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We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this picture of Will Medhurst who was Head Carter to Sidney Hole from Albourne Farm. Will was in his 70's in this picture and leading horses Blossom and Violet to work. He was a superb Ploughman who won so many prizes. He lived in the cottages by the Old Kings Head pub now Softech.

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DITCHLING MORRIS – CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF TRADITION AND COMMUNITY Founded in 1985 by David and Janet Cragg, along with Ann and John Bacon, Ditchling Morris was established as an all-inclusive “Side”.

Our repertoire is rich with dances from Cotswold villages, accompanied by an array of instruments that are squeezed, plucked, bowed, blown or banged!

Our dancing out season begins soon – Thursday **1st May** at 5 am when we will be ‘dancing up the sun’ on Lodge Hill in Ditchling. It’s an early start but do come along and support us – it’s well worth the effort to watch the sun rise!

There will be more village-based anniversary celebrations during the year – most notably for the Summer Solstice on Saturday **21st June**. Please make a date in your diary – more details will be given in the next edition of the Talk About.

Our aim is always to have fun while keeping the country’s amazing & unique heritage of local and national customs and traditions alive through dancing at local, national and international events and to pass this on to the next generation.

We are proud to be part of Ditchling’s’ traditional heritage and we hope we can share this with our community through the coming year.

Squire

BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY On Wednesday **7th May**, guest speaker, Jacqueline Aviolet will be talking about ‘Hardy Geraniums – their history and propagation’. Talk commences 7.45 pm in the Cyprus Hall, (doors open 7.15 pm)

Admission to BHHS members free, small charge for visitors.

www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com or phone **01444 245509**. *Flo*

THE GROWING NETWORK will be in Hassocks this month at the village market.

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

We’d love to meet you whether you’re a veteran gardener or would-be grower of vegetables and if you’d like to find others to help you get started on your gardening journey. You don’t even need to have your own garden, as there are some of us that like to collaborate by growing with others.

Come along and see what we’re up to and help yourself to the seedlings and plants on offer.

Saturday **24th May** 9 am to 12 pm.

Hassocks Village Market, Dale Avenue Car Park (by Age Concern)

Feel free to bring any seedlings to share. Or just bring yourself!

Catherine, Imke & Julie

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HASSOCKS GOES GOLD RETURNS

Another fabulous month of GOLD fundraising is coming this September. This year's Gold theme is GOLDFISH! Be they ornate and elegant or fairground and fun, your pictures of these wonderful golden creatures will be brightening up the village and helping to raise money for the newly named Children & Young People's Cancer Association.

The PearlPower fund now stands at over £125K and I'm super proud to announce that we've now funded our third research project, this time into Ewing's Sarcoma - the very type of childhood cancer that cut Pearl's life so tragically short aged just 10.

Everyone is welcome to join in the annual drawing competition for the GOLD poster – open to ALL AGES! Adults included too – don't be shy there's never enough entries from adults!! Draw your very own GOLDFISH or colour in the pre-printed one on the entry form.... It's completely free to enter and in September the winners from each age category will receive fabulous prizes and be featured on the Hassocks Goes Gold poster!

Plus, ALL entries will be included in the annual Parklands Road Art Gallery.

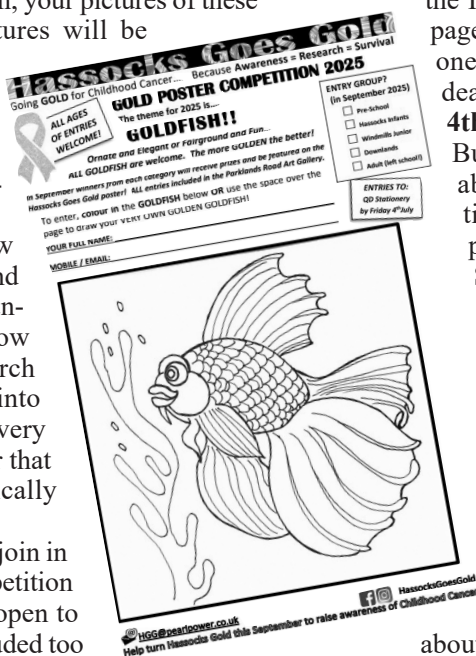
Free entry forms are available to download on the Hassocks Goes Gold Facebook page, via Hassocks' schools or pick one up from QD Stationers! The deadline for entries is Friday the 4th July.

But of course, it's never just about the poster! The competition is on to grow the tallest / prettiest Sunflower and in September the sponsored trail of Giant Gold Bows will be back, along with the ever-popular daily FaceBook auctions, our Craft, Facepainting and Tombola stalls at the village markets, as well as the Golden Gala finale extravaganza on Friday the 26th September.

September in Hassocks is all about GOLD, it's all

about raising awareness and the research funds desperately needed to find kinder and more effective treatments for the childhood cancers with such poor outcomes, it's all about Community Fun and this year it's all about GOLDFISH! More info please email HGG@pearlpower.co.uk.

Rachel BartlettBundy



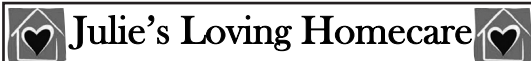
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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

Our first two Sunday services of Morning Worship with Holy Communion in May will be held in St. Margarets, Ditchling at 10 am on **4th and 11th May**. There will be a session for Little Beacons, offering craft and other activities for our youngest visitors on both dates. The children always have a lovely time and produce some beautiful things to show us and then take home with them. The service on **4th May** will be followed, at about 11.15 am, by our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which sees the election of churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council and a review of the past year in the parish.

On Thursday **8th May**, VE Day 80th Anniversary, we will be gathering at the Ditchling War Memorial at 10.45 am to remember those who died in WWII. Please come and join us.

On Sunday **18th May** our service will be at Streat Church at 10 am and everyone is very welcome to join us then and on Sunday **25th May**, when we'll be back in St. Margaret's for our popular All Age Family Service.

Our weekly Wednesday @ 10 services of Holy Communion continue, this month in a temporary venue at The Emmanuel Centre in South Street, Ditchling where you'll find us also on Wednesday **7th May** at 6 pm for our monthly SING! session where we enjoy learning some new songs and revisiting old favourites.

Please note that we expect St. Margaret's Church to be closed during the week ending May due to building work taking place there.

Further details of this and any changes to our services will be posted on our parish website at **www.beaconparish.co.uk/** We look forward to seeing you and any friends and visitors soon.

Sherrian Guest

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BEFRIENDED CHOIR UPDATE The Befriended Community Choir in Hurstpierpoint will continue after Easter on Tuesday afternoons 2 pm to 3.30 pm, but we will now meet in Holy Trinity Church instead of the Village Centre. This means we can meet every Tuesday without having to work around another group which uses the room at the Village Centre some Tuesday afternoons. However, we will continue to be term times only. So, for the May issue please put the choir in the diary for every Tuesday **except 27th May**, because that is half term. And remember to change the venue.

