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Tel 01273 846978. Your Editors: Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown & Natalie Dalley
LAST DATE FOR COPY for the November 2025 ISSUE is 1st October 2025
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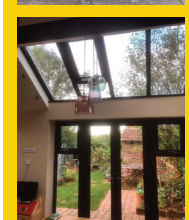
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We thank Dave Evans for this picture of group of Hurstpierpoint Workmen. Left to right 1 ?, 2 Ernest Tulley, 3 Bob Bartley, 4 Herbert Gatton (Mick and John Bundy Grandad and had worked for Mr Tulley), Charlie Diplock?, 6 Dick Bartley, 7 ?, 8 Arthur Norman. Can anyone fill in the question marks. Email into us at ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or pop into QD Stationery.

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FAMILY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS - DANNY PARK, HURSTPIERPOINT Sunday **2nd November.**

Danny Family Bonfire & Fireworks returns for its 28th evening. It will be celebrated with a spectacular display of fireworks from our firework maestros – Aurora - on Sunday **2nd November**. Please note the times below.

Families are again welcome to share the event to be held in Danny Park, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. The event is organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club with assistance from Oldland Mill Trust and Friends of Hassocks Infant School. They and Albourne, Birchwood Grove, London Meed, St. Lawrence and Southway Schools will benefit from your support.

The Hassocks will be running their ever popular BBQ, so come and enjoy the evening.

In the event of bad weather please check **www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk** for the up-to-date news on postponement.

Take a 'Guy' to the Best Guy Competition before ten past five and one child will be given free admission.

For safety reasons - No private fireworks or sparklers etc.

Sorry but no parking. Limited parking will be available for Blue Badge holders – please allow extra time.

Food available on site.

4.30 pm - Gates open, 5.10 pm - Best Guy Competition Judging, Approx 5.30 pm - Fireworks Display

Approx 5.50 pm - Bonfire lit with all the Guys and the Best Guy on top

Tickets prices will be advised in October and available from **dannybonfire.co.uk** where you can choose which organisation to support.

Children Under 3 or with a Guy are free (one Guy gives admittance to one child)

Tickets will also be available from Pierpoint Pets in Hurstpierpoint and from QD Stationery in Hassocks. *Andrew Hair*

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HASSOCKS WI meet on the third Monday in the month at Adastra Hall, Hassocks. Doors open 7.30 pm and start at 7.45 pm.

By the time you read this article we will have held our September Fair, which included a charity raffle in aid of 'Breast Cancer Now'. I hope it was successful, enjoyable for everyone and raised a lot of money. Huge thanks to all the helpers.

Our October meeting is a talk by Andy Thomas on paranormal mysteries and cover ups. Are there really little green men out there?

Don't forget our next Craft Club is Monday **6th October** Committee Room Adastra Hall 2 pm.

One of the WI national campaigns is no more violence to women and girls.

We are holding an afternoon meeting on Tuesday **18th November** 2 pm to 4 pm with speakers and we aim to hold a vigil in memory or victims of domestic abuse.

Something completely different, our November evening meeting is a hands on drumming and percussion workshop with Sean (no experience necessary). It will be a high energy and fun evening, please come along and enjoy yourselves. Visitors' welcome (donation). Enjoy autumn. *Gerry*.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR IN SUPPORT OF HEBER OPERA on Saturday **6th December** in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 10 am to 2 pm. There are still stalls available to book for a free for crafters if you would like to join us, we provide a table. Contact me on **jenny@heber-opera.co.uk** or call **07770 962811**. *Jenny*

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POPPY APPEAL & REMEMBRANCE 2025

The Royal British Legion - Ditchling & District Branch.

Lest we Forget After two wonderful commemorations for VE Day on Thursday 8th May and VJ Day on Friday 15th August the Branch Committee would like to thank everyone who attended these events at Ditchling War Memorial. We would also like to thank everyone who came to the VE Day Afternoon Tea at Westmeston and the VJ Day Picnic on Ditchling Village Green.

Our thoughts now turn to preparations for Poppy Appeal and our Remembrance Parade and Service in November.

The national launch of Poppy Appeal will be on Friday **24th October**. Our unmanned Poppy boxes will be in many of the shops and businesses in Ditchling from that date onwards. All our Poppy Boxes take cash but they will also have a QR Code that can be scanned with a smart phone from which you will be able to give a card donation.

Poppy Appeal will launch this year on **17th October** with unmanned boxes being in many of the shops and businesses in Ditchling, Keymer and Hassocks.

Ditchling Field of Remembrance: This was so successful last year that once again we will create our own Field of Remembrance in a designated space within the Ditchling War Memorial enclosure. This will give everyone an opportunity to personalise a poppy cross with the name of a family member or friend who has at any time served with the Armed Forces. All of us will have a family member who will have served in WW1, WW2 or perhaps in a more recent theatre of war or in peacetime. Remembrance crosses will be available in all our Poppy Boxes but with a larger amount in Ditchling Post Office. We will also have Branch Committee Members with crosses over the two weekends before Remembrance Sunday. Once crosses have been personalised, they should be returned to Ditchling Post Office by the weekend of **1st/2nd November** so that they can be co-ordinated and set out in our formal Field of Remembrance at the War Memorial. The Field of Remembrance will remain in place for one month before crosses will be collected then burnt and the ashes scattered on the War Memorial ground.

