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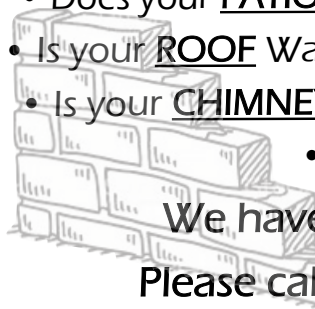
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Council School, Hassocks.

We thank the late John Gargett for this postcard of the Council School, Hassocks. Now Hassocks Infant School, built in 1877 as a Victorian Board School for pupils aged 4 to 7.

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DENNIS SOUTH of Downsview Road (some 50yrs).

Husband to the late Shirley, father & grandfather to Julie, Colin, Rhiannon & Morgan.

Passed away peacefully on 17th February.

Former Clayton Parish Councillor, member of the Hassocks Amenity Association & many community projects.

Always seen around the village in his fluorescent jacket, litter picking or tending the flower beds at Hassocks Station.

He was awarded a MSDC Community Service Award in 2010.

Julie Phillips

We have fond memories of Mr North South as he was known in QD as at first, we could never remember his surname - Ed

RON GATES died peacefully after a long illness on Saturday 1st March. He and mum were in Woodlands nursing home in Burgess Hill.

Dad was a keen sportsman, cricketer, golfer and later a bowler for Adastra Bowls Club.

His funeral will take place at St Cosmas and St Damian Church on Friday **11th April** at 12 pm.

Jo Hewison

HEBER OPERA'S NEXT PRODUCTION

Heber Opera box office is now open for tickets for Verdi's *King for a Day* (*Un Giorno di Regno* in Italian, but Heber always sings in English). The production can be seen in Lindfield (**17th May**), Uckfield (**18th May**), Steyning (**24th May**) and Hurstpierpoint (**25th May**). Tickets are available from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera or by telephoning **07867 975967** NOTE telephone bookings are not available before **7th April** but every day after that between 9 am and 5 pm.

This is a comedy that takes place in a single day in a baronial castle. There is a King, who isn't really a King, a wedding or two that are on then off ... and no one dies (unusual in operas!!). A light hearted romp with some great tunes.

Jenny Hawkes

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

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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

There are some variations and additions to our regular pattern of services this month as we approach Easter.

On Wednesday **2nd April**, we'll meet in St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 6 pm to learn some new songs and revisit some old favourites. A really enjoyable time.

Do join us in St. Margaret's on Saturday **5th April** between 12.30 pm and 2 pm for Souper Saturday with delicious homemade soap, bread and cakes. We'd love to see you.

On Sunday **6th April** we'll meet in St. Margaret's Ditchling for a service of Morning Worship with Holy Communion and activities for youngsters in a Little Beacons session, at 10 am. Sunday **13th April** is Palm Sunday. There is the option to gather either at the vicarage in Charlton Gardens at 10 am before joining our Palm Sunday procession through Ditchling to St. Margaret's, or to go straight to the church where our Worship and Holy Communion service will be

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held as soon as the procession arrives. Services during Holy Week, all in St. Margaret's, are as follows:

Tuesday **15th April** The Way of the Cross at 6 pm.

Wednesday **16th April** Wednesday @ 10 Holy Communion.

Thursday **17th April** Maundy Thursday. Passover Celebration at 6 pm.

Friday **18th April** Good Friday. Worship at the foot of the Cross at 11 am.

Sunday **20th April** Easter Day Celebration at 10 am with Easter Egg hunt.

On Sunday **27th April** there will be an All Age Family Service with Holy Communion in St. Margaret's at 10 am.

Everyone is very welcome to all of our services and events. If you have family and friends to stay over Easter, do bring them along?

Please visit our website **www.beaconparish.co.uk** to check for any alterations to the above. *Sherrian Guest*

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MARCH ARTS COMPETITION Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club's Arts competition will now showcase nearly a hundred gymnasts performing routine with ribbons, balls, on the beam and in Sports Acrobatic Sixes. The competition will be held in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre in the morning of the 29th March 2025. The gymnasts will be competing for the twenty-two silver trophies and scores of medals. Spectating for parents & friends is free.

The following opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 41st Annual Championships on the **5th July**.

Our Club offers regular classes at affordable costs with fully trained coaches, free awards each term, two free entry competitions each year and subsidised clothing.

The Club starts with children from just 3 years old. There are currently spaces to join with no waiting lists.

Boys and girls meet on Tuesdays, girls on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with Pre-schoolers on Fridays. If you want to join, please visit the website hurstpierpointgym.co.uk and follow the link to an email enquiry.

Andrew Hair

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DITCHLING DOWNS WI At the beginning of February we were treated to a thought inspiring talk from Ray Hale entitled "Plastic: Saving the Planet does not have to cost the Earth" He began by telling us that though we might not be causing climate change we are definitely making it worse and that we should care because we all have children and grandchildren. He then talked about the problem when the habitat of different animals or other species are destroyed by humans for their own gain - one startling statistic was that we now lose about 250 species a year but only used to lose about 25 - the increase is mostly driven by us. He then went on to talk about plastic and how it is damaging the earth and the oceans in particular - last year about 8 million tonnes of plastic was discarded into the oceans. He acknowledged that some plastic is needed but emphasised that it is single use plastic that we need to get rid of. We can now recycle tops of plastic bottles - but better to attach them to the bottle itself. We can get rid of cling film

and online plastic packaging - apparently, we can refuse it with companies like Amazon. We should use reusable items as much as possible. All in all, a very thought provoking talk.

