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*We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this postcard or Poynings.
The post mark indicates it was sent from Worthing on the 24th September 1906.*

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FAMILY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS - DANNY PARK, Hurstpierpoint on Sunday **3rd November**.

Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club Family Bonfire & Fireworks returns for its 27th evening. It will be celebrated with a spectacular display of fireworks from our new firework maestros – Aurora - on Sunday **3rd November**. Please note the earlier times below.

Families are again welcome to share the event to be held in Danny Park, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. The event is organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club with assistance from Oldland Mill Trust and Friends of Hassocks Infant School.

They and Albourne, Birchwood Grove, London Meed and Southway Schools will benefit from your support.

The Hassocks will be running their ever popular BBQ, so come and enjoy the evening.

In the event of bad weather please check **www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk** for the up-to-date news on postponement.

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Take a 'Guy' to the Best Guy Competition before ten to six and one child will be given free admission.

For safety reasons - No private fireworks or sparklers etc.

Sorry but no parking (due to ground conditions). Limited parking will be available for Blue Badge holders – please allow extra time. Food available on site.

4.30 pm Gates open, 5 pm Best Guy Competition Judging, Approx 5.30 pm Fireworks Display, Approx 5.50 pm Bonfire lit with all the Guys and the Best Guy on top.

Tickets prices are unchanged at last year's prices.

Children Under 3 or with a Guy are free (one Guy gives admittance to one child).

Discounted eTickets available on

dannybonfire.co.uk where you can choose which organisation to support. Tickets will also be available from Pierpoint Pets in Hurstpierpoint and from QD Stationery in Hassocks.

Andrew Hair

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DITCHLING DOWNS WI As it is becoming a bit of a pattern the first Tuesday of the month in October also had awful weather - those who did brave the elements were treated to a very informative and well illustrated talk by Mary Rudling on "Dealing with Poverty in 19th century Sussex" a subject she has been studying for many years.

She told us about the impact of the Old Poor Law of 1601 and then the New Poor Law of 1834. After the New Poor Law, less financial relief was given out, but the Workhouses were seen as the ultimate deterrent. The elderly poor tended to live with their adult children where possible.

During the 18th century the population doubled. Mary informed us about the difference between indoor and outdoor relief - the former was given in poor houses and workhouses and the latter was given to the needy in the parish.

We were fascinated to learn that there was a Poor House in Ditchling too - it had 26 inmates and was situated in the building which is now Pruden Smith Jewellers! Thank you to Mary and to all who attended.

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The next meeting is on **5th November** at 7 pm and we will have a talk from Raysteade Animal Sanctuary.

Susanne Pryde

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH REMEMBRANCE 2024

Remembrance Sunday – **10th November**. The Act of Remembrance Service will take place at Ditchling War Memorial at 11 am for the two minutes silence. The Parade will leave from St Margaret's School and everyone taking part should be outside the school ready to step off no later than 10.20 am.

Remembrance Sunday at Streat Church - please gather at the War Memorial by 10.50 am.

Armistice Day – Monday **11th November** - there will be a brief service of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial starting at 11 am.

Field of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial. Further information on this can be found in Ditchling Post Office.

Lest We Forget.

Margaret Bovill

HEBER OPERA CRAFT FAIR 23rd November

in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 10 am to 2pm. We have thirty stalls for you to browse selling all sorts of craft items and gifts to help with Christmas shopping. We also have a well stocked kitchen of homemade cakes and savouries. We look forward to seeing you!

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'LIGHT UP HASSOCKS' – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE LIGHT UP HASSOCKS (LUH)

began in approximately 2011. It provided an opportunity for children to celebrate the coming of Christmas with a parade and switching on the Christmas Lights provided by Hassocks Parish Council. Back then it was coordinated by Hassocks Community Partnership (HCP) which subsequently merged with Hassocks Amenity Association (HAA) to form the present day Hassocks Community Organisation (HCO).

From its earliest inception, LuH contained a marching band, Father Christmas on his sleigh and a children's parade. The timing of late afternoon/early evening on a Friday

early in December was chosen to enable children to take part straight after school.

LuH also offered an opportunity for local charities to publicise the wide range of activities focussed in and around Hassocks and the local environment.

The Sussex Vale Rotary Club (SVRC) assisted with the organisation from 2015 and took over full responsibility in 2018 due to serious difficulty in attracting local volunteers to plan, organise and run the event. SVRC continued as the prime coordinator through to 2020 when Covid prevented LuH being held. In 2021 SVRC shared the responsibility for organising with the HCO, and handed over full responsibility to HCO in 2022.

The challenge for the LuH team in recent years has been to create an event that: Celebrates and entertains the village and its many offerings. Pleases traders and boosts the local economy. Offers something new (as well as old favourites) to residents to encourage them to come out and shop. Is festive and welcomes in the season, and creates some Christmas magic for chil-

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Achieving all these simultaneously is an almost impossible balancing act.

Nonetheless, the LuH Core Team who plan, coordinate and run LuH, have worked hard to improve the event, better reflect the entire community, and respond to the challenges residents have faced in recent times, as well as ensuring that LuH remains true to its original purpose.

Our overriding ambition remains to deliver an event to warm the hearts of local residents. However, the current Core Team is very small and not getting any younger.

We are actively looking for new team members as well as helpers on the night itself so we can ensure that this popular annual gathering can continue and be a real community event fit for the 2020s and beyond.

Sadly, next year's event is under critical threat if we cannot find new team members and helpers urgently. If you feel as strongly as we do that Hassocks needs Light Up Hassocks and would like to help, please get in touch **lightuphassocks@gmail.com**.

*The Light up Hassocks Core Team
Erika, Fred, Alison, Shaun and Jonathan*

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Our November talk will be on Friday **29th November** at 7.30 pm at the Guide HQ, SE corner of Trinity Road Car park, Hurstpierpoint. "Brighton In Old Photos" an illustrated talk by Chris Horlock on Brighton using old photographs to show how life has changed in the city. All welcome. For further details please email **hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com**. *Jacky Simmons*

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A selection of wines, beers and bar snacks will be available. We're expecting a high demand for tickets, so please book ahead if possible.

Tickets £15 from Ditchling Post Office or online at boatmancryptics.co.uk/live-music

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL St. Margaret's Church, Ditchling Friday 6th to Sunday 8 December.

Plans are well advanced for our first Christmas Tree Festival. As well as Christmas Trees decorated by local groups and businesses, it would be lovely to have some from local families. Why not get your children or grandchildren, neigh-

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bours and friends involved: in a little healthy competition perhaps? Then book a slot (no charge) and bring a tree: whether small or not so small, to display for the weekend.

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sherrian.guest@uwclub.net and I'll send you the details. Let's fill the church with colour and celebrate friendships in our community.

Sherrian Guest

CHRISTMAS FAIR AT ADASTRA HALL

Saturday 9th November from 10 am to 12 noon. Clayton with Keymer Churches will be holding their Annual Fair.

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Juliet

TIME4CHILDREN WINTER FAYRE on

Saturday the 23rd November at Adastra Hall, Hassocks from 1 pm to 5 pm. Sen hour 12 pm to 1 pm. There will be a Santa's grotto, crafts, cafe and local businesses.

www.timeforchildren.org.uk/winterfayre.

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH I have been poring over my textbooks, trying to identify the fungi which are appearing in the Nature Reserve now that the summer rains have, turned into the autumn rains.

