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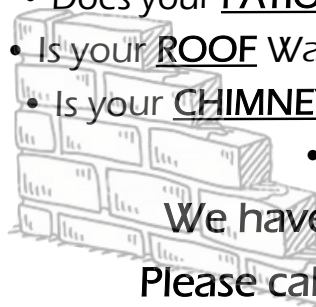
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PETER KIRK We were all so sorry to hear of Peter's passing and send our sincere sympathy to Becky and his family. Peter was our regular 'sound man' at our Friends and Neighbours shows and became a very popular part of the evening as, for instance when he jollied his part of our audience into singing the loudest during the song '12 Days of Christmas' at our Christmas shows - always a bit of fun and enjoyed by all especially Peter!

Peter was a very friendly, Community spirited person and for 18 years willingly gave his time for our many shows and rehearsals. He was a very important part of the entertainment, and he has left us with precious memories of those happy times spent together.

Dorrie & ex-members Friends and Neighbours

THANK YOU On Saturday 7th December in storm Darragh, the wind was so strong and gusty that I was blown over in Keymer Road, near the top of Stafford Way.

I would like to express my great thanks to the kind gentleman who stopped his car and came to enquire how I felt, before helping my friend get me to my feet.

Name and address supplied

If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included please email us at ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR. Deadline for the next issue is 1st February.

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THANK YOU My grateful thanks to Andy Twine - our favourite local butcher - and his team for raising much needed funds for research into the serious illnesses of Crohn's Disease and Colitis. They have kindly housed the collecting can for CICRA (Crohn's in Childhood Research Association) in support of the research as at present there is no cure for these illnesses. Of course, if a cure is found then it will benefit everyone

CICRA fund their own research in various hospitals in England, Wales and Scotland and also provide support 'on the end of the telephone' for sufferers and their families to give advice where needed so the help Andy is giving is vitally important in the effort to find the breakthrough for a cure that we are all hoping for. My thanks to you too Andy's customers for your generosity through the year - it is very much appreciated. I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2025.

Dorrie

TO THE RESIDENT OF PRIORY ROAD

Thank you very much for your kind words and gift in appreciation of the post box toppers.

I was very touched! I am glad it gives you all pleasure.

Stella

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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON As February is a comparatively short month, our pattern of services and events is easy to follow!

Our services of Morning Worship with Holy Communion and activities for the youngest visitors at Little Beacons will take place on Sunday **2nd February** and Sunday **9th February** at St. Margaret's church, Ditchling at 10 am.

On Sunday **16th February**, we'll be at St. Martin's Church, Westmeston for Morning Worship with Holy Communion at 10 am.

For the final Sunday of the month, the **23rd February** we're back in St. Margaret's for our popular All Age Family Service.

If you enjoy singing, please join us for our SING! session in St. Margaret's at 6 pm on Wednesday **5th February**. We learn new songs each month as well as revisiting old favourites and it's great fun!

Services of Holy Communion will be held each Wednesday in February in St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 10 am.

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Everyone is very welcome to all these services and events. If you have friends or family staying with you this month, why not bring them along? Please check our website **www.beaconparish.co.uk** for any changes to the above.
Sherrian Guest

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Our February talk will be on Friday **28th February** 7.30 pm at the Guide HQ, SE corner of Trinity Road Car Park, Hurstpierpoint.

"Yellowstone Park – Bisons and Custer". Including Custer's Last Stand and its intriguing link with a Cuckfield headmaster!" by speaker Neil Sadler. All welcome. For further details please email **hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com**.

Mrs J Simmons

JUMBLE SALE The 3rd Burgess Hill Boy's Brigade will be holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday **22nd February** at All Saints United Reformed Church, Junction Road, Burgess Hill from 9.30 am to 12 pm.
Gary Pickett



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WORLD GLAUCOMA WEEK HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF EYE HEALTH CHECKS

The recent success of Chris McCausland in 2024's *Strictly Come Dancing* has raised awareness of the challenges faced by those living with sight loss, and should remind us all of the importance of attending regular eye health checks. From **9th to 15th March**, World Glaucoma Week focuses once again on reminding us, our family and friends to pop a date in the diary for an eye health check-up: this vital check can detect a number of conditions and prevent avoidable sight loss.

4Sight Vision Support is supporting World Glaucoma Week, a global initiative organized by the World Glaucoma Association with the aim of alerting everyone to have regular eye and optic nerve checks to detect glaucoma as early as possible. It is a chronic, progressive, degenerative disorder of the optic nerve that produces characteristic visual field damage and the second cause of blindness, and importantly, it is irreversible. In its early stages, it is asymptomatic and if un-

treated, it may progress to blindness. 4Sight Vision Support provides support and specialist information to blind and sight impaired residents throughout West Sussex, including many people living with glaucoma. In the case of glaucoma, with early treatment, the damage may be limited, and sight may be saved.

4Sight Vision Support CEO Kirstie Thomas added, "We hope by raising awareness of glaucoma, it will encourage all of us to have a regular eye health check. Even those living with vision loss should continue to do so as checking for further changes in the eyes can help make the best use of remaining vision and prevent any unnecessary further sight loss."

To find out more about glaucoma and the importance of taking care of our sight call 01243 828555 or visit www.4sight.org.uk For more details about World Glaucoma Week visit www.worldglaucomaweek.org/ In addition, please contact 4SVS if you'd like to find out more about our social and walking groups in your local area.

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ple 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 3,400 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.

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PEMBURY HOUSE IN CLAYTON NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPENING FOR SNOWDROPS

Once again, we would love to see you at our snowdrop and winter garden openings. We will be open on Thursdays and Fridays starting on Thursday 13th February to Friday 7th March, timed 90 minute slots start at 10.30 am and 2 pm. Tickets need to be pre-booked on the NGS website, <https://ngs.org.uk>. Our own website www.pemburyhouse.co.uk gives more details. The admission price includes tea/coffee and cake.

