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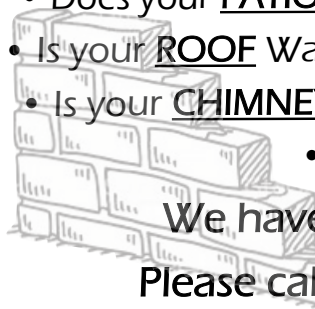
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*We thank Terry and Linda Jeffries of Burgess Hill for this postcard  
of Clayton Church and Village originally posted in 1964.*

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**VERY MANY THANKS TO THE HON-EST AND KIND PERSON** who found my purse which was lost on market day last month. He/she handed into QD Stationery where it was kept safely until I called in, on the off chance, and was then able to claim it. So, thanks go to the staff there too as they were just about to put the details on Facebook. Such concern is very much appreciated, and my thanks go to all involved -especially the person who found the purse and handed it in so promptly.

*Name and address supplied*

**THE BEACON PARISH** is very sad to announce that Fr David and Sally are leaving us to go on a very exciting adventure in the Americas. Their last service is on Sunday **23rd March** at 10 am in St Margaret's Ditchling and everyone is welcome. On Friday **21st March** 5 to 7 pm we are holding a 'drop in' at St. Margaret's for everyone to come and say goodbye. We have been so lucky to have had Fr David as our vicar for the Parish for the past 18 years and we will miss both him



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and Sally greatly.

Our services on Sundays and during the week will continue as normal after David leaves. Please check on our website in case of any alterations [www.beaconparish.co.uk](http://www.beaconparish.co.uk).

In March all our Sunday services of Morning Worship with Holy Communion will be in Ditchling starting at 10 am. Don't forget Ash Wednesday on **5th March** at 10 am and Mothering Sunday on **30th March**, also at 10 am. We look forward to welcoming you.

*Sherrian Guest*

**STAR CINEMA** The film on Friday **21st March** at the Adastra is The Critic - a period thriller drama with wicked humour and a twisty plot, not to mention sumptuous costumes and an all-star cast including Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, and Mark Strong. Doors open at 7 pm for a film start at 7.30 pm.

Tickets available on the door. Tea, coffee, wine, raffle.

The Star Team look forward to welcoming you.

*Liz Edmunds*

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We had another busy February here at Age Concern. Our Rummage Sale continues to be a popular event for bargains, and we will let you know when the next sale will be held – keep any eye out for the posters. We were kindly invited to the dress rehearsal for the Downlands High School Musical which was enjoyed by our Members and Volunteers alike. We held an afternoon tea for our Volunteers to thank them for all the hard work and time they put into helping us here at Age Concern. The Staff and Trustees are extremely grateful to all our volunteers. They help to make the Centre and its Charity Shop a welcoming place to visit.

Diary dates: We are pleased to be welcoming back The Sundown Ukulele Band on Thursday **6th March** and are taking a scenic trip to have lunch at the Perch, on Lancing Beach on Wednesday **19th March**.

Would you like to Volunteer at Age Concern, Hassocks? You can give us as little or as much time as you wish, and we have a variety of Volunteer roles 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 currently run the bus on a Tuesday and Thursday and occasionally on trips out for our members. We regularly need Drivers for holiday cover, so please give us a call if you are interested or pop into the Centre for more information.

Membership is free and we are always happy to welcome new visitors to our Day Centre where we serve a three-course, freshly cooked lunch Monday to Friday. Our minibus picks up from Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling on Tues-

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days and Thursdays. If you live outside our regular pick-up areas, please give us a call and we will see if we can accommodate you. Please ask the Office to book transport and/or lunch the day before whenever possible please, although we will take lunch bookings up to 10 am on the day you'd like to join us. The menu changes weekly and is on our website, which is now up and running again.

Everything that our Charity Shop sells is donated. It is open 9am to 4pm every weekday and 9am to 12pm on Saturdays. Fresh donations are always welcome and if you are unsure then our rule of thumb is that if you would buy it, we can sell it, but no electrical items please. While you are visiting the Charity Shop why not stop by for a drink and cake in our Coffee Shop – we stop selling at around 3pm but our conservatory is open until 4pm.

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

*All at Age Concern*

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can be emailed to**

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**HURST PLAYERS** present Witness For The Prosecution, Agatha Christie's courtroom drama, **8th – 12th April.**

This play is a classic Christie mystery. A young man, Leonard Vole, is accused of the brutal murder of a wealthy woman, some years his senior. Celebrated QC Sir Wilfred Robarts takes on the defence of Vole and a tale of intrigue, deception and betrayal unfolds as we learn of the tragic events of an October night and the shocking consequences. Witness after witness is subject to the sharp cross-examination of both defence and prosecution barristers, with surprising and sometimes humorous revelations! Christie's popular play started life as a short story – Traitor's Hands – originally published in 1925 in a pulp fiction magazine called Flynn's weekly which featured lurid detective tales.

In the early 1950s Christie was approached by producer Peter Saunders to adapt the story for the stage and Witness for the Prosecution was born. It was an immediate hit with theatre-goers and has regularly been in the spotlight somewhere in the world ever since, as the play has been staged in Russia, Japan, India, South Africa and the USA.

The story's original setting was 1920s London but the play moves forward thirty years to the early 1950s and it premiered on 28th October 1953 at the Winter Garden Theatre in London's West End (although that building is long gone and the site is now occupied by the Gillian Lynne Theatre).

The Players have assembled a large and enthusiastic cast (with many new faces) and look forward to welcoming you to what we are sure will be a memorable production.....but

remember the words of Billy Wilder, the director of the famous 1958 movie version, "You'll talk about it, but please don't tell the ending!"

Tickets are now available online at **hurstplayers.org.uk.** *Jo Kearns*

**HASSOCKS FC** as we come into the final months of the season the first team, u23, u18, and Ladies are all at the top and upper ends of their respected tables. If the first team can win the league it will go down as the club's biggest ever achievement.

The last few months have seen a few cancellations with the winter weather but there's been some stadium improvements at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground in the meantime. The turnstile block has had solar panels attached to help renewable energy, a merchandise/sweets shed bar is being put together, and parking has been increased (again) to enhance match day efficiency. The official FA ground grading has been passed, thanks mainly to Alan John, our wonderful groundsman/caretaker.

We pride ourselves on facilities first and have one of the finest grounds at this level. Behind the main stand, various environmental surveys are being undertaken for the south field planning application for a training area and we keep ticking off the boxes of that.

We'll be doing a food bank collection at our home game vs AFC Varndeanians with reduced entry fee, which will be announced on social media nearer the time. Also, the Junior's youth day at the ground is in the calendar for **11th May**. March home fixture: Saturday **15th March** Hassocks vs AFC Varndeanians ko 3 pm.

