennifer Anne Ehle. The film earned a record seventeen nominations at the British Independent Film Awards 2020. Film critic Mark Kermode listed it as his favourite film of 2020, calling it an "electrifying debut".

Saint Maud, 15, (2019). 84 minutes. This is a horror film and contains sexual and violent scenes. English.

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. Guest entry is also available on the door. New offer! Under 25s can buy guest tickets for half price. BBFC legal

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age restrictions still apply.

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.

For full information go to their website **ditchlingfilm.org.uk**. Follow us on Instagram **@ditchlingfilmsoc** and Tweet **@Ditchlingfilm**.

Ditchling Film Society

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH

On behalf of our President, Mrs Virginia Lewis-Jones, Vice President, Mrs Juliet Smith JP, DL, Chair, Catharine Robinson and the Branch Committee, we would like to thank those Shops and Businesses in Ditchling, St Margaret's C of E Primary School and to Everyone who has supported and donated to the 2023 Poppy Appeal. A special thank you also to our wonderful Collectors in Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston. This year our total has so far reached £4,000 for which we are so very grateful. Please accept a very heartfelt thank you to all who have given so generously. The Branch would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very healthy and successful 2023.

Margaret E Bovill.

**DEADLINE FOR
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NEWS UPDATE FROM AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY KENT SURREY SUSSEX

It's been a busy few months for Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS).

We're here for millions of people across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Every day we respond to nine emergency calls on average – giving people the best chance of survival and keeping families together.

In July we remembered the dedication and devotion of our crew members Graham Budden, Mark Darby and Tony Richardson, three incredible men who sadly lost their lives in a helicopter accident whilst serving with the charity, 25 years ago.

In a private remembrance ceremony held in July, family members, Team KSS colleagues, volunteers, and representatives from other emergency services, gathered at the memorial stone at Blue Bell Hill in honour of Graham, Mark and Tony.

This was followed by a Memorial Service at The Collegiate Church of All Saints, Maidstone.

Later in the day, a memorial bench dedicated to Graham, Mark and Tony to mark the 25th anniversary was unveiled at our Rochester base. Memorial plaques dedicated to the three crew members were also unveiled at both our Rochester and Redhill bases.

In August a record number of 155 horses and riders saddled up for this year's KSS Ride, raising £8K to support our work.

Participants enjoyed beautiful blue skies and a scenic eight-mile ride through the scenic Bilsington Priory Estate near Ashford.

During September and October, we held a series of four Heli Hikes across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. We welcomed over 700 of our amazing sup-

porters to these events, which raised an incredible total of £50K to help us continue our life-saving work.

In September we celebrated Air Ambulance Week by hosting an Emergency Services Family Fun Day at Rochester Airport, and marked ten years of becoming the first Air Ambulance charity in the country to fly 24/7, 365 days a year, enabling us to reach more patients and save more lives.

On 29 September 2013 KSS became the first Air Ambulance in the country to provide a 24/7 helicopter service all year round when a team flew to a patient involved in a road traffic collision near Canterbury, treated them and accompanied them to hospital.

Since then, we have treated more than 2,000 patients at night and our aircraft have flown approximately a quarter of a million miles at night, equivalent to flying around the Earth 11 times or travelling to the Moon.

In October around 17K children and adults,

from across the South East were equipped with the confidence and skills to provide life-saving CPR to mark national Restart a Heart Day.

On Monday 16 October, we provided free live-streamed interactive awareness sessions on what to do in an emergency and how to provide CPR to someone in cardiac arrest.

The sessions were live-streamed across platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, Teams and Twitter.

Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex fights to save lives every single day and Christmas is no exception.

Last December we were called to 72 road traffic collisions, 96 medical emergencies and 60 acci-



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dental injuries. Traffic accidents along with injuries from falls, cuts and burns are higher in December than at any other time of year. When the unexpected does happen, getting our specialist critical care teams to you quickly can make all the difference.

We're proud to be a charity that provides life-saving care over the festive season. Your help is vital in helping us reach those in need faster. Together we can give families a chance to share another Christmas together.

Your support keeps us in the air 24/7, 365 days a year so we can keep families together when it really matters.

Throughout the year, KSS organises a number of different fundraising events and, this summer, there are lots of opportunities to take part and help the life-saving charity raise vital funds.