A blissful, pearly morning last week yielded a fine crop of shaggy inkcaps, nestling between a birch and a Norway spruce. A downpour soon washed them out and today on a brief foray, I have found the remains of a red-spotted fly agaric, a fresh birch bracket fungus called a razor strop, and a cluster of small, cream-capped toadstools which might belong to any of a number of suspects bearing the caution: Poisonous! The appearance of these 'fruits of the forest' is a delight. They arrive without warning and often vanish within hours – an exuberant reminder in our visible world, of living systems which lie hidden for the rest of the year in the soil or in the fabric of rotting wood. They come with the moist, pungent scents of decaying leaves and berries and the litter of the woodland floor and it is easy to forget that they have work to do beyond providing us with delicacies on toast or decorations for Hallowe'en. Fungi in our culture are intimately associated with death, (dry-rot in houses, tomato blight, and toxic toadstools) but these enigmatic organisms are also crucial for life and health and scientists are only just verifying some of the miracles they perform. We know them as antibiotics and we welcome them to break down our compost, but did you know that the dreaded *candida albicans*, when living in a well-balanced gut, helps to rid our bodies of heavy metals, such as mercury? And did you know

that the main bodies of micorrhizal fungi exist in nerve-like networks of threads, called mycelia, which attach to the roots of trees and enable them to nourish and 'talk' to one another? These fungi carry water and food, and warning signals, from root hair to root hair, through the darkness of the forest mulch. True, some fungi attack trees and cull those which are damaged and weak. Epidemics of bugs bearing fungal disease are wiping out whole forests in Canada, where drastic logging practices and climate change have caused environmental stress.

In Sussex, the ash trees are dying and this year the sycamores and maples seem to have joined them. On the Reserve, our lovely sugar maple has been stricken. Horse chestnuts are struggling. Yet there is good news too. At last, western science is catching up with what the poets and primitives have always maintained: intelligence is not confined to the human race! In her courageous stand to preserve old-growth trees and species diversity in British Columbia, the biologist Suzanne Simard has conducted experiments, proving that soil fungi are the life-support system of the forest. By tagging nitrogen particles and water particles, she and her students have proved that trees share their water and nutrients with one another using sheaths of fungal threads as transfusion tubes. Young birch and douglas fir assist one another seasonally, the birch feeding excess nitrogen to the fir trees while they are in summer leaf, and the fir feeding the birch in winter, when the birches are bare. 'Mother Trees' - giants of several hundred years standing - pass sustenance to their seedling offspring, drawing up reserves of water from deep underground and supporting the shallow-rooted saplings through times of drought.

In her book 'Finding the Mother Tree', Simard describes with mounting excitement how she discovered that the Mother Trees, give preferential help to their own offspring, i.e. are able to recognise their kin, and that dying trees pump the last of their energy to their neighbours in an attempt to keep the torch of life alight. In scientific terms, this might be called the inevitable transfer of substances from 'source to sink' or rich to poor, by which Nature seeks to maintain its balance. It might also be called Love. The fungi in the

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soil constitute a neural network, just like the nests of nerves in a brain. Information can pass across fungal synapses, so that plants can warn one another of imminent danger. And they do. In other words, they *think*. The forest is not only alive, but intelligent! At the end of the book, comes a joyful recognition of what the indigenous people of the forest had always believed: that trees are not *like* people – they *are* people

The world's aboriginal cultures lived in a state of vital connection to the intelligence of Nature for hundreds of thousands of years. Many native peoples across the world struggle to do so still and it is a sign of how far the developed world - the 'smart' ones - have drifted from that 'connection', that they need scientific proof before they can even believe such intelligence exists. Modern *homo sapiens*, claiming sole rights to intelligence, feels little need of natural wisdom. We are no longer attuned, attached to the Community of Life which is our birthright. We struggle to replicate the patterns of sharing and tolerance which comes naturally to trees, but we are outsiders still, sitting in judgement, plotting and planning to our own advantage.

In bleak moments I feel we are, by our own choice, exiles, ex-communicants from the Feast of Life. Even the current popular longing for Nature can descend, all too easily, into a kind of nature-tourism, which leaves us peering at beauties and secrets and appropriating them in data-banks, rather than according them their own sovereignty.

We call this era the 'Anthropocene'? Does that not say it all? The three-thousand year old redwoods and whales and the earwigs do not know that they live in a figment of our imagination. They live in Big Time, which has sustained Life since the beginning. Why should any other creature believe that man is central to that? Come to that, why should seaweed, or fungus, or rocks or rivers? To them we might more properly represent a dead zone, a numb zone, unable to receive their vital messages. We might be the deaf ones, the blind ones, the self-excluded ones, who spread a blanket of deadness over everything we touch. Look at the wastelands with which civilization has to date surrounded itself – from the Roman copper mines, to the slag-heaps of the Victorians, the shale-oil fields and lithium deadlands, the wind-turbine graveyards of the present day, not to mention the ailing and

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improverished communities of our own fellow humans, cut off from compassion and understanding. Our own bodies and hearts shrink at the prospect. Shamans, poets, visionaries have tried, over the centuries to heal the broken threads which once tied us all together.

Is it too late to trace a way back? I do not mean we should go back to swinging through the trees, or knapping flints, but perhaps we could find a way to open our ears and eyes to the humming, singing, zinging, heart-bursting vibrancy of Life Over There! The hunter-gatherer Bushmen of the Kalahari lived in pure 'communion' with their world, until contact with modernity swept it all away. Yet Bushman was not the term they used to describe themselves. They called themselves rather The Harmless People, The Worthwhile People, The People who have Left their Weapons Somewhere Else. Even in their current plight as vulnerable shanty dwellers, they keep to the Old Way of their ancestors, supporting one another and sharing what little they have amongst their kin. They weave a mycelium of love. Live like trees. What would happen if we post-exile people did likewise and used the pathways of our brains, (*brains* not internet - that's a different matter!) as soil fungi do, to become helpers, conduits for life? Could we, by healing things quietly underground, make a difference? *Rosemary*

JON BARKER

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Pennie Ingram



KANGABOP CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Join us for Festive fun and frivolity in support of local disability charity Kangaroos.

Dinner and dancing with live band, Cool Britannia at Mid Sussex Golf Club, Ditchling at 6.30 pm on Friday **22nd November**. Enjoy a welcome drink and two course meal and dress to sparkle. Scan the QR code for tickets. For more information e-mail sam@kangaroos.org.uk.

Kangaroos is celebrating 30 years of fun disability clubs.

Samantha Northgate

HURSTPIERPOINT CHRISTMAS FAIR

organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club will be held at the Village Centre, Hurstpierpoint on Friday **29th November** from 6 pm to 9 pm and on Saturday **30th November** from 9.30 am – 1 pm. Entry is free and there will be a wide range of stalls selling a variety of Christmas gift ideas.

Cards, advent calendars, craft kits, pottery, knitted crafts, jewellery and much more will be available. For further information or stall availability, please contact hurstchristmasfair@yahoo.com.

Rebecca

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To meet increased demand, extra tickets are being released for Santa's hugely popular grotto in Hassocks. But hurry, they won't hang around for long.

Organised by Sussex charity The Budding Foundation, the grotto is kindly run by family-owned Tates Garden Centres at South Downs Nurseries. The Brighton Road site has plenty of parking

and is easily accessible by public transport.

"Our magical grotto is a festive treat for all and features an enchanting winter wonderland", says Budding Foundations' founder Clive Gravett, "and money raised helps us to help young people across the county and their families who are in need."

