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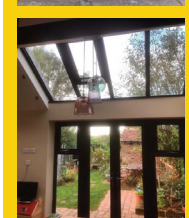
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We thank the late Jean Schwager from Hassocks for this photo of Hassocks High Street looking East

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TIME4CHILDREN 20TH ANNIVERSARY BALL on Saturday the **18th October** at Haywards Heath Golf Club from 6.30 pm to 11.45 pm. Reception drink, a three course meal, live music and dancing. Fore more information and tickets visit **www.time4children.org.uk/ball**

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

Where has summer gone? Please come to our Fayre on Saturday **13th September** Adastra Hall 9.30 am to 12 pm. Charity Raffle in aid of 'Breast Cancer Now'. Many exciting stalls, refreshments and cakes from Hassocks WI + bacon rolls by request (we listened). Free admission

Our July meeting 'La Dolce Vita' had an end of term feeling, Bellinis, pizzas judging of handmade masks and cornettos. Such fun, thank you to everyone for making it such a successful evening. Special thanks to Nicky not only for her kitchen duties but also the wonderful flower arrangements she made for our raffle, making it our most successful one to date.

No meeting in August but by now we will have enjoyed our picnic in the park 18th August. August saw teams entering the Federation quiz. Some of us helped make bat boxes for Bramber Beeches our WI wood situated up on the South Downs between Lancing and Steyning.

On the **15th September** 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' The use of defibrillators, CPR and 1st Aid tips from the professionals. Our October meeting is entitled' Paranormal mysteries and cover ups'. Well, that sounds interesting and if there is anyone out there you are warmly invited to our meetings (donation). Don't be alone or lonely come and enjoy our company.

Gerry

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

This September we are hoping to organise outings to Middleton Common Farm Butterfly Gardens in Ditchling and as our Shoreham Airport trip was so popular in July, we have decided to run a second outing to the airport towards the end of the month.

Colin McFarlin, who is a Volunteer Waste Prevention Officer for WSCC, will be visiting the centre on the **4th September** to tell us all about recycling and waste prevention.

Our first ever Car Boot Sale will be held in the Age Concern Car Park on Saturday **6th September** from 9 am until 12 pm. Spaces are limited, so please book quickly.

We are also busy organising a Halloween Quiz Night for Friday **31st October** at 6.30 pm, small charge per head - bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will be a raffle, and teas and coffees will be available to buy on the night.

Please phone **01273 844461** or book in the office.

As usual Hassocks Village Market and Repair Café will be held on the **27th September**. Our Coffee shop will be open for bacon rolls, cakes and a selection of hot drinks.

Don't forget, we provide home-cooked lunches Monday to Friday, as well as a range of activities including table tennis, yoga, pilates, 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.

Our charity shop is open 9 am to 4 pm every day and 9 am to 12 pm on Saturdays and whilst you are visiting the charity shop why not stop by for a drink and cake in our coffee shop – we stop selling around 3pm Monday to Friday.

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

All at Age Concern

THE HURSTPIERPOINT MCMILLAN COMMITTEE are having their coffee morning in the Hurstpierpoint Bowls Club, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint on Friday **19th September**, from 10 am - 12 noon. Entrance fee includes your coffee/tea and delicious cake.

There will be a Bric a Brac stall with lots of good items, a bottle tombola and a raffle.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

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NEW FROM STONEYWISH AUGUST 2025

It is high summer and survivors from the herb garden in the Stoneywish Smallholding are now settled in our garden at home: marjoram, marshmallow, feverfew, wall germander... the lavender and skullcap have flowered and seeded already. In these, the last of the long days, gatekeeper butterflies dance among the marjoram blossoms; bees lurch, intoxicated, from one stem to another. The air is heady for them with nectar. Considering this transformative alchemy - sunlight and earth to plant essence, plant essence to golden honey - I am reminded of the herbalist Stephen Harrod Buhner describing plants as the most sophisticated chemists on the planet. A single herb will contain a dazzling array of different volatile aromatics, and only the most obvious can be detected by scientific analysis. Others may exist in minute traces, winking in and out of existence, for the chemical composition of plants alters according to the weather, the time of day, the stage of maturity, therefore, in order to harvest flowers when their sweetness is intact, the herbalist or perfumer must rise early and catch them before they have opened and surrendered their fragrance under the sun.

Traditional cultures knew when to harvest each herb in their pharmacoepia. Some were to be picked while the dew was still on them, others gathered by moonlight, still others as their flowers faded. In general, leaves are most potent just before the plant flowers. Roots hold their greatest concentration as the sap dies down in autumn. The dynamic complexity is not lost on insect foragers as they select those flowers whose aromatic oils are activated in full sunlight. The aerosols released saturate the air where plants grow, carrying signals to other plants, to bacteria, and to all life, ourselves included.

As Harrod Buhner explains, they are swept up into weather systems and deposited many miles away, where their messages can be interpreted by distant seeds and soil life; “Plants and their chemistries” he writes, “...are intimately interwoven into the lives of all organisms on earth. They exist not for themselves alone, they create and maintain the communities of life on Earth, they produce the chemistries all life needs to live, and they heal other living organisms that are ill.” It is this synergistic complexity that also gives herbs in their natural state such medicinal value. Pathogenic bacteria simply cannot develop resistance against 40 or more active ingredients in a single herb. As witness to the integrative intelligence here at work, perfumer Nathalie Artemis reveals that benign bacteria, existing within flowers themselves, actually assist in the production of healing floral fragrance. Flowers which have been artificially ‘sterilized’ lose their fragrance. That could be said of everything in life. The intoxicating nature of the plant aerosols in her laboratory, left Artemis feeling heady, dizzy, drunk with pleasure. And as everyone knows, perfume and passion are soulmates.

If insects are the master-connoisseurs of these precious elixirs, we humans have tried our best to capture them for our own continual delight. Avicenna, the great 10th century ‘Father of Medicine’, was the first to distil the perfume from roses in Persia. This gave us not only the delights of rose

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water and rose oil, but inspired the poets and alchemists of succeeding centuries in their quest to refine spiritual beauty and truth.

During the years of the plague it was noted that perfumers seemed to have immunity against the disease. Their constant exposure to aromatic substances was believed to offer protection and the carrying of nosegays of flowers, to cleanse the air of infection, became fashionable, memorialised in the 'pocket full of posies' of the plague nursery rhyme 'Ring-a-ring-a-roses'.

But of course medicine in those days *meant* herbs! And despite undoubted evidence of quackery and chicanery in the medical profession of long ago, herbal cures formed the trusted folk medicine of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers until about 1935. Unwittingly, they carried on the teachings of Hippocrates, a still older, Greek physician, who sought to promote harmony between self and environment, seeing each as an extension of the other. How modern this sounds today! 'Let food be your medicine and your medicine your food." The alchemy which produced the green magic in plants, was re-enacted in us when we ate those plants.

We too were like laboratories of life, distilling energy and intelligence from base matter and then returning the residues back to earth to fuel the process again. There was no end to the variation and wonder as long as balance could be maintained. When balance was disturbed, the life-affirming wholeness of well-being broke down too. It seems to me that there is a great deal to unpack from this idea. Alchemists believed that patterns of influence threaded the fabric of the universe, linking microcosm and macrocosm in nested worlds. The ancient herbal Doctrine of Signatures found an affinity between a plant's physical form and the anatomical organ it most resembled.