Susan

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Our April talk will be on Friday **30th May** 7:30 pm "The Museum of Gardening in Hassocks". A talk about the fascinating history of gardening as told through the museum's varied displays of horticultural tools and ephemera. The speaker is the curator Clive Gravett. Location, Guide HQ, SE corner of Trinity Road Long Stay Car park, Hurstpierpoint. Small charge for Non Members. All welcome. For further details please email

hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com. Mrs J Simmons

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FRI. 9TH MAY - 5PM

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FRI. 16TH MAY - 5PM

HUMMUS CLUB POP UP



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HAPPY GO SOUVLAKI POP UP



SUNDAY 4TH MAY 8PM



FRIDAY 9TH MAY 8PM



FRIDAY 16TH MAY 7:30PM



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

Firstly many thanks to the shops which hung up the knicker bunting in their windows, raising awareness of ovarian cancer during March and an especial thank you to Lauren and the staff at freedom leisure who not only hung up the bunting, but also ran a coffee morning and persuaded gym goers to donate new knickers for charity. I am currently accessing the charities as recipients and will update later.

Our April meeting was 'Qigong' using exercise to optimise energy within the body, mind and spirit.

During April Hassocks WI tested the water at Woodlands Road in conjunction with WaterBlitz/Earth watch citizen science and hopefully with the help of Greener Hassocks and Ditchling we can carry out water testing in different parts of Hassocks too.

For **19th May** meeting we will have an interactive session called 'Manners Please' intrigued

so am I, come along for a sociable friendly evening with cake (visitor donation).

Which reminds me April means our annual subs are due, I must pay mine. Smile we have longer days and lighter evenings to enjoy. *Gerry*

FRIENDS OF WOLSTONBURY We are a small group of people who all enjoy the beauty and quiet of Wolstonbury Hill. We work on conservation tasks on Wolstonbury twice a month to keep the meadows, footpaths and bridleways clear to enable the plants and wildlife to flourish, including many different types of orchid.

We are holding our AGM at Hurspierpoint Village Centre on Wednesday **21st May** at 7.30 pm and our guest speaker will be Chris Horner. He will give a talk on The History of Devils Dyke. More details on www.Wolstonbury.com.

Margaret Maillardet

**Deadline for the June 2025 issue
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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - DITCH- LING & 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 Me-
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Abervagenny will be joining us.

The names from WW2 on the War Memorial will
be read out and wreaths will be laid.

On Sunday **11th May** in Westmeston Parish Hall
at 2.30 pm we will be holding a VE Day 80 cele-
bration with afternoon teas, outdoor games for
children (and adults) plus beer tent. Susan Fleet
will entertain us with songs of the time.

Please come along and join us for an afternoon
when we look back at how our parents and grand-
parents celebrated the end of the war in Europe
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For tickets or if you require any further informa-
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Margaret Bovill

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THE DOWAGER LADY CRABTREE INVITES YOU TO JOIN HER FOR A GLASS OF FIZZ AND AFTERNOON TEA on Wednesday **21st May** from 2.30 pm till 4.30 pm in the Great Hall, Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint BN6 9BB. Bring your friends to this NSPCC fundraiser to hear her Ladyship's reflections on 'The Joys of Growing Old Disgracefully'. Tickets available from Charlotte Grace Casuals, 40 High Street, Hurstpierpoint. Email Belinda at **b.toop@yahoo.co.uk** for more information.

Jonet Marshall

A TALK ON THE WILDLIFE OF SUSSEX BY MICHAEL BLENOWE The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, a volunteer organisation dedicated to protecting local countryside and wildlife, invite you to a talk by the naturalist, author and wildlife guide, Michael Blencowe.

It will take place on Friday, **30th May** at 7.30 pm in the Main Hall at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY.

The diverse habitats of our southern county support a wide range of amazing species. Michael takes you on a guided tour from the rock pools, through the woodlands and up to the South Downs, meeting some amazing wildlife on the way.

We try to hold talks given by very knowledgeable speakers who can provide valuable information about nature and wildlife. These opportunities don't come very often so please join us to hear his talk. It will immediately follow a brief introduction by The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, the organisers of the evening, who use these events with



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leading naturalists to generate any donations people can spare to support our nature conservation work around Mid Sussex and adjacent villages. The natural world is struggling to survive and needs all the help it can get, so any help received is invaluable.

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

HURST PLAYERS From the world famous Agatha Christie "how did they do it" "Witness for the Prosecution" which played to full houses at the Players Theatre early in April, Hurst Players now move onto a play that is not quite world famous, but engaging and funny – a comedy all about a dog – played by an actress!

"Sylvia" by A.R. Gurney to be directed by Annette Squire is now in rehearsal, with performances at The Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint on **8th, 9th, 10th 11th and 12th July**. "Sylvia" is a stray dog, found in a New York City park and adopted by a local couple. Tickets will be available to book online in June.

Meanwhile, the Players invite everyone who loves Sixties music and song to join them for a fundraiser at the Theatre on Saturday **24th May** at 7.30 pm.

Tickets available online now via the Players website: **www.hurstplayers.org.uk**. The New Fox-trot Serenaders Show Band presents "Swinging the Sixties". We're warning the neighbours and as this is our major fund-raiser for the Theatre this year, we hope for a full-house!

Anne Hopper

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VIVACE! SUMMER CONCERT The Ditchling-based Vivace! Choir will return to Danny House, Hurstpierpoint for another summer medley of music for everyone on **4th June**. The concert begins at 7.30 pm and tickets include a glass of wine. Space is limited so please order in advance from janepem@hotmail.co.uk or by calling **07853 142894**.

Vivace! is always on the look-out for potential new singers, so if you think you might be interested, why not come along to the concert to hear how we sound? Or email us at info@vivacechoirsussex.org.uk. *Richard Ware*

JUMBLE TRAIL Join Hurst Rethink for the Hurst Jumble Trail on Sunday **4th May** and other events! Hurst Rethink, the sustainability group for Hurstpierpoint, has 3 events in May for the community to get involved in. First up is a Waste Prevention talk on Thursday **1st May** at 7.30 pm in the back room of the New Inn. We have Jean Franklin, Waste & Recycling Advisor at West Sussex County Council giving us the latest news on what happens to our waste and recycling. This talk is FREE and all are welcome to come and hear Jean talk - and to ask her your recycling questions.

Following hot on its heels is our annual Hurst Jumble

Trail on Sunday **4th May** 10 am to 2 pm. As many say, one (wo)man's waste is another (wo)man's treasure and this is your chance to grab a bargain whilst getting out and about and meeting your community. Many addresses across the village will have a stall outside their homes with household items, clothes and much more up for sale. Most money raised goes to various charities and this annual event is a lot more fun than a tip run! We are displaying posters with a map of the addresses across Hurstpierpoint and you can download a copy of the map from www.hurstrethink.org.

Finally, on Saturday **17th May** we are hosting our first ever Lichen walk with local lichen expert Sim Elliott of the Lost Woods Project. Lichens are fascinating organisms, made up of two or more different organisms, a fungus and an algae and/or cyanobacteria. These exist in a mutually beneficial relationship called symbiosis and are very much overlooked by most of us humans. We hope to rectify this on our walk where we will search out and identify common lichens found in our woodlands. The walk will take place in Butcher's Wood in Hassocks from 10 am and will last approximately 2 to 2.5 hours. More details can be found on our website, or you can email hurstrethink@gmail.com for more information.

