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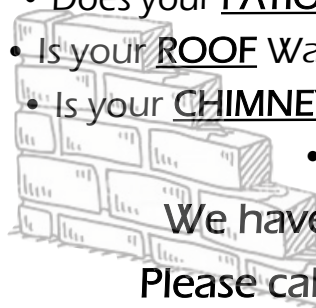
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*All the winners from Hurstpierpoint Gymnastic Club 23rd Arts Competition  
Article on following page*



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### **23RD ARTS COMPETITION SUCCESS**

Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club had a very successful morning with their 23rd Annual Arts Competition. Nearly 200 parents and friends were able to watch all of the competitions in progress. This year nearly a hundred gymnasts competed for trophies and medals in Hoop Solos, Beam Pairs, Ribbon Pairs and Sports Acrobatic Sixes. Competitors come from all over the district :- Burgess Hill, Ditchling, Haywards Heath & Cuckfield, Albourne and many other villages, Brighton and Lewes, with more still from Hurstpierpoint & Hassocks. The children choose whether to enter, then choose which sections to do, chose their own music and then created and practised their own routines for performance.

The Beam Pair competition involves mounting the beam and performing six

different skills before dismounting. This year's winners were:- Year 3 – Zuri Muncaster & Sienna Bourne, Year 4 - Isla Gould & Poppy Dignam Year 5 & 6 – Ida Martin & Phoebe Dare, Year 7+ - Elsie Beveridge & Evi Campbell.

The rhythmic apparatus is rotated each year and this year the pairs were Ribbon. The winners were Year 3 & 4 – Juliet Holloway & Isabella Braid, Year 5 & 6 – Evi Heywood Waddington & Mia Cooper, Year 7+ Cleo & Edie Groman.

The Hoop Solo winners were :- Year 3 – Erin Carter, Year 4 – Olivia Sparks-Carolan, Year 5 & 6 – Edie Groman and Year 7+ Imogen Holmes.

The last two sections were Sports Acrobatic Sixes, where six gymnasts perform a sequence including agilities, balances and dance. The routines were choreographed by the gymnasts. The Junior Six winning

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team was Olivia Sparks-Carolan, Miller Turpin, Ava-Mai Hotten, Arabella Turner, Gracie Clayton-Booker & Scarlett Parker.

The Senior Six competition was a very close affair, resulting in first place for Emily Hulbert, Isla Lovell, Kristina Guseva, Olive Symes, Keira Moss & Ava Rippingale.

Adding together the scores from their entries, the Overall Champion was calculated, the winner being Olivia Sparks-Carolan.

The next opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 40th Annual Championships on the **6th July**. Spectating is welcome throughout the morning.

There are a vacancies to join the Club in most groups. For further details regarding the Club please visit their web-site [www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk). *Andrew*

**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON** Our Sunday services of Morning Prayer with Holy Communion in Ditchling will be held on Sundays **5th, 12th and 26th May** at 10 am. Younger visitors can join our Little Beacons sessions at the services on the **5th and 12th May**.

On Sunday **19th May**, our service of Morning Prayer with Holy Communion will be at

Streat church, at 10 am.

Do join us for another of our popular Sunday afternoon services with refreshments from 3.30 pm at St. Martin's, Westmeston on Sunday **12th May**.

The **12th May** is an important date for the Parish as our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held at 11.15 am following our morning service. At this meeting we'll elect our churchwardens and members of the PCC for the next twelve months, review what we've done over the past year and look forward to the coming year. Even if you're not able to come to the service on the **12th May**, please come along to the this important meeting at 11.15 am to find out more about the parish. Everyone will be very welcome.

If you like to sing, then please join us at 6 pm on Wednesday **1st May** when we'll be learning some new songs and revisiting some old favourites. We'd love to see (and hear!) you.

Wednesday @ 10, our peaceful service of Holy Communion continues in St. Margaret's, Ditchling each week. Please check our website [www.beaconparish.co.uk](http://www.beaconparish.co.uk) for any alterations to the above.

*Sherrian Guest*

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*Samantha Norgate*

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** This is the month of cherry blossom, so I am off to Japan for a spot of *hanami*, or cherry-blossom viewing - not going first class of course, but the cheap-skate way, via imagination's 'flying carpet' and the amazing poetry the Japanese have written about their cherry trees since time immemorial. Today, my books tell me, *hanami* is still one of the biggest festivals in Japan and families flock from their homes to sit and have picnics under their beloved blossoms. This is a communal event and part of the intoxication of it all, besides the saturation in beauty, is the freedom of laughter and companionship, not to mention a tradition of getting tipsy on rice wine. But blossom viewing can also be done alone. The philosopher-poets of old, impervious to the cold, (which I read is bitter at this time of year in Japan), would walk for miles or wait for hours, for the perfect moment - viewing a certain tree by the light of the moon and then celebrating the experience in gossamer-light, *haiku* poems. Indeed, the *sakura*,

or ornamental cherry has inspired an entire literature of its own, exploring themes of transience, love, wonder, longing, the eternal now, inwardness, simplicity - through a miracle of flowers a whole world away from the high-tech speed of Japan's modern culture. As 'the world' cranks up yet another gear in its quest for impossible certainties, solutions, explanations; for more data, more feedback, more professional analysis... the quietness of cherry blossom offers another way. And one which has cast me under its spell. To immerse oneself completely in an activity which may be uncomfortable, if not actually injurious to health, and which has no obvious profitable use is quite alien to our modern sensibilities. To be drinking *sake* (thimblefuls of rice wine) and doing nothing while the world goes to perdition is surely irresponsible in the extreme. Or is it? I could try and justify *hanami* in ecological or practical terms: it protects the trees, and the trees are essential for this bird to nest in, or for that bug to live in. Perhaps

