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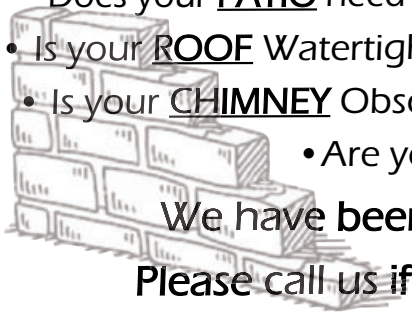
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We thank Adam Ryan for this postcard of the old Post Office in Hassocks dated 1911.

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A SPECIAL TALK ON WOODLAND FLOWERS BY KEITH KIRBY The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, a volunteer organisation dedicated to protecting local countryside and wildlife, invite you to a special talk by the renowned author and woodland ecologist, Keith Kirby. It is entitled 'Woodland Flowers'.

It will take place on Wednesday **20th August** at 7.30 pm in the Main Hall at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY.

Keith Kirby is a visiting researcher at the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Oxford, who previously worked as a woodland ecologist with the government conservation agencies, Nature Conservancy Council, English Nature and Natural England. He was awarded the Royal Forestry Society Gold Medal for Distinguished Services to Forestry in 2011 and the CIEEM Medal for his outstanding lifelong contribution to the advancement of ecology, forestry and woodland management in 2014. He has written widely for journals, the press, and is author of many books.

Come and hear this inspiring talk about his exploration of how the woodland plants of Great Britain have come to be where they are, have coped with living in the shade of their bigger relatives, and responded to the continuous threats posed by storms, fires, floods, grazing herbivores and changing seasons. This talk is highly informative to all who value nature and is of special interest to those who appreciate and wish to learn more about British woodland and its flora.

This presentation has been arranged as one of our series of special talks which provide public learning opportunities which do not come very often, so please join us to hear from a leading authority in this field. It will immediately follow a brief introduction by The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, the organisers of the evening, who use these events with distinguished speakers, to generate any voluntary donations people can spare to support their nature conservation work around Mid Sussex. 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*

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TO THE KIND LADY FROM OCKLEY PARK that on 12th June at 7.30 am approx. helped me to get my dog to the vets in Brighton. I cannot remember your name but would like to thank you and everyone who stopped and helped. I am forever grateful. *Rita Knott*

SPONSOR A GIANT GOLD BOW FOR SEPTEMBER! Every year the Giant Gold Bow Trail goes up for the whole month of September, turning our lovely village GOLD and raising awareness of Children's Cancer. It's a stunning sight with the shining GOLD bows tied up with HassocksGoesGold ribbon!

For a minimum donation of £25 you can sponsor one of these 120 dedicated bows. Bows can be dedicated to a business, club, friend, family, organisation or in memory. Deadline for sponsorship is Tuesday the **12th August**.



All money raised goes directly to #PearlPower - fighting Childhood Cancers with particularly poor outcomes via the CCLG (the Children & Young People's Cancer Association), the UK's largest children's cancer charity.

The Payment link is **https://www.justgiving.com/page/hhg2025**

Any questions or queries, contact me on **hgg@pearlpower.co.uk**. *Rachel*

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HAWTHORN VETS At time of writing, the UK is experiencing a heatwave. At this time, it's crucial to remember that our pets can suffer in the heat just like we do. Our new Hassocks practice is thankfully equipped with excellent air conditioning!

Here are some important tips to keep your pets safe and comfortable:

Hydration and Shade: Always ensure your pets have constant access to cool, fresh water and a shaded area. This is generally straightforward for indoor cats and dogs but remember to provide shade for outdoor pets like rabbits and guinea pigs.

Heatstroke - Act Fast! Every year, we treat dogs for heatstroke, which is a serious emergency. Recent advice for both dogs and cats is clear: Get your pet wet, then get them to the vet!

Cooling Down: If your pet is conscious and it's safe, immediately get them under a cold shower or use a hose (let the water run first to avoid initial hot water). The colder the water, the better. Research now shows that cold water is more effective than tepid water in preserving life, and in this situation the risk of hypothermia is far less than the damage caused by hyperthermia.

Immersion (Conscious Pets Only): You can also immerse a conscious pet in cold water, such as a bath, ensuring their head stays above water at all times. Do NOT immerse unconscious pets.

Get to the Vet: After cooling your pet, transport them to the nearest vet immediately. Call ahead to let them know you're coming and travel with your car's air conditioning on. Avoid wrapping your pet in wet towels, as this can actually trap heat.

Prevention is key! During hot weather, please avoid walking dogs during the hottest parts of the day, especially if they are very young, old, or have a flat face.

Stay safe and cool! *Jonathan Underwood*

WILLOW WAY/BLACKTHORNS - We are looking for volunteers to deliver this free village magazine which has been delivered to you for more than 28 years.

We will drop the magazines to you and generally you will have a week to deliver.

If this is something you think you can help us with please contact Heidi on **01273 846978** or email **ed@villagemagazines.co.uk**. *Ed*

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We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this picture of Mr and Mrs Herrington of Western Road Hurstpierpoint (Bottom of Kemps).
Mr Herrington was a horseman before the WWI and while posted to France during the war a stables was bombed and caught fire. He saved all the horses from their burning stables and got recognition by a top medal from the French for his bravery.

HASSOCKS FC We start the season with an FA cup fixture on Saturday **2nd August** at home vs Rayners Lane 3 pm ko, and our Isthmian league debut a week later on the **9th August** please see website for more info on this.

Some big hitters in our new league and we'll be looking forward to welcoming travelling fans from substantial non-league clubs like Hastings, Margate, and Jersey! We've been hoping to add an outside pop-up bar on site, and everything is in a good place on and off the field to help your match day experience at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground. Please come along if you've never been before and I'll personally welcome you and show you around. We have new kits ready but have decided to keep the same design of our home and away shirts, so it still matches any replica shirts fans have bought in the past few years (plus the junior section have the same style). This isn't to avoid change but to respect the fans which Premier League clubs can often forget about. Keep an eye on social media for latest fixtures which haven't been released at time of writing. And a thank you to more local businesses who have supported our pitch side banners club: Hassocks Day Nursery (who are at our ground!), Sussex Interior Solutions, and Work Space Eleven. *Pat Harding*

DITCHLING UNITARIANS @The Old Meeting House. Open Minds, Kind Hearts, Free Spirits.

Tucked away behind Lewes Road, just a short walk along The Twitten opposite the Village Hall, is a lovely Old Meeting House. Here, since the 1700's, resides a free-thinking faith community. All are welcome.