Remembrance Day Parade. Sunday **- 9th November** The Act of Remembrance Service will take place at Ditchling War Memorial, on Sunday **9th November** starting at 10.50 am. The Parade, led by Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band, Branch Standard and Union Flag, will start from St Margaret's School and everyone taking part in the Parade should be outside the school entrance in Lewes Road, ready to step off no later than 10.20 am. St Margaret's School will be open from 10.00 am.

Every year we have a fantastic attendance from the Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, their Section Leaders, plus our RBL Legion Members. However, we would also really like to invite more adults and families to parade with us as well. The more adults that we have on parade, the greater significance and importance the event has for all our young people also marching. In an age when we have less veterans to attend the parade, it falls to us to ensure that we honour and remember those that went before.

One does not need to have personally served to march with the parade or be a member of RBL but of course we would be delighted if you would like to join our Branch. If you have a relative or

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friend who deserves to be remembered, please do consider coming to march with us to the War Memorial. It is absolutely your right to do so. You might wish to remember a parent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, grandparent, great grandparent who served; if you have their medals, you are also entitled to wear them (please fix these to the right hand breast pocket).

It is genuinely such a privilege on this one day of the year to take time out to attend and remember them during the two minutes silence.

The service will start at 10.50 am, and everyone is very welcome to attend. Once the ceremonials at the War Memorial have ended a further service will take place in St Margaret's Church.

If I can be of further help or you need any other information about any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me on **01273 845319**.

Margaret Bovill

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB has entered it 75th year, and for October we have three meetings.

On Sunday **12th October** we will be holding our 75th anniversary dance at the Adastra Hall, starting at 2 pm. Sean Goddard will be calling, with music by Chris Jewell and his friends. If you have been a member of the club previously, do pop along for a catch up.

The club still meets at the URC Church Hall on Monday evenings starting at 7.30 pm.

On Monday **6th October** we welcome for the first time Lorna Shepard from Littlehampton as our guest caller. While on Monday **20th October** we continue our regular live music evenings with Sean Goddard and Michael Curry providing the tunes.

As usual, check our website for further details: **www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk/**

Sean Goddard

DITCHLING'S ANNUAL 'APPLE DAY' celebration is 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.

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

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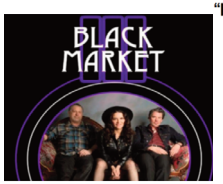


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CALLING ALL WRAPPERS Imagine having to wrap over five thousand Christmas presents. That's the task of volunteers of a Sussex charity who need as many to satisfy all the children who visit their festive grottos in Hassocks and Dial Post, near Horsham every year.

The Budding Foundation was formed by Clive Gravett in 2013 and works to raise funds to improve the lives of young people across Sussex, especially those who have suffered social deprivation, trauma or disability.



It's asking for help with the task this autumn and anyone who can assist would be made most welcome. The Big Wrap takes place at Adastra Hall in the centre of Hassocks village from 9 am on Sunday **26th October**. "We've used the venue for the past five years", explains Clive. "It's close to the railway station, there's plenty of free car parking close by and we always make sure there are plenty of refreshments and cheerful background music to keep the wrappers happy."

Over two miles of wrapping paper has been ordered to meet this year's demand and helpers can volunteer for a half-day or all-day.

The grottos are hosted by Tates of Sussex Garden Centres, at South Downs Nurseries and Old Barn Garden Centre. Director Benjamin Tates says it's a major fundraiser for the charity. "All the profits from the two grottos, which open at the end of November and run through to Christmas Eve, support the Budding Foundation's work through the year. "We are very pleased to continue our long-running association with increasing numbers of families visiting each year to meet Father Christmas."

If you can help please email **clive@thebuddingfoundation.co.uk.**

More details of the charity at **www.thebuddingfoundation.co.uk** *Trevor Butler*

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HASSOCKS ANGELS We are a free knitting group that began meeting together in July 2024. We meet on Mondays at Age Concern between 9.15 am and 11.15 am and on Fridays at The Garden Café, Alwoods Garden Centre between 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Since we began, we have made a wide range of knitted items to benefit our local community.

Our first project was to make angels and stars to hang out in December for children and adults to enjoy, we made a total of 2300!

We have also made over 100 trauma teddies for the local doctors surgery to help any child who is feeling anxious or upset.

To keep the homeless and those in need warm we have supplied hats, scarfs, gloves, neck warmers and blankets to Brighton and Hove City Mission and First Base Day Centre.

We have also made bees, butterflies and ladybirds to hang around the village for the children to find. Finally, we made chicks at Easter with chocolate eggs inside for the Hassocks foodbank. If you would like to get involved, we would love you to join us. We are a friendly bunch and always welcome new members. We have a Facebook group called Hassocks Angels or just turn up, we can supply the wool, the knitting needles and any patterns. Thanks for reading. *Emily Andrews*

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. We start this season's series of talks on Friday **3rd October** 7.30 pm "The Museum of Gardening in Hassocks," which will look at the fascinating history of gardening as told through the museum's varied exhibits. The speaker is the curator Clive Gravett. This is followed by Friday **31st October** 7.30 pm "The Long Walk Home" A Sussex Wildlife Trust naturalist and writer's 348 mile walk from Sussex to Devon with stories of the wildlife and history he discovered along the way. The speaker is Michael Blencowe. Held at the Guide HQ, SE corner of Trinity Road 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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WSIJ RETURNS! After an absence of 8 years WSIJ2025 (West Sussex International Jamboree) returned for Scouts, Explorers, Guides and Rangers from West Sussex Scouts, Girlguiding Sussex Central and Girlguiding Sussex West.