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the bark is good for coughs. Perhaps sitting under blossoms lowers one's blood pressure. Is the tree capturing carbon? Moderating temperature? Retaining soil? All of these things are no doubt true, but somehow miss the point, for the Japanese variety of cherry was not planted for practical use. Jesuit missionaries arriving in the 16th century were shocked and disappointed to learn that the time-honoured *sakura* trees bore no edible fruit. What was the point of a cherry one could not eat? Sitting out in the frost to watch petals falling did not speak to their practical minds. And probably does not speak to ours. We could savour it for a moment or two on television, perhaps, or buy the book, or even go to the garden centre and purchase a tree and then photograph it. But that is not *hanami*. *Hanami*, as I understand it, is entering the world of the cherry – joining souls – being with it, and sharing its beauty in rain, in frost – before the buds come out, when the petals are falling, in the moonlight, at dawn – slowing down – refining one's

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ability to perceive. The seventeen syllable *haiku* poem requires the same attention. How much can you say with seventeen syllables? Can you capture this eternal moment? Once having started, I have found the practice totally addictive. I now live in two worlds. My distracted, demented, always late, angry mind lives in the world of tax forms, parking machines, automated telephone systems, and ripples out into a troubled world of endless need and strife. My angry mind is the mind which inflicts and suffers stress, which craves security and will go to war for it, which will sacrifice other parts of the planet to protect my own. *Haiku* mind remembers that all our lives are embedded in something much vaster, stranger and older than we normally acknowledge and that the natural world which we *think* we manage, is in fact attuned to rhythms and meanings which do not need us and take little account of us. Simply to slip into this world for a moment is to receive its medicine. There does not need to be any more profitable rea-

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son. Children do it instinctively till we educate them out of it, for the deliciousness of cherry-blossom spaciousness and calm *is* intoxication itself. And when the cherry blossom is over, then there are all the secrets of summer to come, the secrets of the ants on your doorstep, the pigeons on your roof, the pine tree you pass on the way to the shops, and then leaves falling, rain falling, reflections in puddles... Writing *haiku* is an exercise in paring things down – saying less, meaning more. Finding *haiku* moments in the day requires the same discipline: finding fullness in simplicity. But in *haiku* world no moment is like another. One is suddenly in the presence of thousands of other beings, all in living communion with one another, and not a mobile phone in sight! Here one need never be bored again. Never feel lonely again. Of course, living in a state of wonder will not put food on the table or pay the mortgage. It is not a ‘fix’ for life’s difficulties, but it can transform us and help us pass the gift of joy and contentment to others. For people trapped in poor places, ugly places, hostile places, busy places, it could make all the difference between sadness and joy. From here we can perhaps begin to deal with our furious mundane world with greater sensitivity and wisdom. Japanese arts such as calligraphy cultivate a four stage pattern which they sum up as *jo, ha, kyu, zanshin*. These words describe the movements of a



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*kabuki* dancer, or the brushstroke of the calligrapher and form a kind of breathing pattern which may be roughly translated as ‘slow, faster, fast, stop’. Ever feel that life is taking off at a gallop? The ‘stop’ is the vital release before one’s lungs burst. Lives, seasons, empires, whole worlds pulsate to the same inevitable rise and fall. Just now Spring is taking off and bolting through its faster stage. The leaves are already on the trees. Apple blossom is in bud. Birds are on their nests. The wild rush towards Summer hardly spares a backward glance. One day we will wake to realise that the freshness of Spring is over. A pause. Then the young creatures which have been born, slowly find their feet and begin a new *accelerando* towards maturity. Autumn. *Haiku* world is a moment’s pause before the dance resumes; a way of removing one’s shoes in reverence before the mysteries which surround us. Every day, or a hundred times a day. Stopping. Looking. How would life feel? How would our relationship with our world, with ourselves change? Before sleep, on waking, suddenly I feel hungry for another ‘moment’. It’s cheaper than chocolate! And brings such a feeling of well-being. Surely blossom viewing should not just be for cherries. I urge you to find beauty and share it wherever you can. Let’s try it. Imagine! The world might then find us beautiful too.

Rosemary

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Climate café - Our next climate café listening circle will be on Wednesday **8th May, 7.30 pm** at Proper Cycling Hassocks.  
*Beth*

### DITCHLING LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

On Wednesday **8th May** there is an opportunity for Ditchling residents to meet their Liberal Democrat Councillors Paul Mellor (LDC) and Sarah Osborne (ESCC). In addition, Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate James MacCleary (hopefully your next MP) will also be present. Hear these hard-working individuals talk about their work and aims for the future. Ditchling Village Hall, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. All are welcome.

*David Rudling*

**Next Deadline is 1st May for the June Issue**  
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**SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB** May has to be my favourite month when the hardy perennial survivors in my garden come awake and I know they will look their best through the summer into autumn. However, this year I intend to ring the changes and have started to try and create a more organised garden with fewer self seeded orange and pink plants growing next to each other.

Wild flowers never cease to amaze me. This winter many will have been under inches of muddy water but it's guaranteed that on cue they will delight passers-by.

SPRC has continued to offer walks every weekend but there have been some last minute changes where pathways had disappeared under water and an alternative dry walk was provided by an innovative leader. This month Ardingly Reservoir is the choice of two of our leaders. On Sunday, **5th May** at 10 am Sue will lead a 10 mile walk meeting in the car park below the dam and finishing at Ardingly. As usual, on a long walk

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there will be a break for a picnic lunch. Saturday, **18th May** is when Martin will lead a 5 mile walk, meeting at the same place, also at 10 am. This will provide an opportunity to see the impressive Ouse Valley Viaduct. Danehill and Isfield provide long walks of 9 and 9.5 miles on Sundays, **12th and 26th May** where stops will be found to enjoy your own picnic lunch.

On Sunday, **19th May** Julia's walk of 8 miles starts at the Jack and Jill Windmills car park at 10.30 am and goes via Hassocks, Keymer, Ditchling, Westmeston and the South Downs Way and, once again, there will be a stop for a picnic lunch. Some of you may not even need to get your car out.

Full details of all our walks can be found at [www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk](http://www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk) and, if the weather has been exceptionally difficult please check the programme to see if the planned route has had to be changed. No need to book a place, just turn up and introduce yourself to the leader.

*Diann Clarke*

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**A TALK BY STEVEN ROBINSON** The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, a volunteer organisation dedicated to protecting local countryside and wildlife, invite you to a talk by the Head Ranger of Wakehurst Place's Loder Valley, Steven Robinson.