In 2024, the NGS was able to distribute over £3.5 million to its beneficiary charities, including Marie Curie, MacMillan, Hospices UK and Parkinson's. Another record year, thanks to all the garden openers, the volunteers and the visitors. Your visit will change lives.



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Please bring cash if you want to purchase plants, snowdrop mugs, rusty robins, tote bags and cards.

Parking will be at Clayton recreation ground, opposite the church. The only visitor entrance is from our back gate onto the footpath which runs by the railway line between Clayton and Hassocks. This will be signed from the car park. We look forward to meeting you. *Jane Baker*

BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY On Wednesday 5th February, Richard Ramsey from Withypitts Dahlias will be giving a talk in the Cyprus Hall, commencing 7.45pm, (doors open 7.15pm)

Admission: BHHS members free, Visitors: small charge. More info:

www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com or phone 01444 245509.

Flo Whitaker

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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL Over the autumn term our choir have been building up to a carol concert to perform to an audience. This included a variety of different types of songs, some modern and some traditional, harmonies, rounds, small groups and soloists, as well as musical accompaniments. The children performed amazingly and really shone—bringing out their inner angels.

The year 5 and 6 choir also performed at Light Up Hassocks, but at a different venue than usual. The Hassocks Hotel opened their doors for the children and parents, and we can't thank them enough for being so accommodating and showing true festive spirit. The children sang beautifully.

Year 6 have been busy designing and creating Christmas-themed games as part of their DT work. They had to be precise with their cutting and measuring, using mitre joints to construct sturdy, well-crafted wooden frames for their games. With glue guns in hand they added a festive touch, adding a wide range of decorations to bring their creations to life. The project finale

was when the rest of the school and their parents were invited to come and play their games.

On Wednesday 11th December we took part in a Mid-Sussex basketball tournament against nine other schools. We had an incredibly successful afternoon - The Windmills were crowned Mid-Sussex basketball champions once again! After winning this tournament, we will go head-to-head with the best that Sussex has to offer in the county finals in the new year.

After just a term of sparring amongst ourselves, our hugely popular Chess Club for children from years 4, 5 and 6 had an early opportunity to test their skills when we were invited to compete in a regional cup against five other primary schools. Our team of eight top players joined the event held at Ardingly College. The competition was fierce, and our team took up the challenge with courage and resilience, winning a total of three matches throughout the afternoon. Having had our first taste of competitive play, we're looking forward to further instalments later in the year – the ambition and determination are strong!

'On behalf of The Windmills'

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HASSOCKS FC One of the joys of running a non-league club is the community feel you get on a home match day. We pride ourselves on a welcoming reception and it's brilliant to recognise faces from the village turn up and support. In comparison to Premier league football, the prices are much more affordable and kids are free. The football might not be as catching on the eye as the Amex stadium but at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground you get to be heard, enjoy a variety of different beers (also cheaper), watch from different positions, and you can get a much closer feel to the action and players. All this knowing you'll be directly supporting your local community club. The first team is on course for a history defining season, you may never see a Hassocks team on such good form again! We only have 5 first team home games left in the season and your support could make all the difference. The u23's, u18's, and Ladies matches are all free entry and we also welcome your support on those days too. We have plenty of park-

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Sunday **9th February**: Hassocks Ladies vs Pagham Ladies ko 2 pm.

Saturday **22nd February**: Hassocks vs Crowborough ko 3 pm.

Pat Harding

FOLK DANCE CLUB There will be two meetings of the Keymer Folk Dance Club on Monday **3rd and 17th February**. Both meetings will start at 7.30 pm at the URC Church Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks.

We meet on the first, third and fifth Mondays, and more details can be found at www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk/ or email keymerfdc@gmail.com.

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AGE CONCERN Dale Avenue, Hassocks. **01273 844461** www.achassocks.co.uk

Facebook - Age Concern Hassocks

As promised, in the January issue, we can now announce the total raised at the Craft & Christmas Fair held at the Centre on the 14th December 2024 was a magnificent £1540.20. Thank you to all the Crafters who sold their crafts and produce, the Volunteers and Staff of Age Concern for all their hard work, Father Christmas for popping in, even though he is very busy and everyone that came along to enjoy the festivities.

We will be holding another Rummage Sale on Saturday **8th February**. Keep an eye out for the posters.

There will be various events and trips during 2025 which will be advertised on posters at the Centre and in our regular newsletter. Why don't you come along and see what we have on offer and enjoy a hot drink and piece of cake in our Coffee Shop.

Would you like to Volunteer at Age Concern, Hassocks? You can give us as little or as much time as you like and we have a variety of Volunteer roles



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available. If you are interested, please give us a call on the above number or call into the Centre and talk to a member of Staff who will be happy to help you. We are also on the lookout for Volunteer minibus drivers. You will need a D1 driving license and any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated. We run the bus on a Tuesday and Thursday and occasionally on trips out for our Members. We regularly need Drivers for holiday cover. Please feel free to give us a call or pop into the Centre 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 which, we are pleased to announce, is up and running again.

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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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. Cards accepted.

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!

There's plenty of parking next to the village hall. See you in February.

The Ditchling Film Society.

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Here's some information on our February film and a quick spoiler for the year ahead with the Ditchling Film Society.

On the **6th February** we will be showing Perfect Days. Director Wim Wenders (2024) German, Japanese. Subtitles. PG. 125 minutes.

Described by The Guardian as Wim Wenders best feature film in years. This is an achingly lovely tale of a public toilet cleaner in Tokyo, Hirayama, who finds quiet joy in the world around him. Hirayama looks at the world with his eyes but sees with his heart. A beautiful film in body and in spirit.