Today we still use these names for many plants: lungwort, pilewort, heartsease... Long before the formulation of Chaos Theory, recurring patterns in the stars, in the seasons, in the structures of Nature, gave rise to the aphorism: 'As above, so below.' If humans were worlds in miniature, then not only were we subject to disturbances in the cosmos (influenza, the influence of the stars!), we in turn could bring life or catastrophe to other spheres, by supporting or breaking the patterns of vital exchange.

Today it seems, Nature can neither provide us with the substances we want, nor deal with the wastewe produce. Nature's bounty is insufficient for the life we crave. We love the idea of Nature. We study it, photograph it, we visit it on holiday. But we have

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evolved out of step with the pattern which gave us life. It is too slow, too unpredictable, too dangerous, too difficult for us. Civilisation has created the tools for man to strike out and make his own imitative patterns of living which do not honour traditional affinities and connections. The individual is more and more insulated from wildness, more and more isolated from tangible community. The digital age has brought us a prepackaged existence and continual immersion in the dreamtime of the internet and social media. Our food comes from who knows where. Our rubbish goes who knows where. Our food makes us sick. Our rubbish sickens the planet. We need ever more outrageous solutions, and the cost is out of control. Is it really too late to call a halt?

Watching the butterflies on these marjoram flowers I marvel at the attunement and the resilience of things so ephemeral – they take life lightly – and they radiate pure pleasure. I want to turn my back on all the trash that blocks and dims this radiance. Here I am, an evolved being, who can no longer smell the flowers unless they are simulated in some awful chemical air freshener, who can hardly see, eyes ruined by book-reading and screen-watching, ears deafened by ear-plugs, taste buds addicted to Pringles, mind hooked on the news... Is this truly evolution? Could I, in a moment of sanity, let all these distractions drop and simply bask in the sunlight? Could I take in the astonishing idea that I am one with these butterflies? That we are both a whirl of particles of crystallised light. Already transmuted. And already connected by infinite, simultaneous impulses to everything that exists in the cosmos. It's not a new idea. But it is what the radical science of quantum physics tells us. And you only have to open the windows of your senses to *feel* it. From here it would be so easy to begin anew. Begin some real soul evolution. Be like the herbs – be *good* for something and share the joy!

Rosemary

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB This September, the Keymer Folk Dance Club starts its 75th year. The first meeting took place in September 1950 when the club met on Wednesdays at the Guide Hut in Parklands Road, and then transferred to the Adastra Hall in the mid-1950s. It now meets at the United Reform Church Hall on Monday evenings. It has been a success story.

We start the 2025/26 season on Monday **1st September** with two more meetings on Monday **15th September** and Monday **29th September**.

An experiment for this season, we will be having a band playing for the dancing on the third Monday of each month, for September this will be on the **15th September**. Dancing starts at 7.30 pm at the URC Church Hall, Hassocks

We will be holding an anniversary dance on Sunday **12th October**. For further details of all our events, please check our website at **www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk** or email **keymerfdc@gmail.com.**

Sean Goddard

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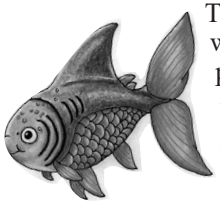
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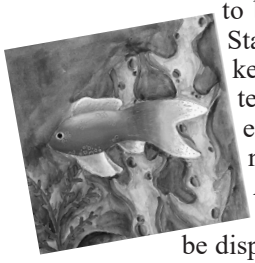
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HASSOCKS GOES GOLD

THE WINNERS OF THE GOLDFISH POSTER COMPETITION!



There were a staggering 126 wonderful entries to the poster competition this year – an amazing pool of flamboyant fishes! It was very difficult to choose the winners, but these entries stood out for effort, beauty and overall GOLDness! All those named below are included on the stunning Gold Fundraising Poster for September, available to buy for just £1 from QD Stationery, the Village Markets and from our wonderful team of neighbourhood sellers coming round a street near you!



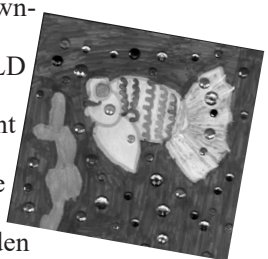
And remember of course, ALL the 126 entries will be displayed in the annual Parklands Road Art Gallery for the whole of September!

Huge congratulations to all these fabulous artists! Winners (pictured) Pre-School - Thea McCormack, Hassocks Infants - Grayson Potter, Windmills Junior - Maisie Smith, Downlands - Polly Gates and Adult - Tae Louis Cobbold.



Runners-Up: Hassocks Infants - Quentin Browning, Windmills Junior - Nikko Sendall, Downlands - Sebbie Hitchcock and Adult - Kelly Woodbridge.

Highly Commended: Pre-School - Arthur Campell, Hassocks Infants - Evelyn McCormack, Hassocks Infants - Imi Elliott, Windmills Junior – Alice Lambe and Downlands - Zach Pitts.



HASSOCKSGOESGOLD

Dates for the Diary!

All September – Giant Gold Bow Trail

All September – Find the Gold Bike Challenge

All September – Golden Shop Windows @ Hassocks High Street

All September – The Golden Shoal! All the Goldfish Entries in The Parklands Road Art Exhibition

Friday, **26th September** – The Golden Gala @ The Hassocks Pub

Saturday, **27th September** – Hassocks Village Market – Soft Toy & Alcohol Tombolas!

Friday, **3rd October** – Wine Tasting Event @ Adastra Hall



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.

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Rachel

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HAWTHORN VETS NEWS Having enjoyed all the wonderful community Facebook pages in Hassocks and surrounding areas, we sadly see many posts regarding lost cats. Cats, by their very nature, are a wandering species, and as a cat owner myself, the idea of one of our cats getting lost is simply heartbreaking.

Since June 2024, it has been law to microchip your cat, though sadly our experience is that compliance is far from 100%. There is nothing more lovely than reuniting a lost cat with their worried owner, but there is also a sad reality that as vets, we are all too often brought deceased pets that have been found. When these poor souls do not have a microchip, it is often impossible to let their owners know the sad news. This leaves owners forever looking and unable to process the loss of their beloved pet.

Please, if you are reading this as a cat owner, check that your pet is microchipped and also that the details are up to date. Even if your cat is a house cat that normally doesn't leave the home, the law still applies, and sadly it's often these cats that, when they accidentally are let out, do not have the same 'street smarts' as their outdoor adventuring friends. Microchipping is quick, easy and lasts a lifetime. Please contact us if you are unsure if your pet has a chip or not as we are happy to scan your pet free of charge. *Jonathan Underwood*

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PRESS BUTTON PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Thank you to the 406 residents who signed the petition for a push button pedestrian crossing for Keymer Road at the Stonepound crossroads. This was posted to West Sussex County Council on the 12th May.

The matter could not proceed until after the local election of a new county councillor as it would have to have their support.

Then I had to make a request to the Community Highway Scheme. This time with written support from Erika Woodhurst-Trueman County Councillor and Sue Hatton District Councillor this was immediately supplied.