It will take place on Friday **17th May** at 7.30 pm in the Club Suite at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY.

The talk entitled 'The Working Wealden Wood' describes his work overseeing all activities in the beautiful woodland of Loder Valley Nature Reserve and how he ensures it works with nature to remain productive. The 150-acre nature reserve is home to a wide range of plant

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species as well as dormice, badgers, kingfishers and butterflies, so the woodland's continuing well-being is of great importance. It will immediately follow a brief introduction by The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group.

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

*Michael Nailard*

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

All equipment is provided by the Club. Basic training will be provided. New players are able to borrow the Club's mallets.

For further details please send an e mail to **tony.m.bright@gmail.com** or visit **www.hassockscroquetclub.net** for more information.

*Tony Bright*



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**HEBER OPERA** Paradise, Passion and Puccini are the themes for Heber Opera's Afternoon Tea concerts in May. The concerts showcase the company's talented principal singers in a spread of solos, duets and ensemble pieces from a wide operatic repertoire - sung in English, as with all Heber Opera performances.

Sandwiched between the two musical halves will be a delicious Afternoon Tea of home-made savouries, sandwiches and cakes.

The two concerts each start at 3 pm Sunday **19th May** in King Edward Hall, Lindfield, and Sunday **26th May** in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Tickets can be purchased online from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera> or by calling **07867 975967**. Please note that this is a personal mobile number and may not be answered as Heber Opera - if there is no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

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The performance in Hurstpierpoint will be set in tables of eight seats and Heber Opera has a *special offer*: book a table of eight for the price of seven. To take advantage of this offer, tickets **MUST** be reserved using the Box Office phone number (**07867 975967**). It is not possible to offer this for the Lindfield performance due to the layout of the hall, but a discount can be available for group bookings - please call to ask.

As well as these concerts, Heber Opera soloists Veronica Brooks (soprano) and Matt Connolly (tenor) are giving a recital of music by Puccini in St Michael and All Angels church, Hove on Monday **27th May** at 5.15 pm as part of Brighton Festival Fringe. Tickets for this event should be booked via Brighton Fringe Box Office: <https://www.brightonfringe.org/events/saint-michaels-church-music-events/>

*Jenny Hawkes*

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**HASSOCKS WI** - Meet at Adastra Hall on 3rd Monday in the month. Doors open 7.30 pm evening starts 7.45 pm.

'Mad March Mix-up' was a game filled evening intended to jumble up our members and visitors in a friendly way. Thank you, Marie and Stella, for your gamesmanship. We all received an Easter egg too.

On a serious note I attended an NFWI seminar 'No More Violence against Women', in London on International Women's Day. More about it later. We donated nine bags full of items for the Foodbank, and one of the husband's loading the bags said they weighed a ton, so well done us, thank you everyone for your generosity.

Our April meeting has not taken place yet but is a talk 'Who Dunnit?' Solving murder the old fashioned way. Perhaps, we get to have our finger prints taken.

The May meeting will be 'Pre-loved Fashion show with Humanity at Heart' Hearing about their valuable charity work as well as enjoying seeing some of their lovely clothes paraded by a number of our home grown models. Should be a fun

evening.

Please come along, visitors are welcome (donation). *Gerry*

P.S. "No More Violence against Women".

The Police and Crime Commissioner is due for election on **2nd May**. Look on the website for candidates' names from **10th April**. [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

PCC is an elected official in England responsible for overseeing police forces.

They represent the voice of the people and hold the police to account. Domestic abuse will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men over their lifetime. It is important to hear candidates view on tackling violence against women. For help

[www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-abuse-directory](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-abuse-directory).

[www.safeinsussex.org/get-help](http://www.safeinsussex.org/get-help).

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### DITCHLING BEACON AND COMMON – GUIDED BIODIVERSITY WALKS

The Ditchling Beacon and Commons charity are holding walks this summer led by two of our Trustees both with longstanding careers at Kew Gardens. Dr. Phillip Cribb, plant and Orchid specialist and Oliver Whaley, a naturalist and environmental scientist specialising in plant conservation. They will explain what's special about the rich biodiversity on the common land and the challenges in effective management to preserve these special places.

Schedule as follows.

Ditchling Common walk – Sunday **23rd June** - walk led by Oliver Whaley. Meet at 11am at the Ditchling Common Country Park car park.

Ditchling Beacon walk – Sunday **21st July** - Walk led by Phillip Cribb. Meet at 11am at the Underhill Lane car park at the bottom of the Beacon ie at the junction of Beacon Road and Underhill Lane. The car park is in a poor state and we would advise that you consider car sharing where possible and if parking in the car park to take great care not to damage your car. There is little

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or no parking places on Underhill Lane (east or west) so wherever you park do so considerately.  
*Hugh Felton*

### THE GROWING NETWORK IS TRAVELLING FURTHER AFIELD THIS MONTH!

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 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 on your gardening journey. You don't even need to have your own garden, as there are some of us that like to collaborate by growing with others.

This month we will have a stall at Hassocks Farmers Market on Saturday **25th May** at Age Concern carpark, Dale Avenue, Hassocks from 9 am to 12.30 pm.

Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share; or just bring yourself!

For further information please contact **julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk**