Gavin Sherriff

BRIGHTON CONSORT IN HURSTPIER- POINT

Brighton Consort is a regular visitor to Hurstpierpoint, with several performances in Holy Trinity Church in recent years. Their next concert is entitled "Double or Nothing: Renaissance music for double choir". Of the many fascinating innovations in choral composition that took place during the 16th and 17th centuries, one of the most striking was the development of music written for

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two separate choirs. In these works, the musical lines from the two groups of singers swirl and interweave in quite complex ways, although at times they also come together to act like blocks or pillars. In their concert Brighton Consort will present music by Allegri, Palestrina, Victoria, Monteverdi and others - all written in this compelling way for at least eight separate voice parts.

The event will take place on Saturday **27th January** at 3 pm. If you can't make that date there is also a chance to hear the same music in St Paul's Church, West St., Brighton on Sunday **21st January** (6 pm).

Programme details are on the Brighton Consort website www.brightonconsort.org.uk/projects/double-or-nothing/. Tickets can be purchased on the website, or you can ring **01273 833746** or buy tickets on the door.

Mike Clemens

BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY If you fancy a new challenge in 2024 why not give Burgess Hill Choral Society a try?

We are a non-audition choir with an enviable record of musical performance. Our members come from across Mid Sussex to share their love of singing and the friendly atmosphere of our weekly rehearsals. The choir caters for a wide range of musical tastes both modern and classical and we experience the thrill of performing with professional soloists and a full orchestra. Find out more by at:

www.burgeshillchoral.org or come along to one of our open rehearsals on **8th January** and **15th January** as our guest. You'll be made very welcome.

Jane Leng



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I GOT YOU UNDER MY SKIN I like to think that most of us are good neighbours to the wild animals we share this planet with. We feed the birds, grow flowers in the garden for bees and butterflies. But if wildlife gets too close or, heaven forbid, enters our houses we're reaching for the fly spray or a rolled-up newspaper. I get plenty of people complaining to me about home-invading wildlife as if I'm some sort of envoy for the animal kingdom. Yet while they moan about clothes moths in their wardrobe, I just stand there smiling, reassured by the knowledge that these people have wildlife living right under their noses. Well, to be more precise, right in their noses.

OK, I warn you now: after reading this article some of you will be scouring your face with a Brillo pad. But it's time to face the facts. Your face is crawling with animals. You, yes you, have face mites. And there's no 'might' about it – research has shown that 100% of adults have them. Our faces are one big nature reserve for mites: from your mountainous nose and skin pore caves to your eyelash jungles. In fact, our faces are home to two different species. *Demodex folliculorum* thrive in your eyelashes while *Demodex brevis* lurk in your pores. They're feeding on dead skin cells and oils but don't harm us – a commensal parasite.

Before you run to the bathroom mirror, these guys are tiny. I'm not going to lie to you, they're not pretty (unless you think a microscopic 8-legged slug is pretty) and under high-powered microscopes they look like something you'd encounter in a galaxy far, far away. The egg and larval stages last two weeks and you'll probably be relieved to

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hear that the adults live for just five days and then die. And it's right about here you'll realise that these things are constantly mating on your face. You can scrub and scrub, but you can't wash away the hard truth: you're just a mammal. And like dogs, cows, orangutans and meerkats we're the perfect hosts for a range of parasites.

Personally, I've grown quite fond of my little pets – despite never being able to see them. When I go to bed at night, I imagine Clarence the Demodex, climbing from his pore, going for a wander across my cheek and hoping to meet a girlfriend. But instead, he meets his nemesis Evil Arthur and a mite fight ensues until ...well, you get the idea. There are hundreds of these little adventures happening on your face every night. Sweet dreams.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in 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. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join.

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HASSOCKS WI Meets the 3rd Monday in the month at Adastra Hall.

Doors open 7.30 pm Start 7.45 pm.

Happy New Year - Our November meeting and December Craft Club was very festive focussed making decorations to keep or sell at our LUH stall. Sarah from Sarita Prints Joy helped us make unique xmas cards.

January meeting (**15th January**) is about Resolutions (WI ones) and fun. This year there are four to discuss (full details WI Life). Every member has a vote. Come along, listen, decide, vote. To round of the evening in a lighter vein we will enjoy improvised comedy with Jen.