We hope to see you at one of our events! *Charlotte*



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Facebook – Age Concern Hassocks

We had a busy April here at Age Concern. We celebrated Easter with a fantastic raffle, offering some great prizes and an Easter quiz. There were outings to Holmbush Shopping Centre and Hilliers Garden Centre and we welcomed guest speakers from Co-op Estate Planning and Community Energy Pathways, who gave some great advice and support to our members. To top it all, we were fortunate to have Hassocks Ladies Singers perform for us one morning.

As well as providing home cooked lunches, we offer a range of activities at the Centre including table tennis, yoga, Pilates, as well as art. Our Tuesday art session, which runs from 10 am to 1 pm, is welcoming new members of all abilities to join them for a creative and sociable couple of hours. Bring along your art equipment and work on your own project.

We are already planning our annual summer fair for Saturday **5th July** 10 am to 2 pm and would love to hear from any crafters or traders who would like to book a table or two to sell their produce/goods. Our fairs are extremely popular and an important way to raise much needed funds for our charity, so please contact Nina on the above number, email nina.hawes@achassocks.co.uk. This month we will be celebrating Victory in Europe (VE) Day with our members on **8th May**.

All are welcome to join us. We also have an outing planned to Wakehurst Place on **16th May**, to meet a local expert to learn about 'Bees and Trees' and JJ Fashions will be in the Centre on Tuesday **20th May** with their 'Fashion for the over 50's'.

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

All at Age Concern.

BEE SWARMS We have had an horrendous winter with many bees not surviving, so every swarm is precious to us, Very soon, surviving hives of bees will be getting crowded, and the bees may decide half of them will leave- taking their queen - and look for a new home.

Yes, A SWARM. They are not dangerous, just go indoors and enjoy the spectacle!

Leave them to settle, call us and we will come and remove them - giving them a new safe home. We don't charge (though you may get a 15 minute talk on how wonderful bees are whilst we wait for them to settle)

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.

Heather McNiven **07792 551413 / 01825 722066**
Ken Isted **07970 635034 / 01273 842458.**

Heather

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THE COUNTDOWN IS OFFICIALLY ON less than 50 days until the start of Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club's incredible 308th season and we are wanting more people from across our wonderful village to come along and see what we offer down at the Fairfield Recreation Ground, on the northern edge of the village and Berrylands Farm, in the heart of Sayers Common. At Hurstpierpoint CC, people are the heartbeat of everything we do. Our community thrives on bringing in fresh faces, ideas, and enthusiasm. Whether you're 6 or 70, there's a place for you here; bound by a love of sport, laughter, and, of course, indulging in a slice of cake during the interval!

We're making it easier than ever for newcomers to discover what we offer. Whether you're here for the cricket, the camaraderie, the BBQs or just a welcoming family-friendly environment, this club has been life-changing for many—including me!

This year promises to be exhilarating, with Fairfield Rec buzzing almost daily. We offer a variety of formats to cater to everyone: boys, girls, men, and women alike. New members are supported every step of the way—whether it's loaning equipment, deferring subscriptions, or giving access to our fantastic club app. Joining has never been easier!

We're your village club, ready to welcome you with open arms. So, why wait? Get involved this season, come along to training, play matches, meet the teams,



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Tony

JOIN 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT'S CHALLENGE OF THE YEAR!

4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is preparing for its biggest fundraising event of the year, its annual Walk on the Angmering Park Estate in West Sussex on Saturday **14th June** at 10 am. It's a fantastic day out and all funds raised will help the charity's work providing support and specialist information to West Sussex residents who are blind or partially sighted.

This year there is no registration fee, and the stakes have been raised to a single 10 mile challenge. 4SVS is calling for as many participants as possible: this may be the last year the Walk is held in its current form so it's a great chance to visit some beautiful countryside in an area which is not usually open to the public. Participants living with sight loss are very welcome: guides can be provided if required and 4SVS may be able to help with transport – please call or email for details, and for other accessibility information. Dogs are welcome but must be kept on leads at all times, and refreshments will be provided during and after the Walk. 4Sight Vision Support is asking participants to pledge a minimum of £25 through sponsorship or donation. Please call or email to reserve a place, or if you have any other questions, **01243 838001** or fundraising@4sight.org.uk. The Fundraising Team can also provide support with setting up an online fundraising page.

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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HAWTHORN VETS IS COMING TO HAS-SOCKS!

We're very excited to announce that Hawthorn Vets are opening a third branch in the village of Hassocks in Summer 2025, adding to our existing practices in Henfield and Partridge Green. Hawthorn vets is independent, and family owned with an excellent local reputation- as reflected in our 5 star google reviews.

We've taken the opportunity to acquire the building (that was originally occupied by Ark Vets under corporate ownership) at 44B Keymer Road. The site had been vacant for some time and had fallen into disrepair. This has given us the opportunity to completely refurbish the site, install brand new equipment and alter the internal layout to improve its function as a veterinary practice. We're looking forward to providing to the people and pets of Hassocks and local area the exceptional veterinary care that existing clients of Hawthorn Vets know and trust.

The new practice will be fully equipped to provide a complete veterinary service. The facilities will include: Operating theatre with full surgical facilities. Diagnostic equipment including X-ray and Ultrasound. Dental facilities including dental X-ray. In house laboratory to allow blood and urine results on the same day. Separate Dog and Cat wards and waiting areas.

Clients of the Hassocks branch will also benefit from our existing services such as: Practice Health Plan for discounts on products and services, including unlimited consultations. Discount Home Visit Service if you or your pet struggle to come to us, we can come to you! Keyhole Surgery (Laparoscopy). Dedicated App for appointment booking and reminders.

Our opening hours will be 8.30 am – 6 pm Mon-

day to Friday and 8.30 am to 12 pm on Saturdays.

We very much look forward to becoming part of the Hassocks community and will continue to provide updates over the coming weeks. If you are interested in following developments you can follow us on Facebook, or sign up to our newsletter for updates – see our website www.hawthorvets.co.uk for more details.

We're offering discounts to anyone who registers their pet before we open!

The first 100 new clients to register will receive a 50% discount off their first consultation, all others will receive a 10% discount. To register is simple – just scan the QR code, register on our website or call us. Quote the reference HAS-SOCKS to obtain the discount which will be applied to your first visit at any of our practices – even if this is before we open the Hassocks branch.

Terms and Conditions: Discount applicable on consultation fees only and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offer expires **30th June 2026**.

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DITCHLING DOWNS WI In March we were very fortunate to have Andy Thomas come to us to talk about Lewes Bonfire Night. He started by giving us a brief history of Lewes including how the Protestant martyrs of the time of Queen Mary have been incorporated into Bonfire Night in Lewes. In the 1800s the evolution of the societies started - there are 7 societies - Borough, Cliffe, Commercial Square, Neville Hub, South street, Southover and Waterloo but only 6 displays on the night as Neville Hub do it the week before. About 50,000 visitors come in addition to about 17,000 residents. The societies raise money for charities and the visitors contribute to that and for this reason they don't want the visitors to be stopped from coming. He told us of the origins of many more Bonfire night traditions - for example the burning of 17 crosses - one for each martyr burnt at the stake, and he also emphasised that there is no anti catholicism meant by the "No Popery" banner and the burning of the effigy of Pope Paul 5th - it should always be taken in the historical context of no invasion by a foreign power. He finished by commenting how wonderful the town is at cleaning up overnight - they do it so well that you would never know it had taken place!