*Catherine, Imke, Julie & Kate*

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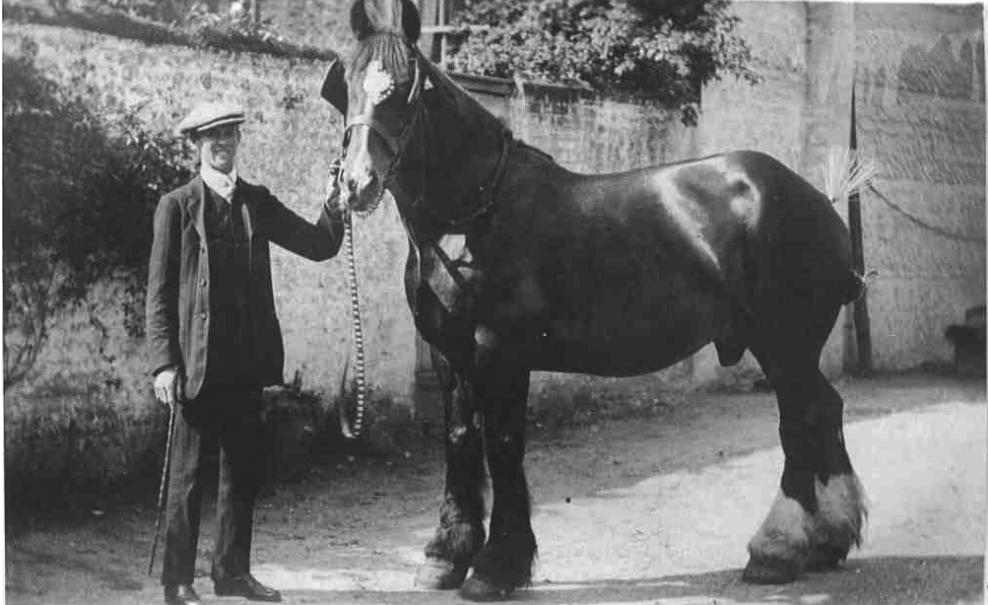


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*We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this picture of Young Stoner a Coal Man pictured with his horse at the back of what was Lamb Inn in Cuckfield Road in the 1930's. His mother was the Landlady of the Inn.*

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# HASSOCKS GOES GOLD 2024



## SUNFLOWER GROWING COMPETITION

We are delighted to announce our 5th annual Hassocks Goes Gold Sunflower Growing Competition. Could you be the lucky winner of the tallest or prettiest sunflower in 2024?

The competition is open to all ages and to anyone living in Hassocks. Also eligible are any children who attend a school in Hassocks (whether they live in the village or not). We encourage entrants to plant sunflowers in front gardens if possible so that Hassocks residents can enjoy the flowers. Many thanks to our sponsor Matt from Maple Leaf Gardens who has generously agreed to support this competition again.

To enter, post your sunflower photo (and sunflower height in cms if entering the tallest sunflower category) on the Hassocks Goes Gold Facebook page or email to

**sunflowers4hassocks@gmail.com**. The closing date is the **24th August**. Winners will be announced on the 1st of September to mark the beginning of Hassocks Goes Gold month. Good luck!

*Rachel Barton*



# THIS YEAR'S GOLD THEME IS DRAGONS!

We're kicking off with the annual drawing competition for the GOLD poster – open to ALL AGES! Adults included. Who doesn't love a dragon?! – be they fierce, fire-breathing ferocious beasts jealously guarding their shimmering treasure or their cuter animated, magical, guardian spirit cousins, there is a dragon to suit every mood!

Draw your very own dragon or colour in the pre-printed one.... In September winners from each age category will receive fabulous prizes and be featured on the Hassocks Goes Gold poster! Plus, ALL entries will be included in the annual Parklands Road Art Gallery.

Free entry forms are available to download on the Hassocks Goes Gold Facebook page, via Hassocks' schools or in good old fashioned printed paper form from QD Stationery! The deadline for entries is Friday the 5th July.

But of course, it's never just about the poster! The Sunflower Competition is on right now and in September the sponsored trail of Giant Gold Bows will be back, along with the ever-popular daily FaceBook auctions, the village market Craft, Facepainting and Tombola stalls, as well as the Golden Gala finale extravaganza on Friday the 27th September.

The #PearlPower fund for research into tricky to fight Childhood Cancers stands at nearly £105K. It's a fantastic achievement and we're so proud that it has already funded two new research projects but there is so much more that needs to be done, and so much more awareness that needs to be raised.

September in Hassocks is all about GOLD, it's all about raising awareness and research funds for the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group, it's all about Community Fun and this year it's all about DRAGONS!

**hassocksgoesgold@gmail.com**

*Rachel BartlettBundy*

**Hassocks Goes Gold**  
Going GOLD for Childhood Cancer... Because Awareness = Research = Survival

**ALL AGES OF ENTRIES WELCOME!**

**GOLD POSTER COMPETITION 2024**  
The theme for 2024 is...  
**GOLD DRAGONS !!**  
Fire-breathing and Ferocious or Friendly and Fun...  
ALL DRAGONS are welcome. The more GOLD the better!

In September winners from each category will receive prizes and be featured on the Hassocks Goes Gold poster! ALL entries (including in the Parklands Road Art Gallery).

To enter, colour in the DRAGON below OR use the space over the page to draw your VERY OWN GOLD DRAGON!

YOUR FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
MOBILE / EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY GROUP? (in September 2024)**

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- ☐ Windmills Junior
- ☐ Downlands
- ☐ Adult (left school)

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We are thrilled to announce that our first Rummage Sale raised a total of £294.15. We thank all those who braved the weather to attend including our Volunteers – as always, we couldn't have done it without you. Our Coffee Shop proved very popular with its homemade cakes and hot drinks and our Charity Shop welcomed lots of new Customers. The money raised will be put towards keeping our Centre running for the benefit of Hassocks and the surrounding Villages. Our next Rummage Sale will be on Saturday **11th May** 9 am to 11.30 am.

April at the Centre included a visit to Rushfields Plant Centre and Farm Shop and another musical delight courtesy of the Sundown Ukelele Band. We are hoping to visit The Depot Cinema again in June for a showing of Hello Dolly.

Do you work from home? Fancy a change of scenery? Come and enjoy a fresh bean coffee, a cup of tea or a hot chocolate and

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We serve a 3 course lunch Monday to Friday and run a bus Tuesday and Thursday, picking up from Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling. If you live outside our regular pick-up areas, please give us a ring and we will see if we can accommodate you. Please ask the Office to book transport and/or 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.

Our Charity Shop is open 9 am to 4 pm every weekday and 9 am to 12 pm Saturdays. Donations are most welcome and if you are unsure about what we take, we work on the basis of "if you would buy it, we can sell it". 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 to 11.45 am Saturdays.

Feel free to pop in and see what we have to offer. We look forward to seeing you.