*Pat Harding*

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Next meet up is Saturday **15th March** 10.30 am to 12 pm at Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST. This is the Quaker Meeting House (not to be confused with the Old Meeting House in the Twitten)

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*Catherine, Imke & Julie*

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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 5.45 pm 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*

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** Outside our front door stand three rowan trees; not wide-crowned and wind-twisted, like the rock-clinging rowans of wild country, but graceful and straight-stemmed in their sheltered nook. All the same, there is something elfin about them. Fantastic miniature groves of moss and lichen encrust the lower branches, and their dark outlines display curious knots and torsions, as though a struggle for life is somehow etched into their character.

As spring approaches, the wisps of last year's berry stalks are clearly visible, attached to the twigs like frayed broom-bristles or wart-whiskers - a reminder that the rowan is a tree with magical associations, both white and black. Other names for the rowan include Mountain Ash and Witchwood. Though the leaves resemble those of the true ash, rowans actually belong to the rose family, along with the apple and the hawthorn, another 'magic' tree.

According to folk lore, rowans offer protection from harm and many a cottager planted one by the door in days gone by to fend off witches and boggarts and bring the household good luck. Be that as it may, the tree is a companionable delight through every season.

As a tree of divination, it really does seem to anticipate the changes of the year, putting forth leaves early in spring, bursting into a froth of

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blossom in early summer and hinting at autumn with the first red berries while other trees are still in a midsummer dream.

Yet it is *this* time of year, the end of winter, which truly belongs to the rowan. It was one of the trees sacred to the Ancient Celts and according to the Ogham tree calendar, it ruled over the second month, which ran from 21st January to 17th February. Both the pagan Imbolc and the Christian Candlemas, (festivals which celebrate the beginning of spring), fall in the middle of this 'month', and St. Valentine's Day - the birds' wedding day - occurs towards the end. So the rowan symbolizes renewal - *the quickening of earth's vitality* - and fire - *the return of the sun*.

Other folk names, such as, Quicken, or Quickbeam, (in which 'quick' means living), confirm this. In Ogham, the alphabet of the Druid Celts, there were 20 letters. Each letter signified a different tree, and the yearly calendar was distributed between them. The first of the thirteen consonants in this alphabet was Beth, the birch tree. Luis, or rowan, came second, with Ash, Alder, Willow, Hawthorn, Oak, Holly, Hazel, Vine, Ivy and Dwarf Elder following through to Elder at mid-winter, thus dividing the year roughly into its lunar months. Meanwhile, the five vowels (Silver Fir, Furze, Heather, White Poplar and Yew) represented the stations of the year. According to Robert Graves, these were

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particularly sacred to the White Moon Goddess, who also took under her charge the unlucky blackthorn and the apple.

In addition to runic writing, the Druids also communicated through a sign language in which letters corresponded to an invisible 'keypad' on the hand. (*They* were texting long before us!) Each letter was allocated a separate position which could be 'tapped' to compose a message. Since every letter also signified a tree, with its wealth of associations, their coming together in words formed dynamic bundles of meaning, keys to local lore, mythology, medicine, astronomy, natural history... Merely by touching the tip of a fore-finger, one could invoke the divination powers of Luis, the rowan tree. How richly imbued with meaning such a world would have been! The Druid scholars, through their exceptional memory training, had access to a Wikipedia of all that was useful to them, literally 'at their finger-tips'! And without needing a single battery beyond the sun-fired cells in their bodies.



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In fanciful moments, I like to imagine a garden containing every tree from the Ogham alphabet; a convocation, which, when the wind blew, could intimate hidden words, as they whispered one to another. The blind Frenchman and resistance hero, Jacques Luceyran, trained his ears to 'read' the wind in the trees. As a child, walking home from school, he knew exactly where he was by identifying the different sounds of the leaves around him. What miracles humans are capable of!

In last month's poem, I suggested that words are like trees, with their own branches and roots. It seems that trees are also like words, full of extraordinary resonances. Belatedly, science is acknowledging that trees communicate, respond to and recognise one another, express pain and anxiety, hold memories... Do they see into the future too? The ancients thought so. Graves tells us that sacred trees throughout the Mediterranean were once believed to be a source of oracular wisdom and were often represented as pillars or columns – hence, perhaps, our phrases 'pillar of truth' and

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‘pillars of wisdom’?

At Delphi the oracle spoke in patterns of leaves. Zeus had oracular oaks at Dodona. The Achaeans and the Gauls consulted beech trees. (Incidentally, the word ‘beech’ is the root of our word ‘book’ and have we not, for centuries, sought our information from ‘leaves’, the pages in books? Today we have weather apps and computer models, but can we really be said to have more intelligence?) In an age when words are out of fashion and meanings more and more narrowly constrained, we might do worse than turn back to trees as repositories of vital knowledge, and revere and honour them once more. They are our true universities with their own faculties and branches of learning and to enter into their company is to discover a world of wise teaching.

The stories which were attached to them came from long and patient observation of life, the cosmos and the human condition. Is it possible that the ancients preserved their knowledge in memorable form as myth and superstition, not intending them to be used as literal textbooks, but rather as metaphors to be ‘read’ by those with the subtlety to understand? Years ago, folk made crosses out of rowan twigs and hung them up to protect their crops and cattle, yet such customs were merely physical reminders of deeper truths. When Christianity swept the sacred groves of the pagans aside, Medieval stonemasons reinstated them as forests of stone in their cathedrals, and images of the Green Man can be found, hidden away in ancient churches up and down the country, still quietly pouring forth sermons in leaves. Above all, trees show us what we are made of – barbarian or sage.

Are we still capable of hearing what they have

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to tell us? Do we have the sophistication and patience it would take? There is nothing supernatural here. Nature is miraculous enough. But I believe we need to approach with respect before we can even begin to recover what haste and arrogance have lost. When trees begin to die *en masse*, their message is loud and clear: “YOU’RE NEXT!” Therefore, at this threshold of the year, I invoke the protection of the rowan for us all and welcome its promise of new life in spring!

*Rosemary*

### **ADASTRA JUNIOR STOOLBALL CLUB**

The time is approaching fast for our season to begin. The thought of warm summer evenings is wonderful!

We hope to start training on Wednesday the **30th April** (weather permitting)

We meet in Adastra Park at the Sports Pavilion. There are two sessions on a Wednesday. School years 4 to 6 meet at 4.15 pm to 5.15 pm (cherries) followed by school years 7 to 11 meet at 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm.

If anyone is interested in joining, please contact me on **07986 584228** or come along on Wednesday **30th April**.