We have welcomed lots of new members during the year. All members have given us ideas and suggestions which we are busy incorporating into our 2024 programme. Hopefully, we will have finished it for our February meeting which is our AGM. This will be followed by 'Laughing Yoga' (member suggestion). What a tonic. Banish the winter blues come and join us, visitors greatly welcomed (donation). View our many additional groups and activities on our website.- www.wihassocks.org.uk. Read our newsletter detailing the events organised by our West Sussex Public Affairs committee for all local WIs. Don't feel lonely try us out - There is always cake!

NOTE: Craft Club - Monday **8th January** at 2 pm. Keep Warm.

Gerry

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THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX presents: An Afternoon of Modified Rapture!

The Eastbourne Entertainers, featuring Richard Woodall, Rebecca Hughes and Russell Ablewhite, will be entertaining us with music and humour from Gilbert and Sullivan and others. Sunday **28th January**, 2.45 pm. Adastra Hall, Hassocks.

For tickets which includes refreshments contact gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

Pennie Ingram

G&S TODAY Plus!
The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Sussex
Presents
"An Afternoon of Modified Rapture!"

Richard **Rebecca** **Russell**

The Eastbourne Entertainers
featuring
Richard Woodall (baritone), Rebecca Hughes (mezzo soprano)
and **Russell Ablewhite (piano)**.
An afternoon of music and humour from the pens of Gilbert, Sullivan and others.
28th January 2024 at 2.45pm at the Adastra Hall, Hassocks, BN6 8QH

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GYM NEWS



*Pictured is Olivia,
the Junior winner
of the
Summer Championships.*

Exciting times in the Gym. Nearly 200 children gained their gymnastics awards in the Autumn term, with many more just a few skills away. These were presented free at the end of term.

This Spring term will be another busy one, with 100 gymnasts looking to compete in the Arts Competition on Saturday **16th March**. Competitors will be competing in different age groups at different skills. This time it will be Ribbon Pairs, Hoop Solos, Beam Pairs and the very popular Sports Acrobatic Sixes. Parents and friends will have free entry to spectate the competitors all morning.

There are a few places left to join the Club, with vacancies on Wednesdays, Thursdays and particularly in our Pre-school classes on Friday afternoons – 1 pm (boys) 1.30 pm (mixed), 2 pm or 2.30 pm (girls). Our Club offers regular classes at affordable costs with fully trained coaches, free awards, two free entry competitions each year and subsidised clothing. Three-year-olds from Sayers Common are offered a free first term.

For the up-to-date position, please contact us through our website www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk.

Andrew

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FOSSIL HUNT BY CHILDREN AT VILLAGE SCHOOL AS THEY CREATE A NEW GARDEN

A mid Sussex village school is poised to create a garden for its pupils.

Albourne Church of England primary school's Year Six students have been given much of the equipment they need in a donation from Sussex-based charity The Budding Foundation. It works to support children and young families in need across the county.

Founder Clive Gravett arranged the donation with South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks, a Tates of Sussex garden centre. "It was a delight to help this small village school with its project to promote horticulture to its oldest pupils", said Clive.

Staff, parents and the children hope to develop the garden very soon to incorporate the donated raised beds and planters, and to complete an archaeological dig in the search for fossils.

Corrine Large from the school's PTA collected the donation from Clive Gravett at South Downs Nurseries.

What's On in January

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.**

Regular Events

THE BEACON PARISH - Services of Morning Worship (**family services**) 10 am at St Margarets, Ditchling at 10 am on **7th, 14th & 28th** and at Streat Church on **21st**.

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

Coffee, Chat & Play Thursday mornings in the Emmanuel Centre South Street Ditchling from 10 am. Always check 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.claytonwithKeymer.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 Street, Ditchling. Thursday mornings from 10 am – 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 - 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 on-line. For details see www.hsobcbridgeclub.co.uk or email 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.

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB Mondays **15th & 29th January** We meet from 7.30 at the URC Hall, Hassocks, www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk

SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD Clayton Village Hall, Thursdays 7 - 9 pm. Beginners to Advanced 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 St Francis Church, Priory Rd, Hassocks. Thurs 5 pm - 6.30 pm Sch Years 4 - 6 & 7 pm - 8.30 pm Sch Years 7 - 13. (Term time). Lead activities plus pool, table football etc.