*All at Age Concern*

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### OLDLAND WINDMILL EVENT DAY

Sunday **5th May**. Music and Morris. 11 am to 5 pm. Once again, we will be welcoming Morris dancers from both Ditchling and Hammersmith, South Downs Folk singers, Kevin Russell and 2 Way Street, an acoustic music duo. Entertainment with Punch and Judy shows, a BBQ 12 pm to 2 pm, refreshments, beer tent and children's activities as well as tours of the mill. Free mini bus from the corner of Grand Avenue by The Thatched Inn. No parking at the mill. Hope to see you there.

*Karen*

OLDLAND WINDMILL Could you spare a couple of hours to help serve teas at our open events? We have a small friendly team who work on a rota to cover the first Sunday afternoon of each month from April till October as well as our Event Days on **5th May** and **1st September**. Our beautiful windmill is now fully restored but we need to do regular fundraising for on-going maintenance to ensure it continues to produce flour for years to come. If you could spare any time, please contact Juliet at:

[promotion@oldlandwindmill.org.uk](mailto:promotion@oldlandwindmill.org.uk).

*Karen*

Articles for the June issue can be  
emailed to  
[info@villagemagazines.co.uk](mailto:info@villagemagazines.co.uk)

OUR COMMUNITY IN FLOWERS If you love the colours and scents of summer flowers, then the Beacon Parish has a treat in store for you next month. Over the weekend of the Ditchling Fair, which takes place on **15th June**, St Margaret's Church will be filled with flowers from gardens and the local area with a community theme. If you are interested in having a display to promote your organisation, please email us on [admin@beaconparish.co.uk](mailto:admin@beaconparish.co.uk) and we'll send further information on how to sponsor or create your own display. If your skills are 'flower arranging', we need your help as well, so please get in touch. When people visit the church during the Fair, we'll be asking for donations for St Peter & St James Hospice and the Beacon Parish. Further details in next month's Talkabout.

*Sherrian Guest*

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# THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL

A love for reading is central to our vision and our English lead does a fabulous job promoting reading and setting up lots of opportunities to celebrate and promote the power of reading. During our recent book week, the children had the opportunity to dress up, take part in author visits (the highlight being a session with the fantastic Michael Rosen), as well as the older children 'buddying up' with the younger ones to share a book. The children absolutely loved this and it was great for the older children's leadership and independence skills and for the younger children to spend time with the older children. We are now very excited about our upcoming library revamp!



We love to give children a wide variety of opportunities to challenge themselves and this month, we took a lovely group of children to perform a dance they had been choreographing at the Primary school's dance evening at Downlands. It is the 7th year in a row we have been invited to participate in this event and we really enjoy the chance to see what other groups present. Our challenge this time was to take inspiration from a particular decade. After careful consideration, we chose the 70s so we could bust out our grooviest moves to some exciting disco tunes. Dancing to the song 'Car wash' by Rose Royce, we had a brilliant routine that really entertained the audience. Well done dancers!

On 20th March our netball A team played in the Mid Sussex tournament finals. Our netballers played incredibly well as a team with every single player scoring a goal! We scored 30 goals in total and only conceded 3 and are so proud to be the Mid Sussex champions for 2024! We are thrilled that winning this tournament means that this team are now through to the Sussex finals on 18th April.

On Thursday 27th March, our cross-country runner finalists competed as part of the Mid



Sussex team against 8 teams from across Sussex. Impressively, the Mid Sussex girls and boys teams both came second and received silver medals for their valiant efforts.

*'on behalf of The Windmills'*



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**DITCHLING DOWNS WI** Reporting on our last two sessions. Our March meeting was hugely entertaining. Janey Ramsay, assisted by some of our members, demonstrated the goings on behind the Antiques Trade. We learned about runners and dealers, about haggling and the knocker boys who come to your house to suss out things of value - beware! We were also told about 'the Ring' - who knew there were cartels operating in Brighton and Tunbridge Wells - of the antiques variety I hasten to add! It was equally entertaining to hear of Janey's time at Sotheby's and how vans drive around all night with the contents of the auctions while the great and the good are entertained the night before!

Our meeting on 2nd April was about Marianne North, a remarkable Victorian flower painter who has her very own gallery at Kew Gardens. It was the second time we had invited Sarah Oldridge to speak and very timely as we are now planning our June outing to Kew. What an incredible woman she was - she travelled to over 15 countries as far flung as Jamaica, India, South Africa and Chile as well as closer to home in Europe - all in the second half of the 19th century. The purpose of her travels was to paint the exquisite tropical flowers and animals and birds. The gallery in Kew with over 800 of her paintings can be visited by anyone visiting Kew Gardens at no extra charge. Sadly,

her failing health meant that she had to stop travelling and she retired to the Cotswolds and went about planting a beautiful garden there. She died in 1890 aged just 59.

Our next meeting is on **7th May** when we shall be holding our AGM as well as hear Pat Colledge talk about "The Hated Family of Tutankhamun."

*Susanne Pryde*

### THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH:

On **6th June, 2024**, from 10.45 am at Ditchling War Memorial we will be Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. 1944 was a crucial year for the second World War. On the 6th June the long awaited D-Day invasion began with an Armada of 7,000 ships and 130,000 personnel would arrive on the Normandy beaches, supported by thousands of allied aircraft and airborne troops. Almost 2 million servicemen and women would play a role in 'Operation Overlord' in battles that would continue until August. 72,000 would never return. Please join us at Ditchling War Memorial to commemorate this momentous day in 1944. Wreaths will be laid to the memory of those who did not return. We Will Remember Them.

*Margaret Bovill*

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### **'IF I WERE YOU' BY ALAN AYCKBOURN 22nd to 25th May plus a matinee on the 25th May.**

Following on from my previous article in February I'm pleased to say that rehearsals are continuing to go well and we're now in the final stage before the curtain goes up on our next production at the end of May.

Among the cast we're pleased to welcome back Paul Davey, Karinn Grierson & Stuart Lawson who all appeared in our production of 'Gaslight' as well as two new faces - Korey Grierson and Emily Rawlinson, both of whom are treading the boards with us for the first time and all they need now is an audience.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased either in person at The White Horse, Ditchling or online (please note that a booking fee applies) via our website -

**[ditchlingplayers.org.uk/wordpressnew](http://ditchlingplayers.org.uk/wordpressnew).**

Curtain up for the evening performances is

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7.30 pm (Doors open at 7 pm). For the matinee on Saturday curtain up is 2.30pm (Doors open at 2 pm).