I have now received a very lengthy e-mail from CHS to say they are unable to process the application as the traffic signals and Street lighting team is still in the process of modelling and evaluating the feasibility of delivering the scheme.

Once this has been completed I will have to reapply. I will try not to lose hope. *Margaret Everest*

SEPTEMBER IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN DITCHLING MORRIS ARE RECRUITING NEW DANCERS AND MUSICIANS - why not come along and try it? We are a fun and friendly mixed side and dance in the Cotswold tradition to live music. Our practice night is Thursday at 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at the Hassocks United Reformed Church Hall, 2 minutes from Hassocks Station. We will be giving more details of the start date nearer the time so please have a look at our Ditchling Morris Facebook page - we will be delighted to see you!

Penny

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NEW TERM AT BEFRIENDED. Befriended is a small local charity with a Big vision.
We are bringing an end to loneliness and isolation amongst older people living in Mid Sussex. We do this by offering a range of services and activities that not only bring people together to improve wellbeing, encourage spirituality and build friendships, but also connect people with befrienders in their homes. We support people through the journey of bereavement and bring joy through our community choir, outings and tea parties.
There is no afternoon tea party on the first Sunday of September. We will be hosting our monthly tea party on Sunday **21st September** at Court Bushes Community Hub in Hurstpierpoint at 3 pm with entertainment provided by Wings Theatre Company.
Our weekly activities all start again at the beginning of September. On Mondays at 10.30 am we have Cafe Neuro at the Salvation Army on Cyprus Road in Burgess Hill for carers and those they care for with dementia.
On Tuesdays at 10 am there's our Community Choir at the Methodist Church on London Road in Burgess Hill, where we sing for joy.
On Wednesday afternoons at 2 pm we have our falls-prevention exercise class, which has moved to Gateway Baptist Church on Station Road in Burgess Hill.
On Thursdays we offer bereavement support through bereavement cafes and our 3 week Compassionate Conversations course.
If you are interested in any of our activities, you can call us on **0300 7727703** or see our website at **www.befriended.org** or speak to your social prescriber. *Susan*

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 send an e mail to **tony.m.bright@gmail.com** or visit our Website **www.hassockscroquetclub.net** for more information.

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YOUR VISION MATTERS – SUPPORTING NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK 4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is once again proud to support National Eye Health Week with its theme this year of 'vision really matters'. Running from **22nd to 28th September**, this annual awareness-raising campaign promotes good eye health for all – reminding us to get regular eye health checks, and highlighting how lifestyle choices like diet, exercise and screen time affect your vision and can help you make better decisions.

Regular eye health checks can detect early signs of conditions, including glaucoma, which can be treated if found soon enough, as well as diabetes or high blood pressure. Those with sight loss should continue to attend regular checkups as further changes in the eyes can help make the best use of remaining vision and prevent any unnecessary further sight loss. Eye health checks are free for certain people; the NHS website has all the eligibility criteria and information.

In terms of lifestyle, diet, exercise and screen time, affect vision: a healthy balanced diet is ideal, not just for vision but for overall health and wellbeing. Scientific evidence suggests that exercise may reduce the risk of sight loss as it increases the supply of oxygen to the optic nerve. For those using a computer screen, it is recommended to take frequent breaks – try the 20, 20, 20 rule – take a 20 second break, every 20 minutes and look at something at least 20 feet away. 4sight Vision Support is encouraging everyone to help spread the word, on Social Media and by asking friends and family when they last had an eye health check.

For further information on eye health, practical support and advice including shopping, reading food packaging or preparing meals, or help with accessing a local optician please contact 4SVS on **01243 828555** or email **enquiries@4sight.org.uk** More information about National Eye Health Week can be found here **Vision Matters - National Eye Health Week** .

Cathy

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HASSOCKS FC The season has started, and we'll see if Hassocks FC, our local village club, can compete with the big towns in the south east of England (and Jersey).

Our club's identity is about the community and young families getting together on a Saturday afternoon or Tuesday evening and enjoying a match in a relaxed atmosphere.

We very much encourage adults and children to enjoy a day out at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground. It's a great setting to bring your kids to play on the grass bank and get out of the house, plus they're free entry!

Back in July we held the Ann John cup which is a summer fixture between Hassocks and friendly rivals Burgess Hill. We raised a record £2,800 for charity which was £600 more than our previous record!

Thank you for your generosity and donations, and I'm sure St Peter and St James' Hospice will put this to good use.

Keep an eye out for our new mascot, the Robin. They will soon have a name, but who's inside? Not me.

Thank you to recent pitch side banner supporters, Josh Wickwar at PSP Homes, Gary Cragg at Southdown Bodyshop, and Stuart Faith's company, Faith Hill Services. We appreciate your help to grow the club. Home fixtures (subject to change, check social media) coming up:

Saturday **30th August** Deal or FA cup at 3 pm. Saturday **6th September** Possible FA trophy Crowborough at 3 pm. Saturday **20th September** Whyteleafe or FA trophy at 3 pm.

Pat Harding

HASSOCKS GOES GOLD WINE TASTING

Tickets are still available for this event which will be held in Adastra Hall on **3rd October**. All profits go to Hassocks Goes Gold in support of their research into childhood and teenage cancer.

South Downs Cellars of Hurstpierpoint will guide us through 4 different wines, complemented by nibbles, and there will be a lively raffle and auction to add to the evening's fundraising activities. Tickets are available online via the link in the visual or alternatively you can buy them in cash from Proper Café, Keymer Road, Hassocks.

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HASSOCKS COMMUNITY ORGANISATION GREEN GROUP WINS BEST COMMUNAL GARDEN - plus more exciting news and activities for you!

As part of our local community offerings, we look forward to seeing you and our fantastic Sussex-based stallholders at the Hassocks Village Market on the 4th Saturday of the month from 9 am to 12.30 pm in the Age Concern car park.

Our volunteers are working hard behind the scenes to organise more Hassocks Community Youth Events (HYPE!) activities for children and teens.

The Holiday Drama Workshops last month provided a wonderful opportunity for eager 9 to 14 year olds to create and perform a fun drama piece at United Reform Church. Commenting on the success of the activity, Tim Rowland of Drama Collective said: "By learning and practising some of the fundamentals of acting, the group flexed their imaginations whilst developing pride in their own capabilities and nourishing self-esteem, teamwork and communication skills."

In other news, we are delighted to share that Hassocks Community Organisation has been named the winner of the Best Communal Garden in the St Peter & St James Hospice in Bloom Competition! Each year the hospice organises an Open Gardens community event that features beautiful spaces, including cottage gardens, ponds, vegetable plots, and expansive wooded estates for people to enjoy. Alongside this years' event, the 'Hospice in Bloom' competition welcomed entries for various categories like Best Front Garden and Best Business with a Garden.

We are proud to have contributed to this years' event run by St Peter & St James Hospice which serves the community of West, Mid and East Sussex by providing essential care for people in our community living with life-limiting illnesses. The Green Group's voluntary enthusiasm and commitment has also been applauded by fellow Trustees:

Erika Woodhurst-Trueman, HCO Secretary and Deputy Chair said of the award "The Green Group do a fantastic job of making the pet shop bed (and others) look magnificent throughout the year and I think it's an award that is very well deserved !".