Daily Events

28th Dec - 6th Jan HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint various performances. Panto time 'Red Riding Hood' Tickets www.hurstplayers.co.uk.

2nd DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. 'The World's Worst orchestra' David Bramwell.

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

6th HURST VILLAGE MARKET, New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 10 am to 1 pm. Sussex Products and Gifts.

6th 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

6th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS 10 am Knepp Estate. 5 miles. More info www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk

7th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS 10 am Washington. 10 miles. More info www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk

7th DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome.

8th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

8th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Cakes & Ale' Janet Pennington.

8th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thegroup.org.uk.

9th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'The Growing Network - Concept & Experience so far' JulieUlbricht & Jo Murphey followed by a New Year Social.

9th THE GROWING NETWORK Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. Will be visiting Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society.

9th MUSKRAT RAMBLERS, Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East, doors open 11.45 am for 12 pm start. Great Food, Great Jazz & Great Company. A set lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01444 235986 or 01444 235639 to book.

10th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

11th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Barbie Cert 12A.

12th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A United Reformed Church, Keymer Road. 2 pm. 'All you need to know about Power of Attorney & Wills with solicitor Fiona Dodd. Open to all u3a members.

12th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Portable Power, The Problems & Solutions' G4UDU. All welcome.

13th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS 10 am Buchan Country Park. 5 miles. More info www.sussex-pathfinders.org.uk

13th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book sussexsewingclub@gmail.com.

13th MESSY CHURCH URC Church 9.30 am. Meet for breakfast and crafts with a story.

14th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS 10.30 am Firle Beacon. 8 miles. Info www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk

15th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Resolutions and 'whiling Away a Winter Evening'. Visitors welcome.

16th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by 1st Ditchling Scouts. All welcome.

18th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

19th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'. Tickets available on the door.

HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

In an emergency please dial 999 to access them:

SAYERS COMMON COMMUNITY SHOP, London Road, Sayers Common
VILLAGE CENTRE LIBRARY ENTRANCE, Trinity Rd, Hurstpierpoint, 40 High St, Hurstpierpoint
BOWLING CLUB, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint
COURT BUSHES COMMUNITY HUB, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint
FAIRFIELD RECREATION GROUND, Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint

20th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS 10 am Pulborough Brooks. 5.5 miles. More info www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk

20th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Little Common. Bar & Food available. Free entry to kids 16 & under.

21st DITCHLING SINGERS Keymer Church Hall 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome.

22nd HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'What's in a View?' Bill Avenell

24th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

25th POLICE BEAT SURGERY Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks 11 am - 1 pm. Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.

25th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appt necessary.

26th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag and Natter Night' All welcome.

26th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'Birds of Paradise' Ray Hale. All welcome, refreshments, small entrance fee.

26th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.45 pm 8 pm 'The Rise of the Modern Musical - from Oklahoma to Phantom of the Opera' Illustrated talk by Ian Gledhill. Visitors welcome.

27th REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransition.org.uk.

27th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

27th THE CHURCH PLAYERS St Francis Church Hall 2.30 pm - 7.30 pm. 'Who Killed the Graffiti Artist'. Tickets 01273 846853.

21st BRIGHTON CONSORT Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint 3 pm. 'Double or Nothing: Renaissance Music for Double Choir' Tickets 01273 833746.

28th GILBERT & SULLIVAN Adastra Hall, Hassocks. 2.45 pm. 'An afternoon of Modified Rapture! Richard Woodall, Rebecca Hughes & Russell Ablewhite entertain with Music & humour. Tickets gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

28th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS 10 am Seaford. 6 miles. More info www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk

29th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

Hassocks - Defibrillator Locations

Location	Opening hours	Address	Telephone
Railway Station	Outside the ticket office area 24-hour access	Keymer Road	
Adastra Bowling Club	1 - 8 pm Mon, Wed & Fri 10 - 8 pm Tue, Thurs, Sat & Sunday Bowling season only - late April to late September	Adastra Park - north field Via Orchard Lane or Keymer Road	
Age Concern	9am - 4pm Mon to Fri. 9 am -12 noon Saturday. Closed Sunday.	Dale Avenue Located at entrance, available during opening times	01273 844461
Freedom Leisure Centre (at Downlands Community School campus, Dale Avenue)	7am - 9 pm, Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4pm Saturday 9am - 3pm Sunday 9am - 3pm Bank Holiday (unless otherwise stated)	Downlands Community School Dale Avenue Located at entrance lobby of Leisure Centre - available during opening hours	01273 841348
Hassocks Dental Surgery	9am - 6pm Mon, Tue, Thurs. 8.45am - 4pm Wed 9am - 5pm Fri.	54A Keymer Road Available during opening hours	01273 842987
Graystone Referral Centre	8.30am - 5.30pm Monday 8.00am - 5.30pm Tuesday - Friday	38 Keymer Road Available during opening hours	
Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club	On the wall in the covered alcove at the front of the building 24-hour access	Adastra Park - south field Via Orchard Lane or Keymer Road	
Age Concern Hassocks	9am - 4pm, Monday to Friday 9am - 12pm Saturday	Dale Avenue Available during opening hours	01273 844461
Hassocks Health Centre	8.30am - 6pm, Monday to Friday	Windmill Avenue Available during opening hours	01273 834388
Thatched Inn	Outside the front of the pub 24-hour access	Grand Avenue	01273 842946
Weald Lawn Tennis And Squash Rackets Club	9am - 9pm Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Saturday - Sunday	South Bank Available during opening hours	01273 844283
South Downs Garden Centre	8am - 6pm Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm Sunday	Brighton Road Available during opening hours	01273 845232

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I was speaking to a lady the other day who lives in a small village in Essex whose Parish Council does its level best to try and make sure it doesn't become overpopulated and keep the village atmosphere. Here in Hassocks we seem to be at the mercy of any company that wants to build anything, anywhere. We all know that National Tyres is an eyesore that eventually will have to be replaced with something a little more pleasing to the eye. Now, just a few 100 yards up the road opposite Adastra Park, a new housing estate is planned under the guise of retirement homes, apparently the owners of numbers 68 and 70 have sold the land at the back of their houses for redevelopment. What isn't clear is are the two houses to remain or will they be demolished to make way for this supposed estate of retirement homes which probably are once again aimed at the higher end of the market. I can't see them being able to do this without demolishing them. The gardens at the back go all the way back to Dale Ave that's not going to be a nice outlook for those homes on the left going up and what about the increase in traffic coming out onto the already very busy Keymer Road. I can see lots of people thinking good a nice retirement home for when I get old, I bet this has got nothing to do with retiring but everything to do with the building top end homes, there will be no social homes here that's for sure.

I expect next years Light Up Hassocks will be renamed Light Up Half of Hassocks because the event stopped at Grand Avenue with nothing going on beyond that point. It was a total waste of time for a lot of shops that stayed open to support it and we want to support it, but it is a double edged sword - the organisers should make sure the whole of the High Street is used not just half, I'm pretty sure next year a lot of shops will think twice before staying open later for nothing. It did used to be called Late Night Shopping for a reason so people could rediscover the shops that they haven't visited for a while.

I had call from a lady (thanks Mads) to say she'd seen a dead fox by the side of the road on Ockley Lane a much busier road now thanks to the new estate. I hate leaving them so I do my best to pick them up, when I got to this one I was just amazed at the beautiful condition it was in most wild foxes can look a bit ropey, but this one was just the perfect example of a wild fox hardly an injury on him someone, somewhere must have been feeding him a good diet, so sad he ran out of luck on that road. Normally I put them in a body bag but I couldn't bring myself to put him in a bag I just carried him to the back of the car and laid him out on a blanket then later in the evening I carried him out to a remote space in the countryside to rewind him so he could naturally go back to nature.

Those two Alsatians that were tidied up to a tree have now been rehomed and are very happy, no news yet though on who it was who so cruelly abandoned them to die.

I've had some correspondence regarding these planters, cycle care and pedestrian crossing but I'll bring you up to speed with all that next year in the meantime have a very Happy Christmas and New Year, I'm sure there will be lots to talk about in the Talk About in 2024.

Love from Steve and all my beautiful furry friends

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392