Sunday Services draw on themes from Christian & other faiths, science, the arts, the natural world and everyday living. They include words & readings, quiet reflection & prayer, music & hymns.

Sunday Services – 1st & 3rd Sundays each month at 11 am. Monday Meetings – for general talks & social, monthly 2 pm Monday. Meditation – monthly, 7 pm Tuesday.

For details, please see the posters around Ditchling Village, or visit our website **www.ditchlingunitarians.org.uk**.

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MR WIGNALL TO RETIRE AFTER 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL After an outstanding 32 years of dedication to Downlands Community School, Mr Wignall will be retiring in July.

Mr Wignall first joined Downlands in the early 1990s and has held a variety of roles over the years. His commitment to the success and well-being of every student have left a lasting legacy. Under his guidance as Headteacher, the school has continued to thrive—academically, creatively, and as a caring, inclusive environment.

As we say farewell, the entire school community thanks Mr Wignall for his service and wishes him a long, happy, and well-earned retirement.

We are also delighted to congratulate Mr Ashdown, who will be stepping into the role of Headteacher in September. Mr Ashdown has served as Deputy Head for a number of years and brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and a deep understanding of the Downlands community to his new position. We wish him every success and happiness as he begins this exciting new chapter in leading the school forward. *Jo Miles*

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY There will be no film showings in August, but we will be planning and booking films and events for 2026.

Please help us plan this. We always want to put forward an eclectic range of films and would love to be surprised by your suggestions. There is a "Suggest a Film" section on our website. Selections will be made by October.

There are still 4 more films to go in 2025, and we'll be coming back in September with a documentary film Wilding. Directed by David Allen it is based on Isabella Tree's best-selling book which tells the story of the Knepp Estate and its pioneer rewilding project in West Sussex. It is a very interesting place to visit and we're sure this film will match that.

For more information on our film showings and special events, please go to our website, **ditchlingfilm.org.uk**. There you can join our mailing list and also recommend your favourite or unrecognised film gems for our future showings. We are on Instagram **@ditchlingfimsoc** and Tweet **@Ditchlingfilm**.

See you in September! *Kate*

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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL For 10 days at the beginning of this half term, we were fortunate enough to witness a very special event.



We took delivery of 17 tiny eggs which sat in an incubator waiting to hatch. By day 3, we could already see signs of life, and sure enough our patience paid off and over the next few days more chicks emerged. 10 healthy Grey Partridge chicks hatched in total. These birds are being hatched and raised as part of a conservation project to help our dwindling population living in the wild. As grassland dwelling, ground nesting birds, their homes are at threat from changing land use and are now on the RSPB red list.

Year3 have travelled to Arundel Wetland Centre, a beautiful and peaceful nature reserve teeming with wildlife. The trip was a fantastic chance to explore a unique wetland environment, observe a variety of birds and plants, and learn how wetlands support biodiversity and protect the planet. The visit not only helped bring our science and geography lessons to life, but also encouraged us to think about how we can take care of the environment in our everyday lives.



All of Year 5 have been on an amazing school trip to The Royal Pavilion and Brighton Museum to support their learning about the impact of the Prince Regent (George IV) on our nearest seaside city of Brighton, looking at wealth, poverty, monarchy and settlement. The children were fantastic and enthusiastic throughout

We were proud to take 77 children to Burgess Hill Academy to represent our school for a thrilling day of athletics – a brilliantly organised event that brought together schools from across the local area. Our athletes had been training hard in the lead-up to the competition, and on the day, their enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship shone through in every event and we were proud winners in both the Year 3/ 4 and Year 5/6 categories! A wonderful achievement and a great celebration of our talented athletes - Well done team!

'on behalf of The Windmills'



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HASSOCKS CROQUET CLUB Croquet is a gentle sport for everyone. New members are always welcome to join us. If you 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 (without charge). Basic training will be provided. New for this season we will be operating a series of separate weekly Free Training Sessions on Thursday Mornings @ 10.30 am for anybody who wants to learn to play Croquet (or at an alternative time to be mutually arranged) - 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 email **tony.m.bright@gmail.com** or visit **www.hassockscroquetclub.net** for more information.

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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON Our Services during August are as follows:

Sundays **3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th August** will be Morning Worship with Holy Communion at 10 am in St. Margaret's, Ditchling.

On Sundays **3rd and 10th August,** a 'Little Beacons' activity session will be available for our youngest visitors.

Sunday **31st August** will be our popular All Age Family Service at 10 am in St. Margaret's.

Other services and events: On Friday **15th August**, there will be a VJ Day 80th Anniversary Remembrance Service at Ditchling War Memorial at 10.45 am.

Please see separate article for information about the VJ Day Anniversary Picnic on Sunday **17th August**. Let's hope for a lovely sunny afternoon!

Everyone is welcome to all our services and events. Why not bring family, friends and visitors. You'll find a warm welcome! Please check our website **www.beaconparish.co.uk** for any alterations to the above. *Sherrian Guest*

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

We meet each month over a cup of tea to share seeds, seedlings and extra produce along with gardening tips and friendship. We'd love to meet you whether you're a veteran gardener or would-be grower of vegetables and if you'd like to find others to help you get started on your gardening journey.

You don't even need to have your own garden, as there are some of us that like to collaborate by growing with others. Come along and see what we're up to and help yourself to the seedlings, seeds and produce on offer.

Saturday **9th August** 10.30 am to 12 pm at Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST. This is the Quaker Meeting House (not to be confused with the Old Meeting House in the Twitten) Feel free to bring any seeds, seedlings or produce to share. Or just bring yourself!

Catherine, Imke & Julie

JOIN US AS A LEADER FOR THE THURSDAY BROWNIE PACK! Are you passionate about guiding young minds and creating memorable experiences?

We are looking for new volunteer leaders to look after our Thursday Brownie group.

What We Offer: Fun and engaging activities. Opportunities for personal growth. Training & Guidance. A chance to make a difference in your community.

Responsibilities: Lead engaging sessions. Foster teamwork and friendships. Plan exciting projects and outings.

Important: Our unit will CLOSE without volunteers! We need your help to keep the Thursday Brownie Pack active! We would also be able to consider a change from Thursday if helpful.

Requirements: Enthusiasm and creativity. A love for working with kids. Interested? Contact us on **07951 542958**

Let's create unforgettable memories together!

Kate Gifford

COLLEGE LANE (HASSOCKS ROAD END) AND CLOSES - We are looking for volunteers to deliver this free village magazine which has been delivered to you for more than 28 years. We will drop the magazines to you and generally you will have a week to deliver.