Robert Kenhard, HCO Trustee added "This is fantastic news! Thank you Green Group for all for your enthusiasm and hard work. It is great to see the groups' efforts being recognised! Well done!".

The Hassocks Community Organisation Green Group ensures that the various planting schemes

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throughout the village are maintained come rain or shine and is always happy to welcome new volunteers.

We are also excited to provide more details about the return of Star Cinema which offers all ages a great opportunity to make new friends in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and enjoy a thoughtfully selected, and often recently released, film. Film showings with Star Cinema will again run monthly between September and April on a Friday evening at Adastra Hall. The first date for the Star Cinema diary is 19th September with the film Vindication Swim, which is about the inspirational story of Mercedes Gleitze - the first British woman to swim the English Channel in the 1920s.

In the run up to seasonal events and further activities that we have in the works, we welcome you to take a look through our website at **www.hassockscommunity.org.uk** and consider whether you might like to get involved or support the work that we do across the community.

Erika Woodhurst-Trueman

THE GROWING NETWORK 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 **13th September** 10.30 am to 12 pm.

Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST

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

Feel free to bring your glut of courgettes/beans/apples etc. Or just bring yourself!

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HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW at 2.15 pm on Saturday **13th September** at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre.

Autumn flowers, vegetables, fruit, cookery, photography and children's section. Exhibiting is free. Pick up a schedule from Rhubarb in Hurst High Street or email **hhs1886@btinternet.com**.

Tea and homemade cake, raffle and produce auction at end of show. *Kathy*

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DITCHLING DOWNS WI enjoyed their summer party on 1st July in glorious evening sunshine and to the sound of the church bells at their weekly bellringing practice! It was a great opportunity to enjoy delicious food and wine provided by members, to chat and laugh together and to generally put the world to rights.

Our August event was a trip to Chichester theatre to see Top Hat, and then in September we look forward to a talk on 'London's Hidden Gems' by Peter Batty. *Alison White*

DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT As part of the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, on Friday **12th September** at 7.30 pm in St Margaret's Church, we will be telling the stories of the men who gave their lives in that conflict and are named on the village war memorial. There is no booking, but there will be a collection following the talk.

When he carved the 20 names of those lost between 1914 and 1918 the stone-carver Joseph Cribb, himself wounded in the so-called war to end all wars, could little have imagined he would be adding another 13 names within three decades. We have reprinted for this anniversary year two of our books, 'For the Fallen of Ditchling' and 'Memories of War' - the first is about the men named on the war memorial from both wars while 'Memories of War' is the result of an oral history project conducted 20 years ago to collect memories of local people on their experiences of the Second World War. Among the contributors is Dame Vera Lynn who went out to Burma facing considerable danger and discomfort to sing for the troops. Both books will be available to buy online at **www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org**.

This is one of three talks being presented by DHP this autumn. On Sunday **12th October** 'A Different Kind of Life in Ditchling' is the title of an afternoon talk at Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, a quote taken from a 1946 booklet 'The Story of Ditchling' by Hilary Pepler and Esther Meynell. More information and booking from the museum **www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk**.

Also in October, DHP will host a talk about the 18th century murder at the Royal Oak on Ditchling Common to be given by Professor Tony Kushner of the University of Southampton whose years of painstaking research have resulted in his recently published book, 'The Jewish Pedlar'. The talk will take place in the village hall on Wednesday **22nd October** at 2.30 pm. More information and booking via our website **www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org**.

Janet Cragg

GIRLGUIDING SUSSEX CENTRAL AWARDS EVENING

Girlguiding Sussex Central County returned again to the South of England Showground, Ardingly to hold their annual Awards Evening on Monday 30th June.

Caroline Hitchcock, current Chair of Awards and Wendy Colson, County Commissioner welcomed members of the county, recipients' families and friends together with invited guests, who included: Lady Emma Barnard, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex; Rachael Fisher, CEO of Blackland Farm Activity Centre together with Mark Sinclair and Nic Taylor, Co-Owners; Matt Pike, representing West Sussex Scouts and Bev Boakes, Girlguiding Sussex East County Commissioner as well as various local mayors & councillors; Girlguiding ambassadors and the guest speaker, Lexie Chadd, Paramedic with the London Ambulance Service.

Due to the unprecedented numbers of award recipients in 2024, this is the first of two award celebrations for the county with younger members – Rainbows and Brownies looking forward to their Gold celebration in September.

Over 40 young people & volunteers received, certificates and awards.

These included 19 Guides from Burgess Hill, Crawley, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Horsham, Parkminster, South Down and Worth divisions. who received their Programme Gold Awards; the highest award given in each age group for completing all the appropriate clauses in their respective programmes.

Recognition was also given in various other categories;

Lexi Pellett (East Grinstead division) received a Hero Award from county President, Clare Brittain**.** Since early 2024, Lexi has supported a young visitor to her Brownie unit who has complex health requirements and has continued to be a true friend to her, attending Brownies when she herself has moved up to Guides.

Ava Poppy Finch, Evie-Rose Ball, Lauren Mangudi, Jeevika Senthil & Isabelle Grant (Crawley & Haywards Heath divisions), received their Commonwealth Award; which is an award for Guides. It is achieved by completing a variety of challenges associated with the Commonwealth. The girls spoke about their achievements and Evie-Rose played a piece of music on her clarinet



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which she had also played to residents at a local Retirement Home during her community service clause.

India Belfield (Horsham division) were presented with their Queen's Guide Awards by Lady Emma Barnard, Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex. This is the highest award in Girlguiding and typically takes several years to complete. One of the sections and challenges includes community action work, Amy served meals in a homeless shelter and undertook a Food Bank donation drive, whilst India volunteered with Cocos Foundation's clothing campaign and supported their initiatives in South Africa.

Long Service Awards for adult volunteers across the county, from 50 years of service, to 40 years & 30 years were recognised.

Surprise presentations were made to five volunteers; Amy Hill (Leader & Peer Educator, Crawley division), Carol Pembrey (Chair of Sussex Central county Trefoil Guild), Bev Boakes (County Commissioner for Girlguiding Sussex East county), Janet Templeman (county Leadership Co-Ordinator) & Ann Tucker (Leader, East Grinstead division) for their continued commitment and support with recent programmes and events in 2024 and 2025. The Good Service Brooch which is given in recognition of excellent service which has made a difference within Girlguiding Sussex Central county was awarded to Dawn Batchelor & Lynne Thomas (both Leaders, South Down division).

Wendy concluded the evening by thanking Lexie for her inspiring presentation. Lexie had told the audience how her journey through Girlguiding has helped give her the confidence to follow her dream of becoming a paramedic. She explained how through hard work, determination & pushing the boundaries she finally achieved her ambition proving that 'Girls Can Do Anything.' Finally, Wendy thanked Caroline & her team for organising the event.

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We help all girls know they can do anything. We're Girlguiding

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Janet Samuel



pictured here are Calleigh Twine & Rosetta Cox from 1st Hassocks Guides

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There is something for everyone, including quizzes, sport, weather reports, interviews and a wide range of music genres.

It's a local radio station for local people by local people.