Our programme for the coming year has a lot to delight and includes a Finnish film Fallen Leaves directed by Aki Kaurismäki, La Chimera Directed by Alice Rohrwacher, Lee directed by Directed by Ellen Kuras and The Outrun Directed by Justine Triet

For more information go to our website, ditchlingfilm.org.uk. and keep up to date by joining our mailing list. We are on Instagram @ditch-

THE BEACON PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Although Christmas 2024 is becoming a distant memory, here in the Beacon Parish we're still talking about, and sharing our personal highlights of, the Christmas Tree Festival held in December. We're so grateful for the enthusiasm and creativity shown by everyone who took part and made it such a lovely weekend to remember. We were happy to support the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity with a donation as they develop services from their new home in Chailey and it was lovely to welcome some of their staff to the festival. If you were away and missed the event, or would like to remind yourself of it, there are photos on our website

at www.beaconparish.co.uk/christmas-tree-festival

If you'd like to register an early interest in being part of any future Christmas Tree Festival in the parish, please email me on sherrian.guest@uwclub.net. Sherrian Guest

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THE SUSSEX HEART CHARITY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF 'RESCUE READY', an exciting new project that supplies free AED/CPR awareness sessions to local community groups across the whole of Sussex.

The project is funded by the Sussex Heart Charity and is delivered in partnership with award-winning Pulse South Coast. The sessions are free and are suitable for anyone (of any age) who would like to learn familiarisation with AED devices and CPR skills.

Every second counts in a cardiac emergency and the aim of the project is to empower local communities and share essential lifesaving skills, so that everyone has the confidence and knowledge to be 'rescue ready'.

Further information on the project can be found on our website:

www.sussexheartcharity.org/rescueready/

Rescue Ready is a community initiative, and we'd like to project to reach as many people as possible. We are a small charity and would really

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appreciate it if you could 'spread the word' to your community base.

It's not time sensitive, and it would be great if you could place the attached flyer in your local newsletter or directory when you have the available space.

We would be very grateful for any promotion you could offer. If you need any additional information or would like any printed flyers to distribute, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With your help, we can make sure the project raises AED/CPR awareness in Sussex and benefits our local communities.

Thanks in advance for your support. *Kathy*

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RESCUE READY



FREE CPR & AED AWARENESS SESSIONS

WHY GET INVOLVED?

Every second counts in a cardiac emergency. Learn how to confidently perform CPR and use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). These free sessions will equip you with the essential skills to potentially save a life.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

These sessions are perfect for community groups, residents associations, clubs and societies based in Sussex.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Assessing and Responding to Emergencies
- CPR Techniques
- Safe and Effective Use of AEDs

BE RESCUE READY

Spaces are limited
Apply online by visiting our website



WWW.SUSSEXHEARTCHARITY.ORG/RESCUEREADY

Bookings are subject to our Terms and Conditions, available on our website. Minimum attendance requirements apply. Our sessions are designed to boost confidence and enhance public safety; no formal qualifications will be awarded.

For more information about Rescue Ready, including accessibility options and privacy policies, please call 01273 523028 or email rescueready@sussexheartcharity.org. Follow us on Facebook for updates and additional information.

The Sussex Heart Charity is a registered Charity No. 1170988. Registered as a Company limited by guarantee in England & Wales No. 1370700




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SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB

December was a disappointing month for walking in the countryside as the mud seemed to get deeper by the day. However, our innovative leaders invariably found routes which included some quiet lanes. Maybe we will be lucky and enjoy the early months of 2025 without too much rain. However, a walk in the rain does lift my spirits and I subsequently feel quite virtuous when I return home.

Sunday, **2nd February**. Meet at A23 access road at the side of The Plough pub, Pyecombe, and park in the road. This is a 'Figure of 8' Downland walk with some climbs and could be described as either one or two walks. Meet at 10.30am for 5 mile walk returning to start point, break for lunch and then start a 5.5 mile walk at 2 pm.

Sunday, **23rd February**. The 9.5 mile walk starts at Ditchling. Meet at 10.30 am at the Ditchling village public car park in Lewes Road behind the village hall - off the B2116 heading east towards Plumpton. This is a downland and field walk with one sharp ascent. There will be a break for lunch at East Chiltington.

Full details of all our walks through to the end of June 2025 can be seen at

www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk. No need to book just turn up and introduce yourself to the group leader.

Diann

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We offer free tuition. Equipment supplied on loan (you just need your own flat soled trainers).

Taster sessions are two hours long on Wednesday **16th April** at 5.45 pm, Saturday **19th April** at 10.15 am, Wednesday **23rd April** at 5.45pm and Saturday **26th April** at 10.15 am. Contact me on **01273 834356** for more info; or just turn up at the clubhouse on South Avenue Hurstpierpoint at the above dates/times.

Sarah Salisbury

STAR CINEMA February's film (Friday **21st February**) at the Adastras is Thelma. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets available on the door. Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. The Star Team look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Edmunds

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WESTMESTON PARISH HALL INVITE YOU TO TWO FASCINATING LOCAL HISTORY TALKS

at the hall on Friday **28th February** starting at 2 pm. Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided. Entry is free of charge, but donations will be requested on the day. There is ample parking at the hall.

The first talk is 'With a Spade on the Greensand Way', the Roman road and other nearby Roman discoveries from Hassocks to Barcombe Mills, by Dr David Rudling, Director of the Sussex School of Archaeology and History. This talk will review the evidence for the stretch of the east-west aligned Roman road between Hassocks and Bridge Farm, near Barcombe Mills. We will consider the road itself and various settlements along it or near it, ie those at Stone Pound Hassocks (nucleated settlement and cemetery), Clayton (villa), Plumpton (villa), Ditchling (farmstead), Chiltington (pottery kilns), Barcombe (villa and detached bathhouse), and Bridge Farm (a nucleated road and river side settlement).

Ditchling History Project will then give a talk on 'Milking to Munitions' - the World War II Diary of George Thomas, Patrol Leader of Ditchling's Secret Auxiliary Unit

Born in 1913 at Spatham Farm, Westmeston, George was well known locally as farmer, sportsman and a writer keeping a diary throughout the Second World detailing life on the farm as well as his wartime service on the Home Front.

For further information please contact me on rspryde@icloud.com or **07771 715048**.