The 18+ months of planning and hard work by volunteers ensured that on 2nd August, over 2,000 young people and volunteers were able to enjoy a week of fun and activities at the South of England Showground in Ardingly. They were joined by guests from 12 countries represented by 50 leaders and volunteers who travelled with 7 groups of scouts & guides from their own countries.

The camp had the theme of 'Myths & Legends' which had been chosen by the young people themselves, and the site was divided into 4 sub camps: Mountain, Sea, Forest and Urban. It was officially opened on the Saturday evening by 'Scrappy' a smoke belching red dragon, followed by a live artist performance from Bronnie.

From then on, the participants had the opportunity during the week to take part in a range of daytime activities, including Adventure, High Adventure, Bounce, Creativity, Skills, World Discovery and Splash. Many of them were able to complete clauses and challenges for their respective association's interest badges. Over 40 Rangers were also given the opportunity to complete the newly launched Guiding world badge, making them amongst the first in the country to achieve this. In the evenings there was a 'festival' atmosphere in the Camp Centre with stage performances and discos including a film show for those who preferred the quieter option. On the Tuesday there was a special international craft & food fayre.

On the Wednesday the camp numbers swelled by another 1,300, when Squirrels (4-6), Rainbows (4-7), Beavers (6-8), Cubs (8-10 ½), and Brownies (7-10), plus more Scouts and Guides arrived for the

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Charity Carnival which raised over £9,000 for the camp's two charities: Springboard, and the Mel Ford Leadership Fund. VIP guests also attended and were invited to witness firsthand what was happening at camp, being escorted around by young members from across all sections.

On the Friday the event closed with live performances from participants themselves and performing artist Channy but not before the Camp Chiefs, Rob and Lisa thanked everyone for making the week such a success and teased the crowd by telling them to watch the website and Facebook in the coming months for further announcements about the future of WSIJ camps! After the young people had sung & danced the evening away, they were treated to a stunning display of fireworks.

Camp Chiefs Lisa & Rob said 'we feel privileged to have led the team which has revived the tradition of WS camp, it has been fabulous to see the smiles & sheer excitement on so many faces, of so many young people. It has been great to see old friendships renewed and new ones made, and we have been particularly pleased to welcome our guests from abroad'.

Other quotes were:- 'It's a good idea to get people together from different countries', ' I can't wait to come back as a volunteer', 'I loved being able to do activities which I wouldn't normally do', 'Would I come back to another camp – absolutely!', 'If I can't bring my guide group from abroad, I will come again as a volunteer', ' WS has been on my bucket list for such a long time, I'm so glad I got to tick it off', 'Linking with an international group was hugely successful, we have learnt from each other and made friends', 'We have learnt that scouting is different to our own country, but have definitely made new friends'. **https://wsij.org.uk/, www.facebook.com/groups/2391415104468358, ww.instagram.com/wsij25/**

To learn more about scouting & guiding or to volunteer go to: **www.scouts.org.uk/** or **www.girlguiding.org.uk/**. *Janet Samuel*

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

This month we have our Halloween Quiz Night on Friday **31st October** at 6.30pm. Small donation per head – please bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will be a raffle and hot drinks and cakes will be available to purchase on the night. Please phone the above number for more information.

Our Christmas Fair will be on Saturday **6th December,** so please put this date in your diaries. If you are interested in booking a stall to sell your handmade goodies, please give the office a call.

If you are a D1 licence holder with spare time on your hands, we are looking for a volunteer minibus driver to regularly drive our members from Hassocks and the surrounding villages to the centre every Tuesday morning approximately 9.30am-11.30am. If you are interested, please contact the office on the above number or come in and see us for a chat.

On another note, we are now looking for Burgess Hill residents, who would like to visit us on Mondays, but are unable to make their own way to the centre. We have a regular minibus driver, who will be able to pick you up on Monday mornings, bring you to the centre to enjoy a home cooked 3 course lunch and take you home afterwards. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in this service, please get in touch.

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

All at Age Concern.

THE FRIENDS OF DITCHLING ACQUIRE THE FIELD ADJACENT TO THE DITCHLING VILLAGE CARPARK ON KEYMER ROAD In 2024 the field adjacent to the new carpark on Keymer Road was put up for sale. There was 2-3 interested parties, some of which were believed to be developers. The Mair family took the initiative and purchased the field as an interim measure. This protected the field in the short term from acquisition from someone that may have had a background intention to develop the land.

They approached Hugh St. John and a number of others to investigate if there was a way that members of the community could club together and buy the field from them and save the space under community ownership. From this Hugh, ably assisted by Gordon Bain, led the formation of a "concept" group. Initially, there were discussion about the appetite by the community to raise the £135k purchase price, and how could this be achieved in a way that safeguarded people's donations and gave them confidence in the process. This required a 2-pronged approach:

If acquired, how would the land be safeguarded and in what context?

What would be the most appropriate structure of ownership?

Hugh reached out to a number of organisations including the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust, and Phil Allen Designs provided a landscape architectural plan on how the field could be enhanced as a natural space. He also consulted the community and formed Ditchling Nature Space, with a working group incorporating representatives from other community groups in the village.

Hugh also started collecting 'pledges' from the community to understand if there was sufficient support for the idea of a community purchase holding a number of community meetings in the Barn on The Green in late summer.

From this research there seemed to be a viability to launching a fundraising campaign and an overwhelming desire to establish a natural habitat that in some way could be utilised by the community.

Regarding the ownership structure, there were really only three options:

1 to Set up a land trust, 2 to set up a charity or 3 raise funds under an existing village charity.