We would love to hear from charities and not for profit organisations which would like to be featured on our "What's on" guide.

We also offer interview slots for these groups or individuals to talk about their work in the local community.

Do you know a local unsung hero whose story deserves to be heard? Why not nominate them to be interviewed live on air?

Local singers and musicians are also very welcome to arrange a time to come to the studio to showcase their work live on air.

Showcase events for local performers are also held at venues across the Mid Sussex district.

Mid Sussex Radio can also provide outside broadcast units for community events.

If you would like to know more about being featured on the "What's on" guide, being interviewed, or showcasing your music, contact: **info@midsussexradio.co.uk**.

If you would like to know more about how to get involved as a volunteer, we have a range of opportunities from presenters to behind the scene roles please contact us at:

info@midsussexradio.co.uk

NB Volunteers must be over 18 years of age.

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So please come and join us for this entertaining evening as Dick shares anecdotes from his time with Her Majesty as he visited over 160 countries, and met Nelson Mandela, His Holiness the Pope, and President Bush. For more information and to book please contact **bhpfriends@gmail.com**.

Jan Archer

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Firstly, you need to know which country council your path is in by looking at the I-MAP on each website. Both East and West Sussex websites are easy to follow although they do differ in their reporting process.

Eastsussex.gov.uk - you will need to open an account with ESCC, very simple just email address and a password, then follow these steps by selecting as follows: 1. Report a rights of way problem. 2. Report and issue in our online imap. 3. View our online map. 4. Report an issue - this will open a window that explains how to report the issue in question. 5. using the +/- zoom into the location you're looking for. 6. When you find your path you will find the path number, any gates are marked on the path and just follow the instructions on how to report an issue **www.westsussex.gov.uk** you will need to open an account here too, then follow these steps: 1. Land, waste, and housing. 2. Public paths and the countryside. 3. Report a problem with a right of way. 4. Public rights of way map. 5. Launch the map. 6. Zoom in on the area you want. 7. Find the path you want and make a note of its number. 8. Report a problem then follow the steps on the reporting page and include photos if you have them.

Using what3words is also a useful tool to help the people who need to find the issue on the ground. If you don't have a signal at the location, you can do it when you get home by logging into the app and finding the location.

Some time ago we approached the Highways Department about a Pelican Crossing at the busy road where Southdowns Way Crosses at the Pycombe Golf Course a very busy road where the speed limit on the A273 was 50 mph. Recently the speed has been reduced down to 40 mph from Pycombe garage down Clayton Hill to the burial ground just after the Jack and Jill pub, which is helpful once drivers have become aware of the change of speed limit. A Pelican Crossing here would be the safest option and more needs to be done.

Jennifer Rycroft one of our Bridleways Members is working on a project aimed at making access to Bridleways via the roads round Ditchling and Westmeston a safer place for equestrians following a recent road incident which resulted in a pony being euthanised after being hit by a car. This compounded Jennifer's own anxieties from when she was involved in an incident in the same area. While driving her pony and carriage the pony was scared by a van driver coming too close

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causing it to bolt, injuring herself, the pony and the groom who was travelling with them. Jennifer has created a questionnaire and collected 57 replies from horse owners in the area resulting in some compelling evidence of the dangers of using roads to access bridleways, even in our quiet lanes where drivers in a hurry cut through to avoid traffic holdups. Electric cars are a new worry being virtually silent and following close and quietly for some time before being noticed and given space to pass. Those who would like to join in this debate and have their say are invited to attend a meeting on the **11th September** at 7 pm at Ditching Village Hall to have their say too and discuss what can be done to resolve some to these issues and concerns.

If you would like to attend, please let Jennifer know by texting her on **07798744578** and should you would like to complete one of the questionnaires Jennifer will be delighted to send it.

If you use Deaks Lane as a cut through to avoid holdups on the A23 you will notice some Bridleways members have erected some signs outside their property. Deaks Lane is a narrow road and any vehicle should be aware if they come across a horse to pass slow and wide, this forms part of a national campaign to make drivers aware of how vulnerable non motorists road users are, particularly horses. More about this in the next issue or take a look the website **www.midssussexbridleways.org.uk** to learn about the campaign, its aims, the organisations and people supporting it.

Jacqui Manley

HURST PLAYERS NEXT PRESENTATION…… will be TWO by Jim Cartwright, showing from **16th to – 20th September**, as part of the Hurst Festival, each evening from 7.30 pm – the bar of the theatre will be open from 7 pm, during the interval and following the conclusion of the play at around 9.30 pm. Tickets are available now online through the website – hurstplayers.org.uk. Alternatively you can visit the box office on **6th September, 13th September** between 10 am and 12 pm.

This unusual play features a northern pub, its landlord and landlady and a diverse section of its regular customers. With humour and pathos we see into their day-to-day lives and past history as many secrets are revealed and resolutions reached. The play contains some adult themes.

Directed by Karinn and Korey Grierson.

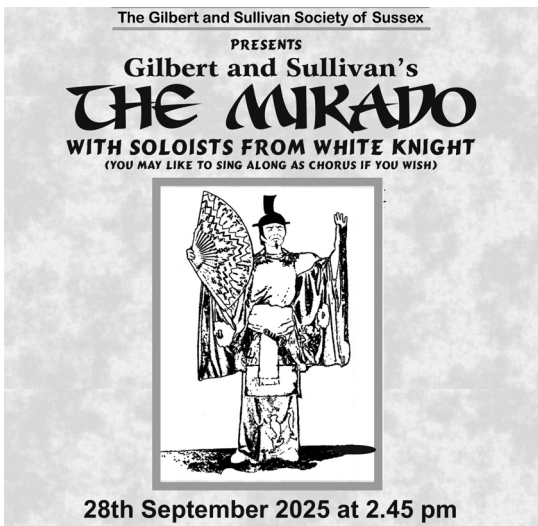
Jo Kearns

We thank Doreen for the following letter:- Many thanks to the Greyhound pub for a great bring 'n share afternoon held on Sunday 27th July.

Yet again, Simon and his team orchestrated a fabulous get together where regulars bought lots of lovely food to share, a quiz ,(that anyone was able to answer!) Sea Shanty's sung with great gusto by local voices, what a wonderful community to be a part of!

Thanks again Simon for your continued efforts to bring and keep our lovely community alive.