Our next meeting on **1st April** and the talk will be entitled "The Secret Life of the Honey Bee" Our AGM will be at our May meeting.

Susanne Pryde

We thank Martin Tidy of Hassocks for the following article:- A Splash of Colour in my front garden, 8th February was a dull damp day but as I looked out of my front window in Manor Avenue I saw a bird sitting on my wall wasn't sure what it was but as it turned round I could see it was a beautiful fat Bull Finch with its red chest and black top to its head. It must be decades since i have had the pleasure of seeing one and as I watched it fluttered from shrub to shrub hovering at times like a butterfly. I attempted to get a photo without any luck I wonder if anybody else has seen one lately what a treat!

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

Our February evening, our AGM, started with 'Jerusalem' and in the absence of our Treasurer, the Secretary read out the report. As President I gave an overview of our past year and again welcomed our new members and thanked our established members for staying with us. The members in turn re-elected the committee and I have to stay on again as no one else put themselves forward. Thank you for acknowledging the hard work we all put in to make Hassocks WI a thriving and engaging community. The evening ended with a delightful musical quiz led by Belinda and Dave. We also donated over 10 bags of items to the Foodbank. Thank you, Hilary, for delivering them.

March was 'Fun at the Pub'. Nicky and I were behind the bar and other committee members were manning old-fashioned pub games. It was a light hearted evening.

March was also 'Ovarian Cancer Awareness' month and I want to say a huge thank you to Nicky who has single-handedly made the beautifully crafted knicker bunting (100 pieces) for the campaign. You would have seen them in various shops in the village and at Freedom leisure gym, drawing attention to a silent cancer. 1330 women under 50 are diagnosed each year.

The knickers are so attractive that I was seriously asked whether the talented crafter would consider making full size ones!

At our April meeting, which is Monday **28th April** (because of Easter), we will learn about 'Qigong' which combines breathing, movement and meditation to improve health and wellbeing. It's Spring, spring into something different, visit us for a friendly evening.

See our website www.wihassocks.org.uk for details of our other activities. *Gerry*

OLDLAND WINDMILL, KEYMER - 2025

OPEN DATES Oldland Windmill is open to visitors on the first Sunday of each month between April and October 2025 when we hold open afternoons or special event days. The special event days are held in May and September with lots of activities for both children and adults.

We are pleased to announce that the first open afternoon of the year will take place on Sunday **6th April**. Volunteers will be on site to show visitors around the mill, there will be refreshments for sale including homemade cakes and visitors can purchase Oldland Mill's own flour plus memorabilia.

For more details, please see our website: www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming lots of visitors over the coming season. *Karen Regan*

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

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Saturday **26th April** 10.30 am to 12 pm, 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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These are free Taster Sessions, when you can try your hand at bowling, have some instruction from our coaches and chat to members over a drink.

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For more details beforehand contact me on **01273 842360** or **dwebleyward@gmail.com**

Diana Webley Ward

TALKS AT WESTMESTON HALL Many thanks to everyone who participated in our two well-attended and informative history talks at Westmeston Parish Hall on 28 February, and to Talk About for kindly publicising these. I apologise to all those who weren't able to attend the talks because of high demand. We'll certainly issue tickets for future events.

Rod Pryde

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A "whodunnit" by Robert Chambers ©.

Part two

The game of golf continued for a few more holes. David, the engineer, reflected upon this eccentric idea of Sir James's, of choosing the deputy head of the department by "informal interview on the golf course", instead of the more formal process of interviewing them in his room. He wondered how either of the other two could possibly work as Sir James's deputy. He knew that *he* would find it very difficult, but it was a huge increase in salary that was being offered, as the deputy-head of a large government department.

Sir James derived a lot of pleasure from taunting and belittling people. David often felt that he was the main butt of Sir James's derision. David was a man of principle, virtuous principles so he considered, and was an active member of his church. He despised Sir James for mocking him for being gentle. Sir James knew that David disapproved of his numerous mistresses, so he took every opportunity of boasting about them.

The game continued for several more holes, until the unthinkable happened. Sir James hit his golf ball into a large sandy bunker. Making no effort to moderate his language in the presence of his subordinates, he chose a suitable wedge and disappeared from view into the bunker.

Colin decided to go ahead onto the green, in order to finish the hole, having had a certain amount of

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luck in his strokes so far. Stephen thought that he would take the opportunity to search the long grass nearby, to see if he could find any golf balls. David withdrew a short distance, to sit in the shade, under a tree.

Some minutes later the three men conferred together. They packed their clubs into their golf bags and walked slowly back to the clubhouse. On the way, a very pale David watched as Colin wiped his shoes on some tufts of long grass, and Stephen wiped the head of one of his clubs. At the clubhouse, each man collected his belongings, and with hardly a word spoken, they left the golf club and drove to David's home.

The blood-stained body of Sir James was found later that afternoon by some other members of the golf club.

That evening the three men sat drinking in David's lounge, when the doorbell rang. David went to the door and opened it. Colin and Stephen clearly heard the voices at the front door. "Good evening sir. Are you Mr. Edwards?". "Yes". "I'm Detective Inspector Meadows, and this is Detective Sergeant Crane. We should like to ask you a few questions about the death of Sir James Simple".