Santa's little helpers have been busy building the new grotto as well as wrapping the hundreds of presents that will be given out.

"Embark on the ultimate journey to see Santa at South Downs Nurseries", says garden centre director Sarah Mead. "Enter an enchanting toy shop, discover a hidden door to meet Santa and receive a festive gift."

www.tatesgardencentres.digitickets.co.uk/tickets for more details

Trevor Butler

STAR CINEMA Friday **15th November** at the Adastra Hall. The film is 'The Phantom of the Opera' starring Mark Rylance. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm.

Tickets 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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HASSOCKS WI Meets 3rd Monday in the month at Adastral Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm start.

The WI Autumn Showcase took place 21/22nd September at Ardingly. The theme was 'Ready, Steady Christmas 2024'. Of course, we took part, our hamper came 3rd, although two hampers came joint 1st so perhaps, we were really 2nd. It contained 5 items card, shortbread, mince pies, chocolate truffles and brandy butter all individually marked. Well done Jackie for scoring full marks with your x stitch card. It was perfect. Shirley another talented member won a 2nd rosette for a delightful collage scene.

On the same weekend several members tested the water quality in Woodlands Road stream as part of WI Week of River Action with Great UK WaterBlitz. Full details www.freshwater-watch.org/pages/great-uk-waterblitz-results#RESULTS

Our October meeting was a member only 15th birthday party more about that next month article. WI provided the refreshments for Hassocks on Show on 26th October.

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November is 'Step in Line' and once again visitors are as usual most welcome (donation) dust off the cowboy boots and trip along for a fast paced evening with dancing and cake.

The nationwide WI campaign in November is 'No More Violence to Women and Girls'. We have organised an open meeting, everyone is invited there will be professional speakers and information. On average 1 woman is murdered in the UK every 3 days. (Femicidecensus.org)

Tuesday **26th November** 2 pm to 4.30 pm Adastral Hall committee room. At the end of the event there will be a short candlelit vigil in the memorial garden for the 28 women killed in Sussex since 2018.

All our usual extra club meetings will take place see our website for details.

Gerry

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

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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

As always, November is a busy month with our normal pattern of services plus Acts of Remembrance.

On Sunday **3rd November**, our 10 am service of Morning Worship with Holy Communion at Ditchling will include an enjoyable activity session for our Little Beacons. Why not bring your little ones along to make new friends?

On Remembrance Sunday, **10th November**, there will be a short service of Holy Communion in St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 9.30 am. The parade will be leaving from St. Margaret's School at 10.20 am and the Act of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial will be from 10.50 am. This will be followed by the Service of Remembrance in church from 11.15 am. The Act of Remembrance in Streat will take place at the war memorial there from 10.50 am and will be followed by Morning Prayer in church. On Armistice Day, Monday **11th November**, there will be a short Act of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial at 10.50 am.

Sunday **17th November** sees our service of Morning Worship with Holy Communion taking place at Streat Church at 10 am and on Sunday **24th November**, our All Age Family Service with Holy Communion will be at St. Margaret's Ditchling at 10 am.

Our weekly reflective service, Wednesday @ 10 will be held each week during

November.

If you enjoy singing, why not join us for SING! in St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 6 pm on Wednesday **6th November**.

We're busy planning our Christmas Tree Festival, to be held in St. Margaret's from **6th - 8th December**. Full details next month but.... please hold the date for what will be a lovely event.

Please always check our website for any changes to the above

www.beaconparish.co.uk/services.

Sherrian Guest

GREENER HASSOCKS AND DITCHLING

We had a great September afternoon of music, storytelling, cakes, drinks and even sunshine at our anniversary Party at the Patch - thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event! If you missed signing up for our newsletter, email

greenerhassocksitchling@gmail.com.

On Thursday **21st November** we will be screening the film 'Six Inches of Soil' about 3 young British farmers transforming the way they produce food, moving away from the industrial food system and focusing on soil, health and local communities. This will coincide with our AGM so do come along and get involved! Adastra Hall, Green Room 7.30 pm.

Beth

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LOCAL CLUB SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITY

At the end of the 2024 Summer Season, Adastra Bowling Club presented Age Concern, Hassocks with a cheque for £450. This amount will help towards the valuable work that the Centre does for the elderly people of the village and the surrounding area.

Adastra Bowling Club held a Charity Day with members paying to play a game of bowls, followed by a cream tea. There was also a Giant Tombola and a Bring & Buy stall. The proceeds

of this day were donated to Age Concern, Hassocks.

The presentation was made to Sarah-Anne, the Centre Manager by three Officers of Adastra Bowling Club, David Reader, Chairman; Carole Small, Captain and Peter Knight, Treasurer.

Diana Webley Ward

JAZZ LUNCH WITH THE NEW MUSKAT RAMBLERS

Come to the Hassocks Pub Function Room on the second Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September and November for great food, great jazz and great company.

You will be entertained by The New Muskat Ramblers, Peter Leonard (Lead, Trumpet), Alan Cresswell (Clarinet), Rob Pearce (Trombone), Bill Stagg (Banjo), Andy Lawrence (String Bass) and Paul Norman (Drums).

Doors open 11.45 am, the Jazz starts at 12 pm, a set lunch is served during the performance and the Jazz finishes at around 2.45 pm.

Advance bookings only Jo **01444 235986** or **01444 235639**.

Chris Lambe

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THE MONDAY GROUP



On 16th September the Monday Group welcomed the assistance of Sir Ed Davey (Leader of the Liberal Democrats) and the new MP for Mid Sussex, Alison Bennett, when replacing a stile near the Court Garden Vineyard, Ditchling.

Having completed the task, everybody enjoyed a refreshing glass of their award-winning Sparkling English Wine, before Sir Ed gave comments to the Press at Oldlands Mill.

Building on over 60 years experience in clearing, maintaining and improving the footpaths around Mid Sussex, the Monday Group continues to seek suitable opportunities to facilitate access by as many as possible to the local countryside.

To see our recent work, make a donation or report a footpath issue, please go to our website at www.mondaygroup.org.

Steve Brewis

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BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On Wednesday **6th November**, local historian, Ian Everest will be giving a talk in the Cyprus Hall about the history and work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Doors open 7.15 pm, talk commences 7.45 pm. Admission BHHS members free, small charge for visitors.

On Saturday **7th December**, the Society will be hosting a Christmas Market in the Cyprus Hall, featuring an array of stalls in support of local good causes and craftspeople. Refreshments available. Open 10 am to 3 pm. Free admission!

www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com,
01444 245509.

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HHU3A Stories of Polar exploration feature many legendary names but the HHU3a's Monthly Meeting learnt of other important but lesser-known pioneers. In 1819 Captain William Smith, his ship blown off course while sailing south round Cape Horn, spotted uncharted territory which he named King George Island. Intrigued Royal Navy Officer Edward Bransfield wanted to explore further and was the first to set eyes on the mainland of the Antarctic continent. It took hundred years before others, James Ross, Francis Crozier, Ernest Shackleton, Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen, returned to the challenge. This was

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always dangerous. Appalling conditions turned back Shackleton, he said he preferred to be 'a live donkey' rather than 'a dead lion', only for him to die on his fourth expedition to the region.

Even greater drama was played out in the race between Scott and Amundsen to be the first to reach the South Pole. Scott did get there only to find that Amundsen had already claimed the prize. Demoralised Scott's team turned back but fierce blizzards trapped them in their tent: starved, suffering from scurvy, hypothermia and frost bite in March 1912 they died, just 11 miles from a food depot.