We look forward to seeing you at one of the performances.  
*David Tettersell*

**HONEY BEES** Very soon, hives of bees will be getting crowded, and the bees may decide half of them will leave- taking their queen - and look for a new home.

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*Heather*

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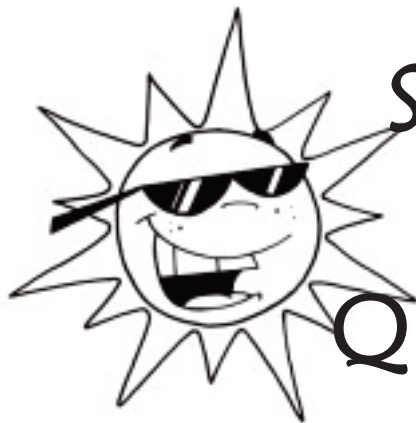
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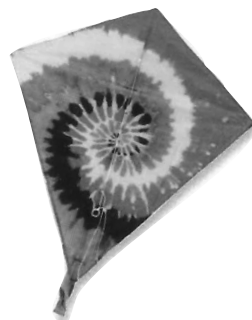
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**STAR CINEMA** After a very successful season, the Star Cinema is having a four month break. All profits from the film nights have gone to the HCO (Hassocks Community Organisation) for the benefit of local residents. Thank you to our wonderful audiences - you have been great... see you in September.  
*Liz Edmunds*



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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Please note that the date for the showing in May has now changed from the **2nd** to the **9th May**. It will be Bergman Island (2021).

Cert. 15. 112 minutes. Swedish (English subtitles). Director Mia Hansen-Love  
On **6th June** Ditchling Film Society are showing Past Lives (2023).

Cert. 12A. 106 minutes. Drama. English/Korean subtitles. Dir Celine Song.  
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 any-time. Guest entry is also available on the door. New offer! Under 25s can buy guest tickets for half price! BBFC legal age restrictions still apply.

The films are shown on the first Thursday of the month at Ditchling Village Hall, 18

Lewes Road, Ditchling, Hassocks, East Sussex. 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 **www.ditchlingfilm.org.uk**. Follow them on Instagram **@ditchlingfilmsoc** and Tweet **@Ditchlingfilm**.

*Kate*

**KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** Due to Bank Holidays, The Keymer Folk Dance Club will only meet once in May, this is on **20th May**, at the URC Church Hall starting at 7.30 pm. However, this will be followed by **3rd June** with our annual outdoor dance on Ditchling Green which starts at 7 pm.

More details can be found on our website: **www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk**.

*Sean Goddard*



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## BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On Wednesday **1st May**, Peter Birchall, (otherwise known as 'Pete the Pond!') will be giving a talk, 'The Importance of Wildlife Ponds' in the Cyprus Hall. Talk commences 7.45 pm, (doors open 7.15 pm.) Admission: Small charge for visitors. BHHS members free. Info: **www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com** or **01444 245509**.

*Flo*

**HAWTHORN** You could set your calendar by it. Around the first day of May, our ancestors would step outside to find foamy white clouds erupting across the Sussex countryside; the Hawthorn was blooming, spring was turning to summer. The sight was so visually stunning and so linked with the arrival of May that Hawthorn became the only British plant to be named after the month in which it blooms. Well, the name Hawthorn is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *hagathorn* (*haga* meaning hedge). I'm referring to that other name for Hawthorn: May.

Unlike the impetuous Blackthorn, which flowers in March before it's even bothered to grow leaves, the Hawthorn is more dignified. It waits until it has clothed itself in undergarments of lobed leaves before it dons a resplendent gown of exquisite white flowers. This stunning costume and perfect timing meant Hawthorn took centre stage at May Day celebrations and it partied with Green Men, Morris Dancers, Maypoles and May Queens. 'Gathering nuts in May' actually refers to 'gathering knots of May' to make May Day garlands and decorations.

Then, in the middle of the eighteenth century, tragedy struck. I don't know about you, but I get thrown into disarray twice a year when the clocks change. My life would have gone into meltdown in 1752 as our whole calendar changed from Julian to Gregorian, and we lost an entire 11 days. In this new timeline, Hawthorn now found itself late for the party, blooming around **12th May**.

It wasn't the first time Hawthorn had been cast aside. Superstitions dictated that bringing Hawthorn indoors led to misfortune – even death. This could stem from

the fact that Hawthorn blooms release trimethylamine, which gives the flowers that unpleasant smell of cat's wee and attracts pollinating insects. It's also a chemical formed in decaying tissue and reminded people of the smell of Black Death – and nobody wanted to be reminded of that.

I remember at primary school being taught 'Ne're cast a clout 'til May is out'. I translated this gibberish into the fact that you should keep your warm clothes

on until the end of May. I've only just discovered that 'May is out' refers to Hawthorn blooming. My clouts could have been cast weeks earlier.

But the world has changed since I was a nipper – we're warming up. For a temperature-sensitive plant like Hawthorn, the blooming times are changing again. Hawthorn is responding to climate change by flowering up to two weeks earlier than it was thirty years ago. It has crept back to bloom around May Day and is now more commonly seen flowering at the end of April. So, this May Day, cast your clouts, get out into the great outdoors, and welcome the return of the real May Queen.

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](https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join).

*Michael Blencowe*





## DID YOU KNOW ??

You can now read the Hassocks Talk About inc Village Voice online?  
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### HALLS FOR HIRE

**The Players Theatre**, Hurstpierpoint- A meeting room for up to 10 people. If you need a larger space, the auditorium is available too. Please contact Pippa Sampson on 01273 833397 for further details or e-mail: [enquiries@hurstpierpoint.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hurstpierpoint.org.uk)

**Albourne Village Church** - ring 07513 453679 or book online at [www.albourneparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.albourneparishcouncil.co.uk) for your business or pleasure bookings, some space is available for regular bookings.