Rod Pryde

GEORGE THOMAS'S DIARY George Thomas was born in 1913 at Spatham Farm, Westmeston where he lived and farmed for most of his life. He was a well-known local character often seen cycling or pushing his bike invariably wearing wellington boots. For many years Assistant Scout Master, George played in local football and cricket teams and entered the inter-village sports competing in the Beacon chase into his seventies.

His war time diaries, deposited at Ditchling Museum, have been transcribed and annotated by members of Ditchling History Project. At the outset of the War George joined the Local Defence Volunteers, soon renamed the Home Guard before being recruited as Patrol Leader of the Ditchling Auxiliary Unit. The Auxiliary Units were a secret resistance network of highly trained volunteers prepared to be Britain's last ditch line of defence operating in a hidden network of cells in underground bases around the UK. George was one of several local men who were engaged in secret night-time operations, training in sabotage, explosives and close combat with orders to shoot the local policeman in the event of invasion.

George's diary describes life on the farm - planting crops, rearing animals and the all-important weather - alongside air-raids, home guard duties and films he saw at the cinema in Hassocks. There are also veiled references to the secret activities of the Auxiliary Unit and the build-up of troops prior to the ill-fate raid on Dieppe. You can learn more about George, his farm and his wartime exploits in a talk entitled 'Milking to Munitions - the World War II Diary of George Thomas' at the local history event at Westmeston Parish Hall, 2 pm on Friday **28th February**.

Janet Cragg



Goldcrests, male displaying © Alan Price

THE LITTLE KING In this, our littlest month, I'd like to celebrate our littlest bird, the Goldcrest. Crowned with a yellow tuft, this aptly named species has an equally grand and, if you ask me, quite adorable, Latin name: *Regulus regulus*, or 'little king'.

At a mere 9cm in length, the Goldcrest weighs a featherlight 5-6 grams; the same as a 20 pence piece. Despite their size, Goldcrests are a surprisingly easy spot. A fan of coniferous and mixed woodland, these birds can often be seen zipping about in pairs in your local gardens, parks and nature reserves, picking morsels like spiders and moth eggs from tree needles with tiny expert beaks. Their characteristic squeaking refrain, a 'fiddle-di-di' on loop, is so high pitched that not everyone can hear it. If you think you hear one, stop, wait, and listen, as you will most likely hear it again.

The only real confusion species is the similarly diminutive Firecrest, *Regulus ignicapilla* (meaning 'fire-capped'). This rarer species, whilst sharing in the Goldcrest's olive-green plumage, has notable black lines around the head and eye. Think of the Goldcrest as having not yet applied its eyeliner. Following the on-point naming convention, the Firecrest has an orange crest. This creates an additional challenge for identification, as the male Goldcrest does have a line of orange feathers hidden within their crest, which they show during territorial displays.

Goldcrests breed around April time, creating in-

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tricately curated nests of moss, lichen and spider webs high in the treetops. Overall, Goldcrest numbers are stable, with a 600,000 strong breeding population throughout the UK. These are joined by a Scandinavian migratory population for the winter, boosting your chances of seeing one during the colder months.

Despite their success, Goldcrests are at risk from several threats. Their size means they are vulnerable in the cold weather, so the more erratic weather patterns we experience due to climate change, including unexpected cold snaps and storms, are a danger to these birds. As with all UK species, habitat loss is a problem, and in the Goldcrest's case this includes deforestation.

If you are walking in woodland and catch a glance of a little ball of energy in the treetops, try to spot them with binoculars to be rewarded with a millisecond's glance of their worried-looking little face, before they're off again, much to do. Heavy is the head that wears the crown.



Firecrest
© Martin Casemore

Kerry Williams

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HUMMUS CLUB POP UP



FRI. 21ST FEBRUARY - 5PM

CHUCKABURGER POP UP



FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 7:30PM

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	SCO	SAT 1 FEB 14:15	ITA		
	IRE	SAT 1 FEB 16:45	ENG		
ROUND 2	ITA	SAT 8 FEB 14:15	WAL	ROUND 2	
	ENG	SAT 8 FEB 16:45	FRA		
	SCO	SUN 9 FEB 15:00	IRE		
ROUND 3	WAL	SAT 22 FEB 14:15	IRE	ROUND 3	
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HASSOCKS WI - Meet 3rd Monday in the month at Adastra Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm start 7.45 pm.

The speaker at our December party was very popular, so listening to our members we are trying to book him again for our 2025 programme (work in progress) which starts in April. As I am writing this before our January meeting when we are talking about new WI resolutions, I have no idea of the results of members votes but we will be helping to make breast cancer cushions too. The February meeting will be our AGM. Our March meeting is called 'Fun at the Pub'. There will be old fashioned light-hearted games to enjoy.

But there is so much else to revel in with Hassocks WI. Our Arty Group's Outings is planning a visit to the Repair Shop show. There will be an opportunity to visit Pembury House Garden Clayton, a beautiful spring garden which opens middle of February to beginning of March raising monies for charities under the National Garden scheme (see me for details, I serve the

cake). We will be holding a 'cuppa tea and cake' afternoon These are in addition to our usual extras Craft Club 1st Monday afternoon in the month, Choir Tuesday evenings weekly, Book Groups various, Creative Writing and hopefully a walk with the Walking Group if the weather improves. See our website for full details.

So, don't stay at home feeling miserable, come as a visitor (donation), become a member. We have welcomed a wonderful number of new members during the year and everyone old and new are most welcome, we value you all.

Stay warm.

Gerry

OLD ENGLISH CUSTOMS - AN APPLE

A DAY? It was an ancient Norse legend which said that the gift of apples to propitiate the Gods would ward off the onset of old age.

This is probably where we get the saying "An Apple a Day keep the Doctor away".