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

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

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

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HERITAGE OPEN DAY at NEWTIMBER CHURCH - WE KNOW YOUR NAME. We have recently discovered that a benefactor of the church at Newtimber named Charles Gordon, owned three plantations in Jamaica. We know about the crops that were grown, where the plantations were, the incredible wealth that was generated on his plantations and that his generosity was enabled by slave labour.

After the Abolition Act was passed in 1833, Charles Gordon was awarded compensation for the loss of the enslaved workers that he 'owned'. He set aside £200 in his will to transform the church replacing the wooden bell turret with the current tower. If you walk around the church, you will see several memorials, stained glassed windows and brass plaques dedicated to members of the Gordon family which are a testament to the considerable fortune this family made in Jamaica.

Having discovered the census returns from this period we now know the names of all the enslaved people on Gordon's plantations for whom he was compensated.

On Heritage Open Day Saturday **13th September** our theme is 'We Know Your Name' and we are hanging banners inside the tower with the names of all the enslaved who had been treated as chattels. It was their work that created the wealth for the tower to be built, and this year we are giving them back their identity.

Newtimber church also has links to the Abolition of Slavery; direct descendants of Sir Fowell Buxton a prominent anti-slavery campaigner lived at Newtimber Place. After William Wilberforce's death in 1833, Sir Thomas led the abolitionist movement with determination, playing a pivotal role in passing the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833, which emancipated over 800,000 enslaved people over the British Empire.

Our church also features a memorial to the SS Mendi and Chief Henry Bokleni of the Eastern Cape, who recruited young warriors to serve the British during WWI. Tragically over 600 South African men drowned with the SS Mendi sank off the coast of Portsmouth.

We invite you to experience a unique visit that brings this history to life! Three extraordinary and significant global events connected to this tiny rural church is quite unparallelled! We have started a programme of study to research and reveal this amazing history. Come and explore with us!

Additional information - The brick path from the road to the church is wide enough for a wheelchair, but a bit bumpy, and may not be suitable for an electric wheelchair. Plenty of parking along Church Lane. There are two steps into the north transept where the Gordon memorial is, which will restrict some visitors.

Refreshments available from 10.30 am to 4 pm. Woodland and exploratory activities for young children are available.

The churchyard is always a wonderful place to sit and rest. Newtimber Church is open all year round and welcomes ramblers, D of E, Scouts, school parties, cyclists, Brighton Fringe, recitals & talks. Contact **nigsdigby@aol.com.**

St John the Evangelist, Church Lane, Newtimber, West Sussex BN6 9BT. *Linda Warburton*

VJ DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY VILLAGE PICNIC PARTY on **17th August** on Ditchling Village Green from 2.30 pm to 5 pm.

Come and party and picnic on the Green with live music and the fabulous Katie Ashby of the D-Day Darlings. Enjoy picnic food on sale in the Barn and a bar.

The Beacon Parish and other community organisations will honour the fallen with an Exhibition in St Margaret's Church. All welcome! *Tessa*

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HURST PLAYERS It's been a busy year so far for Hurst Players – but we're not complaining – from the sell-out production of Agatha Christie's famous "Witness for the Prosecution" in early April it's now time for the run-up to a week's performances in mid-July of a play which seems fairly new to the UK, certainly to local audiences – its "Sylvia" – finding something to smile about in a mid-life crisis for a couple whose husband brings home a stray dog from the local park. His wife, of course, is not amused!

Next, comes our production for the Hurst Festival in early September, also entered for the Brighton & Hove Arts Council Drama Awards – a British comedy by Jim Cartwright "Two" **16th to 20th September.**

Currently in rehearsal, this compact play highlights the comic and tragic lives of the various drinkers in a northern pub, observed by the landlord and landlady who disclose their own marital issues in between refereeing those of their customers. Fundamentally a warm-hearted, poignant play, it does contain some adult themes which may not be suitable for children.

The play is directed by Karinn and Korey Grierson and starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available online **www.hurstplayers.org.uk** or in person from the theatre box office on Saturday mornings, 10 am – 12 pm from **23rd August**.

But even before "Two" is over, our thoughts have turned to our Christmas production which will run from **29th December 2025 through to 4th January 2026**. "Pinocchio" is a modern re-telling of the traditional tale of a child who is a toy but wishes to be human. This new story has all the traditional characters, with an emphasis on sustainability and caring for the environment. We'll have an initial reading/adult audition from 7.30 pm on Tuesday **12th August** – if needed there will be a second on Saturday **16th August**, but this will be confirmed – final adult auditions from 7.30 pm on Wednesday **3rd September** with a date for children's auditions yet to be decided. However, full dates and times will be on the Hurst Players website: **hurstplayers.org.uk** by mid- August.

That's where you'll also find forward dates for a new series of stagecraft workshops for beginners or improvers – everything from how to stand and move well on stage – how to be heard beyond the first row of the audience without shouting – and, for those inclined, how to tackle the all important back-stage jobs. *Anne Hopper*

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PADDLEBOARDING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL FOR PEARL!

At the start of August 2025 as you read this, Jamie and his brother John will paddleboard from Dungeness across the English Channel in memory of Jamie's 10-year-old daughter, Pearl. They're taking on this challenge to raise awareness and vital funds for CCLG, the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group.



Pearl passed away in 2017 after being diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. Since then, Jamie and his wife Rachel have dedicated themselves to supporting research into kinder, more effective treatments. They created #PearlPower, a Special Named Fund within CCLG, which has raised over £125,000 to date.

This summer's challenge, dubbed Paddle4Pearl, marks the brothers' second major SUP (stand-up paddleboarding) expedition. Their first, a punishing 100km coast-to-coast journey across Scotland in 2023, was completed during Storm Babet. Now they're preparing for 26.5 nautical miles across one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. Their goal: raise £10,000 and keep Pearl's legacy alive.

Jamie, who runs a carpentry business in Sussex, has immersed himself in daily training—running, swimming, and endless hours of paddling in open water. He's even trained with GBSUP, the UK's national paddleboarding body. "Fitting everything in alongside work and life is tough," he said. "But I want to be prepared for whatever hits us. We want to finish this crossing standing tall, not falling at the finish line."

The challenge is as much mental as it is physical. With no place to rest and no shore in sight, the isolation of the crossing presents a daunting test. "The toughest bit will be being out there for so long—just us, the water, and our thoughts," Jamie noted.

For Jamie, turning 50 just before the crossing, the mission is deeply personal. Paddleboarding became his place of healing after Pearl's death, thanks to a board gifted by Rachel and son Milo. "It's where I found space to accept things," he said. "Just me, the water, and time to process."