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH

Please join us on Thursday **8th May** when we will be commemorating VE Day – marking 80 years since Victory in Europe (8th May, 1045). Branch Members will be gathering at Ditchling War Memorial from 10.45 am to remember those names from WW2 on our War Memorial who did not return to their families and loved ones. Their names will be read out and wreaths will be laid. Please do join us. *We will Remember Them.* On Sunday **11th May** in Westmeston Parish Hall will be holding a VE Day Party to capture how our parents and grandparents celebrated with relief that the war in Europe was finally over.

There will be afternoon teas, a Beer Tent, some old fashioned games for children (and adults), coconut shy, wooden skittles etc.

We are delighted that Susan Fleet will come along and sing some of the songs of the time. We do hope that you will be able to come and join us for a lovely afternoon. If you require further information, please call me **01273 845319**

Margaret Bovill

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Our April talk will be on Friday **25th April** at 7.30 pm “Children & the Poor Laws in 19th Century Sussex” An illustrated talk looking at how changes in the Poor Laws affected Sussex children in and out of the workhouse. It covers the range of support offered including apprentices, placements-in-service, and education.

The speaker is Dr Mary Rudling. Location,

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Mrs J Simmons

STAR CINEMA The last film of the current season at the Adastra Hall will be on Friday **25th April**. ‘Going In Style’ follows a trio of retirees (Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman and Alan Arkin), who plan to rob a bank after their pensions are cancelled.

Doors open at 7 pm for the film to start at 7.30 pm. Tickets on the door. Wine, tea, coffee, and raffle. The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Edmunds

BEFRIENDED is delighted to be bringing our Compassionate Conversations course to the Mid Sussex Health Centre in Hurstpierpoint. This three week course looks at loss in life through guided conversations. You will find hope and healing as you share your experience of loss with a small group. The course will take place on Thursdays **10th, 17th and 24th April** at 10 am. See **befriended.org/compassionate-conversations/** for more details. Spaces are limited so contact your GP surgery to reserve a free place.

Susan

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I am teaching new people to keep bees so these swarms are a lovely way for them to begin their exciting hobby. Nature's gift.

Keep a note of these numbers, and thank you, Hassocks.

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Heather McNiven

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MAKING THE MOST OF TECHNOLOGY: ADVICE FOR THOSE LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS

4Sight Vision Support supports blind and sight impaired children and adults, their families and carers, across West Sussex. Their free services help clients maintain independence, with advice on education, employment, obtaining financial assistance, social activities, and health and wellbeing. In addition, a key area of their expertise is an Accessible Technology Service, to help clients with daily tasks following sight loss.

Equipment such as magnification tools or adapted lighting may at first spring to mind, but every day more technologies are becoming available which can be adapted to support varying needs.

For example, a Smart Speaker can access news, weather forecasts and talking books; set alarms and reminders, and manage a daily calendar. A wide choice of phone apps can access public transport information, read written documents to

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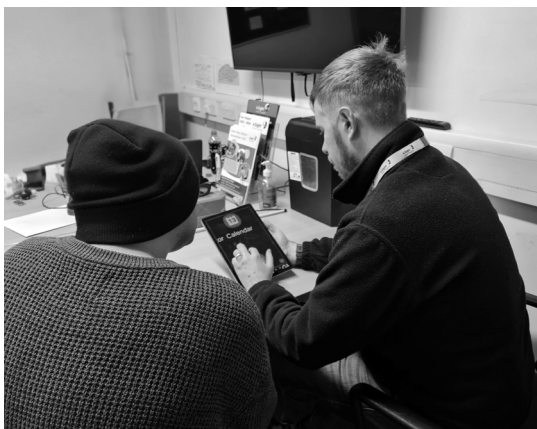
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you and control your central heating remotely. Other technologies can help monitor emails, convert text to audio, and by scanning codes using apps such as Navilens, provide information on food packaging, public signage and public transport to name a few. The built-in screen reader on a TV will provide information about what programmes are audio described, and settings on a PC screen can adjust the display to suit those with impaired vision.

If you or someone you know would benefit from advice on maximising technology for visually impaired people, contact 4SVS on **01243 828555** or email **enquiries@4sight.org.uk**. 4SVS also runs several Low Vision Solutions Open Days allowing hands-on experience with products and technology, visit **www.4sight.org.uk** for details. Please contact 4SVS if you'd also like to find out more about their social and walking groups in your locality.

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BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY

SPRING CONCERT Join Burgess Hill Choral Society for their spring concert when they will perform Schubert's moving *Mass in E Flat Major* and the Mozart's evergreen favourite *Ave Verum Corpus*. The choir will be accompanied by Sussex Classical players who will also be playing Haydn's popular *Military Symphony*. Schubert has been described at the greatest of all songwriters and nowhere is this talent better demonstrated than in his final work *Mass in E Flat Major* which is widely regarded as a choral masterpiece.

Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*, a work of just 46 bars, is often described as one of his most beautiful works and is much valued for its simplicity and serenity.

The concert takes place on Saturday, **26th April** at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG. Tickets are available from Burgess Hill Help Point, on the door, at www.ticket-source.co.uk/burgesshillchoral by phone **07522 493966** or visit our website at www.burgesshillchoral.org. *Jane Leng*

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STUFF? Are you planning a big declutter in the Spring? Then look no further than the Hurst Jumble Trail 2025 and sign up to be a Jumbler by setting up your stall in front of your house, no loading and unloading the car. Sell all your jumble locally and reconnect with your neighbours, friends and also make some new ones.