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Bear Cave By Rosemary Pavey ©

In the bear's cave,
Dreams flicker like petroglyphs -
Ghosts of the conscious world
In which bear lives.
Her hibernating heart enfolds,
Season by season,
All that has nourished her:
Bear medicine -
Herbs in spring,
Whose oily aromatics
Assuage her famine;
Returning geese -
Their pulsed wing-beat
Aligned to the music,
Of the sky;
Bee-hum on the tundra -
Nectar balm for bears;
Summer salmon -
Silver, rose and fiery red
In the river.
And berries -
Cloudberries, blueberries -

Sweetness, to line bear's hide
With fat for the cold months
Ahead.
The world turns on its spindle:
A whirl of polar dust,
Spinning unlikely rainbows,
Like a dervish,
Whirling to the brink
And back – entranced
By the thrill
Of courting catastrophe.
Above bear's cave,
The celestial Bear
Roams through a star-strewn sky.
Snow mantles Earth
And trees commune with winds
Fanged, sharp as wolves,
Their roots, rapt, holding council
With the spirits of the soil.
Rivers sleep, seep, turn crystalline.
Earth, like a seed, shrinks,
Dies and conjures life anew.

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Eye to brain,
Lung to heart,
While wandering sparks
Steal through the matrix of her soul.
Deep in her core, her cubs -
Bear seeds -
Carrying the dream
Of all they have been
And will be soon once more:
Rock dust and ocean spray
And eagle's feather
Rain, the forest canopy –
Each element sentient,
Each a guardian of intelligence
Too vast to be contained.
Oh to dream thus!
To enter this dream
Is to risk the sudden death
Of all mind once believed
The world and mind's true self to be;
To stumble upon the heavenly host,
The garden of eternal love,
The sacred grove,
The firmament of light,
Which form the fractal contours of the heart.
Deep in the core of you
Is a bear cave
Where all these things are known,
And couched within that cave your bear lies
sleeping.

What is your dream?
Is it an analgesic draught?
A lithium paradise,
Forged out of Earth's last wildness
In the demon-smithy of desire?
Or plasma phantasie -
That Golem, begot in a land
Of dead and dying things,
To simulate the life that is departing?
As winter sharpens its knives,
Will you succumb to
Siren wails of sickness, war
And loss?
Or take this seed-time,
Sink into the kernel of your bliss,
Dispense with fear, release
All hunger for mastery,
And watch the miracle of love
Ensoul your world?
There is bear-medicine for
Man as well.
This medicine cannot be known
Until it is tasted on the tongue,
Therefore, before all else,
Look to language.
Language is our forest
And words are trees
Whose roots delve deep,
Bringing sweet nourishment.
Ancestral voices
Speak through our tongues,
Telling of
Sound before Time,
Meaning before Mind.
And the free play of that gift
Which was miraculously given to Man:

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Birds warbling,
Leaves rustling,
Fire crackling,
The music of silence,
The lilt of lullaby from
Mother to Child
Since the first
'In the beginning...'
Words are lovers,
Are dancers,
And meanings wind about them
Like a lattice of
Budding vines.
Those who would kill our words,
Lop them, crop them,
Stop the dance,
Violate the many-tendrilled,
Sentient beauty of them,
Blunt, bludgeon,

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In the common street;
These same authorities
Would finally cast them away,
Leaving us dumb and stupid too.
Rather, treasure words,
Gather them up, like wounded birds.
Cherish and love them,
Breathe life into them,
Help them to sing again.
How else can they tell us
When to wake from sleep?
How else restore to lives
Lost in the dark,
Glimmerings of Earth's immanent radiance,
And fill the cramped
Den of the mind with poetry?
Bear stirs on this solstice night,
Her cheek upon her paw.
If she does not dream of life
There will be Life no more.

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THE GROWING NETWORK - Saturday 8th February.

We are a freely giving community network that supports local people to grow and share food, with no one left out.

We meet each month over a cup of tea to share seeds, seedlings and extra produce along with gardening tips and friendship. We'd love to meet you whether you're a veteran gardener or would-be grower of vegetables and if you'd like to find others to help you get started 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. Come along and see what we're up to and help yourself to the seedlings and seeds on offer. Saturday **8th February** 10.30 am to 12 pm, Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling.

This is the Quaker Meeting House (not to be confused with the Old Meeting House in the Twitten)

Feel free to bring any seeds, seedlings or produce to share. Or just bring yourself!

Julie Ulbricht

BRIGHTON CONSORT'S NEXT CONCERTS

Local music lovers will be familiar with Brighton Consort's concerts of unaccompanied choral music from the 16th and 17th centuries, several of which have been performed in Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint. This time the choir's next concerts will be a little further afield, in venues in Brighton and Lewes. The programme is entitled "Amica Mea – Renaissance Love Songs" – appropriate for just after Valentine's Day!

The performances will take place on Sunday **February 16th** at 7 pm in St Nicholas' Church, Brighton BN1 3LJ and Saturday **February 22nd** at 7 pm in St John-sub-Castro, Lewes BN7 2QA. Programme details are on the Brighton Consort website

(www.brightonconsort.org.uk/projects/amica-mea/). Tickets can be purchased via the website, or you can buy tickets on the door.

Mike Clemens

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COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS APPLAUDED - COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SUSSEX

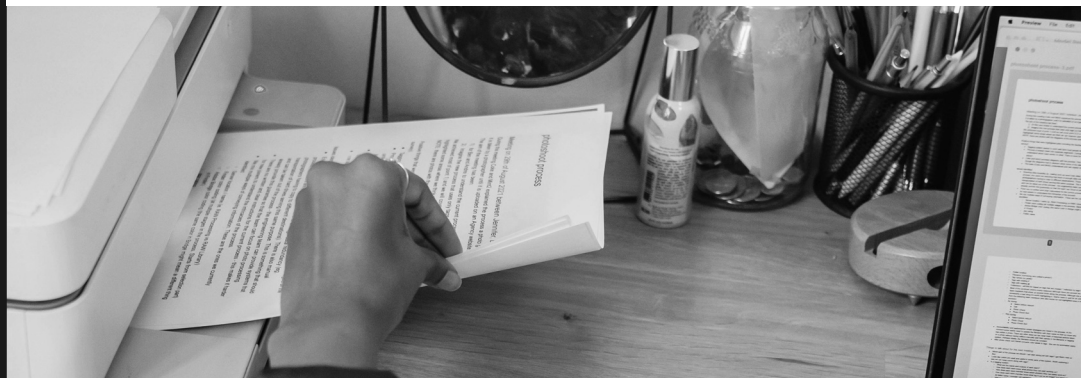
Rebecca Warnett, from Plumpton Racecourse, was on hand last week at our event at Pangdean Barn to present Michael Stratford, representing all the staff and volunteers at Community Transport Sussex/Bluebird, with their much deserved certificate. Purpose, People & Place