He added, "Watching what Pearl and so many kids go through puts this all into perspective. If they can smile through it, then surely I can keep paddling."

Brother John has been by Jamie's side throughout Pearl's illness, and his emotional support and past fundraising experience are critical. "There's no one I'd rather do this with," Jamie said. "His strength keeps me going."

Funds raised through #PearlPower have already supported two pioneering research projects. "We've met the scientists—we've seen the difference the money makes," Jamie said. "That's what gets us up and out. This is about changing lives—kids' lives, families' lives." To follow the journey or donate:**@paddle4pearl, justgiving.com/page/paddle4pearl2025.** *Paddle4pearl team*

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ACCESSING BRIDLEWAYS USING THE BUSY ROADS IN MID SUSSEX. With new developments already completed or in progress all over our area and traffic increasing daily the continuity for accessing Bridleways and footpaths is becoming increasingly fragmented and difficult to join or rejoin a route without using part of a road and users can find themselves an unwelcome nuisance to vehicle drivers. In the distant past wide grass verges that were a place to stay safe off the road are almost a thing of the past or overgrown and unusable.

Crossing a busy road to join a bridleway or footpath is not for the faint hearted with life being hectic and drivers in a hurry. One example is the Southdowns Way, which in our area crosses the busy A273 at the Pycombe Golf Course an ever increasingly busy route it has a large sign a little way back to indicate the crossing.

The Southdowns Way is used by 100's of people walking, horse riding or cycling and crossing here is hazardous at the best of times, pedestrians and cyclists manage just about to hurry across when a gap appears, horses riders need to stop the traffic to cross safely and with the speed limit currently 50 mph it's much harder for drivers to pull up and wait. Also travelling down a road to access a bridleway is dangerous for all non motorists if a vehicle passes close and at speed.

There have been some disturbing incidents recently where the horse has been fatally harmed and cyclists dangerously at risk, especially on blind bends or at a junction. Many may not realise a horses vision is binocular and it can only see forwards, they can sense and hear things they don't yet see but they've no idea where or what is there.

Horses riders understand the roads are not a safe environment and often the only way to reach the safety of a bridleway, animals can become frightened by something they don't know like vehicles coming up fast and close.

Drivers using quiet lanes through outlying villages, for example Twineham off the A272 or New Way Lane from Hurstpierpoint to Clayton are a convenient route to avoid holdups and roadworks. Many of these lanes are narrow, winding and often still designated 60 mph it's easy in today's modern vehicles to drive faster than is safe. Local Councils recognise the changing need, and you will see many are having the speed limit reduced to 30 or 40 mph to keep all users safe.

We hope this helps in a small way to understand the hazards bridleway and footpath users experience when accessing their chosen route. For more information or to become a member of the Mid Sussex Bridleway Group visit our website **www.midsussexbridleway.org.uk**.

Jacqui Manley

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OUR ELUSIVE WATER VOLES

If you're on a reedbed ramble and hear a 'plop', you might have just missed one. Although active during the day, Water Voles are extremely shy and quiet. Given their rarity and secrecy, it's a wonder how anyone even knows they are there. So, here's a few tips.

Voles vs Rats - As a semi-aquatic rodent, Water Voles are often referred to as 'water rats'. You could mistake one for a Brown Rat, but they are quite different. Water Voles have a blunt nose, a furry tail and small ears. Rats have pointier faces, long hairless tails, and rounded ears. And although I have nothing against Rats, Water Voles are super cute.

Food caches - A cache of riverside nibbled grass stems can be a give-away. These often lie outside a discrete riverbank burrow. Continuing the ratty-confusion-theme, Brown Rats exhibit similar nibbly behaviours. However, Water Voles munch grasses at a neat 45-degree angle, whereas Rat teeth marks are a bit more erratic.

Latrines - Collections of rounded, tic-tac shaped droppings, known as latrines, are what to look for along the water's edge. These tidy deposits are a calling card for territory marking. Although the droppings are scentless, the Voles rub their hind legs on their scent glands and stamp on the droppings to leave a scent. A glamorous task.

But it's not all idyllic grass-nibbling and poop-stamping; our Water Voles are at risk. Threatened by pollution, climate change, habitat loss, and predation by invasive non-native American Mink, our Water Voles are up against it.



Once found in nearly every waterway in England, this protected species has declined by a staggering 90% since the early 1970s and are now listed as Endangered on the Great Britain and England Red List.

It sounds bleak, but there is good news ahead. Conservation organisations are protecting the species by monitoring and managing the population of American Mink. And there's things you can do. By keeping pets out of waterways, you can prevent pollution of our precious rivers by pet flea treatments. By taking your litter home, you can prevent bins over-flowing into vital Water Vole habitat. To help monitor the population, you can record sightings on iRecord, via the website or app, which are shared with the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre.

By taking action to support healthy rivers, balanced ecosystems, and robust monitoring we can contribute to bringing our Water Voles back from the brink of extinction to their rightful place in our flourishing waterways.

Kerry Williams

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH Three weeks ago (I write this at the end of June) this season's new-fledged jackdaws emerged and took up residence round the Black Swan Pond.

The place was already resonant with the high-pitched 'peeping' of baby song-birds - blue-tits, great-tits, dunnocks - and criss-crossed with the wing beats of the larger, silent and unsteady blackbirds, wood pigeons and ungainly crows, their soft plumage somehow, miraculously landing them on our roof-ridge or the branches of a nearby spruce before the thrill of taking off lured them once more into the air. Even woodpeckers shyly joined these fellow novices high in the birch trees. But when the jackdaws arrived, they brought pandemonium with them. Was there ever such a racket, as these youngsters made, drowning all other birdsong in the neighbourhood?

To my human ear they sounded mocking, squabblesome, petulant – like the chorus of monkeys in the tale of the Forty Red Night Caps. It seemed that they had been parked here in this secluded clearing, as though in a 'crêche' for their safety, while their parents went out into the fields, hunting for food.

The 'racket' may have been a forlorn complaint at being left behind, a rapturous greeting as the parents returned, or an innate hullabaloo simply to bolster their courage and ward off predators. They kept it up from dawn till dusk, at any rate.

A few days later, they were taking flying lessons, swooping between the trees, while baby wrens, like little brown bobbins strung on invisible threads, shuttled back and forth in the understorey. After that, the jackdaws took to the sky and for a day careered crazily overhead, learning the dynamics of moving in a flock.

At last, they were fit to accompany their parents to open pasture, to be embraced as members of the greater jackdaw community.