This fascinating story was told by historian Michael Smith.

For more information about us visit
www.hhd.u3asite.uk.

Jeremy Weinstein



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On Thursday **7th November** from 5 to 7 pm at Twineham School, Church Lane, RH17 5NR.

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

Our charity makes a considerable loss every week on our trading income, so we are particularly grateful to Adastra Bowling Club for choosing us as their local charity to receive the generous donation of £450 which they raised at a charity bowling event with cream tea. Their Chairman David Reader, Treasurer Peter Knight, Captain Carol Small and Photographer Peter Ward came to Age Concern to present the cheque to our Centre Manager, Sarah-Anne.

Our first Craft Fair was a great success, and it was lovely to see lots of new faces. We were fortunate to have very talented Crafters who had lots of lovely things to sell, and our Coffee Shop proved to be very popular selling homemade cake and hot drinks. We also held one of our occasional Rummage Sales which made £289.20 for the Centre. Many thanks to everyone who supports these events. The next Rummage Sale will be on Saturday **16th November** starting at 9.30 am and our Christmas Fair and Craft Fair is being held on Saturday **14th December** – keep an eye out for the posters for more information or call in and see us at the Centre.

Would anyone be interested in volunteering to drive

our minibus? You will need a D1 on your driving license and any time you could offer would be greatly appreciated. We run the bus on a Tuesday and Thursday and occasionally have trips out for our members. We regularly need Drivers for holiday cover. Feel free to come in or telephone for more information.

We are always happy to welcome new members to our Day Centre where we serve a three-course freshly cooked lunch Monday to Friday and our minibus picks up from Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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 10am 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 on Saturdays. Donations are most welcome. While you are visiting the Charity Shop why not stop by for a drink and cake in our Coffee Shop – everyone welcome 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday.

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

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL Wednesday 20th to 23rd November.

Well, we're now in the final countdown for our Autumn production and it's looking really good for another terrific production by the Ditchling Players which we're all very excited about.

As I mentioned last month, we're pleased to welcome not only a new director, Robert Tremayne, who will also be joining us on the stage but also some new faces amongst the rest of the cast. We also intend to make this an immersive production so, as well as the usual Refreshments, we will also be selling Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, to help both you and Scrooge get into the festive spirit.

Please don't forget that there will only be a matinee performance on the Saturday 23rd November and no evening performance that night.

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 www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk. Curtain up for the evening performances is 7.30 pm (Doors open at 7 pm) and for the matinee on Saturday curtain up is 2.30 pm (Doors open at 2 pm).

Be sure not to miss out on this exciting production and start your Christmas the right way.

David Tattersell

HURSTFOLK. RETURNS TO DANNY on Sunday 24th November.

We are so pleased to once again be a host venue for the fabulous HURSTfolk. festival, which returns to Hurstpierpoint in November. The scene was set in The Great Hall in 2023 when the festival first came to Danny, and saw sold-out shows ranging from spoken word to barber shop; jazz to contemporary piano. This year, the Danny HURSTfolk. programme is just as vast and varied; there is genuinely something for everyone; see below for what's in store and be sure to grab your tickets fast – these events will sell out!

At 10 am - Boing! In search of the Magical Carrot – Under 2s go free.

12.30 pm Robins In My Kitchen Book Launch – Bryony Hill, Daryn Buckley + Made in the Shade.

5 pm Relax and Revive – Gentle jazzy sounds and uplifting poetry from Lou Beckerman & Joss Peach.

Free entry available to all events for low-income households. For more information and tickets visit www.hurstfolk.org.

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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL

September has passed in a whirlwind of exciting events and superb learning. The year 3 children have been brilliant and settled within days. They are engrossed in the cross curricular work that they are doing exploring the Stone Age, as well as being adventurers and exploring our outside environment.

On the third week of term, Year 6 had an unforgettable adventure at PGL Marchants Hill. With



thrilling outdoor activities, campfires, discos and more; the trip was full of excitement, teamwork, facing fears and a lot of laughter! Whether they were tackling the giant swing, building a raft, or mastering archery, everyone had a fantastic time.

They came back exhausted but full of pride about all they had achieved and the fears

that they overcame. They worked well together and were incredibly well supported by the staff team who accompanied them. We are very grateful to the staff who all worked so hard to make sure the children had the best time.

Our other big development is our library project. In order to launch our library with aplomb we invited the one of our favourite authors in to inspire and motivate the children. On Wednesday 25th September, we were incredibly fortunate to have a

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visit from the fantastic author of The Land of Roar, Fairy vs Boy, Dead Good Detectives and many more Jenny McLachlan!

Jenny held a very interactive assembly where she spoke all about what it is like to be an author and what inspired her to write. She ignited a sense of fun in the writing process and how joyful escaping into a book could be. She explained her journey in becoming a writer. Our children were excited to hear that many of her ideas stemmed from simple imaginary games and worlds she created as a child. The queue to have her books signed showed just how enthralling the children found her presentation.

Jenny then cut the ribbon to formally open our brand new library. In her speech, she said how lucky the children here are to have such a modern



library filled with such inspirational books and we couldn't agree more! She said that it was truly fantastic and one of the best that she had the pleasure of visiting.

Thank you to everyone who has made this possible; we cannot wait for the children to immerse themselves in new and exciting literary worlds!

'on behalf of The Windmills'

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ROBINS IN MY KITCHEN as Robins nest in her kitchen, Bryony Hill shares this heartwarming tale in a new book. It all began one late spring morning when a Robin unexpectedly fluttered into Briony's bedroom. Unfazed, it perched on her dressing table briefly before flitting from room to room, eventually leaving through the kitchen window.

With each passing day, the visits of the Robin grew more frequent, its boldness evident as it fearlessly explored its surroundings. Soon, it began bringing Moss and leaves to the kitchen window. With each further visit, more nesting materials would appear on the work surfaces or dropped onto the kitchen tiles. Then, one morning, Briony heard scuffling and rusting noises as the Robin began building a nest in the kitchen on the shelf of a pine dresser.

Briony found herself drawn into the remarkable journey of the Robin. She witnessed the little birds unwavering dedication, and a few weeks later, 4 delicate eggs appeared. What followed was one of the most extraordinary experiences of Briony's life; as she observed the hatchings grew under the vigilant care of their parents until one day, under the watchful eye of the father, Briony released the fledglings into her garden.



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Bryony Hill was born in Sussex and, after a year at Brighton College of Art she left England for France where she lived for four happy years. After a time in London where she met her future husband the late television sports presenter Jimmy Hill, they returned to her home county and settled into married life.

Briony is an avid gardener, cook, artist and writer with a love of nature. Robins in my kitchen is Briony's 11th published book, which he has written and illustrated.

'Magnificently talented as an artist plus delightful empathy with all living creatures, makes this an enchanting story about Briony's recent house guests' Des Lynam OBE.

Briony explains when it was clear the Robins were setting up home in my kitchen, I started to post daily bulletins on Facebook. As the story gathered momentum alongside my photographs, it captured the interest of everyone and began to have a huge following, how many saying that it

was the first thing they looked at in the morning. I want to share the simple joy with others and hope they love the book!

Signed copies are available from QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks. *Bryony Hill*

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CHARITY'S NEW CHAILEY HOME GIVEN FLORAL BOOST

Floral donations to the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity from a Hassocks nursery are set to brighten its new home as it moves after many years based in Cuckfield.