The date for the Jumble Trail is Sunday **4th May** between 10 am to 2 pm. The atmosphere in the village is always lovely and we can all hope for a fine sunny day ! Simply, email your address and postcode

to hurstjumbletrail@gmail.com by **1st April** for your details to be included on the final printed map which will be posted around the village, in Hurst Life, and on the interactive custom made Google map. Any addresses received after **1st April** will be on the Google map only. The Hurst Rethink Community Team will be looking forward to meeting many of you on the day. *Anna Riis*

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HASSOCKS FC: we head into our final month of the season and after a load of away fixtures we have plenty of action at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground this month. Maybe by the time of print this team could have won the league! If not, we'll soon find out if Hassocks can record their first ever bit of senior silverware. This team has surpassed all expectations and is on course for their highest finish and points tally ever recorded! If we fail to win the league there are always the excitement of the play offs to compete in. The u23's and u18's have also reached respective cup finals so the club is in celebratory state. We thank all coaches, players, volunteers, supporters, mascots, and sponsors for their help throughout the season to help the club function. We will keep trying to improve the set up and facilities all the time and any suggestions ahead are welcome.

Home/Cup fixtures ahead: Saturday **29th March** 1st vs Crowborough ko 3 pm. Wednesday **2nd April** U18's Cup Final at Lancing FC ko 7.30 pm. Saturday **5th April** 1st vs Pagham ko 3 pm. Monday **7th April** U23's Cup Final at Lancing FC ko 7.30 pm. Saturday **12th April**: 1st vs Loxwood ko 3 pm. Monday **21st April** 1st vs Haywards Heath ko 11 am. *Pat Harding*

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KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB There is only one meeting of the Keymer Folk Dance Club on **7th April**. Like most clubs, this will include the annual AGM: but don't worry if you still want to come and join us as the AGM doesn't take very long.

As we meet on the first and third Monday's, the third Monday is Easter and we do not meet on Bank Holidays. The next meeting in May will be on **19th May**, as the first Monday in May is another Bank Holidays. Bank Holidays play havoc with our spring scheduling.

More details can be found at <https://keymer-folkdanceclub.co.uk/> or email keymerfdc@gmail.com. *Sean Goddard*

DITCHLING NEWCOMERS' PARTY: Saturday **12th April** 6.30 - 8.30 pm. Ditchling Village Association is pleased to invite new residents of Ditchling, Westmeston, Streat and St George's park to their annual Newcomers Party at Ditchling Village Hall. Open to anyone who is new to the area and hasn't been to a Newcomers' party before.

Drop in to meet other newbies and find out more about local clubs and societies. Light refreshments provided. Book a free ticket at www.ditchling.com or email newcomers@ditchling.com. *Neil*



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We thank Dave Evans for this photo taken in the 1950's of his best mates the late Eric Dancaster on the left who was in 43 Commando, was a Frogman and also served in the Suez Canal Conflict. On the right is George Gaston who served in the Royal Artillery.

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WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES A COLLECTOR COLLECT?

For the past few weeks of depressingly dismal rain, Michael has been busy reorganising his 'Museum', in preparation for the new season at Stoneywish. Every day he leaves the house with fat piles of pictures, files, books and whatnot loaded in his arms. He is gone for the day and when he returns, he has brought different piles of things back, all of which accumulate in the hall and then are reabsorbed into the secret repository of the 'archive' upstairs.

This traffic in goods in and out has its own arcane momentum and a logic which is known to Michael alone. Down in the Museum itself, an exhibition is gradually taking shape. "Does it have a title?" I ask, knowing that I have to describe what is gestating here. "Not really. It's bit of this and a bit of that. A Ditchling Hotch-Potch." Well, perhaps that *is* a title. Not a specialist one, but an authentic one. This is, after all, how villages and their histories *are* – how life is, before our editorial minds get to work on them.



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In reality there are multiple conflicting histories, each with its own perspective and narrative voice. We like making lists of things and popping them into categories, but the very act of organizing them, changes what they can tell us.

In our own lives, memories come alive as they touch other memories - hence the joy of reminiscing with friends. Photographs placed side by side, are like passengers on a bus, or strangers at a bar. They strike up unlikely conversations and who knows what new tales will ensue?

So, what can I tell you about the new exhibition? It gathers together reminders of people who have passed through this place and gives a voice to the things they made and the things they left behind. Their worlds have vanished, but the flints they fashioned, the pot-lids they threw away, the posters they printed survive, as do photographs, which capture them leaning on their gates, or driving their sheep, or making merry at the Fair. They stand demurely by their houses, or line up outside their shops, a little in awe of the camera. Their village looks a trifle drab in its sepia and black-and-white, and the cottages are sometimes dilapidated and the children a little ragged, but the green of the countryside lies on the doorstep, and there is also human colour - a spirit of independence, of knuckling-down and managing, and a spirit of fun, too, at every level of society. Here are farmers, craftsmen, soldiers and gentry from the early years of photography - celebrities from London - the hunt, the church choir, the fire brigade, all accompanied by snippets of gossip which bring their world to life.

Why does it matter to keep these memories warm? What benefit can it bring us in the maelstrom of modern living? Well, it seems that his-

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tory of the village gossip kind, may actually be good for us. Before we appropriate the past or sweep the last of it away, we might do well to pause and simply listen.