By winter, they will be dazzling acrobats of the air and their flight calls will resound as they pass from day-forage to night-time roost, swept up in an intoxication of pattern and movement. Here am I, earthbound, curious, trying to fathom the instinct which guides them.

Of course I have a partial view. But is it all one way? A few days ago, as I sat in the garden, reading, a blackbird settled itself in an apple tree not 5 feet away and proceeded to observe *me*. A high wind thrashed the branches of the taller trees, but here in the heart of the apple tree was stillness and, nestled here, the blackbird sang in an undertone, composing sequences of novel phrases.

Each time I looked up from my page, I found his beady eye fixed on me. An intimacy sprang up between us and I could not help thinking of this as a 'quantum' moment: "the observer is the observed". What did we make of one another? And were we both somehow transformed by the encounter, initiated into a new dimension?

Now, I am no physicist and am the first to confess that I can barely do simple arithmetic – but I *am* fascinated by the things I hear about the quantum world – perhaps be-

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cause they sound so very familiar. In this mysterious sub-atomic realm, we are told that the very act of looking can materially change the way particles behave.

In a famous experiment, scientists discovered that when they were *looking*, a single photon acted like a particle, a solid material entity. However, when they were *not* looking, the photon manifested as a wave, a pattern of pure energy. It could not only alternate between two modes of being but could actually be in two separate places at the same time! And if this can be true in a laboratory experiment, does that mean it is true throughout the universe?

If we can change the behaviour of a photon by bringing our attention to bear upon it, does that mean that our consciousness affects the essence of *everything* we see? And does that mean that we, in turn, we are affected by everything that sees *us?*

Does *everything,* fundamentally, possess consciousness, and share 'Life' with us, through underlying patterns of unity? Trees? Snails? Stones? Young children, who have not yet been trained to look one way only, will tell you emphatically: 'YES'! Poets and shamans have been saying it since the dawn of time. The pure energy, belonging to the world which lies beyond our human intention, sounds awfully like the visionary dimension in poetry - a place of dynamic being, where everything is 'alive'. 'Enlightenment' comes in dream-states, states of rapture or half-consciousness, when the busy rational mind is still.

It may be intuited but not comprehended – never formalised. It is essentially wild and beyond purpose and desire. The moment one brings intention to bear upon it, the vision collapses and one wakes forlorn on the cold hillside.

So, is it true that we live in a dual universe? On one hand there is the practical, physical and material world which we humans strive to control. And on the other, an elusive but rapturously coherent, cosmic dance to which the spontaneous waves of energy in a flock of birds, or a shoal of fish; the intricate choreography of our own molecular matrix; the invisible threads linking every movement in the cosmos give us clues. Is it within our capability to find the part of ourselves which resonates with this magical realm and, like the jackdaws, become part of the pattern?

There is a circularity between the observer and the observed. In the Tale of the Forty Red Night Caps, a travelling merchant rests beneath a circle of trees, which, unbeknown to him, are infested with monkeys. Feeling weary, he sets down the bag of red night caps he intends to sell in the next town, puts one on his head and takes a nap. When he wakes up he finds to his horror that the monkeys have stolen the rest of his night caps, put them on their own heads and are chattering and laughing high in the trees. The merchant is horrified, shouts and waves his fists. The monkeys imitate him, shouting and waving back. In a rage, he stamps his feet. The monkeys do likewise. Finally, in despair, the merchant wrenches the cap off his head and throws it to the ground. All the monkeys pull the caps off *their* heads and throw them down too and the merchant quickly gathers them up and continues on his way.

Here is a fable of the responsive, self-reflexive universe. In as much as we are what we see, we are sleepers entranced with our own dreams. But when 'Reality' holds a mirror up to us, "the observer is the observed"!

We glimpse ourselves from another perspective. Can we see the diminished side of ourselves in the two-dimensional leaders we choose to run the world? In the concrete, the dead-zones, the piles of rubbish we leave behind us? The bombs, the arsenals of toxic chemicals with which we arm ourselves? Beyond this, can we also recognise a part of ourselves, which we cannot *see*, but which we know to be there, that is willing to surrender itself to a greater order, a spectrum of cosmic wholeness, strangeness and beauty, of which we are an implicate part?

Practical Quantum Mechanics has given us the technology with which we are all blind-besozzled: the internet, and mobile phones and as yet undreamt of powers of world domination. But as is often quoted, the quantum field "is not only stranger than we imagine, it is stranger than we *can* imagine".

Could it be that its real gift to us will be the very thing that our focus on the material preludes: a taking wing into the magic of Being? *Rosemary*

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80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY 15th August. The Parish of Clayton with Keymer are having "Tea and Cakes" on the churchyard lawn, by the War Memorial at St Cosmas and St Damian Church Keymer, to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Japan Day at the end of the World War 2.

There will be a short Act of Remembrance for the Fallen at 3.45 pm.

Please come along and join us, Friday **15th August** from 2.30 pm to 4 pm, everyone welcome.

Carolyn Paynter

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

We had a superb July here at Age Concern. Our annual summer fair was a huge success and everyone had a great time. We would like to thank everyone who supported us – particularly Burgess Hill Keyboard Club, Bella June Florists, Hair by Helen, Hassocks Hardware, Profiles, Steve Carmo Chiropody, QD Stationery, The Hassocks Pub and The Sussex Grocer, who provided some of our lovely raffle prizes and our local Rock Choir, who provided the entertainment. As well as the fair, Hassocks Ladies Singers came into the Centre again to perform for us and some of our members spent a lovely couple of hours at The Little Cottage Tea Rooms in Glynde, enjoying cream teas and cakes. Later in the month some of our members visited Shoreham Airport, to watch the planes and enjoy lunch. Finally, West Sussex Fire & Rescue very kindly came to the Centre to give our members some essential fire safety advice.

This month we are looking forward to an outing to the Middleton Farm Butterfly Garden, Ditchling and a trip to Wakehurst Place. Don't forget, we provide home-cooked lunches, a range of activities including table tennis, yoga, pilates, as well as art and we have a chiropodist and hairdresser on site. We also provide a minibus service on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for anyone who may find it difficult to get to the Centre.

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

All at Age Concern.

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JAZZ LUNCH WITH THE NEW MUSKAT RAMBLERS Hassocks Pub Function Room on the second Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September and November for great food, jazz and company. The New Muskat Ramblers are 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.

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

DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the war, 15th August or VJ Day, Ditchling History Project has reprinted the two publications, *For the Fallen of Ditchling* and *Memories of War* first published in 2002 to accompany the DHP exhibition held in the museum. *For the Fallen*... gives information about each of the men named on the village war memorial. The current display on our noticeboard by the entrance to the village hall commemorates the men who lost their lives in the Second World War whose stories are told more fully in the book with some additional new information. Of the 13 men, six served in the air force, four in the navy and three in the army, two were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and two the Distinguished Service Order.