The Community Champion award was sponsored by Plumpton Racecourse. The BHBiz24 Community Champion category was judged by our independent judge Dee Mathieson, Managing Director of Elekta and Chair of Gatwick Diamond Business. Here's what Dee had to say about Community Transport Sussex's BHBiz24 award entry: "Win for Community Transport Sussex – This not for profit charity started small and has trebled its capacity to support the community in the last 5 years.

From Dial-A-Ride and special school contracts to novel ideas such as the Travel Buddy service, they provide a diverse and flexible service which is highly valued by the community. They are passionate about what they do, many of the drivers have formed close relationships with their passengers and provide a vital role in improving their lives.

Michael

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KATE CHIVERS, AIR AMBULANCE VISIONARY AND INSPIRATIONAL FOUNDER OF AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY KENT SURREY SUSSEX, RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kate Chivers, a pioneering air ambulance service visionary, who founded Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS), has been awarded the very first KSS Lifetime Achievement Award to mark the charity's 35th anniversary.

The award was presented to Kate Chivers by KSS Chief Executive David Welch at an event to mark 35 years since the charity was launched on 6 November 1989. Since then, KSS has carried out over 46,000 missions, saving thousands of lives and providing the best possible outcomes for patients, keeping more families and loved ones together.

David Welch, Chief Executive of KSS, said: "It is my pleasure to present the very first KSS Lifetime Achievement Award to Kate Chivers, a truly remarkable woman. We've been on an incredible journey during the past 35 years, thanks to the vision and determination of Kate and the amazing support of our staff, volunteers, former

patients and their families, supporters and Trustees."

KSS started as the South East Thames Air Ambulance, under the control of the regional health authority. When an initial three months of funding came to an end Kate Chivers saw the need to establish it as an independent charity to secure the future of the service.

Over the past 35 years KSS has grown to become one of the largest air ambulance services in the UK, serving a resident population of around 5M, and millions more transiting through the region every year. It covers much of the South East of England – 3,500 square miles across Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

KSS has become a world-leading Helicopter Emergency Medical Service with globally-renowned Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine clinicians as part of its remarkable crew and an established reputation for research and innovation helping to improve patient outcomes in the

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UK and further afield.

On receiving the award, Kate Chivers said: "I can't tell you how much this means to me. There's nothing in this world that can't be achieved with determination and the desire to make things better. We had a dream and looking at all you people; volunteers, staff, pilots, paramedics, doctors and Trustees, everyone, you are the embodiment of that dream. Thank you all so much.

"Who would have thought our fledgling would become such a beautiful eagle? Anyone who was there at the beginning would be astonished and delighted at what has been achieved, which exceeds all expectations and hopes, a remarkable level of excellence that is exceptional.

"What is most remarkable, is that this has been made possible through the outstanding support this charitable service has received from its donors and volunteers. "

KSS currently responds to around nine life or death calls every day across the South East when every second counts for survival.

Throughout its history KSS has continually innovated to meet the changing needs of the communities it serves. The doctors and paramedics of KSS are able to deliver medical interventions and procedures at a level that was once only available in hospitals.

In 2006 KSS began carrying doctors as well as paramedics on their helicopters and established

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(KSS founder Kate Chivers with Barney Burgess (l), Chair of Trustees and KSS Chief Executive David Welch (r)

cutting a cake at a staff event to celebrate 35 years of the lifesaving service)

a dedicated dispatch desk at the ambulance control centre. In 2015 KSS introduced their Dispatch Team – the first time the charity had a team of dedicated dispatchers, well versed in the working environment, technology and 999 call process, whose sole responsibility was to identify serious trauma incidents and dispatch our crew to scene.

Advances in care, such as pre-hospital blood transfusions which KSS has performed since 2013, have revolutionised what can be done for air ambulance patients. In 2013 it also became the first air ambulance in the country to fly 24/7

DID YOU KNOW ??

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all year round, allowing it to reach and care for even more patients.

In 2017 KSS introduced the state-of-the-art AW169 helicopter - providing greater speed, range, and all-weather capabilities, as well as a large cabin space to provide more in-flight care. In 2022 KSS moved to a same type fleet of three AW169 helicopters and also in the year were able to buy one of these amazing helicopters. In 2024, thanks to the generosity of their supporters, they purchased their second AW169 with their biggest every fundraising appeal to raise the extra £1M needed in just six-weeks.

KSS has made incredible progress over the last 35 years but wants to do more, to reach more patients, improve outcomes and save more lives. KSS continues to respond to the changing needs of its communities, attending more with medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest, developing community-based prevention, education and training initiatives and increasing the impact of its Patient and Family Aftercare Service across the communities it serves.

More than 80,000 people took part in the recent KSS Restart a Heart campaign which delivered CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training sessions, helping to create an army of lifesavers

across the South East.

KSS is committed to ensuring it continues to evolve in order to serve the changing needs of the communities it serves and push the boundaries of what can be achieved for patients in pre-hospital emergency medicine.

It's thanks to their supporters that KSS has been ready to respond to more than 46,000 thousand incidents in its 35-year history. In 2023 its communities needed its lifesaving service more than ever before with record levels of demand during which it responded to over 3,300 incidents.