Two beautifully-planted containers, some lovely bedding plants, and a pair of stunning topiary trees were given to the charity by Tates Garden Centres as it moved into new premises at Chailey Heritage Foundation.

The charity is dedicated to helping children under five years with cerebral palsy and other motor learning impairments.

Staff from South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks delivered the donated plants to an appreciative CEO Glenys Creese and made sure they were professionally planted and set to thrive.

"Thank you for this marvellous donation; we are absolutely thrilled", said the charity's Head of Fundraising, Tracey Shaw. "We are so excited and so grateful for this incredibly generous gift which will brighten the charity's new home."

The plant team at South Downs selected the plants with considerable care, ensuring low maintenance and evergreen varieties which provide a little height surrounded by some creeping/trailing summer flowering campanulas along with some bulbs which will appear through springtime.

"The pots, courtesy of Woodlodge, were so heavy that we planted them in situ", says Hazel Still from South Downs Nurseries. "Once established, they promise to give year-round colour and interest for staff and visitors. We are delighted to be helping such a worthy local charity that does so much superb work." *Trevor Butler*



Glenys Creese, CEO of the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity with Hazel Still from South Downs Nurseries

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SUNDAY JAZZ IN DITCHLING

There will be a relaxing evening of jazz and blues with piano virtuoso, Mike Hatchard, and Hurst singer, Julie Roberts in The Old Meeting House, Ditchling on Sunday evening **10th November** at 7.30 pm.

Julie is known for her warm distinctive voice and sings from the heart the songs she loves, from sophisticated jazz ballads to gutsy blues.

Julie has been working with Mike Hatchard with great success in the last year or so. Her appearance at Mike Hatchard's Jazz Breakfast at Sussex Yacht Club last November and at his Jazz Breakfast at The Sussex Harbour Club in April this year were sold-out shows. Their soirée together in this year's Hurst Festival was fully booked weeks before the event.

Mike is not simply brilliant on the piano, but a multi-instrumentalist and talented composer and arranger. He is the musical director of two community choirs, one being Ditchling Singers.

The Old Meeting House is a charming venue found up the tittwen that starts opposite Ditchling Village Hall, BN6 8UJ.

There's more information on Julie's website, www.julierobertssingeruk.com and tickets may be purchased from www.WeGotTickets.com. Search for "Hatchard".

QUIZ NIGHT WITH FISH AND CHIPS SUPPER

at Hurstpierpoint Bowls Club, South Avenue Hurstpierpoint. In aid of the NSPCC on Saturday **23rd November**. Doors open at 7 pm for 7.30 pm start. Teams of four to six people. Tickets are available from Charlotte Grace Casuals, 40 High Street Hurstpierpoint or telephone **07507 277689**. There will be a raffle and a licenced bar. *Jonet Marshall*

The Hassocks

Station Approach East, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8HN
Tel: 01273 842113 Email: chris@thehassocks.co.uk

CHRISTMAS MENU 2024

~~ STARTERS ~~

Pate of the Day mixed leaves & melba toast
Crispy Coated Camembert mixed leaves & sweet chilli dip
Carrot & Coriander Soup roll & butter
Prawn Cocktail mixed leaves, brown bread & butter

~~ MAINS ~~

all served with seasonal fresh vegetables & roast potatoes

Roast Turkey Breast with pigs in blankets and gravy
Roast Top Side of Beef with yorkshire pudding and gravy
Lamb Shank (£3 extra) in a minted gravy
Salmon Fillet in a creamy parsley sauce
Chestnut Seed Nut Roast with yorkshire pudding and gravy

~~ DESSERTS ~~

Christmas Pudding with custard
Rich Chocolate Truffle with cream
Tarte au Citron with cream
New York Cheesecake with cream
Ice Cream
Cheese and Biscuits (£2 extra)

Coffee and Mince Pies to follow

£28 per person

Available 1st November - 20th December.
 All dinners must be ordered in advance. Please advise us of any dietary requirements.
 A non-refundable deposit of £10 per person is required with booking.
 Menu choice needed 7 days before the event.

MID SUSSEX RAMBLERS As the Ramblers' group for the Mid Sussex area we offer a varied programme of walks throughout the year to suit all ages and abilities. Our walks programme is available on our website: www.midsussexramblers.co.uk along with information about the group.

Walks are arranged on Tuesdays and weekends throughout the year and vary in length from 4-12 miles. During the summer there are short walks on Wednesday evenings, trial walks and leisurely nature walks.

New and experienced walkers are both very welcome and if you would like to try one of our walks please get in touch via the Contact Form on our website, email msrpublicity@gmail.com or telephone our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Sue Blandford, on **01403 255654**.

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SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB

Whether they are soft, thorny, pendulous, evergreen, deciduous or showing their stark skeletal outline the beauty of trees are there to delight residents and visitors to East and West Sussex throughout the year. However, less than a 20 minute drive from home I recently discovered a magnificent display of trees I never knew existed.

Quercus ilex, the evergreen oak, holly oak, or holm oak is a large evergreen oak native to the Mediterranean region.

Ilex Way, an avenue of holm oaks was conceived as an impressive carriageway over a mile long, stretching from Goring Hall to St Mary's Church, Ferring. The trees are known for their resistance to sea winds, making them a perfect fit for the winter climate in Sussex.

They faced being cut down by the council in the early 1980s. Angry residents formed the Ilex Group and fought the proposal to fell the trees and were ultimately successful. (Hurrah!)

And so it was that the Sussex Pathfinders were able to gather at the eastern end of Ilex Way on a cloudy, humid – but so far dry Saturday. The avenue of trees with their contorted trunks and dusty evergreen canopies of leaves sheltered us all the way to Ferring.

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Ditchling Common, Hassocks West Sussex, BN6 8SG

Once on the foreshore we were soon aware of the delights of the Blue Bird café selling coffee, assorted cakes and ice cream to the delight of us walkers. However, our walk had not yet finished, and the rain had arrived so we donned our waterproofs, walked along the promenade and finally arrived back in Goring to our starting place and those beautiful holm oaks.

SPRC has another coastal walk with some urban interludes taking place on Sunday, **3rd November** starting from Marine Drive, East Wittering. It will be a 'Figure of 8' walk starting at 10 am and 1.30 pm. Chose whether to walk 6 miles or 5 miles or both.

Other November walks are Saturday, **2nd November** at 10 am, 5.5 miles from Washington including the South Downs Way.

Saturday, **9th November** at 10 am start, 5.5 mile downland walk from Alfriston. As it's Remembrance Weekend there is a possibility of being able to view the Bloomsbury Group paintings in Berwick church.

There are five more walks on offer during November visit www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk/walks/. No booking needed, just turn up and introduce yourself to the group leader.

Diann Clarke



HANDY MAN FRIDAY



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AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY KENT SURREY SUSSEX LAUNCHES EXCITING GIRLGUIDING CHALLENGE BADGE TO INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE.

(KSS) is excited to announce the launch of an inspiring new Girlguiding London and South East England Challenge Badge, the Air Ambulance KSS Mission Badge. The new badge is packed with exciting insights into the charity's vital work and designed to educate and inspire young people about emergency medical services, aviation, the basic lifesaving skills of CPR and defibrillation and the importance of community support and fundraising. KSS has worked closely with Girlguiding London and South East England to develop the new badge for which participants must complete a series of KSS 'missions'. Each mission offers a unique insight into the lifesaving operations of KSS and covers everything from when and how to call 999, to knowing how to help save the life of someone in cardiac arrest, learning some basic aviation skills and the importance of staying fit and healthy for a career in Helicopter Emergency Medical Services.