Our senior Ladies team play in the Mid Division and play home games on a Tuesday on the South Field at 6.45 pm. Spectators are welcome.

*Joy Mans*

**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](mailto:ed@villagemagazines.co.uk) or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR. Deadline for the April issue is 1st March.

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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY - FALLEN LEAVES.** On Thursday the **6th March** we will be showing *Fallen Leaves*. Directed by Aki Kaurismäki, (2023).

This film will surprise you! Often described in the reviews as a “comedy” its humour is fantastically low key but definitely present.

Two lonely souls connect in a rain-lashed Helsinki in this unexpectedly uplifting drama from the Finnish master of melancholy.

Meeting by chance, the two look at last to have found love. However, various obstacles thwart their hopes and dreams – lost phone numbers, mistaken addresses, alcoholism and a charming dog. Winning the Jury prize at Cannes, it is tragicomic romance set in modern-day Helsinki.

12A. Finnish with English Subtitles. 81 minutes. On **3rd April** we’re showing *La Chimera* (2023).

*La Chimera* is a fantasy created from fragments. For the thieves of ancient grave goods and archaeological wonders, the Chimera means redemption from work and the dream of easy wealth.

For Arthur (Josh O’Connor), fresh out of prison, the chimera means a search through time and the underworld for his love Beniamina. A piece of cinematic magical realism using the ancient and modern landscapes of Tuscany against an unexpectedly rich musical score.

The film has received 11 film awards and 26 nominations.

Directed by Alice Rohrwacher. English, Italian, French with subtitles. 133 minutes

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For more information go to our website, **[ditchlingfilm.org.uk](http://ditchlingfilm.org.uk)**. There you can also recommend your favourite or unrecognised film gems for our future showings. We are on **Instagram @ditchlingfilmsoc** and **Tweet @Ditchlingfilm**

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 or enjoy complementary tea and coffee before the show which starts at 8 pm.

Guest entry and membership available. 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!! Cards accepted.

There’s plenty of parking next to the village hall. See you in March. *The Ditchling Film Society*

## **HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

will be meeting at 7.45 pm on Tuesday **11th March**, in Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. ‘Making Bees Welcome in Your Garden’ An illustrated talk by James Power, lifelong nature conservationist and author of *The Bees of Sussex*.

Our Spring Show is at 2.15 pm on Saturday **22nd March** in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Spring flowers, floral art, cookery, photography, novice and children’s sections. All welcome to exhibit. Self-explanatory schedules from Rhubarb in the High Street.

Tea and home-made cake and produce auction at end of show.

*Kathy Green*

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**KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** As there are three Mondays in March, there will be three meetings of the Keymer Folk Dance Club in March.

On Monday **3rd March** we welcome Keith Calver from the Shoreham Folk Dance Club to call the dances. Keith came last year and called a wide variety of dances.

On Monday **17th March**, Sally Course will be along with her piano accordion to play the tunes. Dances will be led by club callers.

And finally, on the **31st March** we return to our standard format with club members calling the dances.

All meetings 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 <https://keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk> or email [keymerfdc@gmail.com](mailto:keymerfdc@gmail.com). *Sean Goddard*

*Deadline for the April 2025 issue is 1st March 2025*

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**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH**  
Two dates for your diaries.

On Thursday **8th May** we will be commemorating VE Day – marking 80 years since Victory in Europe (8th May, 1945). The Branch will be gathering at Ditchling War Memorial at 11 am. The names from WW2 carved on the War Memorial will be read out and wreaths will be laid.

On Sunday **11th May** in Westmeston Parish Hall we will be holding a VE Day afternoon tea with some entertainment and outdoor games for children. Tickets will include a delicious afternoon tea.

More information about these two events will be in the April and May editions of Talk About and Village Voice. We do hope that you will be able to come along to both of these events. If you require any further information, please call me on 01273 845319. *Margaret Bovill*

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**THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL** On Tuesday 21st January, the children in Year 4 travelled back in time to 1912 and were invited to climb aboard the Titanic as a passenger in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd class. Dressing up to look their best, they imagined stepping aboard, dancing and experiencing life as a passenger on the 'Unsinkable' Titanic. At the end of the day, they shared scenes from the day and enjoyed watching each class perform a dance to either a waltz, ragtime jazz or Irish jig. This day has supported our learning about the disparity in wealth in 1912. The children are learning how differently passengers were treated, based on the price of their ticket. This will feed into our learning on wealth and poverty throughout the year.



On the 27th January, Year 6 had an unforgettable day where they learned about the roles and challenges faced by those on the front lines and the Home Front during World War II. The day started with dressing as members of the armed services, trying on the heavy gear of a Royal Navy signaller, the army soldier's webbing, and the RAF pilot's uniform. The day's activities included a fun and challenging WWII Signalling session using Morse code and semaphore, as well as handling genuine gas masks and (empty) grenades! The children also explored deactivated firearms and were shocked to find out just how heavy and difficult to carry they were. Outside,

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they witnessed the loud, chaotic sounds of the battlefield, including gunfire, a gas rattle and the air raid siren. Finally, they finished with a War Wounds session which put their first aid skills to the test, bandaging injuries just like soldiers did. In year 5 the children have been learning about healthy habits. They have been considering how to begin this new year in the healthiest way. The children have thought about which habits they would like to improve on such as eating healthy foods, taking more exercise and reducing sweets and screen time, whilst also considering the risks that some healthy changes can come with. For example, excessive exercise can lead to exhaustion.



On Tuesday 28th January our girls' football team took part in the county finals in Lancing (at the official stadium of the Sussex Football Association). The girls played 8 hard-fought games and did amazingly. They won 5, drew 2 and lost a single encounter to the eventual winners. Overall, this meant that The Windmills Junior School came third in the entire county of Sussex (consisting of 280 primary schools) for their girls' football, which is a staggering achievement. The girls have been an incredibly strong team for the past two years. We take from this journey an overwhelming sense of pride and happiness. The girls played great football and made memories that will stay with them for a lifetime.

*'on behalf of The Windmills'*



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### FLOWER FESTIVAL AND PLANT SALE

on Saturday **10th May** 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday **12th May** 12 pm to 5 pm at Church of The Transfiguration, Pyecombe.

We are looking for helpers and flower arrangers, plant growers and bakers for our festival weekend to mark 80 years since VE Day. The theme is 'Victory in Europe' for any flower arrangements in the church. Is there anyone who would like to have a go or in the professional advertising section. Anyone willing to grow vegetables plants, herbs and bedding plants. Do you Like baking and would cook items for our cake stall?

Can you offer help over the weekend?

Would you like to rent a table and sell your items in our marquee ?

If any of the above interests you, please contact me for more information **07850 300603** email **sallybrown004@gmail.com**.