Gavin Sherrif



Kate Chivers receiving the first KSS Lifetime Achievement Award from David Welch)

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We thank Derek Earl of Hassocks for the above photograph which was taken on the 1st September 1984 at Adastra Park, Hassocks. It is of the Hassocks Custard Filled Welly Running Team who successfully completed a 26 mile 385 yard relay marathon in a record time of three hours, 10 minutes and 45 seconds. Each team member ran exactly 1 mile in relay fashion with the 27th member completing the 385 yards. The enjoyable event raised £3600 for local charity, who were able to purchase a much needed special Parker Bath which greatly enhanced the lives of the disabled residents in so many ways.

Advertise your events for FREE here!

FREE LISTINGS FOR CHARITY EVENTS, CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Deadline for the March issue is 1st February 2025

Email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk

(We reply to every email manually - so no reply no email received)

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Hassocks - 01273 842779

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& Thurs., Fri. 1 - 5pm

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Open to anyone in need of support. Held in
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PARISH COUNCILS

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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 the

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 & KEYMER

Railway Station, Outside Ticket Office

Adastra Hall, Keymer Road

Adastra Bowling Club, Adastra Park (North Field)

Age Concern, Dale Avenue

Freedom Leisure Centre, Downlands School, Dale Avenue

Hassocks Dental Surgery, 54a Keymer Road

Graystone Referral Centre, 38 Keymer Road

Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club, Adastra Park (South Field)

Hassocks Health Centre, Windmill Avenue

Oldland Windmill, Oldlands Lane, Keymer

Thatched Inn, Grand Avenue

Weald Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, South Bank

South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road

Whats On in February

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 SERVICES Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **2nd & 9th** inc. Little Beacons and **23rd**. On **16th** 'Service of morning Worship and Holy Communion' 10 am St Martins Church, Westmeston. Wednesday@10 (am) Holy Communion weekly at St Margarets Church, Ditchling. More info www.beaconparish.co.uk

Clubs

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

BEFRIENDED COMMUNITY CHOIR - Tuesdays (term-time) 2 - 4 pm, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. All welcome to sing for joy. More info www.befriended.org.

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

HASSOCKS TABLE TENNIS CLUB - Mondays and Tuesdays 2 - 4 pm at Adastra Hall. Roll up to play.

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.

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.

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.

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)

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

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

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 www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk

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

VISUALLY-IMPAIRED CLUB We meet alternate Wednesdays from 10.30 am to 2 pm at Clayton Parish Hall in Underhill Lane. If you are interested, please ring me on **01444 450947.**

WHIST DRIVE - Our friendly club meets at Age Concern, Hassocks every thursday at 6.45 pm. More info 01273 843390.

Regular Events

1st COELIAC GROUP South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road, Hassocks 9 am - 11am. 'Brunch and Chat'. All welcome.

2nd HAS SOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

2nd SUSSEX PATH FINDERS by Plough Pub, Pyecombe 10.30 or 2 pm. 5 mile morning or 5.5 mile afternoon Downland walk. See article for more details.

3rd HAS SOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

4th MEMORY CAFE Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.

4th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'Plastic: Saving the Planet does not have to cost the Earth' Raymond Hale.

4th BEFRIENDED CHOIR Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 2 - 4 pm. All come together and sing for joy. Small donation afternoon tea and cake included. More info email office@befriended.org.

5th UKES OF HAS SOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

5th THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

5th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm Hamish Raby, maintenance officer with the Parish Council, will tell us about his work. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

5th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors open 7.15 pm. Richard Ramsey from Withypitts Dahlias. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.

6th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 'Perfect Days'. Tickets available on the door - see article.

6th BEFRIENDED Court Bushes, Hurstpier-

point 10 am - 12 pm. Bereavement Cafe - A safe place to chat about grief loss & share stories about loved ones. More info email office@befriended.org.

8th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

8th AGE CONCERN HAS SOCKS Dale Avenue 9.30 am - 1.30 pm. Rummage Sale.

8th 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.

8th 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 HAS SOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Pagham. Bar & Food available. Free entry.

10th HAS SOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'The Devil's Dyke Story' Chris Horlock.

10th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thereupon.org.uk.

11th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Illustrated talk on Worms their benefit to the garden and how to encourage them by James Skillicorn. All welcome.

12th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Drop in all welcome.

13th - 7th Mar NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME Pembury House, Clayton. Visit our Winter Garden and see the Snowdrops. Tickets from www.ngs.org.uk. See article for more info.

14th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag & Natter Evening' Refreshments available. All welcome.

16th BEFRIENDED Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 3 - 5 pm. Afternoon Tea Party with quizzes, celebrations, making friends, information, advice and great entertainment. More

info www.befriended.org.

16th 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.

17th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'AGM'. Visitors welcome.

19th MEMORY CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.

20th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning. All welcome.

21st STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'Thelma' Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door.

22nd HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Crowborough Athletic. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

22nd HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

22nd BURGESS HILL BOYS BRIGADE All Saints United Reformed Church, Junction Road, Burgess Hill. 9.30 am to 12 pm. Jumble Sale.

22nd REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransit.org.uk.

22nd MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk.

23rd SUSSEX PATH FINDERS Ditchling Village Car Park 10.30. 9.5 mile Downland, field and one steep ascent walk. See article

24th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

24th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Filming at the Blue-

bell Railway' David Jones.

4th BEFRIENDED CHOIR Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 2 - 4 pm. All come together and sing for joy. Small donation afternoon tea and cake included. More info email office@befriended.org.

25th POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.

25th BEFRIENDED CHOIR Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 2 - 4 pm. All come together and sing for joy. Small donation afternoon tea and cake included. More info email office@befriended.org.

26th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm Demo by Richard Findley. Visitors welcome.

27th 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.

27th 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.

28th WESTMESTON PARISH HALL 2 pm. 1st Talk 'With a Spade on the Greensand Way' Dr David Rudling. 2nd Talk 'Milking to Munitions - the World War II Diary of George Thomas'. Ditchling History Project. See article for more information.