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

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

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

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

**Hurstpierpoint Village Centre** - has three spaces for hire, a hall that seats up to 200, a conference room for up to 20 and the Club Suite for up to 40. The Club Suite is ideal for children's parties, offering its own kitchen and toilet facilities. The kitchen serving both the hall and conference room is also free of charge. Email [office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](mailto:office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk) or [www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk)

**Hurstpierpoint Guide HQ** - Kitchen and carpeted hall and lovely enclosed garden call Judy Leech on 01273 833954. **Adastra Hall**, in Hassocks is your community space and can be booked for parties, meetings and events. If you'd like to book, please take a look at our website [www.adastrahall.com](http://www.adastrahall.com) or email [bookings@adastrahall.com](mailto:bookings@adastrahall.com).

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

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

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

**Clayton With Keymer** has three church halls and serveries available across the parish. Please visit the website for details [www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk](http://www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk)

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*Catherine*

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**01243 642106.**

**EAST SUSSEX** Ham Lane, Lewes, BN7 3PS  
 9am to 4pm daily [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk)  
**0845 355 0550**

### PARISH COUNCILS

**Hassocks - 01273 842714**  
[www.hassockspc.net](http://www.hassockspc.net).

Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 2pm, Fri 10am - 12pm.

**Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common**  
**01273 833264**

[www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk)

Mon.- Fri. 9.30am - 1pm.

**Ditchling - 01273 844733**

[www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk)

## DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

are at the following locations in the parish. In an emergency please dial 999 to access them:

### **HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON**

**Sayers Common Community Shop**, London Road, Sayers Common

**Village Centre Library Entrance**, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 40 High Street, Hurstpierpoint

**Bowling Club**, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint

**Court Bushes Community Hub**, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint

**Fairfield Recreation Ground**, Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint

### **DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON**

Ditchling Village Hall,

Streat Church and Westneston Church

### Hassocks - Defibrillator Locations

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

# What's On in May

**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

**BEACON PARISH MAY SERVICES** Morning Worship 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **5th** (inc. Little Beacons), **12th** (inc. Little Beacons) & **26th** and at Streat Church on **19th**. Afternoon Service at 3.30 pm at St Martins Church on **12th** with refreshments and great hymn singing.

Wednesday@10 (am) Holy Communion weekly at St Margarets Church, Ditchling. Coffee, Chat & Play Thursday mornings in the Emmanuel Centre South Street Ditchling from 10 am. Always check [www.beacon-parish.co.uk](http://www.beacon-parish.co.uk).

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

**DITCHLING MORRIS** - Practise Thursday at United reformed Church Hall at 7.30 pm. Pop in if you feel like joining.

**DITCHLING 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 to 8 pm. Pool, table tennis, games consoles & lots of activities finishing with circle time and prayers  
**HEARTS OF SUSSEX BRIDGE CLUB** - Mondays online and Tuesdays Age Concern Hassocks. See [www.hsobcbridgeclub.co.uk](http://www.hsobcbridgeclub.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) 3-5 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 English lessons start at 1 pm

**YOUTH GROUP** at St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks. Thursday 5-6.30 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 BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors open 7.15 pm. 'The Importance of Wildlife Ponds' Peter Birchall (Pete the Pond). All welcome. [www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com)

**1st HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'The RSPCA' Ann Bolton. Visitors welcome call 01273 649023.

**1st THE BEACON PARISH** St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

**2nd BEFRIENDED** Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 10 am - 12 pm

Bereavement Cafe - A safe place to chat about grief loss and share stories about your loved ones. More info [office@befriended.org](mailto:office@befriended.org)



**4th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB** Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Day come along and have a go. No need to book just turn up. More info 01273 842360

**4th COELIAC GROUP** South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road, Hassocks 9 am - 11am. 'Brunch and Chat'. All welcome.

**5th DITCHLING SINGERS** Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome to come along and sing with our new choirmaster.

**5th HAS SOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM** Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

**5th OLDLAND MILL** Oldlands Lane, Keymer 11 - 5 pm. Event Day 'Music and Morris'. Tours of the mill, Punch and Judy, Refreshments, gifts and memorabilia. See article.

**5th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** Ardingly Reservoir 10 am. 10 Mile Walk with picnic break lead by Sue. See article.

**7th DITCHLING DOWNS WI** Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. AGM followed by 'The Hated Family of Tutankhamun' Pat Colledge.

**7th GREENER HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING** Proper Coffee Shop, Hassocks 7.30 PM. 'Come and hear about our vision for active travel around our villages - and give your opinion! All welcome.

**8th GREENER HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING** Proper Coffee Shop, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Climate Cafe listening circle. All welcome.

**8th DITCHLING LIBERAL DEMOCRATS** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Meet Cllr Paul Mellor (LDC) and Sarah Osbourne (ESCC) and parliamentary candidate James MacCleary. Hear about their work.

**9th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 'Bergman Island' cert 15. Tickets available on the door.

**10th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). Meet the Committee. All welcome.

**11th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC** Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

**11th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB** Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Day

come along and have a go. No need to book just turn up. More info 01273 842360

**11th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB** Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book [sussexsewingclub@gmail.com](mailto:sussexsewingclub@gmail.com).

**11th AGE CONCERN HAS SOCKS** Dale Avenue 9 - 11.30 am. Rummage Sale.

**11/12th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** Jack & Jill Windmills 9.30 am - 4 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). 'Mills on the Air'. All welcome.

**12th THE BEACON PARISH** St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 11.15 am. Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Church Wardens and members of the PCC will be elected plus a review of the past year and look forward to the coming year. All welcome.

**13th 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).

**14th POLICE BEAT SURGERY** Southdowns Garden Centre, Hassocks 2.30 pm - 4 pm. Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.

**14th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. Illustrated talk 'Growing Vegetables' by Barry Newman. All welcome.

**14th MUSKRAT RAMBLERS**, Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East, doors 1.45 am Start 12 pm. Great Food, Great Jazz & Great Company. A set lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01444 235986 or 01444 235639 to book.

**17th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). 'Live report from Dayton Hamvention'. All welcome.

**17th WOODLAND FLORA & FAUNA GROUP** Club Suite Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.30 pm. 'The Working Wealden Wood' Steven Robinson, Head Ranger. All welcome free entry.