Tired of February's rain, I took off once more on my imaginary flying-carpet, and headed this time, thanks to a book by Philip Marsden, to the blue-skied Caucasus. In his travels through the region, the author met with many adventures; undertook illicit border crossings, walked through bandit country and forewent the luxuries of modern living, seeking the last traces of a vanished past. In remote valleys and in unpromising apartments, he found pockets of people who, after a whole century of re-education, collectivization, correction, electrification and globalisation, had turned their backs on politicians' promises and the industrial model and returned to the ways of their forebears. They comprised minorities and lone survivors of conflicts and persecutions dating back beyond memory. They had the weathered resilience of those who live dwarfed by their landscape – mountains, steppelands and wide marshes. They planted potatoes in their backyards and poached a little fish and told one another stories in the shade of their walnut trees. They kept treasured souvenirs of a world which had been all but erased – a past which was itself a relic of what had gone before. The thread linking these times together was their lifeline. In Georgia, Marsden came across evidence of what is known to gerontologists as a Blue Zone.

Here, though life was hard, people once lived to a great age: 110, 130, 169! The local doctor had no doubt about it. What was the secret of their

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extraordinary health? Was it yoghurt, or mountain water, or exercise? One relative of a man 120 years old explained: "He had no stress in his life. He did not know what stress was." Hardship did not kill people. Hurry did! To find the tempo of their ancestors' lives - a tempo which was set by the moon, the seed-time and harvest-time of crops, the rhythm of dance and song, the time it took to boil a pot or pour tea – this one simple act connected them to a common tap-root of existence and brought a sense of belonging and peace.

Well, Ditchling Beacon is not quite Mount Ararat but it has a voice nonetheless. And the walls of the houses here have heard a great many tales and the roads have been worn by a great many feet and to take time out of the rat-race, like those Old Believers, and step into a place where timeless things are valued and the welcome is warm and slow tales circulate freely, well, the charm of it might just make a postcard collector of any of us and do us all a power of good. Why not try it and see?

The Nature Reserve and the Museum at Stony-wish will be open every day from **1st April** till the end of September, 10 am to 4.30 pm. For further details please see our advert in this magazine. If you have questions about particular local people or places, please do ask us (tel: **01273 843498**). The information you seek may be squirreled away in Michael's archive!

Meanwhile, I have finished my book and returned to Sussex to find the sun shining and the primroses coming out. Soon there will be lambs... Time at last to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Rosemary

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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL -

Year 3 were treated to an interactive performance with The Rainbow Theatre group this month, bringing history to life in the most engaging way. They dressed in their finest robes and chitons, ready to face all the treats the Ancient Greek agora had to offer. The market place buzzed with excitement as they bartered for goods, just as the ancient Greeks once did. They competed with enthusiasm in the Olympic Games, cheering each other on in friendly rivalry, and took on the roles of legendary figures as they participated in retelling famous myths. It was an unforgettable day of learning, laughter, and adventure!

The children in Year 4 have been learning about the Titanic. They created their own versions of the Titanic and wrote persuasive adverts for it. They needed to think very carefully about their language choices so that customers bought tickets for a holiday of a lifetime. Following their wonderfully positive adverts, the children were thrilled to be able to flip their ideas on their head and write negative Trip Advisor reviews for the Titanic 2.0.

To enhance and bring alive their space topic, Year 5 visited the Science Museum. The day was jam-packed, and the children made the most of every minute. The 'Exploring Space' exhibition on the ground floor was a sight to behold and the children immediately got started on a treasure hunt, finding objects around the room. This



ranged from the giant Apollo II, to perhaps the strangest object, a 'space nappy'!

On Monday 25th February, the cleaners breathed a sigh of relief as endless slices of mouldy bread finally made their way to their final destination: the bin! As part of Year 6's science module 'Living Things', the children embarked on a fun, educational (and somewhat disgusting) experiment that delved deep into the world of fungi! Children were challenged to discover the optimum conditions to grow mould and were given two slices of bread to achieve this—one that needed to be perfectly preserved, and one that needed to be riddled with funky fungi! Students learned how various factors—such as light, temperature

and moisture would affect mould growth. It was a hands-on experience that sparked curiosity and discussion about the fascinating world of microorganisms.

Our talented Year 6 pupils recently took part in an Indoor Cricket Competition at The Triangle, showcasing their impressive skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the event. The team put on a fantastic performance,

winning all of their matches leading up to the final. In a nail-biting last game, they played with determination and heart, falling just a few runs short of victory. Despite the narrow loss, they remained incredibly supportive—not just of each other, but also of their opponents, demonstrating true sportsmanship and respect. We are very proud of their team spirit and positive attitude.

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BLUEBELL HUES Like many people, Bluebells are a blast of nostalgia for me. I remember woodland days out as a kid; clambering up trees and scrawling thrilling finds like 'Woodpigeon' in biro in soggy exercise books. Bluebell season always required a visit. There's not much like the all-encompassing violet thwack of Bluebells in ancient woodland. Sickly-sweet scent in your nostrils, the hues of the rich indigo carpet somehow also hanging in the air, and the understory buzzing with busy pollinators, who, just like you, are making the most of this abundant explosion. We love a limited edition, a special experience that we must make the most of. Like one-off characters in your cereal box, like happy hour, like Nightingales. And Bluebell fever is no different. Every April and May, Sussex woodlands erupt with millions of these vivid beauties, announcing that spring truly, finally, fabulously, has sprung. This early flowering provides a welcome bounty for struggling wildlife and allows Bluebells to make the most of the sunlight before the woodland canopy becomes too dense.