After detailed discussions, the lead time to establish (1) and (2) were considered to jeopardise the speed of delivery, but also there was no history within such organisations. Would that reduce the community's appetite or generosity? However, there are two existing charities in the village:

The Turner Dumbrell Trust, and The Friends of Ditchling (The Green adjacent to the church).

Would one of those become the umbrella to add the gravitas to the Ditchling Nature Space proposals? Through discussions with both organisations The Friends of Ditchling became the front runner and partnered with Ditchling Nature Space to investigate further.

At this stage, I (Colin Marshall, Chair of Friends of Ditchling Trustees) agreed to propose this at the Friends on Ditchling 2024 AGM. There was

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approval from the members to review the Articles of Association and establish if such a purchase was permitted under the constitution, and if it was allowable to draft a Terms of Reference for the operation of the field. In time, legal opinion also gave a green light to this proposal.

Under Hugh St. John's guidance the committee of the Ditchling Nature Space group also agreed to the ownership structure, and on-going funding initiative through enlarging the membership of The Friends of Ditchling, alongside additional fundraising to implement a plan for the field.

Collecting the financial 'pledges' commenced in January 2025 and once the majority of the funds were received (approximately £111k by mid-March) the purchase could be initiated. As with all legal processes, they rarely run as smoothly as expected. Under current legislation the solicitors required adequate evidence of Proof of Funds, and more precisely the Source of Funds, thus certifying they were not form the Proceeds of Crime! There was also the normal conveyancing process, which in this case required the Trustees of The Friends of Ditchling to sign an indemnity held within the Land Registry documentation. Other efforts were made around registering for Gift Aid and enabling the Friends of Ditchling to purchase the land.

Eventually the purchase price was reduced to £115k and the Friends of Ditchling would cover the shortfall of £4k in the purchase price and the legal fees. This could be recovered once the Gift Aid was received. The Gift Aid would also provide the Working Capital to the Ditching Nature Space ("DNS") sub-group.

Furthermore, the Friends of Ditchling has already benefited from a £4k grant from the Turner Dumbrell Trust for work to the Field, as part of an initiative launched by Hugh St. John.

The purchase milestone eventually reached completion in mid-July.

There are many people to thank: to the community benefactors who donated, to the Mair family for proposing and launching this process, and to Hugh St. John for his support and leadership in galvanising support, setting up Ditchling Nature space and creating the environment where the community could propose ideas for field and supporting its purchase. Finally, too, the Trustees of Ditchling, who unbeknown when the ownership was initiated, the legal and technical hoops they would need to jump through to enable the process.

In the coming weeks, FoD and the DNS Committee will formulate a plan outlining the immediate course of action and the next phases as part of safeguarding the field. We anticipate hosting an open meeting in mid-autumn to discuss the future direction and to celebrate this new era. We hope that you would like to be part of that progression.

We eagerly anticipate collaborating with you all on this endeavour and reiterate our sincere gratitude.

Thanks to every one again.

P.S. If there is anyone who would still like to donate, monies can be transferred to the bank account details below, kindly use "DNS Field Donation" as the explanation.: Account Name: Friends of Ditchling Sort Code: 60-04-11 Account Number: 60546719.

Colin Marshall

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COME ALONG AND SUPPORT MID SUSSEX BRIDLEWAYS GROUP 47th Annual General Meeting, Supper & Social on Tuesday, **21st October** at 7pm for 7.30 pm. at Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 8DX.

Once again we shall be having some wonderful raffle prizes kindly donated by various retailers.

Introducing our Guest Speaker Adrian Kirkpatrick is the Team Leader for the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Services - Technical Rescue Unit, who are a small team who provide water, animal and rope rescue skills to the public and to support the rest of the fire service.

The team attend a wide variety of incidents, but the majority involve horses or large farm animals, and these can be in all manner of situations from the basics, such as horses down in the stable unable to get up, to others trapped in swimming pools, rivers and ditches.

They have recently attended a number of incidents alongside bridleways, including horses fallen through wooden bridges on paths.

Adrian will briefly explain about Technical Rescue Unit, the area they cover, some past 999 calls, the rescuing methods for equines and farm animals, equipment and vehicles they use and much more.

In the past their work has included going overseas to earthquake disaster relief, although this is no longer part of this national response unit work.

There will be a chance to ask Adrian any questions.

Do come along for an interesting talk on the various animal rescues they carry out. **www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire**

The Supper: We will be serving our popular Homemade Beef Chilli and for those who are vegetarian, a delicious vegetarian quiche together with jacket potato, various salads, followed by pudding.

If you have a nut allergy, we cannot guarantee that the foods served are free from any allergens, therefore, may contain traces of nuts etc.

Please RSVP your attendance, and your choice of supper by 9 pm on Friday, **17th October** to: Michelle Hearn email **michellehearn99@aol.com, 07980 954 514** (evenings only).

Kindly note that the vegetarian option must be prebooked and will be on a ticket basis only.

Please book early to avoid disappointment.

The AGM will then follow with the Raffle: to finish the evening.

Items for the raffle prizes would be very welcome - please bring them along on the evening. Thank you.

Proceeds of the Raffle will go to West Sussex Fire & Rescue Services – Technical Rescue Unit.