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THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX presents The Mikado, with soloists from White Knight (and the audience can sing in the chorus).
Sunday **28th September**, 2.45 pm. Adastra Hall, Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8QH.
Tickets includes refreshments (non-members welcome).
Booking: **gandstodaysussex@gmail.com**
Pennie Ingram

HURST FESTIVAL 13th to 28th September
So here we are in September, and the 21st Hurst Festival will begin very soon, celebrating with two weeks of great programming, covering arts & activities, talks, theatre, film & music, exhibitions, workshops & walks, all taking place in venues across Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common.
The fabulous brochure cover, entitled "Hurst is full of Stars" has drawn lots of attention and compliments for the young artist Ruby Clemmans, who along with runners up Archie McDougall and Nora Startin will be presented with their prizes at Super Sunday. All entries will be on display over the two weeks in Hurstpierpoint.
People have enthusiastically responded to the Festival programming, booking via the website and in person **www.hurstfestival.org**
Box Office is open at the Players Theatre on Saturdays from 10 am to 12 pm - There is still time to book tickets.
If you missed out on seeing Oasis in person this summer, you may be lucky to get a ticket to experience Oasis2ribute.
The band have spent their time crafting the ultimate Oasis gig experience so you can relive your "Morning Glory" days. Trinity Church Saturday **13th September**.
Super Sunday on **14th September** invites everyone to come along to the recreation ground to be entertained by local musicians, including young singers from
St Lawrence Primary School, to take part in workshops and to enjoy the stalls, while trying out the fabulous food & drinks offers.
We will introduce our pirate theme that will then stretch into the free event at Court Bushes on **27th September**. With entertainment on the day from The Captain's Beard and Mid Sussex radio.
We can't wait to see you there. *Susan Eskdale*

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. The first of our new season talks will be on Friday **3rd October** at 7.30 pm**.** "The Museum of Gardening in Hassocks," a talk postponed from last season.
It will look at 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.** *J Simmons*

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- Steak & Ale Pie
- Chicken Tikka Masala
- Lasagne Verdi
- Spinach & Ricotta Cannelloni (v)
- Cheese & Tomato Omelette (v)
- Macaroni Cheese (v)

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Battered Cod chunky chips, peas & garnish
Breaded Scampi chunky chips, peas & garnish
Breaded Chicken Fillets chunky chips, peas & garnish
Chicken, Ham & Leek Pie chunky chips & peas
Steak & Ale Pie chunky chips & peas
Chicken Tikka Masala rice, salad & garlic bread
Lasagne Verdi garlic bread & salad
Spinach & Ricotta Cannelloni (v) garlic bread & salad
Cheese & Tomato Omelette (v) chunky chips, peas & garnish
Macaroni Cheese (v) garlic bread & salad

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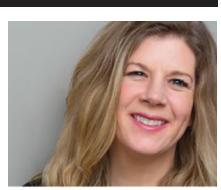
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COVID AND FLU VACCINATIONS 2025/26

Bookable morning clinics available:

Wednesday 1 October 2025 Hurstpierpoint Health Centre

Saturday 4 October 2025 Hurstpierpoint Health Centre

Wednesday 8 October 2025 Hassocks Health Centre

Saturday 11 October 2025 Hassocks Health Centre

Wednesday 15 October 2025 Ditchling Health Centre

We are sending booking links to all eligible patients that have a mobile phone registered with the Practice. If you do not have a mobile phone please call the Practice to make an appointment.

Please note that it is clinically safe to have both vaccinations at the same time.

STAR CINEMA Star Cinema is back with another season of films. The film for September (Friday **19th September**) is 'Vindication Swim', an award-winning and inspirational story of Mercedes Gleitz, a Brighton girl, who in 1927 became the first British woman to swim the English Channel, overcoming both the cold waters of the Channel and the oppressive society of 1920s England.
We are fortunate to welcome Simon Haslar with us, the film's producer, who will start the evening off with a short discussion on the making of the film; the film's director is Simon's son, Elliott, so there is an interesting local connection and back story. Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Tickets available (on the door). Wine, tea, coffee and the usual popular raffle. The Star Team look forward to welcoming you. *Liz Edmunds*

BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - Forthcoming Events on Wednesday **3rd September**, local historian, Ian Everest will be giving a talk about the history of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Venue: Cyprus Hall. Talk commences 7.45 pm, (doors open 7.15 pm) Admission BHHS members free, Visitors small charge.
On Saturday **6th September**, the Society are staging their Autumn Show in the Cyprus Hall, 1.30 pm – 3.45 pm. Small Admission.
Come and enjoy some glorious autumn colours, along with refreshments, homemade cakes, plant and produce stalls.
Info **www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.**
Flo Whitaker

CHOIR KO CONCERT EXTRAVAGANZA on Friday **24th October** at The Kings Centre, Victoria Road, Burgess Hill doors 6 pm start 7 pm.
A wonderful, fun, lively evening with music and songs from pop, country and musical theatre.
This fundraising concert is supporting St Peter and St James Hospice and have music from the likes of Blondie, Bob Marley, Fleetwood Mac, James Bay, Olly Murs, Peter Cetera, Snow Patrol, The Four Seasons, musicals, Evan Hanson, Les Misérables, plus country music hits, and many more.
For tickets or more information e-mail bhpjfriends@gmail.com or to purchase tickets visit **www.seetickets.com**. *Jan Archer*

DITCHLING'S ANNUAL 'APPLE DAY' celebration is almost here, Sunday **5th October**, 11 am to 4 pm.
Lots of fun, food, cakes, bar, stalls, music, smoothie bike, and of course the famous welly wanging competition.
As ever, bring your own or foraged apples and we will juice them using our scruncher and juicers (please remember to bring containers to take your juice away!).
If you can bring a cake, or help on the day please email **ditchlingorchard@hkdtransition.org.uk**
Jane

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

DIARIES AND Calendars

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY SEPTEMBER FILM Our September film is the documentary, Wilding shown on **4th September.** 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 re-wilding project in West Sussex. Eurik Gilar from HedgeCraft Ltd will be at the showing. He will be selling gin based cocktails from his own micro-distillery producing premium quality spirits with locally sourced and foraged ingredients from around Ditchling

October film – On **2nd October** we are showing The Outrun (2024) Directed by Nora Fingscheidt. 1h 55 min. English. Based on a memoir by Amy Liptrot, the film is set in the other worldly Orkney Islands where Rona goes to recover from her life of addiction to drugs and drink in London.

Next Years Programme - We are about to select our films for next year. We aim to present a varied programme of recent films, some may be award winning, some have gone under the radar and some may just be a bit niche. I think we've done quite well this year, but we'd like to hear your suggestions on films that you think deserve to be seen. Please go to our website to share your choices, details below.

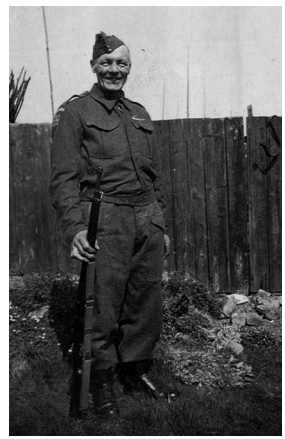
General - For more information on our film showings and special events, and to leave us film suggestions for next year's programme please go to our website, **ditchlingfilm.org.uk**. We are on Instagram **@ditchlingfimsoc** and X **@Ditchlingfilm**.

Doors open at 7.30 pm and you can buy a glass of good wine or enjoy a complementary soft drink. The film starts at 8 pm.

Guest entry is available at a small charge and a year's membership is available too which gives you free entry.

Members of the Ditchling Film Society are eligible for a 20% discount on pre-booked meals and drinks at The Bull Pub on film night!! Cards accepted.

Films are shown at Ditchling Village Hall, where there's plenty of parking in the village hall car park. *Kate for The Ditchling Film Society*



We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this picture of Horace Barber. Horace served the WWI as a Blacksmith and worked in Woolgars as a Blacksmith from Hurstpierpoint opposite the Chinese Gardens. This picture of Horace was him in WWII as a Home Guard.