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*Sally Brown*

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### BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On Saturday **29th March**, we are staging our Spring Show in the Cyprus Hall, 1.30 pm to 3.45 pm.

Small admission charge. Come and enjoy some glorious springtime scents and colours; along with refreshments, homemade cakes, tombola and produce stalls.

More info from:

**www.burgesshillhorticiculturalsociety.com** or call **01444 245509**. *Flo Whitaker*

**SUSSEX CHORUS** on Saturday **22nd March** at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill. RH15 0LG.

Requiem Mass - Mozart, Song of St Francis - Howard Blake and Ave Verum Corpus - Mozart. Conductor is Stephen Anthony Brown and Orchestra from the Kent Sinfonia.

Tickets (Each adult ticket includes a programme) Available from: Sussex Chorus **01444 412579**, Burgess Hill Help Point and Eventbrite or on the door more info **www.sussexchorus.org**. *Angela Holroyd*

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**DITCHLING DOWNS WI** On Tuesday 7th January we met at a different venue - the Old Meeting House - due to refurbishment at the village hall. We had an excellent turnout and heard a very informative talk about Raystede Animal Sanctuary in Ringmer.

We learned all about the history of the sanctuary and its founder Ms Raymonde-Hawkins and how it was her passion for saving animals that got it all started. We also saw the many different kinds of animals that they rescue through the video presentation and heard about the various events that are held there and how individuals can visit. The speaker from Raystede who is one of the fundraisers, was very passionate about it and encouraged all of us to visit. It was also very interesting to hear that they have a Pet Crematorium along the road from the Sanctuary.

Our next meeting is on **4th February** when we will have a talk on "Plastic: Saving the Planet does not have to cost the Earth" This is back at the Village Hall.

*Susanne Pryde*



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## DITCHLING PLAYERS – MAY PRODUCTION (21st to 24th May)

We do hope that you managed to come along and see our November production of 'A Christmas Carol'. It was certainly good to see virtually full houses and to receive such glowing comments from the audience. By the time you read this we'll have moved on to our May production which is to be 'Murder in Play' by Simon Brett, a local author of numerous crime novels. Boris Smolensky's budget repertory production of Murder at Priorswell Manor is looking decidedly shaky, being mostly held together by the long-suffering stage manager Pat. The cast, and director, are more interested in their egos than in the play, and life imitates art when someone is murdered on the stage. So whodunnit? Could it be Ginette, Boris's current mistress? Or Ginette's ex-boyfriend Tim? Or professional jealousy from either Christa or Sophie? And is Boris completely guiltless? This play within a play provides bewildering clues, hilarious gaffes from the inept actors and red herrings galore to keep you guessing right till the end.

For this production we will be reverting to four evening performances with no matinee on the Saturday. Tickets will be on sale shortly and can be purchased either in person at The White Horse, Ditchling or online (please note that a booking fee applies) via our website - <https://ditchlingplayers.org.uk>.

Curtain up for the evening performances is 7.30pm (Doors open at 7 pm).

Come along and see if you can spot whodunnit!

*David Tettersell*

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### DITCHLING-BASED CHARITY THE TURNER-DUMBRELL FOUNDATION is preparing for its grant giving which takes place every summer.

Charities and other local groups with projects in the village are being invited to apply for funding by the end of April.

Applicants should be either a charity or group, based in the village or the immediate locality, which has a project that benefits the community; or be involved in the practice of preventive cardiology. Many recipients satisfy both criteria by being both local groups and encouraging residents to take part in activities and sports that help to keep hearts healthy.

Last year the foundation agreed to make grants totalling more than £22,000 distributed between: Beacon Parish for upkeep and maintenance of St Margaret's churchyard and conservation of a Hilary Bourne tapestry; FPTA of Ditchling Primary School to resurface a playing area; The Monday Group for annual fixed costs of footpath maintenance; Ditchling Scouts Group for activity days; Oldland Mill for a structural survey; Ditchling Pavilion towards upgrading its facilities; Ditchling Cricket Club for equipment; and Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Sports to support the village sports day.

If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation there is more information on the website, **www.turner-dumbrell.org.uk** or you can contact the secretary by email at

**secretary@turner-dumbrell.org.uk**. Please note the .uk at the end of the website and email address.

*John Wood*

HASSOCKS WI Meet 3rd Monday in the month at Adastra Hall . Doors open 7.30 pm Start 7.45 pm.

As well as discussing the new resolutions at our January meeting, we made and stuffed 91 breast cancer cushions to donate to the clinic in Brighton which does such a wonderful job treating so many women.

Our Arty Outings group had a very interesting visit to Worthing Museum Research Centre. Their costume collection is exceptional and ranks among the leading resources for dress history in the UK.

We were privileged to see an exquisite Jacobean Blackwork jacket, a beautiful Regency pelisse in bright green silk and other lovely items.

February is our AGM which hasn't taken place yet so there may be a new president and we hope we may have some new committee members too.

We are a thriving and friendly WI which welcomes visitors (donations) and is very sociable. Our March meeting is called 'Fun at the Pub', intrigued so am I, we will have old fashioned light hearted games to enjoy.

Our 2025/26 programme is still a work in progress, but our aim is to provide a mix of activities, talks and social events some more serious than others but hopefully appealing and relevant to most of our members and of interest to visitors (donation). Don't be lonely come along, there is always cake.

*Gerry*

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## DEAD SIMPLE

A "whodunnit" by Robert Chambers ©.

### Part One

Sir James looked straight down the fairway, and then at the ball. He raised his golf club, and brought it down swiftly. Whack! The trajectory of the ball was perfect. Sir James was a good golf player, but then he was good at everything. His three companions scowled, but when Sir James turned round, with a big grin, they all smiled, and nodded approvingly.