Like many of our native wildflowers, the British Bluebell is up against it. At risk from habitat loss of precious ancient woodland, and threatened by a changing climate, the plant is also in competition with an interloper; the Spanish Bluebell. A non-native species, the Spanish Bluebell tends to

outcompete its native counterpart for resources such as light and space. It can also hybridise with our native species, diluting the native Bluebell's characteristics. So how can you tell these two species apart?

The native Bluebell, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, has narrow leaves and tubular-bell shaped flowers of deep-violet blue which curl back at the edges. The flowers are generally down one side of the stem, which has a distinctive droop to it. The Spanish species, *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, has broader leaves and a paler blue, conical shaped flower. The stem is upright and covered with flowers on all sides. A big difference between the two is the Spanish has no scent, whilst the native Bluebell smells sweet.

The idea of plants 'escaping' your garden invokes notions of under-the-cover-of-darkness creeping, but it's easier than you think for non-native species to go astray. Uncovered cuttings and garden waste can easily blow into communal areas or can be carried by animals, to proliferate in new, wild areas. If choosing to plant Bluebells in your garden, it's best to choose the UK species for this reason. In a small way you could be supporting our native species to re-colonise our wild woodlands, and to keep them smelling sweet.

Kerry Williams

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY March was a busy month for the Film Society. Our monthly event was *Fallen Leaves*. Directed by Aki Kaurismäki. On 28th March we had a special evening; a screening of *White Mischief*, directed by Michael Radford, followed by Q&A with actor Greta Scacchi and novelist and critic Peter Guttridge.

This wonderful evening was arranged at very short notice. We are currently hoping to arrange a special event in May. Not fixed yet. Do join our mailing list to be sure of keeping informed of last minute events. Details below.

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

On **8th May** we are screening *Lee* (2023). This one week later than our normal night due to

County Council elections in the Village Hall.

Kate Winslet stars as Lee Miller – the fashion model turned war photographer for *British Vogue*. She bears witness to the terrible aftermath of WWII in her new role and even gets into Hitler's private flat and poses in his bath – a photo intended to shock.

She battles against prejudice as a woman war photographer and also against the repression of her confronting images in post war Britain.

Lee Miller lived in Sussex with her husband, Roland Penrose, an artist and art critic.

Directed by Ellen Kuras. English.

For more information go to our website, **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 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 April. The Ditchling Film Society.

Kate

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THE BOOK LOVERS' SUPPER CLUB is proud to present authors Emily Howes and Sophie Haydock in conversation at the Hassocks Hotel on Wednesday **23rd April**. Emily and Sophie will be discussing their writing, and the price women pay for love.

Emily is author of *The Painter's Daughters*, which was selected for the BBC Radio 2 Book Club and won the Myslexia novel competition, judged by Hilary Mantel amongst others. A debut novel, it is the story of the two daughters of the portrait painter Thomas Gainsborough and their struggle with insanity, and is inspired by true events.

Sophie's first novelisation was *The Flames*, about the controversial Viennese artist Egon Schiele, which was named by *The Times* as one of the best historical fiction books of 2022. Just about to be published is her second novel, *Madame Matisse*, about three women whose

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lives are set on a collision course when they meet the enigmatic artist Henri Matisse. Drama, betrayal and tragedy all feature amongst the glamorous hotbed of the 1930s art movement in France.

Our hot meal this time is a delicious vegetarian lasagne and salad (if you have any dietary issues, please contact me on the email below). Also, if you're in a group of four or more and wish to sit together, please let me know.

Following the event you can meet the authors who will sign their books, on sale from the wonderful Steyning Bookshop.

Please keep in touch with more information about this and future events on Facebook **www.facebook.com/BookLoversSupperClub**

Doors open 6.45 pm, The Function Room at the Hassocks Hotel side entrance. Parking available.

Melanie Whitehouse

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Breaded Plaice	Chicken Tikka Masala	Macaroni Cheese (v)
Battered Cod		
Breaded Scampi		

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Steak & Ale Pie chunky chips & peas

Chicken Tikka Masala rice, salad & garlic bread

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HALLS FOR HIRE

If you wish to advertise a hall for hire please e-mail the details to info@villagemagazines.co.uk

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@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.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 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 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.ditchlingvillage-hall.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@hurstpierpointscouts.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

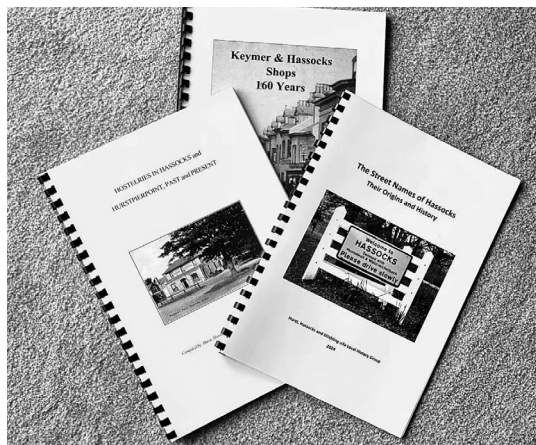
Hurstpierpoint Guide HQ - Kitchen and carpeted hall and lovely enclosed garden call Judy Leech on 01273 833954.