In April we had a talk on "The Curious and Secret Life of the Honey Bee" by Stuart Corner. We learnt about the origins of the bee - before humans - which came about because of a need for faster pollination, the benefits of honey - anti bacterial, anti viral and anti inflammatory and apparently it can also help with hay fever and other allergies as long as the honey you use is

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made from the same pollen that you are allergic too. We also need to be wary of fake or adulterated honey. Apparently if we look for single country origin rather than a mix from various countries it is more likely to be real. Adulterated honey is usually mixed with corn syrup. We then learned about why honey bees swarm - it is truly incredible that the thousands of bees decide to do so at a particular time of year - usually April to June. And how do they communicate with each other that they're going to do it? We were treated to information on the famous waggle dance and then we ran out of time! There was so much more that Stuart could have told us.....

Our AGM is at the May meeting on Tuesday **6th May**. The AGM business will take place after our regular talk which this time is on the East Sussex Land Girls. *Susanne Pryde*

CRAFT FAIR in Hurstpierpoint: There are still spaces at the Craft fair in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on **19th July** in support of Heber Opera. Stalls available and tables are provided; we also have a fantastic selection of homemade refreshments all day. To book a stall email **jenny@heberopera.co.uk** or call **07770 962811**. If you're not a crafter we'd love to see you so put the date in your diary! *Jenny Hawkes*

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

By the time you read this rehearsals for our Spring production 'Murder in Play' by Simon Brett, will be reaching the final stages, lines will have been learnt (fingers crossed) the set will be due to go up and the necessary props acquired. All that we need to do is find out who among our cast is the murderer could it be the director Boris Smolensky or his long-suffering stage manager Pat. Then, of course, there's Boris's wife, Christa or her archrival Sophie and is Ginette, Boris's current mistress, completely innocent. To add to this mix there's Tim, Ginette's ex-boyfriend and that old Shakespearean ham, Harrison. 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.

So, if you think you can spot a murderer why not come along to the Ditchling Village Hall to test your skills!

Just a reminder that for this production we will be reverting to four evening performances with

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Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased either in person at The White Horse, Ditchling (from 11 am on Thursdays and Fridays) or on-line (a booking fee applies) via our website – **www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk**. Curtain up for the evening performances is 7.30 pm (Doors open at 7 pm).

We look forward to seeing you there.

David Tetttersell

HEBER OPERA PRESENTS KING FOR A DAY (Un Giorno di Regno) in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on Sunday **25th May** at 6 pm. Other performances are in Lindfield (**17th May**), Uckfield (**18th May**) and Steyning (**24th May**). This is a comedy opera by Guiseppe Verdi, sung in English and performed in the round. It is a story of assumed identities, thwarted love and comedy but all ends happily!

Tickets from **www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberoopera** or by calling **07867 975967** between 9 am and 5 pm.

Jenny Hawkes



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CHAILEY CLASSIC & VINTAGE TRACTOR CLUB is a local group of enthusiasts actively involved in social engagements revolving around vintage tractors and machinery. Recent activities have



included an excursion into Northern France sailing from Newhaven to Dieppe on vintage tractors and the club has recently been profiled at Christmas on BBC's Celebrity Escape to the Country.

The club's designated charity is St Peter & St

James Hospice (Wivelsfield Green) and during the club's spring tractor run on Saturday 22nd March presented a cheque to the Hospice in the sum of £1500.00 from money raised via charitable initiatives over the previous year, including money raised in co-operation with The Sloop Inn, organised by Kate Hawes.

CTC Chairman, Howard Venters said "We are de-

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lighted to make this presentation to the Hospice on behalf of the Club. The Hospice do a wonderful job in the face of ever rising costs and we hope this contribution will at least go some way to helping and contributing to the ever-increasing costs of running such an important operation so vital to many people within our community."

Chailey Tractor Club remains active with seasonal tractor runs and social events throughout the year and can be contacted via their website www.chaileytractorclub.org or on social media (www.facebook.com/chaileytractorclub). Liz

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

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24TH ARTS COMPETITION SUCCESS

Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club had a very successful morning with their 24th Annual Arts Competition. Nearly 200 parents and friends were able to watch all of the competitions in progress. This year nearly a hundred gymnasts competed for trophies and medals in Ribbon Solos, Beam Pairs, Ball Pairs and Sports Acrobatic Sixes. Competitors come from all over the district:- Burgess Hill, Ditchling, Haywards Heath & Cuckfield, Albourne and many other villages, Brighton and Lewes, with more still from Hurstpierpoint & Hassocks. The children choose whether to enter, then choose which sections to do, chose their own music and then created and practised their own routines for performance.

The Beam Pair competition involves mounting the beam and performing six different skills before dismounting.

This year's winners were:- Year 3 Darcy de Pear Brown & Amelie Jeffery. Year 4 Zuri Muncaster & Louisa Trebilco. Year 5 & 6 Isla Gould & Poppy Dignam. Year 7+ Aimee Morley & Isla Lovell.

The rhythmic apparatus is rotated each year and this year the pairs were Ball. The winners were Year 3 & 4 Elodie Crowther & Aya Cornwall. Year 5 & 6 Xaviera d'Agostino & Cadi Fisher.

Year 7+ Freya Gofton & Eva Charman.

The Ribbon Solo winners were:- Year 3 Juliette Swann. Year 4 Ruby Lewis. Year 5 Juliet Holloway. Year 6 Ida Martin. Year 7+ Eva Charman.

The last two sections were Sports Acrobatic Sixes, where six gymnasts perform a sequence including agilities, balances and dance. The routines were choreographed by the gymnasts. The Junior Six winning team was Freya Gofton, Xaviera D'Agostino, Isla Gould, Poppy Dignam, Amelie Rose & Cadi Fisher.

The Senior Six competition was a very close affair, resulting in first place for Emma Alcock, Grace Nicholls, Cleo & Edie Groman, Imogen Cox & Faith Aldridge.

Adding together the scores from their entries, the Overall Junior Champion was calculated as Ida Martin and the Senior Winner being Edie Groman.

The next opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 41st Annual Championships on the **5th July**. Spectating is welcome throughout the morning.

There are a vacancies to join the Club in most groups. For further details regarding the Club please visit their website

www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk

Andrew Hair

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EXPERIENCE BOOKS IN A COMPLETELY NEW WAY AS WEST SUSSEX LIBRARY SERVICE CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

Following on from the March edition, when our volunteer Jenny wrote about her love of West Sussex libraries and all that we offer, I'd love to tell you a bit more about what 2025 has in store for us.

We are celebrating our Centenary this year and we've spent the last few weeks getting started with our Library of Possibilities and Wonder project. You may have been lucky enough to come to one of our Virtual Reality headset sessions at Hassocks library where lots of fun was had, and customers were able to jump into a magical world of virtual books.