A talk on Friday **12th September** in St Margaret's Church will tell some of their stories. Ditchling History Project will also contribute to the exhibition in the church in August.

The second book, *Memories of War* draws on the memories of local people recalling their experiences of life during the war. We hear from school children including evacuees, from members of the Home Guard, the Red Cross and Civil Defence, from land girls, factory workers and others. Dame Vera Lynn shares her memories of singing for the troops in Burma, there are stories of prisoners-of-war, of homecomings and finally celebrations of peace.

The books will be on sale at the event on the village green on **17th August** and also available from our website **www.history.project@btinternet.com.** *Janet Cragg*

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BEFRIENDED IN AUGUST On Saturday **9th August** the Chailey Classic and Vintage Tractor Club will sponsor a Vintage Charity Day for Befriended at Springfield Farm, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, RH17 7NG from 2 pm to 5 pm. It will be a wonderful afternoon with classic motorbikes and cars, vintage tractors, mini steam railway, pop up charity shop and a vintage tea tent serving afternoon tea. Entry by donation. Everyone welcome.

Our monthly afternoon tea parties continue through August. We will be at Gateway Baptist Church on Station Road in Burgess Hill on Sundays **3rd and 31st August** and at Court Bushes Community Hub off Willow Way in Hurstpierpoint on Sunday **17th August**. Come along to enjoy a scrumptious afternoon tea, meeting old and making new friends with a variety of entertainment, quizzes and life stories.

Most of our weekly activities take a break from the summer, from **28 July to 29 August**. But not our amazing Cafe Neuro team. They will continue to be there every Monday, except the bank holiday, to support you if you are living with dementia or caring for a loved one with dementia. Come along to the Salvation Army on Cyprus Road in Burgess Hill 10.30 am to 12 pm on Monday mornings for activities, advice, a welcoming smile and a listening ear. *Susan*

HASSOCKS WI June meeting was busy, we had a talk called 'Step Back in Time' from the archives of the Evening Argus. Then we enjoyed a preview of the musical 'Shrek' from bhmts, such talented singers. We all loved Donkey. As part of 'Big Green Week' we heard from Colin McFarlin with all the up to date information on recycling our household rubbish correctly. Did you know the tip has a free Paint Store now? Check it out.

In July we had a successful stall at Age Concern . Our meeting is called 'La Dolce Vita' a fun start for the holidays. No meeting in August but we will have our usual picnic in the park. Check your emails for date. There will be no Craft Club in August either as the building works continue at Adastra Hall.

Our September meeting will be about de-fib machines use in line with our 2025 WI resolution 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers'. Visitors welcome (donation). On Saturday **13th September** we are holding a September Fayre, lots of interesting stalls and refreshments by Hassocks WI. The charity raffle will be for 'Breast Cancer Now'. See posters for full details. Come along, dare I say you might be able to get ahead with some presents for December, not quite mentioned it! Come along free admission. Enjoy summer. *Gerry*

Deadline for the September issue of this magazine is 1st August 2025
visit www.villagemagazines.co.uk or pop into QD Stationery in Hassocks.



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HURST HIGH STREET - We are looking for volunteers to deliver this free village magazine which has been delivered to you for more than 28 years.
We will drop the magazines to you and generally you will have a week to deliver.
If this is something you think you can help us with please contact Heidi on **01273 846978** or email **ed@villagemagazines.co.uk**. *Jo*

DITCHLING DOWNS WI thoroughly enjoyed hearing Louise Ryne's 'Confessions of a Ballet Teacher' at their June monthly meeting in the Ditchling Village Hall. Even those of us with not an ounce of dancer in our bones were entertained and amused to hear what goes on behind the scenes in a ballet class! And to end our evening Louise got us all up on our tip toes and choreographed a rather unique version of the Dance of the Cygnets from Swan Lake. An evening to remember for all of us.
We have no more formal meetings until September now.
In August we will be off to Chichester Festival Theatre to enjoy their production of Top Hat.
Alison White

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH: Please join us on Friday **15th August** when we will be commemorating VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day) – marking 80 years since the end of WW2, one of the deadliest and most destructive wars in history. The Deputy Lieutenant of East Sussex, Kathy Sambrook, OBE together with 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. *Lest We Forget.*
For further information please call me the Branch Hon Sec, on **01273 845319**.
Margaret Bovill

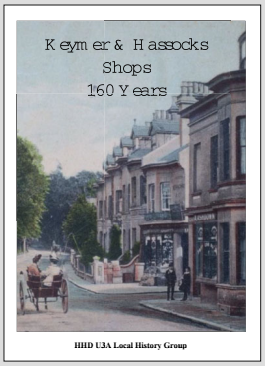
THE PLAY DAYS ON TOUR IS BACK THIS SUMMER This is free event for families. There is no need to book just turn up and enjoy – the activities are aimed at under 10's but all ages are welcome.
They all run from 1 pm to 3 pm and these are your local tour dates: Tuesday **5th August** at Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint.
Tuesday **12th August** at Adastra Park, Hassock.
Tuesday **19th August** at Worlds End Rec, Burgess Hill.
More tour dates and information can be found about the other Play Days on Tour by visiting **www.midsussex.gov.uk/playdays.**
Sally Blackmore

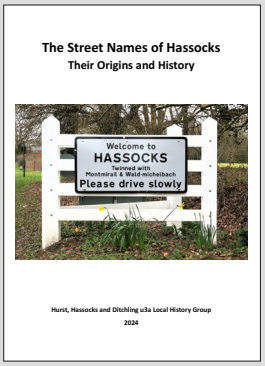
OCKLEY WAY, HASSOCKS (CLOSE END) - We are looking for volunteers to deliver this free village magazine which has been delivered to you for more than 48 years.
We will drop the magazines to you and generally you will have a week to deliver.
If this is something you think you can help us with please contact Heidi on **01273 846978** or email **ed@villagemagazines.co.uk**. *Ed*

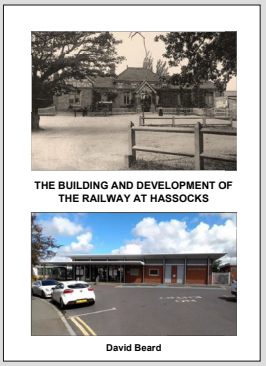
WANTED If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included please email us at **ed@villagemagazines.co.uk** or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR. Deadline for the September Issue is 1st August. *Ed*

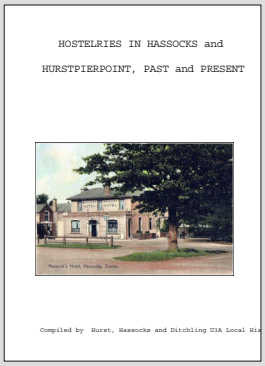
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE U3A LOCAL HISTORY GROUP HAS PUBLISHED FOUR BOOKS IN RECENT YEARS?