28th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. 'My Life in Comedy' Colin Bostock-Smith. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

28th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Discussion Evening'. Refreshments available. All welcome.

28th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 8 pm 'Yellowstone Park - Bisons & Custer - Custer's Last Stand & its link with Cuckfield Headmaster' Neil Sadler All welcome.

HALLS FOR HIRE

1st Hassocks Scouts HQ Our hall is available to hire and ideal for children's parties. A main big hall (fully accessible for wheelchair users) & small recently refurbished kitchen. www.1sthassocksscouts.org.uk.

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@hurstplayers.org.uk

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

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

Clayton With Keymer has three church halls and serveries available across the parish. Please visit the website for details www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk

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

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

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

Emmanuel Centre South Street, Ditchling is a well-equipped venue with a hall which can seat 60 people. It has a large refurbished kitchen, two toilets and a grassed area to the rear. In front of the building is parking for eight cars. Email: admin@beaconparish.co.uk for further information.

Hassocks United Reformed Church Hall Large and small halls for hire, with use of kitchen tel: 01273 831632

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@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

pointscouts.co.uk. For hall bookings visit www.hurstpierpointscouts.co.uk/hq-bookings.

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

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

Sayers Common Church Hall - ring Ian Simmons 01273 833342 or iansimmons@gmail.com. Space available for regular clubs/bookings.

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

Westmeston Parish Hall A great venue for parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries, christenings, workshop days and seminars.

The main hall is available at weekends and some afternoons/evenings during the week.

There is ample parking and flexible outdoor space. To book contact Paul Charman - pec.glebe@tiscali.co.uk or 01273 844743.

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**APR 9TH** MORGANWAY / MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL - HASSOCKS / 8PM

**APR 27TH** RODDY WOOMBLE - (FROM IDLEWILD) / MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL - HASSOCKS / 7.30PM

**APR 30TH** MARK EITZEL / MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL - HASSOCKS / 7.30PM

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As we approach the end of the tax year (5th April) these are just two of the many important questions you may need to be asking.

To secure your long-term financial future it's important to take steps along the way to make sure that you stay on the right path. One of the many roles of an Independent Financial Advisor is to review your planning regularly to ensure that, where you can, you are using all the tax allowances that are available to you.

Tax planning plays an important part in helping to achieve your future financial success, and missing out on potential opportunities every year to save tax can have a lasting and damaging effect on your ability to achieve your goals. There are a number of allowances and exemptions that renew every year and importantly, once they are gone, they are gone.

If you'd like to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**“The path to the financial future
you desire starts with the plans
that you make today.”**



07502 360517



giles@gilesturnerfinancialplanning.co.uk



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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I'd almost forgotten what it was like to own a cat that keeps coming into season, but Marshmallow has reminded me with a vengeance – so after a quick phone call to Ellie at Happy Paws in Burgess Hill, she was booked in and I could look forward to quieter and less stressful days.

It was my journey to Burgess Hill that took me down Ockley Lane, it was there that I noticed a road sign had changed and a Private Road dangly sign hung from it. This got me thinking because no other road along Ockley Lane or even surrounding it has been given this illustrious title. So, what does it mean, what are the benefits and how to achieve such a status? If you are in a supermarket and shout out "I live in a Private Road" do you get to go to the front of the queue? What is so special that you get a dangly little plaque under the road name with 'Private Road' on it. I do like to live a bit dangerously in my old age so I drove in and went round the close to see if I was challenged and asked for I.D., but sadly nothing happened. It seemed just like all the other roads, avenues and closes around the area and that the rub was when you give yourself such a title, does it mean you have to pay for all the services that otherwise would be free, or are you just saying - private road don't park here unless you live here – please remember this is a bit of fun so don't take offence but I would genuinely like to know.

Can you remember I wrote about the collapsing road at the top of our service road which now seems to be spreading across part of Wilmington Close. Just before Christmas a very smart looking van arrived with lots of men in Hi-Viz, they then proceeded to remove all the inspection hatch lids and disappear down them but not for long. What they were doing was sending cameras down to inspect the drains to see if there was any damage to the pipes. Thankfully they invited me to see on the TV screens in the back of their hi-tech van what exactly was going on up and down the drainage system. The amount of water coming down them was really quite something. The poor little cameras had a real struggle to make their way to the top of the system but it showed no problem, the pipe was as good as the day it was put in. Obviously the packing round the pipe just wasn't man enough to stop the road subsiding. So, the next question is will anyone step up to rectify the problem because of the amount of cars that hit it and damage the front underneath of their car is getting quite high and sooner or later someone is going to want some recompense.

I'm nearly 73 now and for the last 20 years I've been receiving through the post from the NHS a bowel cancer screening package, it's changed a bit over the years the required sample has got smaller as technology improves. Personally, I think it's a great idea but perhaps should start younger but with NHS budgets I suspect that'll never happen. A report I read recently stated that 45% of kits sent out are never returned, to be honest I'm not sure if I was surprised or not and I suspect most of those are the ones sent to men. Something like bowel cancer picked up early is easily treated and will save your life. I think they stop sending them to you at about 74 years, but I do urge you NOT to bin it – use it and have peace of mind.

It's good to see Natures Menu have bought back their frozen minced fish, it's great for sensitive stomachs in cats and dogs. My cats love it and at £1.99 a block it's good value; I tried some on Marshmallow after she'd had her little op and now, she sits on the freezer demanding it every day but I don't over do it. As always thank you for shopping with us when you can, I know the internet and big chains are easy options but it's going to be a difficult time ahead for a lot of small shops & businesses, we're locally all here to help & serve you as best we can your money pays the bills and buys stock, the life line of every business. The Government I'm afraid is not on our side at the moment but let's hope we'll all survive to see better times and perhaps some warmer weather. *Love Steve and all the beautiful animals that surround & support me x*

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