Don't worry if you missed out on this occasion as the fun will be coming to nearby Haywards Heath library in July. In the meantime, you could try out our exciting 3D posters which are now in all our libraries and use augmented reality (AR) to come to life before your eyes! Follow the treasure hunt round the library and collect all the 3D virtual stickers on your smartphone. Please see our website for more information: arena.westsussex.gov.uk

Don't forget it's free to join the library and we have lots more to offer including a free Rhyme Time session at Hassocks every Tuesday morning at 9.30 am. Our libraries look forward to continuing to deliver a service to residents as we move into our next 100

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years. Whilst we're aware of an idea from a Hassocks developer, there are no plans for the library to move for the foreseeable future.
Linda Warwick

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

All equipment is provided by the Club. New players are able to borrow the Club's mallets. Basic training will be provided. New for this season we will be operating a series of separate weekly Free Training Sessions on Thursday Mornings at 10.30 am for anybody who wants to learn to play Croquet - so you can learn to play "in the privacy of your own separate space" - Please wear flat soled shoes - no heels.

For further details please send an e mail to tony.m.bright@gmail.com or visit our website www.hassockscroquetclub.net for more information.
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HASSOCKS RAILWAY BOOK Available from QD Stationery in Hassocks. It is a new book, The Building and Development of the Railway at Hassocks by local researcher David Beard, which complements the growing series of publications by the Hassocks, Hurst and Ditchling u3a local history group.

The book covers the period from the building of the railway at Hassocks in the late 1830's, through to the construction of the current railway station in 2012.

David

THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL

On Wednesday 25th March, we opened our doors to our wonderful art gallery! Our art gallery project was entitled 'Being a Global Citizen'. We asked every child to think more deeply about how the balance between man and nature is something that needs to be respected and cared for. Each class thought about a particular aspect of this. Year 3 thought about the oceans and how pollution is harming our seas and the animals who swim in them. Year 4 focused on the trees and forests and how cutting down trees has a big impact on climate change. Year 5 looked at the role that insects play in the pollination of flowers, and how if one part of a food chain collapses it can have devastating consequences. Year 6 thought about how the natural world needs to live in harmony with man. The children worked so hard and the art they created was beautiful! The gallery was a great success, and the children loved having their artwork displayed.

Windmills Dance Club were invited to participate in a dance showcase at Downlands alongside other primary schools from the local area.

This year, we were tasked with reimagining a well-known musical number. We selected 'The Lion King' and took the opportunity to explore some African inspired movement. Together, the dancers helped to choreograph a routine that began with African animals enjoying quiet times on the savannah and led to more jubilant celebrations—Hakuna Matata!

We are also delighted to share a few of our sporting highlights: The Windmills' basketballers came second in the entire county of Sussex - an extraordinary achievement. Competing against the 6 best schools in the county; our only defeat came in our opening clash to the eventual county champions. Our netball A team competed against teams from across the whole of Mid-Sussex. We were delighted by their performance and very happy to come away from the tournament as silver medal holders. Our amazing running team trav-

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elled to Crawley to compete as part of the Mid -Sussex team in a county-wide event. Racing for both individual positions and team scores, they faced tough competition from the eight school games areas across Sussex. An impressive 10 of our students qualified for this round after excelling in the previous stage, where only the top 20 from each race advanced. The Year 6 girls' team played a crucial role in helping Mid Sussex earn a silver medal! We are incredibly proud of all our teams for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to training. *'on behalf of The Windmills'*

"ON YOUR BIKE!" On the afternoon of **12 July**, 2 to 4 pm, we will be organising 'Kidical Mass': a fun, safe community bike ride, for kids from 0-99. Kidical Mass is a global movement, with regular rides happening across the UK, including in Brighton and Hastings. We are now bringing it to our villages. (Kidical Mass - Home - Kids on Bike)

Rides will start in Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling, meeting in Adastra Park in Hassocks. From there a short (3 - 5 mile) ride will make its way around Hassocks, ending back at Adastra Park. All riders need to register. Riders under 16 have to be accompanied by an adult.

What can you do? This ride can't happen without community support and participation, so here is what you can do:

Get ready to ride! Get the ride into your diary, get your bikes out of the shed, tune them up, and go on some safe practice rides with your kids. We will be sending out details on how to register for the ride in May.

The ride will need as many stewards as possible. This will involve one short training session before July; and then a two hour commitment on the afternoon of **12th July**. Please sign up by emailing greenerhassocks-ditchling@gmail.com and we will give you more details.

Finally, visit our website **www.greenerhassocks-ditchling.org.uk** and sign up to our newsletter, so we can keep you updated on our plans as they develop. Thank you! *Andy Hansen*



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HASSOCKS FC: We did it! This local village team has won the Southern Combination Premier Division! Our first ever piece of senior silverware!

We had 800 in attendance on the day it was secured was our biggest ever attendance! Very pleasing especially with Brighton playing at home on the same day. Thank you for all your support, the crowds have been amazing.

Also thank you to the countless volunteers who have helped the matchday's run smoothly, we may need more of you next year please.

Promotion means bigger clubs, a harder league, and further travel. A more semi-professional environment, let's see if we can fit in!

The season is over but there is still one more game: a cup final. We have never even reached a final before so let's enjoy the day out!

Thank you to all our sponsors, especially Chris Lambe at the Hassocks Hotel Pub for the stadium naming, and for allowing us the function room for our title winning players and community celebration party last month.

If any company would like to sponsor a board around the pitch side, please get in touch **07843 762132**. These are really useful to keep the club functioning.

Other news: We look forward to welcoming the juniors at the ground on Sunday **11th May** to celebrate their respective seasons.

While new energy efficient floodlights are coming to improve facilities on Monday **12th May**. Fixtures ahead: Cup Final, venue TBC: Sat **10th May** at 3 pm.

Juniors day at the club: Sun **11th May**.

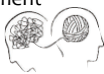
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CUCKOO: SOUND OF SPRING It's become a tradition of mine to go camping locally for a few nights in May. Being immersed in nature, spending evenings by firelight, and absorbing the abundant buzz of wildlife; it's a good-for-the-soul time to be outdoors in Sussex.

Hawthorn, or the May tree, is flowering in fragrant blooms. Bats are flitting enmasse from maternity roosts at dusk to forage. Badgers are on the trundle and Foxes on the trot. And yes, there are loads of lovely baby bunnies. In Sussex, we are lucky to retain a population of visiting Nightingales, and on uninterrupted May nights the males are in full rattling, palpitating symphony. Tawny Owls ke-wik and Barn Owls shriek. Woodlands burst into carpets of indigo as Bluebell scent fills the understory.

Amidst this, an undulating 'beep-boop' can be heard, a natural metronome. It is one of our most recognisable bird calls, and the onomatopoeic sound of spring and summer, the Cuckoo.

Arriving from Africa in March, Cuckoos infamously lay their eggs in other birds' nests, sneakily replacing an egg of an unsuspecting parent for them to incubate, feed and fledge. The not-so-little Cuckoo nestling shunts other eggs, and even youngsters, out of the nest, outcompeting any remaining for resources, becoming the last chonky chick standing. Regularly hoodwinked are Reed Warblers, Dunnocks and Meadow Pipits.

Mostly insectivorous, with a penchant for Hairy Caterpillars, adult Cuckoos spend their days feeding prior to their homeward migration. Having not had chicks to rear and fledge, they leave around June, with the new generation following later in summer.