All the result of hard work and a lot of research!



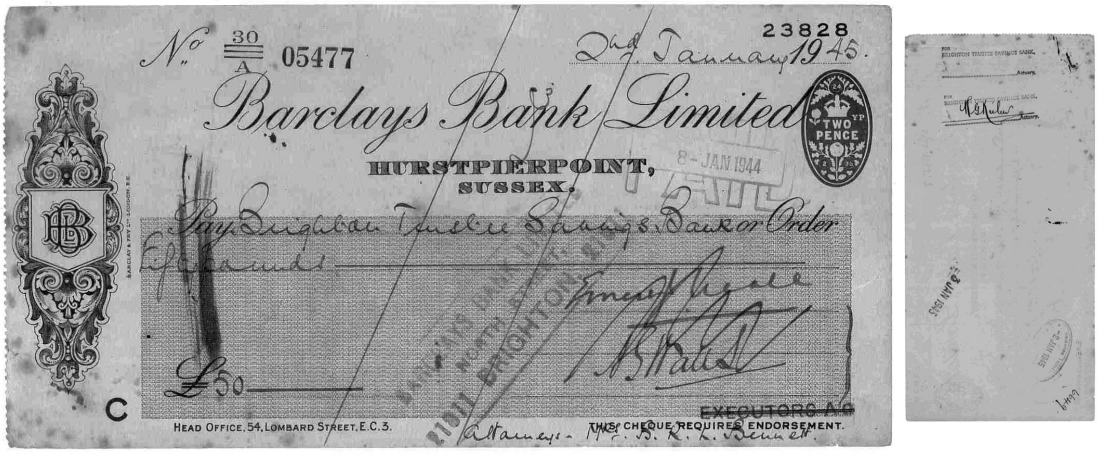






Hostelries in Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint Past and Present.
The Street Names of Hassocks, their Origins and History.
Keymer and Hassocks Shops 160 years.
The Building and Development of the Railway at Hassocks

They are available at QD STATIONERY in Hassocks.
52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8EG



We thank Derek Lane of Hurstpierpoint for this picture of a cheque front and back from Barclays Bank Limited, Hurstpierpoint Sussex dated 2nd January 1945.



ARRIVING DAILY
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KINGSLAND GATE (HASSOCKS) - We are looking for volunteers to deliver this free village magazine which has been delivered to you for more than 48 years.
We will drop the magazines to you and generally you will have a week to deliver.
If this is something you think you can help us with please contact Heidi on **01273 846978** or email **ed@villagemagazines.co.uk**. *Ed*

OLDLAND MILL OPEN DAY Have you ever wanted to see inside a working windmill?



Oldland Mill will be open to visitors on Sunday **7th September** and volunteers will be there to show visitors around the Mill.
Oldland Windmill is located between Ditchling and Hassocks with stunning views towards the South Downs. This beautifully restored 300 year old Mill is run by a team of volunteers who give up their time to ensure that the Mill can be enjoyed for years to come.
There's lots to see and do on the open day. In addition to tours of the Mill, there will be stalls selling food and drink plus memorabilia and the Mill's own flour. We will also have entertainers and lots of children's activities on the day.
Do come along to support the Mill and help with our fundraising towards the ongoing maintenance costs.
Please note that there is no parking at the Mill but it can easily be reached on foot with a pleasant walk via Oldlands Lane, Keymer or Lodge Lane Ditchling.
Further information can be found on our website **www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk**. *Karen Regan*

IT'S TIME TO MAKE CHANGES! Are you a 50+ single man who would like to get out more? Come along to one of five welcoming pub nights, organised by The Group, and see the varied diary events on offer all over Sussex: music, sport, theatre, walks and holidays too.
The Group is a Sussex club for unattached men and women, with over 200 members. You're guaranteed a friendly welcome as well as an opportunity to improve your social life.
Frankly, men are less likely than women to join clubs like ours, but, when you come along, you'll hear from the guys how pleased they are that they took that first step.
Take a look at our website **www.thegroup.org.uk** and, if you'd like more information, give one of our co-ordinators a call. Or just come along. The venues are listed on the website. *Tricia*

CHESTNUT GROVE, HURST GARDENS, KEMPS AND THE PINES - We are looking for volunteers to deliver this free village magazine to any of these areas. This magazine has been delivered to you for more than 48 years.
We will drop the magazines to you and generally you will have a week to deliver.
If this is something you think you can help us with please contact Heidi on **01273 846978** or email **ed@villagemagazines.co.uk**. *Ed*



ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?

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Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club Annual Championships



Year 5 / 6 winning Pair from Hassocks Poppy Dignam & Isla Gould

Parents, friends and classmates enjoyed the spectacle of over a hundred entries in the Club's 41st Annual Championships in July. The gymnasts chose which sections to enter, chose their own music and the choreographed their own routines. After months of practice they then performed in a packed Village Centre for the honour of winning and for twenty trophies.

Over all the age groups, honours were shared around the competitors with forty gymnasts gaining medals or trophies in the different categories.



Overall Champions Cleo Groman & Jessica Parsons

For the gymnasts in Year 3 entering their first ever Championships, Jessica Parsons won both the Floor and Vault, while Sophie Wingrove and Amelie Gaule-Coleman won the Pairs competition.
In Year 4, Ruby Lewis won Floor and Iris Bridger the Vault, with the Pairs won by Jessica Duggan & Eloise Jupp. Year 5 was a double success for Sienna Copleston, winning the Floor and Vault. The Year 5 & 6 Pairs was won by Poppy Dignam & Isla Gould
Year 6 Floor was won by Emily Church with Lucy Chance winning the Vault.
Cleo Groman won both the Floor and Vault in the Year 7+ section and then completed a triple – winning the Senior Pairs with her sister Edie.
Walkovers, free cartwheels, splits and handspring vaults have now become the norm.
The Overall best gymnast titles were won by Jessica Parsons (Junior) and Cleo Groman (Senior).
Over 30 different schools were represented from as far apart as Lewes, Brighton and Haywards Heath.