Key Features of the Air Ambulance KSS Mission Badge:

Educational Missions. Participants will learn what to do in an emergency, how to safely arrive at a scene, and the importance of medical research in helping to save more lives.

Interactive Learning. The missions include practical activities such as learning CPR, using defibrillators, and understanding how to call for help in an emergency.

Community Engagement. The badge encourages participants to get involved with their local community and support KSS through fundraising and awareness activities. Completing all missions, including a fundraising activity, enters participants into a prize draw to meet the KSS crew.

Inspiring Future Careers. By showcasing the diverse roles within the air ambulance service, the



badge aims to inspire young people to consider careers in emergency medical services and related fields.

Helene Poursain, Head of Public Fundraising at KSS, said: "We're incredibly excited to launch our new Air Ambulance KSS Mission Badge with Girlguiding London and South East England. We hope that by collaborating together we can educate and inspire as many young people as possible in our lifesaving work."

"The badge is a fantastic way for young people to learn about the vital importance of KSS and other air ambulance charities as well as teach important skills that will enable Brownies, Guides and Rangers of all ages to be able to help save lives in their own communities."

For more information about the Air Ambulance KSS Mission Badge and how to get involved, please visit www.aakss.org.uk or contact community@aakss.org.uk. *Gavin Sherriff*

HELP 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT FUNDRAISE THIS CHRISTMAS WITH A CONCERT, CARDS, GIFTS AND A CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW!

4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is getting ready for Christmas with its annual Concert and Christmas Prize Draw and is also offering cards and gifts for sale. Proceeds will help the charity in its work supporting residents of all ages throughout West Sussex who are blind or partially sighted.

The highlight of 4SVS's Festive season is its wonderful Christmas Concert with Seaford College Chapel Choir, which will be held in early December (call or see website for date TBC) at 6.30pm at St Mary de Haura Church in Shoreham. This is always a lovely event and 4SVS advises reserving a place well in advance, with payment then taken (cash or card) on the door. Tickets include a festive refreshment.

The Christmas Prize Draw has a number of fabulous prizes, with the main prize worth £250! 4Sight Vision Support is encouraging everyone to share the news of the Draw with family and friends. Tickets can be purchased individually or in books of 10.

Christmas cards are available with a variety of seasonal designs which can be viewed on 4SVS's website News page. The deadline for ordering is

13th December. There are also gift ideas for those living with sight loss, including large print playing cards, large print Scrabble, large print calendars and diaries, as well as equipment such as talking kitchen scales. In addition, a book of 35 'Short Rambles in the Sussex Countryside and Days Out' by volunteer Jane Aston features walks carefully designed to be suitable for everyone including those with living with sight loss.

Christmas Prize Draw tickets, cards and gifts can

be purchased by debit card from 4Sight Vision Support by calling **01243 828555** or bought in person from its Head Office in Bognor Regis or its Shoreham office. For further information, including the date of the Concert, please call, or email **fundraising@4sight.org.uk**.

It is estimated that there are over 2 million people living with sight loss in the UK, and over 36,200 people living with sight loss or low vision in West Sussex (RNIB Sight Loss Data 2023).

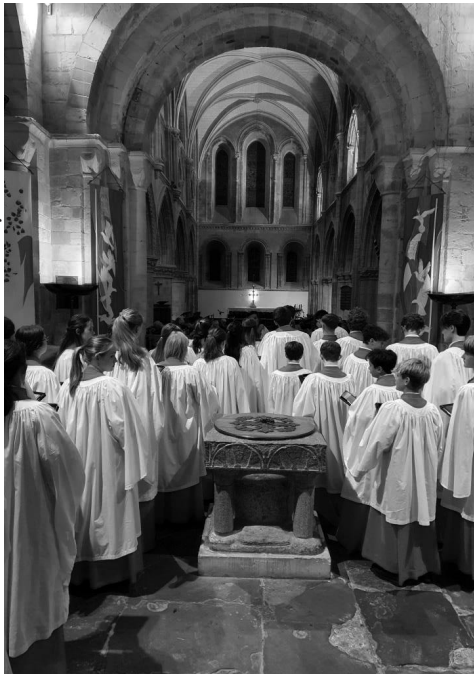
4Sight Vision Support is a registered charity founded in 1921. For over 100 years the team

has been providing face-to-face specialist advice and support to over 3,161 people living with sight loss in West Sussex each year. 4Sight Vision Support also supports parents, carers and other family members whose lives are impacted by sight loss. It works across West Sussex and all of its services are free. Its holistic and person-centred approach ensures that a diagnosis of sight loss is not a one-way road to loss of independence and reduced health and wellbeing outcomes. It delivers outreach services in urban and rural settings, social support, emotional support and advocacy, provides daily living aids and accessible technology,

transport, as well as eye health information, including preventative information to help people retain and preserve their sight. 4Sight Vision Support achieves this with a small, highly skilled and dedicated team, and with the support of around 200 volunteers.

Please contact Julie Branson, Fundraising Manger **julie.branson@4sight.org.uk** or **01243 828555**; or myself Cathy Clark, Fundraising Volunteer

fundraisingvolunteer@4sight.org.uk. *Cathy*



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JAYS Each autumn a lot of my conversations go like this: "This morning I saw a weird pink and blue bird on my lawn." Me: "It's a Jay." "There's a parrot on my bird table!" Me: "It's a Jay." "I've just seen..." Me: "It's a Jay". Spotting such an exotic looking bird in the back garden gets even my most wildlife-averse friends reaching for the Blencowe bird identification hotline. Yet despite looking like it has flown in direct from the jungles of Costa Rica, the

Jay lives in Sussex all year round. For most of the year it withdraws to the woodlands and leads an elusive life amongst the leaves. But in October it is time for the Jay to step out of the shadows.

Jays look fabulous. With extravagant pink plumage, a drooping black moustache and a snazzy electric blue flash through the wings, it's no surprise that the eminent

Sussex naturalist, W.H. Hudson, called it 'the British Bird of Paradise'. Surprisingly, it's a member of the crow family. But while the related Ravens, Rooks, Crows and Jackdaws all wear black funereal feathers, the Jay obviously didn't get the memo about the dress code! Gather the Crows for a family portrait and the Jay stands out like Danny La Rue in full drag amongst a crowd of coal miners. But, when the Jay opens its beak, it reveals its family heritage. The song of the Jay is a rough, rasping, nails-down-the-blackboard shriek, which would make any Crow proud.

The reason we see more Jays in the autumn is because they are busy. Jays are nuts about acorns and at this time of the year their favourite food is in plentiful supply. But the Jay is a clever bird. Aware that

there are lean times ahead it starts making a long-term investment for surviving the winter. With up to nine acorns jammed in its beak and throat, the Jay flies far from the woodlands and hides these nuts in nooks and under dead leaves. With an impressive ability to remember exactly where he has stashed them, the Jay will return, and tuck into these life-saving larders in the cold days of winter. I've employed a similar strategy many times at parties!



Faced with a full buffet at the start of the night, I hide a few piles of crisps and vol-au-vents behind curtains and cushions to help me get through the evening.

One Jay can store up to 5000 acorns in a season. Not all are remembered and retrieved and from these lost acorns, mighty Oaks grow. I often wonder how many of the huge Oaks we see in Sussex were originally planted by Jays. Through the centuries these birds have been architects of the English

countryside: a landscape created by the forgetfulness of a pink crow.