**18th ST COSMAS & ST DAMIAN CHURCH** Keymer 10 am - 5 pm. Flower and Art Festival. All welcome.

**18th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** Ardingly Reservoir 10 am. 5 Mile Walk - Martin. See article.

**18th ST COSMAS & ST DAMIAN CHURCH** Keymer 7 pm. Organ concert by Revd. Michael Maine. All welcome.

**18th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB** Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Day come along and have a go. No need to book just turn up. More info 01273 842360

**18th MENS BREAKFAST** The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk.

**19th ST COSMAS & ST DAMIAN CHURCH** Keymer 11 am - 5 pm. Flower and Art Festival. All welcome.

**19th PARISH OF CLAYTON WITH KEYMER** Meeting Room, Keymer Church Hall. 9.45 - 10.45 am. Storytime Creative - Stories from the Bible and the heart and respond with your own pictures or creative writing. Bring an adult. More info 01273 845964.

**19th DITCHLING SINGERS** Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New members always warmly welcomed.

**19th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** Jack and Jill Windmill Car Park 10.30 am. 8 Mile Walk with picnic break lead by Julia. See article.

**20th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** URC Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. [www.keymerfolkdance-club.co.uk](http://www.keymerfolkdance-club.co.uk). All welcome no partner needed.

**20th CAMEO** Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

**20th HASSOCKS WI** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Pre-loved Fashion Show with Humanity at Heart'. See article. Visitors welcome.

**22nd - 25th DITCHLING PLAYERS** Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling, Various Performances. 'If I Were You' by Alan Ayckbourn. See article to purchase tickets.

**21st DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION** Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Turner Dumbrells.

**23rd WOMENS BREAKFAST** The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email tamarajanebaxter@yahoo.co.uk.

**23rd LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HAS-SOCKS** Parish Council Offices Committee

Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

**24th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). 'Show & Tell Evening'. All welcome.

**24th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'The Turners of Oldland' Small entrance fee. Refreshments.

**25th REPAIR CAFE** Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or [www.hkd-transition.org.uk](http://www.hkd-transition.org.uk).

**25th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET** Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

**25th THE GROWING NETWORK** Hassocks Farmers Market, Age Concern Car Park, Hassocks 9 am - 12.30 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share.

**26th HEBER OPERA** Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 3 pm. Afternoon Tea Concert 'Paradise, Passion and Puccini'. See article

**29th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS** Beeding and Bramber Village Hall 7 - 10 pm. Competition: Bowl - Plain or fancy, show us your best bowl creations. Anna Cates demos the making of a wonderful wooden spoon. All welcome.

**30th BEREAVEMENT WELL-BEING GROUP** Clayton Wood, Natural Burial Ground, Brighton Road, Clayton 10 am - 12 noon. Meet others who understand what you are going through. [www.bereavementcare.uk](http://www.bereavementcare.uk).

**31st HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY** Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 8 pm 'Bignor Roman Villa' David Rudling of the Sussex Archeological Society. All welcome.

**31st MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** Cyprus Road Car Park. 7.15 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). 'OUT - Direction Finding'. All welcome.

**31st KANGAROOS DISABILITY CHARITY** The Hassocks Function Room, Station Approach East, food available from 5 to 7 pm. Event starts at 7.30 pm. Drag Bingo. Tickets [www.kangaroos.org.uk](http://www.kangaroos.org.uk).

# Wellesley

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.

“The success we have in the future is built on the plans we make today.”



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

Now how does that saying go 'one man's loss it's another man's gain', or in this day and age should it be 'one person's loss is another person's gain', or is it that a little to 'wake'. Anyway, as we all know the Hairy barbers has closed down in Keymer, but what you may not have heard is that Aroma the cafe next door had decided to take it over and knock through to make a bigger premises. A bit like what we did many years ago which is a great idea, more space more room to expand into different areas. However, as we found out it does have its downside, you're launched from paying no commercial rates because you get small business rates relief, to paying quite a hefty sum. It's one of those awful things you can't escape, I think we are one of the only countries in the world that penalises you for trying to get on in business and be successful, the more you try and do the harder you get hit, the minimum wage has just gone up by just over a pound an hour which I get, I know it's an election year so points have to be gained but, where is all this extra money meant to be coming from? Surely this will force businesses to put up prices which will fuel inflation or layoff staff which will push unemployment up. A lot will just throw their hands in the air and say I've just had enough thank you very much and close down, doesn't any government realise that if you look after all businesses and let them be successful you'll reap the benefits tenfold instead of stabbing them in the back and killing them off. Anyway, I'm sure aroma know what they are doing and are fully aware of the extra costs when expanding your business, but I'm sure it will be very successful they have a great reputation for providing great food at reasonable prices, we are lucky we've got some great food outlets round here. A lot of you have been letting me know how much you enjoy the tapas evenings they've had at the Adastra Deli which are held I think on a Friday and Saturday evening and again highly recommended.

I see a new Vets has opened in Burgess Hill, only a small one just down from the railway station. She did work at one of the local vets and only does spay and neutering, which is why it's called Happy Paws Spay-Neuter. I think you'll find she's a lot cheaper than the other vets who most are now all owned by equity companies. If you want to get in touch with to find out more give her a ring on 01444 228333. As for the vets we used to have in Parklands Road I think I'm pretty sure they have gone for good. I know the notice says it's closed for extensive building work, but over three months and nothing has happened, the surgery itself is no bigger than a hamster cage and the cost to do it up just wouldn't be worth it. I'll be very very surprised if I'm wrong, however perhaps they are waiting for the National Tyres Development to take on a brand new unit.

They do say you should never reveal a lady's age but when you look as fabulous as my wife Nola does then I think the whole world should know she has just celebrated her 70th birthday - another milestone reached and still in good health, of course I put it down to being married to me for over 50 years! Mind you I haven't told her I've written this bit so I could be in trouble - but I thought you liked surprises! Love you Darling HAPPY 70TH.

As always please keep supporting your local shops and businesses, it really is important more now than ever before.

WILD BIRD FOOD 20kg £17.50 • SUNFLOWER HEARTS 20kg £30.00 • PEANUTS 25kg £45.00

See you next month Steve x

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392