If you would like to join MSABG at the AGM, you will get the rest of 2025 for free and will not have to pay until January 2027. An ideal Christmas present too! *Jacqui Manley*

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CHRISTMAS FAIR AT THE ADASTRA HALL Saturday **22nd November** from 10 am to 3.30 pm. Stalls available to rent in aid of The Mid Downland Parishes contact me for more information on **07850 300603**. *Sally Brown*

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We thank Dorrie Mottram For the following article: **HASSOCKS RAILWAY** It was interesting to read about the railway anniversary and Hassocks Station for two reasons. Firstly, my husband worked several years at Brighton Station for the then British Rail
Secondly this brings to mind a poem which was written quite a few years ago by the late Bunty Higginbottom.
Bunty - I'm sure lots of you will remember Bunty as a founder member of our concert party Friends and Neighbours and she was a dab hand at writing humorous poems for our shows some of them telling of an actual personal experience that happened to her. That is why the railway brought the following memory back to me. Maybe some of you will remember the gentleman who was the porter on that day? Here it is -

CHEAP DAY RETURN

© Bunty Higginbottom

I was going to do some shopping, and I thought I'd go by train
to help the British Railway get on its feet again
I left my car at Hassocks (where I wouldn't have to pay)
then bought my ticket to Brighton just going for the day
I could see the train approaching on its way from Burgess Hill
and waited very patiently till it was standing still
It was then my troubles started, how it happened
I don't know
but my shoe fell underneath the train and landed in the snow
Now the guard got quite excited and shouted 'Shut that door'
but I hung on for dear life and shouted even more
My cries brought forth a porter Mr Fuller was his name
I told him I was sorry for holding up his train
'Don't worry dear' he said to me
'I'll get it without a doubt'
He came back with a great big broom and tried to fish it out
But all he seemed to be doing was playing croquet with my shoe
While heads were popping out of windows 'cos they were curious too.
So, then he got his lamp lighter and hooked it well and true
then I crept into the carriage with my feet in both my shoes
Now we'd nearly got to Preston Park when the Guard appeared to say
'Are you the young lady what 'eld this 'ere train?
I told him what had happened and why he'd had to wait
so, he could tell his guvnor why the train was running late
Now if I travel in by train the porters always cry
'Hang on to your bits and pieces and don't drop them on our line.

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DITCHLING PLAYERS – November Production **(26th to 29th November)**

The residents of Cranford are pleased to extend an invitation to you to a performance portraying their lives in this small market town.

Many think that nothing very exciting happens here but you can be assured that this is not true with much humour, scandal and intrigue, including a love affair between two of the most unlikely residents and, of course, the financial difficulties that befall poor Miss Matilda (Matty) Jenkyns and how she overcomes them. All of the loveable eccentrics are being bought to life by the members of the Ditchling Players at Ditchling Village Hall under the directorship of Mr Robert Tremayne ('A Christmas Carol') for their November production

For this production they will be reverting to three evening performances with a matinee on the Saturday. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased either in person at The White Horse, Ditchling (from 11 am on Thursdays and Fridays) or online (a booking fee applies) via their website – **www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk**. Curtain up for the evening performances is 7.30 pm (Doors open at 7 pm) and for the matinee performance is 2.30 pm (Doors open at 2 pm).

We do hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and join us in Cranford.

David Tettersell

HASSOCKS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU:

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If the answer is yes to any of the above, please come and join us for a new evening service. The service will include contemporary style worship, prayer and a short thought on a passage of scripture.

The service is on the **19th October** at 6 pm and will be held in subsequent months on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the same time.

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BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025 Brighton Early Music Festival (BREMF) will be presenting its autumn programme soon, with a series of exciting workshops and concerts in October. The theme this year is "Love" in all its many aspects, and the festival will feature its usual mix of new talent and well-established performers. It's been an exciting year for BREMF, inspired by the creative vision of its new young Artistic Directors Hannah Ely and Olwen Foulkes. Here are some of the highlights of the four phases of the festival:-

(1) Pre-Festival workshops and other events: PHILIA – Friendship and shared interests: In early October there will be workshops, a children's concert and various informal performances.

(2) Main festival weekend 1: XENIA – Welcoming people and hosting guests: The highlights of this weekend (beginning on Friday 10 October) will include the UK Premiere of the French Baroque opera Les Caractères de l'Amour by Mlle Duval (1736), a lunchtime lute song recital, and a performance by The Gesualdo Six.

(3) Main festival weekend 2: AGAPE – Celebrating a love of nature and the divine: Six events this weekend (starting Thursday **16th October**) will include an early evening concert based around Telemann's Water Music, featuring primary school pupils alongside the BREMF Community Choir and members of Ensemble Augelletti, the Fieri Consort and the Lowe Ensemble. The usual Saturday afternoon showcase concert will feature four new groups of BREMF Emerging Artists.

(4) Main festival weekend 3: EROS – Exploring romantic love, desire and loss: Another four concerts will include a performance of Monteverdi's Tancredi e Clorinda by La Fonte Musica (Saturday evening). The final Sunday evening event will feature mezzo-soprano Helen Charlston and the Consone Quartet.

The festival website (**www.bremf.org.uk/whats-on/**) will tell you much more about what's happening each weekend, or you can pick up a brochure locally (there should be a stock at Hassocks station).

One of the special things about BREMF is that the events take place in a variety of venues around Brighton. This gives audiences the chance to see inside some special buildings. For those wanting to know the best way to get to and around the city there is a section on the BREMF website titled "Your Visit", which gives general hints about coming to the different venues by train, bus or car (see **www.bremf.org.uk/gettingthere/**. Residents of Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint can use the improved weekend bus services to get easily to the lunchtime and afternoon events.