Andrew Hair



All winners



Useful Information

OUT OF HOURS CHEMIST
Either **Day Lewis** or **Boots** in Hassocks.
Mon. to Fri. 5.30pm - 6pm.
Sun. 10am - 4pm covered by Boots Burgess Hill
Bank Holidays Please see chemist doors.
Urgent prescriptions call Sussex Police
0845 6070999

LIBRARIES
Hurstpierpoint - 01273 832609
Hassocks - 01273 842779
Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9am - 1pm
& Thurs., Fri. 1 - 5pm

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

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PARISH COUNCILS
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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 August

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/Thursday 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 Monday, Keymer Church Hall, For parents, carers or grandparents who look after children. Cake, coffee, toys and games.

IRISH SET DANCING The Emmanuel Centre, Ditchling 7.15 - 9.30 pm. Come and join us for some fun and active dancing (not Riverdance). We are an informal and friendly group. 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 Mon & Thurs 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 JULY Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **3rd & 10th** (both inc Little Beacons)**, 17th & 24th** & ll age family service on **31st**. On **15th** VJ Day 80th Anniversary10.45 am at Ditchling War Memorial. Wednesday @10 services of communion at St Margarets Church.

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.
3rd Aug Marie Louise Mukeshimana from Rwanda will be talking about her healing and reconciliation work with individuals, groups and families.
Our magazine "Friendly News" is available at Ditchling PO www.ditchlingquakers.org.uk

Dated Events

2nd COELIAC GROUP South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road, Hassocks 9 am - 11am. 'Brunch and Chat'. All welcome.
2nd HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Rayners Lane (FA Cup). Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.
3rd DITCHLING ORCHARD Boddingtons Lane, Ditchling 10 am - 12 noon Orchard Maintenance Morning. All ages welcome.
3rd OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 pm - 5 pm. Open Afternoon.
5th MSDC PLAY DAYS Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 1 - 3 pm. Free event aimed at the under 10's more info www.midsussex.gov.uk/playdays
6th UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.
6th AGE UK 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.
8th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'BHI Products' Graham Somerville Refreshments available. All welcome.
9th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.
9th THE GROWING NETWORK Friends Meeting House, Ditchling 10.30 am to 12 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books/tools you don't need. See article for more info.
9th CHAILEY CLASSIC AND VINTAGE TRACTOR CLUB Springfield Farm, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill 2 - 5 pm. Charity Day raising funds for Befriended. www.befriended.org.
11th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached for more info www.thegroup.org.uk.
12th AGE UK 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.
12th MSDC PLAY DAYS Adastra Park, Hassocks 1 - 3 pm. Free event aimed at the under 10's more info www.midsussex.gov.uk/playdays
13th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Drop in all welcome.
15th POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12 pm. Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.
15th DITCHLING & DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Ditchling War memorial 10.45 am. Join Deputy Lieutenant of East Sussex Kathy Sambrook OBE for the VJ Day remembrance service marking 80 years since the end of WW2.
15th THE PARISH OF CLAYTON WITH KEYMER Keymer Church Lawn by memorial 2.30 - 4 pm. Tea and Cakes and VJ Day remembrance for the fallen marking 80 years since the end of WW2 at 3.45 pm.
17th 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.
17th THE BEACON PARISH Ditchling Village Green 2.30 - 5 pm VJ 80th Anniversary Picnic Party. Enjoy picnic food for sale in the barn and a bar.

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COME AND HAVE A BROWSE.

17th PARISH OF CLAYTON WITH KEYMER, Meeting Room, Keymer Church Hall. 9.45 - 10.45 am. Storytime Creative - Stories from the Bible and the heart and respond with your own pictures or creative writing. Bring an adult. More info 01273 845964.

19th MSDC PLAY DAYS Worlds End Burgess Hill 1 - 3 pm. Free event aimed at the under 10's more info www.midsussex.gov.uk/playdays

20th AGE UK MEMORY CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.



20th WOODLAND FLORA & FAUNA GROUP Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.30 pm. 'Woodland Flowers' Keith Kirby. Free Entry all welcome.

22nd MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag & Natter Evening' Refreshments. All welcome.

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

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

27th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm Hands on Practical Evening. Visitors welcome.

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

29th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'Member's Summer Social. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

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Reaching retirement is a major milestone—relief, freedom, and excitement all rolled into one. But for many, a new anxiety arises: you're no longer saving, but spending. The instinct is often to play it safe with your investments. While this worked for past generations who bought annuities and lived off guaranteed incomes, times have changed.

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David J Stevens

Property Maintenance

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I have to be honest I thought Joanna's hair shop in Keymer would be up for let for ages, but almost as soon as the boards went up it was under offer. It didn't take long to find it was reopening as a health and beauty spa, apparently with a touch of Japanese, obviously things can change. You only have to look around as this type of business is taking over the high streets, both Hurstpierpoint and Henfield are dominated by them offering its customers eternal youth - if only, but if that's what people want to spend their money on, good luck to them, being a service business it is not under threat of being forced out of business by the Internet like a lot of us retailers.

I'm hoping that with all the chaos of the drainage being replaced they will take the opportunity to repair the road at the start of our service road in Wilmington Close. It's been marked out with yellow paint now for weeks so fingers crossed with all the equipment at their disposal it'll get done. I can remember the day when you'd often get road workers come in the shop to tell you they had been doing some work up the road and had some tarmac left over and could we use it for a small donation to their beer fund, but sadly that doesn't happen anymore.

I had a very long conversation with one of the owners of your favourite yellow and red building in the centre of the town. To be honest nothing has really changed very much except that MSDC has employed another company to look at the application. I don't understand the reason for doing that, they surely can make the decision themselves as to whether they want the building or not. With all the objections put forward about the height and the amount of dwellings, then I can only assume or guess it's to do with the impact something so large will have on the village. David was quite adamant that it would only go ahead if it stayed as the original proposal, it wouldn't be financially viable to reduce it in anyway, the cost of the building something that big will be enormous as well as the disruption to the village when building it. If indeed it ever goes ahead and I can say that if the block of flats does get shelved then another garage will replace it, it's one or the other. The bottom line here is that the three brothers who own the site have done so for the last 40 years and they want to leave something to enhance the village which will last for a very long time. I'm just not sure if they realised in doing so the enormous cost and the headache it would bring before a single brick even being purchased.

I'd like to congratulate Lauren on being the new owner of Leahys Barbers now called Hassocks Barbers. She'd worked there for some time and when offered the chance to be her own boss, snatched it with both hands. Well done young lady, good luck to you and I'm sure it'll be a huge success.

Thank you for the newspapers and carrier bags and thank you for those who shop locally and support your High Street.

Steve

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