Colin, the lawyer, felt hatred for this tall well-built man, with the Battle-of-Britain moustache. "Your wife likes a good golf player", Sir James said to Colin. "You ought to have lessons". Colin made no reply. He thought about the many times that Sir James had invited himself to Colin and Caroline's house for a meal and spent most of the evening flirting with Caroline. She had not needed much encouragement. Things had not been running smoothly recently in their relationship. Sir James had said that his visits had been to help Colin in his career. Colin could not see how his wife's wearing a dress with a plunging neckline, and Sir James's

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peering down her cleavage could help his career." "Come on Shorty", Sir James boomed to Stephen. Stephen, the accountant, clenched his teeth, but said politely, "Yes of course". How he loathed that term of address. Just because he was only five feet three inches tall, there was no need for Sir James to keep rubbing it in. Stephen strongly suspected that when Sir James called him "Shorty" he was referring to other things apart from just his height. Unlike Sir James, Stephen had been to a Grammar school, and he had not been to university. He had obtained his qualifications by being articulated. Sir James was constantly reminding Stephen that he had been to a Public School and to Oxford. *to be continued..*

### 30 HOUSES JUST OFF LODGE LANE (basically in the National Park)

I would like to draw reader's attention to a recent decision by the South Downs National Park Authority SDNPA) to revise their South Downs Local Plan and to put forward 48 separate proposals for housing along the boundaries of the National Park. I believe locally this includes 5 houses off East End Lane in Ditchling and 30 houses to the East of Lodge Lane, North of Park Avenue and South of Beacon Hurst, in Keymer. See <https://sdnpalocalplanningreview.commonplace.is> for the full plan (LAA ref. M1014/Lodge Lane) and the ability to express your views

The Consultation period is up to **7th March**

Many of us believe that this should be opposed for a number of reasons including Unsuitable Road infrastructure - the entrance to the proposed development would be from Lodge Lane, basically on a bend in the road! Increased Flood Risk - already a problem in Lodge Lane. In breach of Local Gap Policy. An unjustified Housing need Going against the core concepts of a National Park.

See [www.fightkeymerdevelopment.com](http://www.fightkeymerdevelopment.com) for more information.

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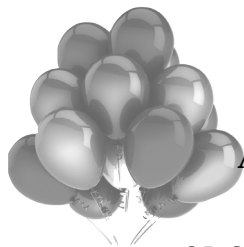
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**THE WORLD'S OLDEST LAWNMOWER FINDS NEW HOME IN HASSOCKS** Unearthed by a Sussex museum's curator, the world's oldest lawnmower has gone on public display in Hassocks and is set to star in a major exhibition at the British Library.

The talented engineer Edwin Beard Budding, from Stroud in Gloucestershire, produced the very first lawnmower. He worked with John Ferrabee to patent the design on 31st August 1830. It was promoted not only for replacing scythes to cut grass but also as "healthy exercise" for country gentlemen.

The idea got off to a slow start though with machines manufactured by Ferrabee and various licensees. One was J.R. & A Ransome of Ipswich, who still manufacture commercial mowers as Ransomes Jacobsen Limited and have kindly loaned the machine so that it can go on public display.

Today, only two original Budding-type lawnmowers survive. One, dating to the 1850s, has been on show at the Science Museum but the older of the pair, made in the 1840s, has gone on display at the Museum of Gardening in Hassocks thanks to the efforts of curator Clive Gravett. The machine has an interesting history. It was discovered in 1932 by a Ransomes salesman when he visited Thornham Hall, Suffolk to discuss a new motor mower. The gardener, having read in the local newspaper that Ransome Sims & Jefferies were celebrating 100 years of mower production, mentioned that they had one of the originals in an old shed at the end of the garden. Lord Henniker, the owner of





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Thornham Hall, later presented the lawn mower to Ransomes.

Research by Clive Gravett has also unearthed more of the mower's history. "The head gardener at Thornham Hall during the period 1840s to 1870s was John Perkins", says Clive. "He was a keen horticulturist, and in 1875 he bred the 'Lady Henniker' apple, which is still grown today. Perkins received a First Class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society and the Lady Henniker apple was featured in the *Florist and Pomologist* magazine in 1875."

In 1877, Perkins wrote *Floral Designs for the Table*. It is an incredible work containing twenty-five elaborate designs for breakfast, luncheon, dinner and special occasions. He lists over three hundred plants, berries and ornamental leaves that can be utilised in his designs.

"More importantly for me personally though", adds Clive, "is that John Perkins would have been responsible for, and no doubt used, what is now the oldest surviving lawnmower in the world."

"It now takes pride of place in our museum, in a large Sussex oak barn at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks, West Sussex, which hosts numerous fascinating and unique gardening tools and equipment on display, many with amazing stories."

The Budding mower will be loaned to the British Library for their exhibition '*Unearthed: The Power of Gardening*' from **2nd May to 10th August**. It will then return to Hassocks for much of the year although it's hoped it can be showcased at other locations. Check the museum's website: [www.museumofgardening.co.uk](http://www.museumofgardening.co.uk).

*Trevor Butler*

**HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.** Our March talk will be on Friday **28th March** at 7.30 pm "Deckchairs, Piers & Souvenirs" a history of seaside culture through the things which make it distinctive. The speaker is author Dr Kathryn Ferry whose books include 'Seaside 100'. She has also appeared on TV shows including 'Villages by the Sea'.

Location, Guide HQ, SE corner of Trinity Road Long Stay Car park, Hurstpierpoint. Non Members (small charge). All welcome. For further details please email

[hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com](mailto:hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com).

*Mrs J Simmons*

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**GREYHOUND MORRIS** is a new Morris side created in September 2024 by Simon Hodges, the landlord of the Greyhound Inn, Keymer.

Simon is a very popular and well-known person in the local community, mostly due to his friendly nature and his keen involvement in local organisations and projects. He has long been a supporter of traditional pastimes and has created a vibrant community hub in the Greyhound Inn itself, with many regular events including an Open Mike night and a darts team.

Our first ever public Dance out was quite a success but with an interesting twist! We had originally planned to dance outside the Greyhound Inn on New Year's Day, but the weather was so bad that we thought we might have to cancel our debut! However, Simon managed to pull the rabbit out of the hat and cleared an area inside the pub for us to dance in! As you can imagine it was a great experience for our dancers with only one minor incident, a Christmas bauble fell victim to an overly enthusiastic flick of a hankie!

We are a mixed side, which means we are open to everyone who is over 18. We dance both Cotswold and Border traditions. Our main priority is having fun while learning these traditional dances with a view to performing them in public at local events. If you are organising an event and would like us to entertain you with our dancing, please let us know. Contact details are: email [johnjbass@gmail.com](mailto:johnjbass@gmail.com) or talk to Simon himself any time you are in the Greyhound Inn.

If Morris dancing or playing the traditional music is something you've always wanted to try, pop along on a Tuesday evening and join us, we practice in the Keymer church hall at 7pm. I'm sure you will find a warm welcome and will leave with a smile on your face!

*John*

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FRI. 28TH MARCH - 5PM

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SATURDAY 8TH MARCH 7:30PM

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## MOTHERS DAY 30th MARCH

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**FLYING COLOURS** Let's get the smug bit out of the way. This January I visited an incredible bird watching and conservation organisation in the Western Ghats, India, run by highly skilled and welcoming environmentalists, spotting 75 remarkable bird species, many endemic to this region. #sorrynotsorry. A notable feature of these tropical species is their aston-

ishing colour palette, vivid reds, brilliant pinks, and intense greens. There are a few reasons behind plumage colour. Bold colours can be flaunted as a display tactic in males to impress females and shame rivals in competition for a mate or territory. Colour can be used as a camouflage and survival technique, whether blending into surroundings, or by confusing predators with reflective iridescence. A fellow Brit commented on how our birds don't really compare when it comes to colour, but there's some spectacular species to prove them wrong. Back in Sussex, spring is just starting to peep in; the season where we finally experience those explosions of colour after such a long wait. Aside from an excuse to show off about my grey-escape holiday, I thought a celebration of our most colourful birds was due.