If you've been to BREMF before you will know that the festival's events are very friendly and welcoming. You can book your tickets online via the website. *Mike Clemens*

HEBER OPERA PRESENTS SHAKESPEARE AT THE OPERA a concert of chorus and solo items from operas based on Shakespeare plays - think Macbeth, Otello, Falstaff and many more. The two halves of the concert are served with a delicious high tea with sandwiches and homemade cakes. Venue is Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on Saturday **25th October**, starting at 3 pm. Tickets can be booked online at **www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera** or by calling **07867 975967** (between 9 am and 5 pm). *Jenny Hawkes*

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HASSOCKS FC So far, we have more than held our own and if this continues, we'll make 'project survival' in the Isthmian league become a reality. We've really appreciated the support of the local community, and our crowd numbers have been impressive. Thank you for joining us!

This standard of football falls into the semi pro category and each game is exciting to watch with bigger established teams rocking up at our village club. Away committee and fans have been pleasantly surprised at the lovely setting of the Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground. As we come into the darker months, we'll be able to showcase our new LED floodlights which were installed in the summer. We've had to do a bit of ground grading work at the railway end of the ground and also inside making the referee's changing room bigger. The money you spend at the ground directly goes into improving these facilities and the overall match day experience, so a big thank you for that. Thank you to more local companies who have helped us by sponsoring pitch side banners; Rever Kitchens in Hurstpierpoint, and Craker Business Solutions. We also provide football for our development u23 team (Thursday nights), youth u18 team (Sunday mornings), and Ladies team (Sunday afternoon). Keep an eye on socials with updated fixtures but at the time of writing these are the home games coming up:

Saturday **4th October** 1st vs Sheppey 3 pm.
Sunday **5th October** Ladies vs Worthing 2 pm.
Tuesday **7th October** 1st vs Deal Town 7.45 pm.
Tuesday **14th October** 1st vs East Grinstead 7.45 pm.
Sunday **19th October** Ladies vs Burgess Hill 2 pm.
Saturday 25th October 1st vs Broadbridge Heath 3 pm.

Pat Harding

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP We meet in the Guide Headquarters,Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint on the first Wednesday of each month from 2 pm to 4 pm. There is usually a speaker for the first part of the afternoon followed by tea/biscuits & social time. Some of the topics to be covered in the coming few months are : The Fire Service, The Women's Land Army, The Magic of Pantomime, Charcuterie Tasting, Genealogy & The Stroke Association - hopefully something for everyone.

At present we have three subgroups: Walking Group, Book Club & Textiles Group. If members are interested in starting up any other groups, we are more than happy to help them.

Memberships available single and joint.

Do come along & join us, you will be made most welcome or contact Dianne, our Chairperson, on **01273 835284** or me, Ann, on **07806 670359** for more information.

Ann Tranter

DDWI enjoyed another trip to Chichester Festival Theatre in August to see the 2025 summer musical - 'Top Hat'. Many of us made a day of it with lunch in the beautiful city High Street before the performance.

Our October speaker is Bill McNaught who will be sharing his knowledge of a famous engineering family - 'Brunel - Father, Son and Grandson'.

As always - visitors are welcome to our monthly meetings. Please contact **gmtennant.ddwi@yahoo.com** for details.

Alison White

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH - CLOSE ENCOUNTERS I have been reading an interview with the inventor of the world's first computer language program. It was Joseph Weizenbaum, of MIT, who taught the first computer to receive and respond to prompts in words, and so launched the weird practice of talking-to-machines which defines our age. Wherever you turn, these days, you encounter AI. AI is the magical personal assistant which promises to manage all your affairs and act as intermediary in all your encounters. It is the proverbial genie of the lamp. Ask about anything under the sun, AI will know the answer. It can predict the weather. It will handle your telephone enquiries, your shopping, your social engagements. It will provide you with entertainment, with advice, with secret surveillance protection. It also knows more than you can imagine about yourself.

As AI looms ever larger in our lives, some people are beginning to ask: 'just what *is* this 'familiar' that we have summoned up? And is the servant evolving into a master?' After yet another infuriating encounter with a chatbot, they shake their heads over the 'march of time'. The general consensus, however, is that: "You can't put the clock back." "There's nothing we can do about it now." Weizenbaum himself was horrified to discover that people believed giving a computer language skills conferred both 'intelligence' and identity upon it. His secretary, who had witnessed the purely mechanical development of the ELIZA project, once shooed him out of his own office, because she was in private conference with his computer, entrusting her personal secrets to it, as to a living confidante.

Though it was too late to put the genie back in the bottle, Weizenbaum spent the rest of his life urging caution, deploring the worship of AI and begging mankind to redefine its understanding of 'intelligence', to include those moral, social and imaginative arts which alone can keep us sane and humane.

As long as we are swept along by the dizzy 'march of Time', we have no time to pause and reflect. "In air traffic," Weizenbaum wrote, "there are three rules of flight safety. The first one is, maintain flight speed. The second is, maintain flight speed. The third is, maintain flight speed. Only after that do other safety laws count. That is how it appears to be with the whole world, because we have convinced ourselves that if we don't maintain our 'flight speed' we are going to crash." To have an encounter with the natural world is to realise with a shock, that this 'speed' is entirely artificial. It simply does not exist for the rest of creation. Sometimes, emissaries from this other world bumble into our lives and give us a glimpse into other time-systems, where intelligence is homed to an elegant economy. Sufficiency is all. There is no toxic pay-load.

Some months ago, we were visited by a queen wasp. I am allergic to wasp stings and so wary of 'yellow jackets', but for as long as it took this creature to construct her nest, she visited our back door and toiled for days on end, planing minute slivers of oak with her jaws and carrying them away to make the paper she required.