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.



DID YOU KNOW THAT THE U3A LOCAL HISTORY GROUP HAS PUBLISHED THREE BOOKS IN RECENT YEARS? All the result of hard work and a lot of research! They are available at QD STATIONERY in Hassocks.

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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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PARISH COUNCILS

Hassocks

01273 842714

www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk

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

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common

01273 833264

www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

Mon.- Fri. 9.30am - 1pm.

Ditchling

01273 844733

www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk

DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON

Sayers Common Community Shop, London Road, Sayers Common

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

Bowling Club, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint

Court Bushes Community Hub, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint

Fairfield Recreation Ground, Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint

DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling Church, Streat Church and Westmeston Church

HASSOCKS & 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 April

Clubs, Societies & Groups please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section. Email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or send to **QD Stationery 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR.**
For more information call **01273 846978.**

Regular Clubs Meets

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 - 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 - Monday/Tuesday 2 - 4 pm at Adastra Hall. Roll up to play.

HASSOCKS YOUTH GROUP The Green Room, Adastra Hall, Hassocks. Thursdays 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 - Monday online and Tuesdays Age Concern Hassocks. See www.hsobcbridgeclub.co.uk

HUG IN A MUG - A coffee (and cake!) morning for all. Monday 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 Mon., 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. 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)

HASSOCKS TABLE TENNIS Monday & Thursday 2 - 4 pm Adastra Hall. Roll up to play.

SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD Clayton Village Hall, Thurs. 7 - 9 pm. Beginners to Advanced 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

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 Thursdays at 6.45 pm. More info 01273 843390.

Church Services

BEACON PARISH SERVICES Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **6th** (Little Beacons) & **27th** (Family Service).

HOLY WEEK, all in St. Margaret's, **15th** The Way of the Cross 6 pm. **16th** Wednesday @ 10 Holy Communion. **17th** Maundy Thursday. Passover Celebration 6 pm. **18th** Good Friday. Worship at the foot of the Cross 11 am. **20th** Easter Day Celebration 10 am with Easter Egg hunt. More info www.beaconparish.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

Dated Events

1st 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.

1st DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'The Secret Life of the Honey Bee' Stuart Corner.

1st 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.

2nd THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

2nd UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

2nd BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm.

www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com. 'Travels in Borneo' Ray Hale. All welcome.

3rd DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 'La Chimera'. Tickets available on the door - see article.

3rd 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.

5th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Pagham. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

5th THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling 12.30 - 2 pm. Souper Saturday with delicious homemade soup, bread & cakes. All welcome.

5th COELIAC GROUP South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road, Hassocks 9 am - 11am. 'Brunch and Chat'. All welcome.

6th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 - 5 pm. Open Afternoon where the mill is open to visitors.

6th HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

7th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

7th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'Almost' Death in Paradise. Neil Sadler. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

7th THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, 7.30 pm. AGM, Club Members calling the dances. Visitors most welcome.

8th - 12th HURST PLAYERS PLAYERS Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint, various performances. 'Witness For The Prosecution' Agatha Christies's courtroom Drama. Tickets www.hurstplayers.org.uk.

8th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Creating Biodiverse Gardens' An illustrated talk Peter McGarr. All welcome.

9th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Drop in all welcome.

9th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 8 pm. 'Morganway' For more info and tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

10th, 17th & 24th BEFRIENDED 7 pm. a Free 3 week course. 'Compassionate Conversations' looking at loss in life through conversation. More info and to find the venue email office@befriended.org. www.befriended.org.

10th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email mo.delaine@btinternet.com

10th MID SUSSEX PLAY DAYS St Johns Park Burgess Hill 1 pm to 3 pm. Free event aimed for children 10 and under. More info www.midsussex.gov.uk/playdays.

11th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Spring Surplus Equipment Sale' Hot Food & Refreshments available. All welcome.

11th BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY ASSOC. Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. Talk 'Anglo Saxon Artefacts found in Sussex over the centuries'

12th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

12th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexboxter66@yahoo.co.uk.

12th 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.

12th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Loxwood. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

12th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 6.30 to 8.30 pm. 'Newcomers Party' for the new residents of Ditch-

ling, Westmeston, Streat & St George's Park. For free tickets visit www.ditchling.com.

13th THE BEACON PARISH meet Vicarage, Charlton Gardens 10 am. Palm Sunday Procession to St Margarets Church followed by Church Service and Holy Communion. All welcome.

14th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thegroup.org.uk.

16th HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint 5.45 pm. 'Free Bowling Tuition' equipment supplied just wear flat shoes.

16th 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.

17th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning run by Ditchling Horticultural Society. All welcome.

19th HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint 10.15 am. 'Free Bowling Tuition' equipment supplied just wear flat shoes.

20th 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.

20th 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.

21st HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 11 am. (Mens) The Robins take on Haywards Heath. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

23rd HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint 5.45 pm. 'Free Bowling Tuition' equipment supplied just wear flat shoes.

24th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HAS-SOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

24th 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.bereavement-care.uk.

25th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'Love & War' Martin Allen, preceded by 15 minute AGM. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

25th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'Going In Style'. Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door.

25th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Construction Contest' Refreshments available. All welcome.