Firstly, Kingfishers. They also reside in India, but they're too bright and beautiful to not make the cut. A wetland and reedbed regular, these fabulous fish-

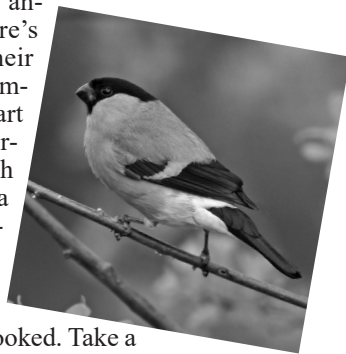
ers take blue to another level. There's no mistaking their tiny turquoise shimmer as they dart down a watercourse, or perch stock still on a branch, ripple-peering.

A regular on feeders, Blue

Tits can be overlooked. Take a moment to appreciate that lemon and azure plumage, merging with navy and tinged with green. Once another common garden staple, Bullfinches are sadly now a rare treat to see. If you spot a male, peachy-coral chest set against muted hues of grey and black, it can't be anything else. Although wowing crowds with their aerial acrobatics in murmuration, you could be forgiven for thinking Starlings individually are somewhat ordinary. Think again. Up close, and in the right light, Starlings are a mass of beautiful iridescent purples, greens and golden yellows.

Corvids are considered a little plain, but what about an emerald Magpie tail or the sapphire flash of a Jay feather? A Jackdaw's pale iris can seem blue against dark feathers, and sometimes, in low summer sun, jet-black Rook plumage can look purple. Who needs a Malabar Trogon or a Flame-throated Bulbul? Not me! Well... not for 11 months of the year anyway.

Kerry Williams



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# Celebrating 100 years of West Sussex Library Service

[Click here to find out more](#)



## Good reasons to visit your library

When I was a university teacher, feeling harassed and stressed, I always thought how lovely it would be to work in a library. Now, at 77, my fantasy has become reality, and it is just as enjoyable as I thought it would be.

I am a volunteer at Hurst Library, supporting the Librarian with tasks such as shelving, finding the books that people from other libraries have reserved and helping members of the public with basic queries.

I have been so impressed with the ethos of the library service – a public service ethos that has been so hard to sustain during this period of austerity. Everyone is really focused on the library user having the best service according to their needs, whether it is games for children to borrow, offering a warm place in freezing weather or providing digital support for those who struggle with technology. I learnt about free electronic apps to listen to audio books or to browse any newspaper from across the world. You can pop into any WSCC library to ask a member of staff how they work.

The highlight so far was when a class of reception children came to be introduced to the library. The librarian read them a story, and, in turn they sang a song for her.

Visit [www.arena.westsussex.gov.uk/our-services](http://www.arena.westsussex.gov.uk/our-services) to find out what your local Library has to offer or pop in and chat to library staff.

In 2025 West Sussex Library Service is celebrating 100 years of being at the heart of the community in West Sussex.

To celebrate this historic milestone, we've planned a year filled with a diverse range of events and activities for you to take part in and enjoy.

Visit Centenary - West Sussex to find out more.

## Good reasons to visit your library.



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**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](http://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](mailto:msrpublicity@gmail.com) or telephone our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Sue Blandford, on **01403 255654**.

## **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**.

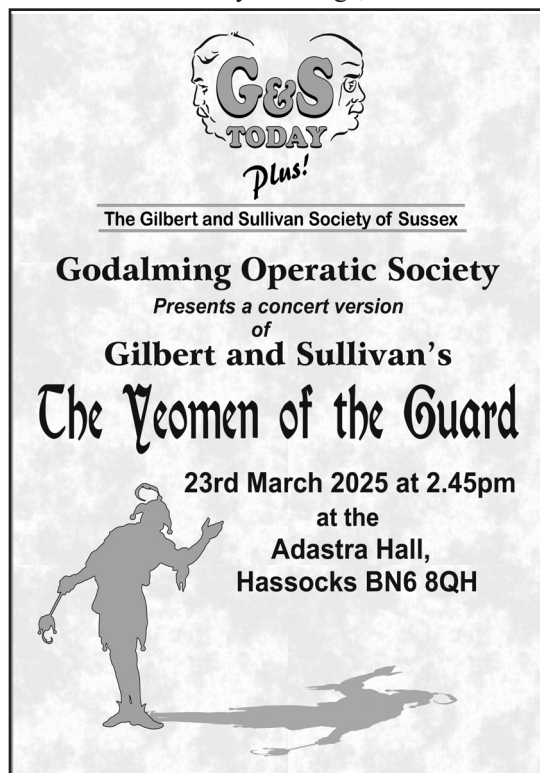
*Chris Lambe*

**THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX** presents Godalming Operatic Society in a concert version of The Yeomen of the Guard.

Sunday **23rd March**, at 2.45 pm in Adastra Hall, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8QH.

Tickets include refreshments. Bookings via email [gandstodaysussex@gmail.com](mailto:gandstodaysussex@gmail.com).

*Pennie Ingram*



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**Next deadline for this magazine  
is 1st March for the April issue.**

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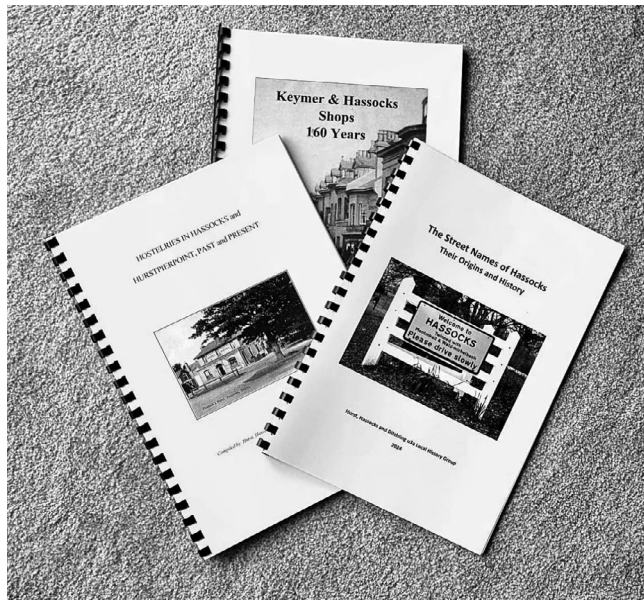
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## Did you know that the u3a Local History Group has published three books in recent years?