THANK YOU We would like to say thank you to Pam Craggs who has been delivering your magazines in Hassocks Road , St Georges Lane, St Georges Place. Thank you for all your help.

Editors

CAN YOU HELP

We are looking for volunteers to deliver this free village magazine which has been delivered to you for more than 28 years. The following areas are where we need your help:

Hurstpierpoint: Willow Way/Blackthorns, High Street, Hurst Road, St Georges Lane, St Georges Place.

Hassocks: Kingsland Gate (old golf course)

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 **info@villagemagazines.co.uk**.

WOODLICE AND DEAD WOOD A Minibeast Staple of Childhood Bug Hunts, and Comprising of 30 Uk Species, Woodlice can be found In Gardens All Year Round. Not lice at all, but terrestrial crustaceans, meaning they have hard exoskeletons, woodlice are related to crabs and shrimp. Favouring damp habitats to avoid drying out, these helpful critters can be found under rocks, logs and in compost heaps, doing what they do best, recycling. Nothing is off the menu, as woodlice will consume dead plant and animal matter, fungi, lichen, and with full zero-waste commitment, even their own faeces.



Woodlice have an extraordinary series of common and nicknames, with a survey once collecting 250 regional variations; chuckypig, slater, pillbug, monkeypea and woodpig, to name a few. It's not known why woodlice have so many alternative names, but a lovely theory is that it's due to their accessibility to children playing in gardens, who come up with imaginative names which stick over time.

A critical habitat for woodlice is dead wood, whether fallen or dead trees, rotting stumps, logs or stick piles. A sometimes-overlooked environment, dead wood is often a microcosm bursting with life.

Fungi are a hugely important partner in the dead wood cycle, by both contributing to the decay process and feeding on the dead wood itself. Many insects rely on this habitat, including Saproxylic Beetles, which burrow into the softer surfaces to avoid predators, their grubs feeding on the decaying wood. Insectivorous birds, such as woodpeckers, then benefit from this. Bats utilise holes in standing dead wood to roost, and feed on flying insects attracted to the damp environment it can create. And the decaying wood itself recycles nutrients back into the soil.

With such an impressive ecosystem to support, it is important to leave dead wood and resist any temptation to clear it away. On a large scale, it can contribute to a diversity of woodland understory, creating different angles and textures as you peer through the forest, increasing not only the ecological value, but the mystical aesthetic of our ancient Ebernoe reserve, for example. On a smaller garden scale, it can provide a bug-hotel-style feature and a vital home for the important wildlife we don't always notice; a chuckypig paradise. *Kerry Williams*

HASSOCKS ROAD/TOTT HILL/HALTON-SHAWS/ABERTON FIELDS - 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*

Useful Information

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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
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Hassocks - 01273 842779
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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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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



We thank the late John Gargett for this postcard of the old Hassocks Station.

RAILWAY 200 CELEBRATIONS AT HASSOCKS STATION ON 27TH SEPTEMBER

Come and celebrate 200 years of the modern railway at Hassocks Station on Saturday **27th September**!

This day is the 200th Anniversary of the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway and Railway 200 is the nationwide celebration marking 200 years of the modern railway.

Hassocks grew up around the station which opened in 1841, and Hassocks wouldn't be the village it is today without the station. There have been four stations at Hassocks since the first one opened in 1841. In 2000 the Hassocks Rail Group (part of the Hassocks Community Organisation) was formed to campaign for a new station and in July 2013 the new station building was opened and lifts installed in 2014.

Hassocks Rail Group is joining in the Railway 200 nationwide celebrations on Saturday **27th September** by having a display in the Waiting Room at Hassocks Station of photos of Hassocks Station through the ages, people's memories of travelling by train, keepsake cards with pictures of the old and new stations and a potted history of the different stations to hand out, train stickers, train pictures for children to colour in and a model train set.

Come along and join in the celebrations and collect your keepsake card! *Catherine Cassidy*

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*

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON As the summer holidays end and we head towards autumn, come and join us at our Sunday services including, this month, our Harvest Festival, and mid-week communion services every Wednesday.

Services of Morning Worship with Holy Communion and Little Beacons sessions for our younger visitors will take place on Sunday's **7th and 14th September** at 10 am in St. Margaret's Ditchling.

Sunday **21st September** sees our popular annual Harvest Festival taking place in St. Martins, Westmeston at 10 am. Do come and enjoy the beautiful decorations, favourite harvest hymns and good company.

On Sunday **28th September**, our All Age Family Service will be held at St. Margaret's at 10 am.

Mid-week services of Holy Communion will be held each Wednesday at 10 am. in St. Margarets, Ditchling: quiet, contemplative services in the middle of the week.

If you enjoy singing, we'd love to welcome you to SING! which will be held in St. Margaret's at 6 pm on Wednesday **3rd September** an hour long session with a mix of newer songs and old favourites.

Also, why not pop into St. Margaret's to see the interesting exhibition of photos of local residents and the local area at the time of VJ Day 1945, organised by the Beacon Parish and Ditchling History Group? It will be on show during the first half of the month. *Sherrian Guest*

Whats On in September

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.

BEFRIENDED FALL-PREVENTION EXERCISE CLASS Gateway Baptist Church, Station Road, Burgess Hill Wednesday 2 pm. More info www.befriended.org.

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

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

HASSOCKS TABLE TENNIS CLUB - Mon /Thurs 2 - 4 pm at Adastra Hall. Roll up to play.

HASSOCKS TABLE TENNIS Mon & Thurs 2 - 4 pm 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.

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB meet on 1st/3rd/5th Mondays at 7.30 pm at the URC Church Hall, Hassocks. No partner needed just come along. For further details visit www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk or email keymerfdc@gmail.com.

MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP. Meet every Tuesday Evening, 7.30 pm, Main Hall Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Anyone is welcome, no previous knowledge is necessary just a willingness to have fun. Please visit www.msscd.org.uk for more details. (We do not meet in July or August)
Keymer Folk Dance Club

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 AUGUST Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **7th & 14th** (both inc Little Beacons) and All age family service on **28th**. On **21st** Harvest Festival at St Martins, Westmeston at 10 am. 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. Our magazine "Friendly News" is available at Ditchling PO www.ditchlingquakers.org.uk

Dated Events

1st HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

1st KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. No partner needed

2nd DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'London's Hidden Gems' Peter Batty.

3rd THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

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

3rd UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

3rd BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 1.30 pm to 3.45 pm. 'The History of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission' Ian Everest. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.

3rd 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.

4th AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue Colin McFarlin Waste Prevention officer for WSCC visits. Refreshments available.

4th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - 'Wilding'. Tickets available on the door - see article.

5th AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue 11 am. Sussex Choir will be performing. Free entry. Refreshments available.

6th AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue 9.30 am - 12 noon. Car Boot Sale. Call 01273 844461 to book a space

6th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Crowborough (FA Cup). Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

6th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 1.30 pm to 3.45 pm. Autumn Show. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.

7th DITCHLING ORCHARD Boddingtons Lane, Ditchling 10 am - 12 noon Orchard Maintenance Morning. All ages welcome.

7th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 11 am - 4 pm. Special Event Day

8th 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.

8th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Ashdown Forest's past, present and future' Ash Walmsley.

9th 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.

9th 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.

10th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Drop in all welcome.