She worked assiduously, slicing vertical grooves about two inches long. Our back door is a stable door and each time I opened the top, I found her busy, oblivious to all else. Of course I knew it was my social responsibility to do away with her and yet I simply could not. My respect for her grew

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with every encounter. How much skill she invested in her labours. How much tireless diligence went into them too. She flew away at such speed I never could determine the direction of her nest. I suspect her great project came to grief quite soon. Wasps are prey for hornets and a week or so later our garden was briefly invaded by young worker wasps which seemed to have lost all sense of direction, as they do when their queens die. Two days after this, they too disappeared forever. The lesson that small, half-feared insect confided, however, will stay with me all my life. She made me relax my flight speed and my respect for her 'intelligence' grew into genuine gratitude. We still have a door scratched with talley-marks as a reminder that this was a good place to let the 'outside' in.

A later invasion came this week in the person of a small rodent, which shot in through an open door and bolted behind the washing machine - a shadow so quick I thought my eyes had deceived me. But then I saw it again and found evidence of an intruder. I set a trap with a ruler, primed with a large walnut, balanced, like a pirate's plank over a dustbin. The bin below had a nice bed of straw with other treats to keep a wee mousie happy till morning. This device hardly ever fails and in the morning, sure enough, the trap had been tripped. I found to my surprise that I had caught a shrew – the tiniest creature with a sleek, dark coat and a most inquisitive, pointy snout.

Once again, I realised that my own presence was incidental to a being which, in a dimension of its own, had no need of me. She did not think much of being peered at and she did not think much of the walnut either! We took her, in her bin, down to the Bog Pond, where there was cover from buzzards and owls, and let her find her own way out. As soon as she felt the real earth beneath her feet and caught the scent of grass with her oh-so-sensitive nose, she slipped effortlessly into her natural domain.

Intelligence for these creatures is a matter of proportion: what speaks to them? What is appropriate? And for me? I could Google them and find out a thousand facts about them. But how would that help either of us? We had already had our experience and taken from it what needed to be learned. Such moments are precious enough in themselves. They intimate meaning that lies beyond comprehension. One *can* be humbled by a fly.

If there is a message of hope in all of this, it is surely that there are levels of knowledge available to us beyond mere computation. When flight is suspended and its static noise dies down, the self may recall that the real spirit of the lamp is the light *within it.*

What does AI hold that is truly necessary for human well-being? And could *any* benefit offset its lethal cost to the environment? The ability to wonder, to respect, to hold back and make space for otherness, to envisage beauty, are not these the language of human sanity? A little is sufficient to illuminate so much. And is not sanity just what the world needs right now?

Weizenbaum urged people to slow down, to cultivate reason and attentiveness, and become 'Islands in the Cyberstream'. This might be the last stand we can make for Natural Intelligence. As islands of compassion and restraint, individuals could provide stepping stones to *terra firma* - a renaissance of a different kind of intelligence - wisdom.

The great haiku writers of Japan pushed beyond words, beyond knowledge, to the moment of encounter itself. ISNESS! Bliss! (Here is Basho 350 years ago: "Old pond,/leap-splash -/a frog.") Why be a cyber puppet? Better to pull out the plugs and listen. What does the world have to say to us today? *Rosemary*


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DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT will present two talks in the village this month - the first on Sunday **12th October** is one of a series of Sunday afternoon talks at Ditchling Museum. 'A Different Kind of Life in Ditchling' will take a look back at the village that has been home to artists and writers but also to shopkeepers and shepherds, craftsmen and carriers, church and chapel, players and pageants. More details and booking - **www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk**

The second, hosted by DHP, reveals the previously undiscovered story behind the 18th century triple murder at the Royal Oak on Ditchling Common for which pedlar turned smuggler Jacob Harris was found guilty, hanged and gibbeted. A post on Ditchling Common still marks the place where the gibbet is supposed to have stood. Prof Tony Kushner of the University of Southampton has spent years researching a diverse range of sources from law records and newspaper reports to ballads and folktales for his recently published book 'The Jewish Pedlar.' His talk of that title will take place in the village hall on Wednesday **22nd October** at 2.30 pm, when there will be an opportunity to buy a copy of the book. Tickets from our website **www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org**.

Janet Cragg

Counselling at The Garden Rooms

A safe therapeutic offering in Hassocks, where you can explore difficult feelings without judgement

Contact Emma 07866 682691

emma@thegardenroomshassocks.co.uk

LEISURE ACCESSIBILITY FOR THOSE LIVING WITH SIGHT LOSS West Sussex is fortunate to have a wealth of high quality theatres and cinemas, but for those living with sight loss, such a trip can be daunting, and the performance presents challenges in terms of appreciating everything that is happening on stage and screen. Thankfully, many venues support accessibility for the visually impaired with audio descriptive tours/performances, touch tours, bespoke times to visit and concessions.

For example, the nationally acclaimed Chichester Festival Theatre (CFT) offers audio description on certain performances and free bookable Touch Tours prior to an audio described performance. All seats have Braille signage, and Festival Season brochures are provided in large print, audio or a CD, plus cast lists in large print or braille. It also offers a Buddy Scheme with trained volunteers to meet you on arrival, help collect tickets and headsets; guide you to your seat, refreshments and toilets; and sit with you during the show.