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**SUSSEX PATHFINDERS** Earlier this year, the Sussex Pathfinders gathered by Nymans to follow a circular route on the outside of the Handcross, Slaugham and Staplefield triangle, starting with a stretch of the High Weald Landscape trail, which took us down to Slaugham Village.

Our first port of call in Slaugham was St Mary's Church. Pathfinders were treated to a sight of the north wall, the oldest part of the church and a product of the wonderful activity of the Normans. We were also shown the circular seating arrangements which under the inspiration of the Rector have replaced the more traditional rows of pews and then leaflets on the great work of the Loiyangalani Trust which supports education in remote parts of Northern Kenya.

The second Slaugham stop was just beyond the church down a single file footpath which overlooks Slaugham Place with its moated ancient ruins dating back to 1591, and now a popular venue for weddings. From there the group headed up the hill towards the (once overgrown) steps leading down to the subway, which was a very safe way to cross, or rather pass under, the busy A23, with its unrelenting noise pollution.

The group halted a while having emerged from the subway to try and figure out the meaning of a safety sign with the letters PCD – we got as far as C for Control but it took Google to help us out with the rest of this safety notice situated on the edge of a deep stretch of water. Yes, for those

in the know it stands for Pollution Control Device which is basically a sophisticated form of valve.

Although now more a smallholding than a farm, Stanbridge Grange Farm has history, which has been captured in the Slaugham archives, most notably in the form of an article written in 1988 by Dorothy Longley, who lived at the Farm during the First World War. One of her recollections was an open log fire and huge chimney large enough to accommodate a pig being smoked for bacon. On passing through the farm, we met a couple who were very friendly in welcoming a large group of walking visitors and who thoroughly recommended a visit to the Victory Inn now only half a mile away.

Walking parallel to the Cricket Green we soon arrived at our break destination, The Victory Inn, Staplefield where we were warmly welcomed by one of the owners who amusingly entertained us with the history of her pub.

Once out of Staplefield, we picked up a twin tracked concrete path past Tanyard Cottages and Woods onto the Sussex Ouse Valley Way and this led us to the south entrance to Nymans Woodlands. A strenuous (for some) uphill walk was ahead to lead us back to our starting point where our 5 mile walk had begun. If you would like to join us on more of our regular weekend walks view our website **[sprcinfo@sussex-pathfinders.org.uk](mailto:sprcinfo@sussex-pathfinders.org.uk)** No need to book just turn up and introduce yourself to the leader. *Diann*



## 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](http://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@hurst-players.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hurst-players.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.adas-trahall.com](http://www.adas-trahall.com) or email [bookings@adastrahall.com](mailto:bookings@adastrahall.com).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sayers Common Church Hall** - ring Ian Simmons 01273 833342 or [iansimmons@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pec.glebe@tiscali.co.uk) or 01273 844743.

# Useful Information

## OUT OF HOURS CHEMIST

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

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## LIBRARIES

**Hurstpierpoint - 01273 832609**

**Hassocks - 01273 842779**

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

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## HASSOCKS FOOD BANK

Open to anyone in need of support. Held in  
Powell House (next to United Reformed Church),

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Or drop donations to Mansell McTaggart and

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## TENNIS COURT HIRE

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## PARISH COUNCILS

### Hassocks

**01273 842714**

[www.hassockspc.net](http://www.hassockspc.net).

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

### Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common

**01273 833264**

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

Mon.- Fri. 9.30am - 1pm.

### Ditchling

**01273 844733**

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

# DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

## **HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON**

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

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

**Bowling Club**, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint

**Court Buses 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

# What's On in March

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

For more information call **01273 846978.**

## 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](http://www.befriended.org).

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

**GREYHOUND MORRIS** Practice every Tuesday at Keymer Church Hall, 7 pm. We welcome new members of all abilities both musical and dancing, see you there.

**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](http://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.

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

ginners are very welcome, no need to bring a partner. Your first session is free call 07802 847234 for more info.

**JIVE FRENZY** Come and learn Modern Jive, its fun, social and easy to learn. Suitable for all ages over 26, all levels, no partner required and no need to book. Tuesdays 8 pm, Adastra Hall. More info [Jazzfrenzy.com](http://Jazzfrenzy.com)

**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](http://www.msscd.org.uk) for more details. (We do not meet in July or August)

**HASSOCKS TABLE TENNIS** Mondays & Thursdays 2 - 4 pm Adastra Hall. Roll up to play.

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

**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](http://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](http://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.

## Church Services

**BEACON PARISH SERVICES** Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **2nd & 9th** (Little Beacons), **23rd & 30th** (Mothering Sunday). Wednesday@10 (am) Holy Communion weekly at St Margarets Church, Ditchling (**5th** Ash Wednesday). More info [www.beaconparish.co.uk](http://www.beaconparish.co.uk)

## Regular Events

**13th Feb - 7th Mar** NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME Pembury House, Clayton. Visit our Winter Garden and see the Snowdrops. Tickets from [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk). See article for more info.

**4th** MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 8 pm. 'Chuck Prophet' For more info and tickets [www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk](http://www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk).

**2nd** HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

**3rd** THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, 7.30 pm. Caller Keith Calver - Shoreham Folk Dance Club. Visitors most welcome.

**3rd** HASSOCKS 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. 'Lewes and Bonfire Night' Andy Thomas.

**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](mailto:office@befriended.org).

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

**5th** HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm And so to Ted - a history of teddies & other bears' Melanie Gibson-Barton. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

**6th** AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue. Entertainment by 'The Sundown Ukulele Band'

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

**6th** 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 email [office@befriended.org](mailto:office@befriended.org).

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

**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](mailto:sussexsewingclub@gmail.com).

**10th** HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'The Long Walk Home' Michael Blencowe.

**10th** THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. [www.thereupon.org.uk](http://www.thereupon.org.uk).

**11th** HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Making Bees Welcome in your Garden' James Power. All welcome.

**11th** 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.

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

**13th, 20th & 27th** BEFRIENDED 7 pm. 3 week course. Compassionate Conversations looking at loss in life. 'Past & Present', 'Grief & Gratitude' & 'Bereaved & Believe'. More info and to find the venue email [office@befriended.org](mailto:office@befriended.org). [www.befriended.org](http://www.befriended.org).

**14th** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). 'Space Telescopes, eg Hubble & others' Phil Brown M5BTB' Refreshments available. All welcome.