25th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm 'Children & the Poor Laws in 19th Century Sussex' Dr Mary Rudling. All welcome more info hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com.

26th HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint 10.15 am. 'Free Bowling Tuition' equipment supplied just wear flat shoes.

26th 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.

26th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce,

bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

26th 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.

26th BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. Schubert Mass No6 in E Flat, Mozart Ave Verum and Haydn Symphony no 100 'The Military'. Tickets 07522 493966. See article for info.

27th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 7.30 pm. 'Roddy Woomble (from Idlewild)' For more info and tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

28th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

28th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Qigong' breathing, movement & meditation to improve health and wellbeing. Visitors welcome.

29th 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.

29th POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 11 am - 1 pm. Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.

30th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm AGM and member demo. Visitors welcome.

30th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 7.30 pm. 'Mark Eitzel' For more info and tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

DID YOU KNOW ??

You can now read the
Hassocks Talk About inc Village Voice online?
www.villagemagazines.co.uk



GILES TURNER

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Who is on your team?

By the time this magazine lands on your doorstep we will have received the news from the Chancellor's Spring Statement. Before the statement there is a great deal of speculation about the possible changes that will be made - no one can be certain of the outcome until it has been delivered on the 26th March.

Who do you have on your team to help navigate through all of the possible changes in legislation? Who makes sure that your planning is flexible and stays on track?

Is it worth being an ISA early bird?

The start of the tax year brings with it the renewal of a range of different tax allowances and exemptions. If you have been funding a Stock and Share ISA in the past and are looking to do so again this tax year, it is worth considering the timing of this contribution. Generally speaking, the earlier you use your ISA allowance in the tax year, the more opportunity there is to save tax. Who do you have helping you to make sure this is done every year to maximise the tax efficiency in your planning?

These are just two examples of ways in which an Independent Financial Adviser can help drive your planning towards your financial goals.

If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch.

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



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Please note that the value of your investment, along with any income derived from it, can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

David J Stevens

Property Maintenance

Feel free to contact me

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I have to be honest there does seem to be a distinct lack of common sense in the world today. I know people need somewhere to live and hand on heart if I had a lump of land or a field and someone offered me life changing money for it to build houses on, I would be hard pushed to turn it down. I understand greed which is what drives everything these days, I wish it didn't, but it does, trouble is the knock on effect to all these new houses effects each and every one of us even me.

The other night when I got home from the shop, I went upstairs to change, took my socks off and the toe right next to my big toe was very swollen and red. OK, I thought don't tell the wife, slap a bit of Savlon on it and it'll be fine, don't make a fuss she'll only worry. The next night did the same thing, but now I had a large red area around my ankle, same slap some Savlon on it and don't show the wife. Now, I have to be honest I am Mr Varicose Veins, inherited from my mother I was told by the family doctor many years ago. I can remember when I was a teenager one hot summer, I was out enjoying myself wearing shorts and a T-shirt, when someone in the group of people I was with said 'what's wrong with your legs, why have you got those funny veins?' That evening when I got home I took off my shorts and threw them in the bin, and that was the last time I have ever worn a pair of shorts. Strange isn't it how just one sentence somebody says can affect you for the rest of your life. So now I'm thinking is that red area on my ankle the start of an ulcer. Then the next evening after I'd slapped Savlon on my toe and ankle, I noticed this rash on my back, that's new I thought, OK, more Savlon, but this time had a little problem reaching it. Someone once told me that when you reach your 70s you start entering sniper alley, I just hope that God is a lousy shot. Sadly, the Savlon wasn't the miracle cure I'd hoped it was going to be, so I gave in and showed the wife who shouted lots of things at me, but the one I understood was go to the doctors. Now I haven't seen a doctor for about 20 years, I did phone for an appointment but was told it was easier to do it online, so I walked around to the Health Centre for someone to help, and these two very lovely ladies told me what to do, and gave me a leaflet on how to make an appointment online, and sent me on my way. When I got back to the shop, I gave the leaflet to Nola, the wife and she ticked all the boxes to get an appointment. Several hours later the phone rang and the gentleman on the other end said, I could have appointment in two weeks' time, blimey I thought I remember on occasions I did want to see the Doctor it was normally next day. I'm told 2 weeks isn't bad, that's a matter of opinion, but in the meantime I upgraded the Savlon onto Sudocrem. I'll let you know the outcome, but with all these new homes brings not just more traffic, more pollution and too long waiting times to see a doctor.

I've now got the plans and pictures about what is proposed for across the road at National Tyres, you should be able to view them online, if not come in and have a look, your opinion will be welcomed.

A bit of good news is that the Eton Town proposed for Plumpton and area has been put on hold and won't be happening in the near future. A lot of people will be very relieved about that, but have you seen what they want to do at Wivelsfield Green. If you get a chance look online and see the massive area, they want to fill with houses it's crazy, we won't be able to move, everything will be gridlocked.

Ditchling is a nightmare now and hasn't escaped, South Downs Planning have put forward that a property in East End Lane would like 5 houses built in their garden which I saw on the Ditchling Parish Council Facebook page.

I'm very glad I'm the age I am you don't need a crystal ball to see what's going to happen in the not-too-distant future, anyway I'm off to the doctors now wish me luck.

Horsey people take note Bedmax £8.95 • Burly Bed £8.95 • Ivermectin Horse Wormer £6.50 • Aubiose £11.50.

That's what you call bargains. Love you all, Steve xx

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392