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 www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk.

Michael Blencowe

Useful Information

OUT OF HOURS CHEMIST

Either **Day Lewis** or **Boots** in Hassocks.

Mon. to Fri. 5.30pm - 6pm.

Sun. 10am - 4pm covered by Boots Burgess Hill

Bank Holidays Please see chemist doors.

Urgent prescriptions call Sussex Police

0845 6070999

LIBRARIES

Hurstpierpoint - 01273 832609

Hassocks - 01273 842779

Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9am - 1pm

& Thurs., Fri. 1 - 5pm

HASSOCKS FOOD BANK

Open to anyone in need of support. Held in Powell House (next to United Reformed Church), Hassocks, 10am to 12noon, every Monday and Friday. Or drop donations to Mansell McTaggart and The Sussex Grocer in Hassocks

TENNIS COURT HIRE

Adastra Park, Hassocks

Book www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/AdastraPark

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PARISH COUNCILS

Hassocks

01273 842714

www.hassockspc.net.

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

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common

01273 833264

www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

Mon.- Fri. 9.30am - 1pm.

Ditchling

01273 844733

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, Ditchling Church, Streat Church and Westmeston Church

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. 9am - 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 - 9pm, 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 On the wall in the covered alcove at the front of the building 24-hour access	38 Keymer Road Available during opening hours Adastra Park - south field Via Orchard Lane or Keymer Road	
Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club	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

Whats On in November

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.**

Church Services

BEACON PARISH NOVEMBER SERVICES

Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **3rd** inc. Little Beacons and all age family service on **24th**. On **17th** 'Service of morning Worship and Holy Communion' 10 am at Streat. Wednesday@10 (am) Holy Communion weekly at St Margarets Church, Ditchling. Always check www.beacon-parish.co.uk to be kept up to date.

Clubs

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.

HEARTS OF SUSSEX BRIDGE CLUB - Mondays online and Tuesdays Age Concern Hassocks. See www.hsobcbridgeclub.co.uk

HUG IN A MUG - A coffee (and cake!) morning for all. Mondays 10.30 - 12 pm at Keymer Church Hall and at Clayton Church Hall, every Tuesday at 10.30 am to 12 pm.

MUMS, DADS & CARERS HUG IN A MUG - 8.45 - 10.30 am every Monday at Keymer Church Hall, for Parents, carers or grandparents who look after children. Cake, coffee, toys & games.

IRISH SET DANCING The Emmanuel Centre, Ditchling 7.15 - 9.30 pm. Come and join us for some fun and active dancing (not Riverdance). We are an informal and friendly group. Beginners are very welcome, no need to bring a partner. Your first session is free call 07802

847234 for more info.

THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB Club nights are on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays at the URC Church Hall, 7.30 pm.

More details can be found on the clubs website: www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk

MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP. Meet every Tuesday Evening, 7.30 pm, Main Hall Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Anyone is welcome, no previous knowledge is necessary just a willingness to have fun. Please visit www.msscd.org.uk for more details. (We do not meet in July or August)

SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD Clayton Village Hall, Thursdays 7 - 9 pm. Beginners to Advanced sussexflydressersguild.org.uk.

HASSOCKS YOUTH GROUP The Green Room, Adastra Hall, Hassocks. Thursday 5.30 - 7 pm School Years 4 - 13 (Term time only). All welcome for games, crafts and activities and social time.

QUAKER MEETING FOR WORSHIP. 10.30 am every Sunday, Ditchling Friends Meeting House. Also on 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10.30 am, at The Yews, 55 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath. All are welcome for peaceful worship followed by coffee. Our magazine "Friendly News" is available at Ditchling PO www.ditchlingquakers.org.uk

WHIST DRIVE - Our friendly club meets at Age Concern, Hassocks every thursday at 6.45

Regular Events

2nd SUSSEX WOOD CRAFT SOCIETY Henfield Village Hall 9.30 am - 4.30 pm Wide variety of work for sale, all products made locally by members.

2nd WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email tamarajane-baxter@yahoo.co.uk.

2nd HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Newhaven. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

3rd DANNY FIREWORKS Danny House, New Way Lane, gates open 4.30 pm. Fireworks, Bonfire & BBQ. Tickets QD Stationery, Pierpoint Pets or www.dannybonfire.co.uk. Restricted parking see article for more details.

3rd HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

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

5th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. 'Raystead Animal Sanctuary'.

6th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'Professional Harpist - Fiona Hosford'. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

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

6th UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

6th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors open 7.45 pm. 'The History and Work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission' Ian Everest. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com. All welcome.

7th TWINEHAM SCHOOL Church Lane, Twineham 5 - 7 pm. 'Fireworks and Fun'. Tickets available on the gate.

7th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 'One Life'. Tickets available on the door

7th BEFRIENDED Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 10 am - 12 pm. Bereavement Cafe - A safe place to chat about grief loss & share stories about loved ones. More info office@befriended.org

8th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [\[sussexars.org.uk\]\(http://sussexars.org.uk\). Talk by John Portune W6NBC - Probe for Detecting & Solving Stary RF on Coax & in the Shack. Refreshments available. All welcome.](http://www.mid-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

9th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

9th 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.

9th CLAYTON WITH KEYMER CHURCHES Adastra Hall 10 am - 12 pm. Annual Christmas Fair. All welcome.

10th DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome to come along and join us.

10th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Worthing Town. Bar & Food available. Free entry.

10th JAZZ AND BLUES Old Meeting House, Ditchling 7.30 pm. Mike Hatchard & Julie Roberts. Tickets www.wegottickets.com.

10th DITCHLING REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY St Margarets Church, Ditchling 9.30 am short Service. Parade leaves St Margarets School at 10.20 am and The Act of Remembrance back at St Margarets at 10.50 am. Service of Remembrance at 11.15 am.

10th STREAT CHURCH REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10.50 am The Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial and Morning Prayer follows.

11th DITCHLING ARMISTICE DAY St Margarets War Memorial Ditchling, 9.50 am Act of Remembrance.

11th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45pm. Bisons and Custer - Yellowstone National Park and General Custer - 'The Wild West' Neil Sadler.

11th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thereupon.org.uk.

12th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Insect Pollinators & the changing Chalk Porject' Illustrated talk by Alice Parfitt Conservation Officer of Buglife. All welcome.

12th MUSKRAT RAMBLERS, Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East, doors 11.45 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.

15th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'The Phantom of the Opera' starring Mark Rylance. Tea, Coffee wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door.

16th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk.

16th AGE CONCERN HAS SOCKS Dale Avenue 9.30 am. Rummage Sale.

16th THE GROWING NETWORK Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling 10.30 am - 12 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books/tools you don't need. Children welcome too.

16th HAS SOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Midhurst & Easebourne. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

17th GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. 'Christmas with Godalming Consort'. Festive Entertainment. Tickets include refreshments to book email gdwstodaysussex@gmail.com.

17th 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.

18th HAS SOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Step in Line' Dust off your cowboy boots. Visitors welcome.

19th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee Morning run by Beacon Parish Church Events. All welcome.

20th - 23rd DITCHLING PLAYERS Ditchling Village Hall. Various Performances. Christmas Carol. Tickets and more information from www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk or White Horse Pub.

21st LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HAS SOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hat-

ton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

21st GREENER HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 - 9.30 pm. AGM night followed by a film 'Six Inches of Soil'. All welcome.

22nd MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Quiz'. Refreshments available. All welcome.