12th BURGESS HILL HISTORY GROUP Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. Magnus Volk and his amazing railways including Brighton's Volks Electric Railway' Ian Gledhill. All welcome.

12th POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 2.30 - 3.30 pm. Come along to get crime prevention & advice on neighbourhood issues.

12th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT St Margarets, Ditchling 7.30 pm. Story Telling of the men on the war memorial who gave their lives in WWII

12th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Talk by Berni'. Refreshments available. All welcome.

13th 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.

13th NEWTIMBER CHURCH Heritage Open day theme 'We Know Your Name' all welcome.

13th 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.

13th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. 'Summer Fayre'. In aid of Breast Cancer Now. Visitors welcome.
13th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.
13th - 28th HURST FESTIVAL Please see article for events or visit www.hurstfestival.org.
13th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 2.15 pm. 'Autumn Show' schedule from Rhubarb Greengrocers. All welcome more info hhs1886@btinternet.com. See article.
14th DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall, 2 - 4 pm. Autumn Show all welcome.
15th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' The use of Defibs, CPR and 1st Aid tips. Visitors welcome.
15th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Dancing with a live band. No partner needed just come along.
16th - 20th HURST PLAYERS Players Theatre High Street, Hurstpierpoint. Various Performances. 'Two' a british comedy by Jim Cartwright Tickets www.hurstplayers.org.uk.
17th 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.
18th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning run by FPTA. All welcome.
18th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email mo.delaine@btinternet.com.
19th HURSTPIERPOINT MCMILLAN COMMITTEE Hurstpierpoint Bowls Club, South Avenue 10 am - 12 pm. Coffee Morning and stalls.
19th JAZZ ETC Old Meeting House, Ditchling 7.15 pm. Full Circle Quartet. Tickets Ditchling Post Office.
20th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Whyteleafe (FA Cup). Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.
20th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk
21st 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.
21st 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.
22nd HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Gardens of the South Downs and Surrey Hills' Richard Shenton.
22nd CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.
24th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm Visitors welcome.
25th COUNSELLOR SURGERIES Lower Hall, Ditchling Village Hall 11 am - 1 pm Meet with Councillor Paul Mellor to discuss any matters.
25th BEREAVEMENT WELL-BEING GROUP Clayton Wood, Natural Burial Ground, Brighton Road, Clayton 10 am - 12 noon. Come and meet others who understand what you are going through. www.bereavementcare.uk.
26th HASSOCKS GOES GOLD Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East Gala Night see article for info.
26th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag & Natter Evening' Refreshments. All welcome.
26th ST PETER AND ST JAMES HOSPICE BURGESS HILL SUPPORT GROUP St Wilfreds Church Hall 7 pm. ' Royal Protection Officer to HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Philip' Dick Griffin LVO shares his anecdotes.. To book bhpfriends@gmail.com.
26th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. ''London to Cairo on 2 wheels' David Allen. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.
27th HASSOCKS GOES GOLD Age Concern, Hassocks 9 am - 1 pm. Soft Toy and Alcohol Stall at the Village Market.
27th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.
27th 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.
27th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Dar Williams' Tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.
28th GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. The Mikado, with soloists from White Knight. To book email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.
29th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. No partner needed just come along.

GILES TURNER
FINANCIAL PLANNING

The "Retirement Smile"

In last month's edition I wrote about the importance of planning your wealth for the long-term in retirement. A key part of this is to understand that your spending will change over time - let me introduce the concept of the "retirement smile". Rather than staying the same year after year, most people find that their expenses follow a U-shaped curve — higher at the beginning, dipping in the middle years, and rising again later on.

In the early years of retirement, many people are at their most active. With time, energy, and freedom, this is when you might travel more, pursue long-postponed hobbies, or treat yourself to the lifestyle you've worked hard to enjoy. Naturally, spending tends to be higher during this phase — and that's okay.

As people move into their late 70s and 80s, life tends to slow down. Travel might happen less often, and daily routines become simpler. As a result, spending often drops. This is the bottom of the "smile" — the more relaxed, lower-cost years.

Later on, costs can start to rise again, especially due to health or care-related needs. Whether it's adapting your home, hiring help, or moving into care, these later-life expenses can rise significantly, forming the upward curve of the smile.

Understanding this spending pattern helps make better retirement plans. It's a reminder that your income needs will change over time — and that planning for flexibility can help you enjoy the early years while also being prepared for whatever the future holds.

If you would like to find 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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David J Stevens

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I expect a lot of you are the same as me, you wake up in the morning listen to the news and wonder what the world is coming to, when in actual fact there's nothing wrong with the world it's the people in it that are the problem. I can't comment on the human suffering that is going on but when I hear of the suffering of animals, which is done deliberately to entertain others on the Internet, you do wonder what is going on and what is being done to bring these people to justice. It's a very troubling reflection on Society today. When I spoke to the Police about it they said they have special units investigating these new trends in so-called entertainment and prosecutions are going on at this very time including the new one involving cats and kittens.

I'm sure a lot of you will remember Marshmallow who came from a situation which seems to all common these days, overbred and cruelly treated. She's beautiful now and has turned it into a right little Madam, but just the other day three more kittens were rescued from the same place and brought here; they were tiny emaciated and full of fleas and worms. Poor things just wanted their mum; God knows what sort of condition she's in. These three are all female tortoiseshell, obviously very nervous and worried but with lots of love and kindness they should be OK. I put them straight on the Royal Canin Mother and Baby Cat, it's a very small dry food, highly palatable and nutritious, this combined with a raw diet they were soon on the road to recovery fleas and worms are easy to deal with. That said you can report these places till you're blue in the face, but little and nothing gets done, most rescue places are full and overstretched with waiting lists as long as your arm. I'm still hoping Marshmallow's sister will find her way to us one day.

You'll be glad to hear that they finally fixed the whole at the top of our service road. It's a shame it didn't go all the way across, but we must be grateful for small mercies at least now you can enter and leave without the worry of damaging your car.

I think all of us should thank the people for this year's hanging baskets and planters. They've done an excellent job; they all look absolutely beautiful and make Hassocks look very attractive and welcoming - it's just a shame we have that incredibly unwelcome weed farm bang in the middle of the village to spoil it.

Let's get straight to the point do you know anybody recently who has taken possession of a tortoise as a new pet? It's fairly large and someone could have bought it not knowing it had been stolen from an elderly lady's garden in Semley Road. She loved and looked after that tortoise for well over 30 years, it had a fabulous life with her, but someone decided probably because they thought they could make a lot of money out of it, to take it away from her and break her heart. You wouldn't think someone so cruel could come from around here. I can't imagine there were many people who knew it was in her garden, but gone it is and nobody saw anything. Tortoises don't do a lot, they don't come when they're called, fetch a ball or roll over for a tummy rub, so their appeal is limited and there is every chance they will outlive you. You don't have to believe in God to know that a greater force exists to punish people who bring such pain and misery to those who care deeply about animals it's called 'karma'. So please if you know anything please pass it on and let's concentrate on reuniting the tortoise to its rightful owner.

Thank you everyone for your business, it means a lot these days, without you we wouldn't be able to pay the bills. I am very grateful, and I hope you'll continue to shop locally. Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392