Overall, it sounds like Cuckoos are having a pretty easy time of it. However, as is the story of so many of our native species, they are under threat. Cuckoos have declined by 65% since the 1980s and are now on the UK conservation Red List. The usual suspects are at play of habitat loss, climate change, and pesticide use resulting in food scarcity. Additionally, these issues have befallen many of their host species, leading to similar population declines, or, at the least, Cuckoo-bewildering behaviour changes such as earlier breeding.

Despite their size and familiarity, these elusive birds are not an easy spot. In a second act of mistaken identity, their barred chest can often resemble that of a Sparrowhawk. Although their calming calls have accompanied many a spring sundowner for me, I'm still yet to see one myself. Perhaps this year could be my year. Maybe.

Kerry Williams



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ST LAWRENCE FAIR We Need Your Help!
Hello lovely villagers! With this year's fair fast approaching, we're reaching out with a little plea for help.

Two of our most-loved events - the Kids' Disco and the Procession - are at risk of not going ahead unless we can find some extra hands to help organise and run them.

The Kids' Disco: We're looking for a few enthusiastic volunteers to help set up, supervise, and keep the fun going. No dance moves required - just a smile and a bit of time!

The Procession: We need some support with coordinating the procession, helping to marshal, and ensuring everything runs smoothly. It's such a highlight of the fair - let's not lose it!

If you can spare even a couple of hours, it would make a HUGE difference. The fair is such a special part of our village, and with a bit of community spirit, we can keep these fantastic events alive.

Please contact us through the website **www.st-lawrencefair.co.uk** if you can help.

Thank you all - let's make this year's fair the best one yet!

Fair Committee

BEFRIENDED Our next Hurst Tea party at Court Bushes will be on **18th May**.

We do have another exciting announcement this month: Befriended are delighted to announce the launch of our new Cafe Neuro on **12th May**. This new cafe is to support those living with dementia, their carers and loved ones, and anyone who has recently received a

diagnosis of dementia or other major neurocognitive disorder.

We have a great team of volunteers who are looking forward to offering you a warm welcome, activities, support, encouragement, information, a listening ear and expert advice and sign posting. As with all Befriended activities, tea and cake will be plentiful.

Cafe Neuro will meet 10.30 am to 12 pm every Monday morning from **12th May** at the Salvation Army Hall on Cyprus Road in Burgess Hill RH15 8DX. We look forward to meeting you there, getting to know you, and being alongside you week by week.

Susan

SHORT WORKSHOP ON LATER LIFE PLANNING with Ditchling Quakers on Sunday **1st June** at Quaker Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling. From 11.45 am to 1 pm. Quakers will be looking at how they would like to spend the final part of their lives, and we extend a welcome to anyone else who would like to join us, for free. Would you, for example, like your cat, clergy, or close friend to visit you at the end of life? Do you know an Advance Statement from an Advance Directive?

You are also welcome to come to our Meeting for Worship beforehand, if you wish. We gather in silence from 10.30 am to 11.30 am, seeking communion with the divine and sometimes offering spoken ministry as the Spirit leads us.

Contact **ditchlingquakers@gmail.com** for further information or to let us know you're coming (as numbers will be limited).

Janet Shimmin

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Exciting and special events in May and June.

The May event - On **8th May** we will be screening Lee (2023), Director Ellen Kuras, starring Kate Winslet). This is one week later than our regular night due to County Council elections in the Village Hall. Lee Miller's granddaughter Ami Bouhassane, Co-Director of the Lee Miller Archives at the Farley Arts Trust will be joining us too for a Q&A session. Don't miss it! It will be a privilege to hear Ami talk about her grandmother's life and work and answer our questions.

We are also very grateful to Anthony Penrose of the Farley Trust for offering to waive their normal performance fee for our event, however a donation from every ticket sold will go to the Trust.

In Lee, Kate Winslet stars as Lee Miller – the fashion model turned war photojournalist for British Vogue. The film shows Miller as she “documents war as historical evidence”. As a female war correspondent at that time, she was barred from entering active battle zones but none the less was not spared from witnessing and recording moving and horrific scenes beyond the areas of immediate combat.

Lee Miller works along side Life Magazine photojournalist David E. Scherman, played by Andy Samberg. They worked on many shared assignments, including



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documenting the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps at Buchenwald and Dachau. Scherman's iconic photograph of Miller sitting in the bathtub in Adolf Hitler's private apartment in Munich, with the dried mud of that morning's visit to Dachau on her boots - deliberately dirtying Hitler's bathroom, - was taken in the evening of 30 April 1945, coincidentally the same day that Hitler committed suicide. After posing for the bathtub photograph, Miller took a bath in the tub and then slept in Hitler's bed.

After the war Miller fought hard against the repression of her confronting war images in a world that preferred to forget the atrocities that had taken place.

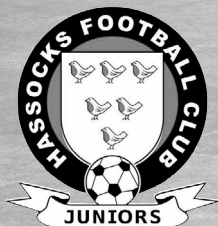
That Miller's work is known today is mainly due to the efforts of her son, Antony Penrose, who has been studying, conserving, and promoting his mother's work since the early 1980s. Never having known about her war work while she was alive, Penrose later discovered sixty thousand or so photographs, negatives, documents, journals, cameras, love letters, and souvenirs in cardboard boxes and trunks in the attic of Farley Farm, the family home.

Lee (2023) Certificate 15. Directed by Ellen Kuras. 117 minutes. English.

On **5th June** we will be having another special event. At the showing of Widow Clicquot (2023, Director Thomas Napper) we will be hosting a presentation by Esther Dawson from Ridgeview vineyard. She will be talking about the vision and development that has created Ridgeview as a very successful local winery. There will be free tastings and Ridgeview wine will be on offer for sale.

For more information on our film showings and special events, please go to our website, www.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.

Doors open at 7.30 pm in Ditchling Village Hall refreshments available. Membership and Guest entry available. There's plenty of parking next to the village hall. See you in May. *The Ditchling Film Society*



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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH As though by magic, the world has become green again and I find myself feeling ridiculously happy and seized with a childish desire to go out and play. The same thing happens every year. It makes no difference that each spring finds me older and creakier than before, or that the games I dream of were old-fashioned even in the far-off days I remember. Suddenly I want to do hopscotch, whip-and-top and French skipping - which involved tying hundreds of rubber bands together and stretching them in a kind of cat's cradle from the front gate; then trying to jump in and out without falling over.

There is something intoxicating about the juxtaposition of green and blue (whether it is a distant downland horizon, or young leaves seen against the sky) which brings on an involuntary *joie de vivre*. The joys of Spring! That sense of jumping for joy is there in the very word *Spring*! One week the world is drab - a scumble of bistre and muddled pigments like a first attempt in water-colour - then Nature cleans her brushes, dips into dazzling emerald and gold, drops in an azure sky. The transformation unfolds with each species of flower and tree coming to life in turn as though attuned to hidden cues, but all are under starters orders - spring is happening NOW. The accumulating rush of energy is a tremendous force. I remember leaning my head against a young ash tree some years ago and hearing, to my amazement, the sound of a torrent surging inside the trunk. It was spring, and I was eaves-dropping on the roar of the first sap rising. It sounded as though a dam had burst. Small wonder then that the combined force of the green world stirring can affect us physically and lift our spirits too.