22nd KANGABOP Mid Sussex Golf Course 6.30 pm Christmas Dinner and Dance. See article for tickets and more info.

22nd HURST, HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. 'Sir Charlie Chaplin' Bill McNaught. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

23rd HAS SOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

23rd 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.

23rd HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint 7 pm. Quiz Night with Fish and Chip Supper raising funds for NSPCC. See article for more info.

23rd TIME4CHILDREN Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 1 - 5 pm. Sen hour 12 pm - 1 pm. Annual Christmas Fair. All welcome.

23rd HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 10 am - 2 pm. 'Craft Fair'. All welcome.

24th HURSTFOLK Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint from 10 am. Various events taking place during the day. Please see article for more info.

24th DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome to come along and join us.

25th HAS SOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'RNLI 200th Anniversary'

25th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

26th HAS SOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 - 4.30 pm. 'National WI Campaign 'No More Violence to Women and Girls'. Open meeting with professional speakers and information. Visitors welcome.

27th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS
Beeding and Bramber Village Hall 7 - 10 pm.
Hands on Evening with 3 lathes set up for
member participation - bring some wood, tools
& eye protection. All welcome. www.south-downswoodturners.com

28th BEREAVEMENT WELL-BEING GROUP
Clayton Wood, Natural Burial Ground, Brighton
Road, Clayton 10 am - 12 noon. Come and
meet others who understand what you are
going through. www.bereavementcare.uk.

29th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide HQ Trinity Road,
Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. Brighton in Old Pictures' Chris Horlock. All welcome.

29th/30th HURSTPIERPOINT GYM CLUB
Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 29th 6 - 9 pm &
30th 9.30 am - 1 pm. Christmas Fair.

30th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road,
Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Shoreham. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

30th SUSSEX CHORUS St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm 'Handel's Messiah' Tickets 01444 412579. www.sussexchorus.org

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY On 7th November there is a change to the previously published programme.

The new film will be One Life a 2023 biographical drama film directed by James Hawes is a great one. Based on the true story of British humanitarian Nicholas Winton. The film alternates between following Anthony Hopkins as a 79-year old Winton reminiscing on his past, and Johnny Flynn as a 29-year old Winton who successfully helps 669 predominantly Jewish children in German-occupied Czechoslovakia to hide and flee in 1938-39, just before the beginning of World War II.

Starring Anthony Hopkins and Helen Bonham Carter.

One Life. 12A (2023). 110 minutes. English. Dir James Hawes

Please join us for complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits. We will also be selling wine by the glass. Our December film will be Rye Lane (2023). Directed by Raine Allen-Miller which promises to be warm and funny. With this film we will be serving our ever popular mulled wine and hot mince pies.

A reminder here, that members of the Ditchling Film Society are eligible for a 20% discount on pre-booked meals and drinks at The Bull Pub on film night.

Films usually show 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. Annual membership is available with guest entry on the door. Cards accepted.

There's plenty of parking next to the village hall. For full information go to their website

ditchlingfilm.org.uk. Follow them on Instagram **@ditchlingfilmsoc** and Tweet **@Ditchlingfilm**.

Kate

ROYAL AIR FORCE did you serve in the RAF? Were you a National Service Man? There is a National Service (Royal Air Force) association groups of ex National Servicemen in various parts of the country that meet up on a regular basis, keeping in touch, sharing a common experience.

One such group regularly meets at the White Swan Hotel in Arundel. For more information contact me on **01273 844180**. *Ron Bachelor*

CAN YOU HELP?

We have a few areas left which we need covering so if you think you can help please give us a call or email us.

(the amount in the brackets is roughly the amount to be delivered in the specific area - some areas can be split)

DITCHLING

Lewes Road(East) from East End Lane to Spatham Lane
From Amberley - Appledore Inc Nye Lane (not Shirleys or Nye Barn) (33)
Westmeston (Westmeston - Main Road all houses, Underhill Lane (east end)
from Westmeston End Papillion up to Beasacre
cross over to Coombe Wood to Westmeston Lodge

HURSTPIERPOINT

High Street (145), Trinity Road (36),
Willow Way, Inc. Willow Close, Willow Gardens & Blackthorns (213)
College Lane, Inc. Woburnbury Close & Lytton Close (194)

HASSOCKS

Kingsland Gate (Hassocks old Golf Course) (160)



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or email

info@villagemagazines.co.uk

UPDATE

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

In the late 1970's because of the continuous flooding in Dale Ave and Keymer Road it was decided by the local authority to put in a new pipe to help with the problem which started at the foot of the Downs in Ditchling. Chalk streams took the water from Beacon Road across the fields to Lodge Lane, whereby means of other pipes and open streams it flowed under Highlands Close and its junction with Willowbrook Way and through the gardens on the north side of Dale Avenue until it reaches the car park behind the supermarket, which was then Key-market. From this point it was decided to install a new pipe which would be approximately 4 ft in diameter and run it in front of the Orion Parade shops in Dale Avenue and under Keymer Road to the entrance of Wilmington close. It then turns under the service road to the rear of the shops and passes underground to Grand Avenue and continues between the rear of the shops and No 1 Grand Avenue, where it meets the mainstream, thus preventing torrents of water from flowing down the high street and causing a lot of damage.

However, the issue we're having is where it comes into Wilmington Close and then turns down the entrance to our service area, at this point the road is beginning to subside mainly because it's at the top of the gradient and the pipe is at the deepest which means whatever they used to pack around the pipe probably sand and gravel is no longer doing its job. The same problem also happened in the 80s, but then a team of workers with heavy machinery arrived and sorted the problem out in no time at all. But these days it has to be somebody's fault, it can't just be that over the years wear and tear and heavy traffic have caused the problem. The road is a service road for the shops flats and houses that have garages and entrances onto the service road.

So special materials should have been used in the first place to ensure this didn't happen, it's already a trip hazard and a danger to low cars. I'm surprised somebody hasn't tripped yet, so they can sue the council for loads of money, also if it sinks any further then the huge wall on the corner which has behind it tonnes of earth and water could come down to. Trouble is everyone has to play the blame game, I have to have deliveries to stay in business so it's my fault because of the delivery lorries, but let's not forget the huge refuse lorries that come down twice a week, you could go on and on. The responsibility lies with whoever owns the pipe and put it in in the first place and don't forget I can almost stand up in this pipe, it's massive, and the amount of water that flows through it is incredible. I went down the inspection hatch once to see what it was like, I wanted to see how far I could get along it but after 100 yards claustrophobia got in the way and I turned back.

Light Up Hassocks this year is on the 6th December - let's hope it's a bit more of an even split this year and not all at one end.

I'm not sure how this new bins rota is going to work but if you get a build-up of rubbish and can't face the bureaucracy of Burgess Hill dump, although it is a bit further, you can always go to Lewes, you don't have to book, it doesn't matter where you come from and you can take almost anything there - they are great bunch of lads and will help you, you can take a trailer as long as it's no bigger than 6 ft by 4 ft.

I've still got nothing to report on the eyesore over the road except that one day it will probably be flats with shops underneath but when work is going to start on that is probably a long way off yet.

Before I go, I'd just like to congratulate R.D.Jenkins who are regular advertisers in this magazine on their excellent job they did on the damaged flint wall opposite Ditchling Pond. It can't have been an easy job putting all those bits of flint back together but credit where credits due - Well done lads!

Can't believe it's nearly Christmas again - where does that time go? Wonder what next year is going to bring? Love you all Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392