**15th** WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email [mo.delaine@btinternet.com](mailto:mo.delaine@btinternet.com)

**15th** HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road,



Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on AFC Vardeanians. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

**15th** PROPER CYCLING & COFFEE 7 - 10 pm. 'Dusty Shelf' DJ Night for the young heart. Free entry, all welcome.

**15th** 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** 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](http://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 7.30 pm. 'Fun at the Pub'.

**17th** THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, 7.30 pm. Sally Course will be playing the music on her Piano Accordion. Visitors most welcome.

**18th** 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](mailto:office@befriended.org).

**19th** AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue. 'Outing' to Perch Lancing Beach.

**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 - 'The Critic' Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door.

**21st** THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling 5 - 7 pm. Drop in say goodbye to Fr David.

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

**22nd** HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 2.15 pm. 'Spring Show. All welcome.

**22nd** 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](http://www.hkdtransition.org.uk).

**22nd** MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email [alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk).

**22nd** SUSSEX CHORUS St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. 'Requiem Mass - Mozart, Song of St Francis - Howard Blake & Ave Verum Corpus - Mozart'. See article for more info. Tickets 01444 412579. [www.sussexchorus.org](http://www.sussexchorus.org)

**23rd** GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. 'Godalming Operatic Society in a concert version of The Yeoman of the Guard'. Tickets inc refreshments to book email [gandstodaysussex@gmail.com](mailto:gandstodaysussex@gmail.com).

**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. 'Building by the Sea: an architectural history of the W Sussex sea-side' Kathryn Ferry.

**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](mailto:office@befriended.org).

**25th** POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 11 am - 1 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](mailto:office@befriended.org).

**26th** SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm Demo by Kevin Hutson. Visitors welcome.

**27th** LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

**24 HOUR EMERGENCY LOCKSMITH**

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pointment 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.beravementcare.uk](http://www.beravementcare.uk).

**28th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A**  
Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'The House of Embroidered Paper: The Regency Wardrobe' Stephanie Smart. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

**28th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**  
Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.org.uk). 'AGM'. Refreshments available. All welcome.

**28th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**  
Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm 'Deckchairs, Pier s& Souvenirs: a history of seaside culture through the things which make it distinctive. Dr Kathryn Ferry. All welcome more info [hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com](mailto:hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com).

**29th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 1.30 - 3.45 pm. [www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com).

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'Spring Show'. All welcome.

**31st THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC**  
Church Hall, 7.30 pm. Club members calling

**DANNY** Owned in the 13th century by Simon de Pierpoint as a modest hunting seat. In the late 16th Century, George Goring, the grandfather of the cavalry commander of Charles I, rebuilt it into an Elizabethan shaped house. Prime Minister Lloyd George, stayed here in 1918, while working on the terms of the Armistice. Sir Winston Churchill, visited the house both World Wars. British and Canadian troops were based here in World War 2. The Campion family owned the house for generations before selling it in the last century. It is now privately owned as serviced apartments.

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## **If you are between 40 and 73 you need to read this!**

If you want to potentially boost your income in retirement this is a great opportunity to do so – but you need to act now.

Many people rely on their State Pension in retirement. To get the full State Pension you need 35 qualifying years of National Insurance Contributions, and many people have gaps in their records.

Currently you can make voluntary contributions to fill those gaps all the way back to 2006. However, from the 5<sup>th</sup> April this window is closing and going forward you will only be able to go back 6 years (to 2019), meaning some people will never be able to get a full State Pension.

This will not necessarily be beneficial for all, so I suggest you take the following actions:

1. Check your State Pension forecast and National Insurance record.  
[www.gov.uk/check-state-pension](http://www.gov.uk/check-state-pension)   [www.gov.uk/check-national-insurance-record](http://www.gov.uk/check-national-insurance-record)
2. Read the Money Saving Expert Guide  
[www.moneysavingexpert.com/savings/voluntary-national-insurance-contributions/](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/savings/voluntary-national-insurance-contributions/)
3. Call the Future Pension Centre

Not yet at State Pension age, contact the Future Pension Centre on 0800 731 0175

Already at State Pension age, contact the Pension Service on 0800 731 0469.

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# David J Stevens

Property Maintenance

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## STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Thank you for all your stories about private roads, I didn't quite expect the reaction I got. It does seem that some people who live in these resident named private roads seem to take on the persona that nobody else can use or touch their sacred tarmac, which is of course total rubbish. Unless it's gated with a security code to enter, then I'm afraid everyone has right of entry, also if it is a proper private road that can mean you're responsible for repairs drainage etc and believe me you wouldn't want that, trust me, I know all about those problems.

I got the all clear again on my bowel cancer test, it's always a relief when you get that letter through the post giving you the good news. They stop sending the kits out when you reach the age of 75, so I've got one more to look forward too, but word has reached me that if you want to receive this after your 75 then I've been given a number to ring to request one. I've got the number here if anyone wants to have it, please just get in touch with me at the shop.

I had the contractor from Taylor Wimpey come to see me because of the effects the house building has had on the local wildlife. They have planted 150 trees which include Oak, Silver Birch and a variety of other names I'd never heard of and also an equal number of Bushes. All these are to hopefully create a habitat to encourage back the bird and wildlife population to the area around the Ockley Lane development, according to the rather tired young lad who helped to plant them it will look very impressive in a couple of years time and will help to hide the new houses from some of the homes in Grand Avenue.

Finally, some news regarding National Tyres Garage plans have now been finalised and submitted. This is now the start of things beginning to move I hope for all our sakes the plans are accepted, and no objections are raised, otherwise it will just delay it and we'll be stuck with that awful eyesore for even longer. It's important to remember that the owners still want the Library to move down into the nice new larger premises where it would be a great meeting place for all ages, with all sorts of new facilities that can only be good for the community of the village. Also, they are promising improved drainage to ensure there is no flooding risk to the High Street because of the new development. Personally, I'd like to see more parking spaces for the village, so many people are put off shopping here because they can never park anywhere, let's hope that it is something which can soon be sorted out, but I won't hold my breath.

Marshmallow is doing well, still no sign of her sister but we'll keep trying. The biggest problem I find with Persian cats it they do get this horrible eye discharge which you have to keep clean which entails daily wiping, sounds easy doesn't it? Obviously, Marshmallow had not had this done so when I attempt to keep her looking beautiful all hell breaks loose, we're like two old wrestlers Mick MacManus & Jackie Pallo – remember them? I doubt it, I've got her in an armlock and she's kicking me in the stomach whilst rolling around on the floor usually I'm declared the winner but not always the joys of cat ownership is never easy.

In our horse section we now carry over 20 different types of hay nets just to feed your horse hay but they are very popular and you have to keep thinking of things to keep people coming through the door as I hope you will do. As always, I thank each and everyone of you for every penny you spend.

Love Steve

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