In Russia and the Baltic States, the nectar-sweet flow of spring sap was traditionally tapped from birch trees and drunk with lemon or made into a health-giving wine.

In the woods of Wisconsin, the same technique was used on sugar maples to collect their sap, which was then boiled down to make maple syrup. One had to have an ear closely attuned to the trees to catch the right moment.

From ancient times people held festivals to help the spring along. Songs and dances were once performed in all cultures to celebrate life's re-birth - the sprouting of seeds, the laying of eggs - an end to hungry times and the ordeals of darkness and cold.

Even today, though we can pass winter in relative comfort, a sense of relief rises from deep within us at the first sign of green. And though we may be too busy or too distracted to acknowledge it, our nerves and cells still respond to millions of signals from the 'wild', which pass below the radar of the intellect, encouraging us to join the party. Armed with the most sophisticated listening devices, the scientific mind can make little sense of these signals and invitations, being deafened by the noise of its own static, for Nature's messages do not speak to reason, but address themselves directly to the primal parts of ourselves which civilisation has suppressed and driven out.

The heart however, recognises even infinitesimal vibrations from its native realm and welcomes affinities that draw us closer to the beating heart of the cosmos. Some signals occur at a molecular level, too subtle to be felt. Some are electromagnetic, deriving from invisible parts of the spectrum. Some, like the scents and properties of plants, occur at a sensory level. All affect our mood, vitality and health. By being open to their influence, a person can enter into a world of infinite possibility.

Earth feels suddenly dynamic and alive. Yet for centuries, the West has been distancing itself further and further from the seemingly erratic and unpredictable world of Nature, rewriting the



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script, redesigning the set, recasting the characters till reality is reduced to a governable form.

Machines have made possible an assault on every wilderness, including the interior of the human psyche, and humans have claimed conquest at each encounter.

Finally, dazzled by success, Technocratic Man and Woman are subjugating their whole species to the reductive requirements of machines and turning from vital to Artificial Intelligence under the illusion that speed is better and profit for all, a potential.

The real world is rapidly becoming a dead zone – an inert and uniform resource for the commodification of what was once ecstatically alive. Life will be more ‘secure’, more ‘ordered’, less unreliable than before.

Or will it? People watch the fabric of Nature collapsing before their eyes. Their health hangs by a thread. They are rushing to oblivion but cannot change course. The truth is that it need not be this way. And our own inner wisdom knows it. Nothing else on the planet is rushing. No other species has opted out of the crazy, perilous, beautiful world that is still governed by the pull of sun and moon and that sets all life in motion.

There is no real reason why *homo sapiens* could not lay aside the assumption that some humans are inherently superior to others and that all humans are superior to the rest of Creation. We could engage with one another and with everything on our planet in a respectful and patient way. We could share in the gifts of Nature, instead of merely counting the casualties.

The Earth is a watery planet and we are oceanic beings. 70% of the Earth is covered by the sea. Water constitutes 70% of our bodies and the balance of salts and minerals in seawater is mirrored

in our own tears and bathes and nourishes our cells which began their evolution in the sea. Water courses through earth's landscape and all its life forms. With rivers as arteries and networks of capillary streams, it runs through the veins of leaves, and the threads of soil fungi, heaving and falling with the movements of the moon. It circulates the earth in an endless cycle and we are all vessels in the chain of flow.

A cottonwood tree, it has been noted, can transpire 100 gallons of water *per hour* into the atmosphere. It can also draw up water from deep underground and hold it just below the soil's surface overnight, where it nourishes shallower rooted plants. Pumping moisture into the air, forest trees provide their own clouds and rainfall. The water which courses through a tree, has already travelled through innumerable other plants, humans and animals, oceans and aquifers, making no distinction between them. Being part and parcel of this one great whole, why should we not treat all things as kin?

We can hardly begin to feel the astonishing complexity of life until we do so. There are trees that have been growing for over 10,000 years.

In the United States a grove of suckering aspen trees share a root system which covers 106 acres. A wayside herb might have lived undisturbed for hundreds of years and seeds have survived burial for thousands. All have wisdom to teach. All are connected. Why should not we be connected too? As spring returns, we are called to join the dance. The lambs certainly feel it. They are coming thick and fast at Stoneywish and the joy of living lifts them off the ground in impulsive skips and bounds – all four feet at once! If you can't play hop-skotch, find a tree and be with it long enough to let it lift you up... You will not regret it.

Rosemary

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Whats On in May

Clubs, Societies & Groups please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section. Email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk 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, Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint. All welcome to sing for joy. More info www.befriended.org.

BEFRIENDED CAFE NEURO Salvation Army Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill Mondays 10.30 am - 12 pm. - Support those living with dementia, their carers and loved ones. More info email office@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 at Age Concern Hassocks. More info visit 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.

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
KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB As there are two Bank Holiday's in May we will only be meeting once on 19th May, and will start at 7.30 pm in the URC Church Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks. 2nd June, is the annual dance on Ditchling Village Green. Lookout for more details in the next Talk About. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk

MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP. Meet every Tuesday Evening, 7.30 pm, Main Hall Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Anyone is welcome, no previous knowledge is necessary just a willingness to have fun. Please visit www.msscd.org.uk for

more details. (We do not meet in July or August)

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.

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 **4th & 11th** (inc. Little Beacons) and **25th** (All age family service). Service on **18th** is at Streat Church.

Wednesday @10 will be temporarily at The Emmanuel Centre, South Street, Ditchling.

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 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.

1st HURST RETHINK New Inn Back Room, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'Waste Prevention talk' Jean Franklin. see www.hurstrethink.org for more info.

1st DITCHLING MORRIS Lodge Hill, Ditchling 5 am. 'Dancing up the Sun'. All welcome.

3rd ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB Adastra

Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Morning - free taster sessions for all. More info 01273 842360.

4th BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling 11.15 am. Annual Parochial Church Meeting all welcome.

4th HURST RETHINK Various venues 10 am - 2 pm. 'Jumble Trail' see www.hurstrethink.org for map.

4th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 11 am - 4 pm. Special Event Day where the mill is open to visitors.

4th HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

4th DITCHLING ORCHARD Boddingtons Lane, Ditchling 10 am - 12 noon Orchard Maintenance Morning. All ages welcome.

5th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

5th 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.

6th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. Annual Meeting followed by 'East Sussex Land Girls' Robin Keyte.

7th THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

7th UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

7th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com. 'Hardy Geraniums - their history and propagation' Jacqueline Aviolet. All welcome.

7th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm A presentation by Wendy Agate from St Peters & St James Hospice. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

8th BEACON PARISH Ditchling War Memorial, St Margarets Church, Ditchling 10.45

am. 'VE Day 80th Anniversary gathering to remember those who died in WWII.

8th ROYAL BRITISH LEGION DITCHLING BRANCH Ditchling War Memorial, St Margarets Church, Ditchling 10.45 am. 'VE Day' Marking 80 years since victory. A gathering to remember those who died in WWII with Deputy Lieutenant of East Sussex the Marquess of Abervagneny.

8th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 'Lee' with Lee Millers granddaughter Aimi Bouhassane who will give a Q&A session. Tickets available on the door - see article.

8th AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue. VE Day celebrations. All welcome to join us.

9th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Meet the Committee' Hot Food & Refreshments available. All welcome.

9th BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY ASSOC. Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. Talk 'A Sussex Past' Paul Green. An illustrated talk with old photos, newspapers etc. All welcome.

10th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Morning - free taster session. More info 01273 842360.

10th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

10th/11th PYECOMBE CHURCH Sat 10 am - 4 pm, Sun 12 pm - 5 pm. Flower Festival and Plant Sale. Theme VE Day. Refreshments available.

10th 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.

11th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 pm - 5 pm. Nationals Mills Weekend. Visitors welcome.

11th ROYAL BRITISH LEGION DITCHLING BRANCH Westmeston Parish Hall, 2.30 pm.

VE Celebration and afternoon tea, outdoor games, beer tent and Susan Fleet will be singing. Tickets 01273 845319 - see article.

12th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thegroup.org.uk.

13th MUSKRAT RAMBLERS, Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East, doors 11.30 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.

14th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Drop in all welcome.

15th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email mo.delaine@btinternet.com

16th AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue. Outing to Wakehurst Place to learn about 'Bees and Trees'. See article for more info.

17th HURST RETHINK Butchers Wood, Hassocks 10 am. 'Lichen Walk' Sim Elliott. See www.hurstrethink.org for more info.

17th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk.

17th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Morning - free taster session. More info 01273 842360.

18th PARISH OF CLAYTON WITH KEYMER, Meeting Room, Keymer Church Hall. 9.45 - 10.45 am. Storytime Creative - Stories from the Bible and the heart and respond with your own pictures or creative writing. Bring an adult. More info 01273 845964.

18th 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.

19th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Manners Please' Interactive Session. Visitors welcome.

20th AGE CONCERN HAS SOCKS Dale Avenue. 'Fashion for the over 50's' See article for more info.

21st - 24th DITCHLING PLAYERS Ditchling Village Hall, Various performances 'Murder in Play'. See article for more info and tickets.

21st NSPCC Great Hall, Danny House, Hurstpierpoint 4.30 pm. Glass of fizz and afternoon tea. fundraiser. Tickets Charlotte Grace Casuals in Hurstpierpoint.

21st FRIENDS OF WOLSTONBURY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 7.30 pm. AGM followed by 'History of Devils Dyke' Chris Horner - see article for more info.

21st 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.

22nd DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning run by Friends of St Margaret's. All welcome.

22nd 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.

23rd HURST, HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'A Russian Poet in Brighton' Richard Ware. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

23rd MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag & Natter Night' Refreshments available. All welcome.

24th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Morning - free taster session. More info 01273 842360.

24th THE GROWING NETWORK Hassocks Village Market, Age Concern, Hassocks 9am - 12 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books/tools you don't need.

24th HAS SOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

24th 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.

25th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 6 pm. 'King for the Day' for tickets see article.

26th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

27th POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 11 am - 1 pm. Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.

28th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm Demo evening with Martin Saban-Smith. Visitors welcome.

29th 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.

30th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 8 pm. 'Hannah White' For more info and tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

30th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Direction Finding' Refreshments available. All welcome.

30th WOODLAND, FLORA & FAUNA GROUP Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.30 pm. 'Wildlife of Sussex' Michael Blencowe. Free talk all welcome.

30th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm 'The Museum of Gardening in Hassocks' Clive Gravett. g. All welcome more info hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com.

REMINDER - JUNE EVENTS DEADLINE IS 1ST MAY



Spring forward with your financial planning

I feel incredibly fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the world, where I can easily walk in and around the South Downs. It truly feels like a gift. After a long, cold winter, this time of year feels even more special - signs of spring emerge, and new life begins to grow.

Seeing an ancient oak tree standing tall reminds me that it once started as a tiny acorn, growing into a sapling before becoming the mighty tree it is today. It's inspiring to think that someone, long ago, planted that acorn, knowing that future generations would one day benefit from its shade.

This idea ties closely to how I help my clients. Intergenerational planning and passing on wealth work best when started early. If you're looking to secure your children's or grandchildren's financial future, the power of compounded returns is most effective when given the advantage of time.

So, if you're thinking about planting the seeds for your family's future, let's talk about how to start today.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now."

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.

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Property Maintenance

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Going to the Doctors was a whole new experience! A nice lady she took one look at me and reached for the draw with the protective gloves in, she seemed quite shocked when I unveiled my spotty body. She was very thorough and asked me lots of questions, thankfully I didn't have the start of a leg ulcer, it was all connected to what I had come into contact with to give me this awful rash. I did come away with a tube of steroid cream and that sorted out my ankle pretty quickly. However, I did eventually get to the bottom of the problem – one evening whilst out feeding wildlife I came across a pheasant floundering by the roadside. I stopped and picked him up in my car and took him back to the shop where I phoned the wildlife people, sadly that evening he passed away but he must have been carrying bird mites, these are evil little critters who love to bite and I now had them in my car without me realising. So, after a week of them breeding and laying eggs when I got in my car I was their only food source, that is what caused this awful rash it was really hundreds of insect bites, not very pleasant at all. I had to fumigate my car several times to get rid of them Everything is alright now but in future I shall be very careful when I come into contact with any injured bird, that really was a good deed that came back to bite me!

I wondered when I saw work being carried out on the old Ark Vets In Parklands Road, Hassocks, what was going on - now we know - it's going to be another vets which is very good news for the village. It's Hawthorn Vets who also have branch in Henfield and Partridge Green. I've met some of the people involved and they are very excited about opening the state-of-the-art branch and meeting the people and their pets of not only Hassocks but the surrounding areas they're hoping to open early June but that will be confirmed at a later date.

A lot of you have been in to see the plans of the building to replace the old National Tyres building. Reactions have been mixed, after all we're dealing with 26 new dwellings four shops or other, 31 parking spaces and 26 bike parking spaces. After seeing the plans most of you tend to comment on the height of the building but it says on the plans that they are reducing the overall building height to ensure negligible impacts on the sunlight, daylight and overshadowing of its neighbours but, what are they reducing it from? I suspect most of the objections will be about the height.

I must thank the staff at A&E in Haywards Heath for looking after Nola so well, she was out in the garden after dark looking for her beloved cat Simba, who was born without eyes but has the most incredible sense, he is 16 now and just loves being outside but when he doesn't come when called a search of the garden is needed which is OK until you find a cat - a large stone one which you collide with and end up on the ground. She was very lucky, nothing was broken but strains which apparently can be worse than fractures so a couple of days on a walking stick and ice packs on her leg and she was back to normal just in time for her birthday. They were brilliant at A&E I can't praise them enough. I've moved the stone cat to somewhere safer.

The very nice guy Oli at Green Folk Kitchen has now started opening late nights on Fridays and Saturdays, dogs are welcome and on nice evenings you can use the outside terrace, the menu is varied but will include pizzas and burgers. Sounds good to me come on down and have a great evening.

I know I go on about it but please please use your local shops and businesses, we need you now more than ever it's a tough world out there.

One of the best quality horse feeds we sell is Red Mills and one of the best quality dog foods is Skinners.
More gossip next month. Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392