The Hawth Theatre in Crawley, and Worthing



Theatre and Museum offer an audio description service for selected shows, and the Hawth brochure is available online (audio), in large print, braille, and CD. The Chequer Mead Theatre in East Grinstead operates an Essential Companion Scheme for people who without the support of a Carer would not be able to visit, when you register you are entitled to a free Carer's Ticket. Chequer Mead also operates a Buddy Scheme similar to the CFT. For cinema-goers, all Odeon cinemas offer a good selection of films with audio description and a free companion ticket.

These venues (which all welcome assistance dogs), are just some examples of the support available. It is important to contact your chosen venue to plan a visit, as the booking process, logistics and concessions all vary. Please visit the venue's website where phone and email contacts can be found. *Cathy Clark*



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THE VISUALLY-IMPAIRED LUNCH CLUB meets fortnightly on a Wednesday at Clayton Church Hall from 10.30 am – 2 pm. Transport is provided. We are looking for another Helper & more Members. If you are interested & live in Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks or Burgess Hill, please ring me on **01444 450947**. *Dorothy Lazenby*

BEFRIENDED is a local charity aiming to bring an end to loneliness and isolation among older people. We are excited to launch our new monthly Afternoon Tea Party at St Andrews Church in Burgess Hill at 3 pm on Sunday **5th October**.
There will be a scrumptious afternoon tea, entertainment, information, laughter and friendship. We look forward to welcoming you there.
Our regular Afternoon Tea Party in Hurstpierpoint on the third Sunday at Court Bushes will be at 3 pm on Sunday **19th October**. Our tea parties are very popular and we are delighted to welcome new guests every month.
Our regular weekly programme will take a break for half term in the last week of October.
We would love you to join us for our first Quiz Night at the Woolpack in Burgess Hill at 7 pm on Tuesday **28th October**.
Bereavement is a major cause of loneliness and isolation, we are privileged to support people through our 3 week Compassionate Conversations course, which will be on Thursdays **9th, 16th and 23rd October** in the morning in Burgess Hill and the evening in Hurstpierpoint. In November, we plan to run the course at the Hassocks Health Centre.
For more details of all our events and services please see our website **befriended.org** or contact us on **0300 772 7703** or **office@befriended.org**.
Susan

SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB Do you enjoy country walks? Would you like to discover new places and find like-minded people to walk with? Then Sussex Pathfinders (SPRC) could be the club for you.
SPRC is an independent club whose members share a common interest in walking for pleasure in the Sussex countryside, and sometimes beyond. There is usually a half day walk of 4.5 - 6 miles on Saturdays, and a full 9 - 11 miles on Sundays. Generally, members make their own arrangements for travelling to and from the meeting point.
If this appeals to you, just turn up on a walk and introduce yourself to the walk leader. There is no need to book but do ensure you have suitable footwear for possible rough pathways and maybe mud. Please note that dogs, other than guide dogs, are not permitted on the Club's walks.
Here are a few walks for October.
Saturday, **4th October** 4.5 miles, East Preston, Saturday **11th October** 6.5 miles, Steyning, Sunday, **12th October** (Figure of 8) 5 miles and 4.5 miles, Outwood, east of Horley. Saturday **18th October** 4.5 miles, Hurstpierpoint and Saturday **25th October** 5 miles, Horsham.
Full details of all our walks through to the end of December can be viewed on at **www.sussex-pathfinders.org.uk**. If you need any further advice, please call our enquiry line **07842 792962.** *Diann*

STAR CINEMA Friday **17th October** - the film at the Adastra Hall will be Conclave, a conspiracy thriller starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, and Isabella Rossellini.
Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Tickets on the door. Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. The Star Team look forward to welcoming you.
Liz Edmunds

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BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – Open Meeting on Wednesday **1st October**, when speaker Paul Reader will be giving a talk, 'Wakehurst; The Garden and some of its Special Plants' This takes place at Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill at 7.45 pm, (doors open 7.15 pm) All welcome!

Admission for BHHS members free, Visitors a small charge.

www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.

Flo Whitaker

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

This month we are welcoming back the lovely volunteers from a Touch of Gentleness, who will be offering free hand massages.

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 **11th October** 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! Warm wishes.

Catherine, Imke & Julie



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Stephen Hamilton

Established in Ditchling for over 35 years

My name is Stephen Hamilton and I have been designing, installing and project manging kitchens in the local area for 35 years. We make fine, sensibly priced bespoke kitchens which we project manage right through from beginning to end.

- With over thirty-five years trusted service in and around the Ditchling area Kitchen Carousel has become the region's leading name in kitchen excellence.
- We combine thoughtful design and planning with craftmanship and creativity.
- Tailored solutions: Whether it's a full kitchen re-design or just updating your kitchen doors and drawers.

We now have a dedicated department which *specialises* in ***partial*** kitchen refurbishments where we just change the doors and maybe the worktops… sometimes a few new cabinets, but we always try to retain the integrity of the original and keep the costs down. One of the very best things we do is retro-fit proper, ***fully extending dovetailed drawers*** in your base units… so no more back breaking bending down to get to the back of an inaccessible cupboard. Proper drawers not only expands ***accessibility*** but increases *actual* storage capacity.

If you need a complete kitchen project, we have a fantastic local team who can do everything. Our building and fitting partners can knock down walls, fit new windows or doors, re plaster anything or everything, provide all the necessary electrical and plumbing work as well as floors and if needed even the final decoration. Everything for a complete hassle-free project.

We love small kitchens or big kitchens, and we love doing ***local*** kitchens which is why we are so happy to be here again in the Ditchling dialogue.

Now! The first thing is… every new kitchen project, whether it is a partial refurb or completely new, requires ***careful and considered*** planning and that is where our chief designer and company founder comes into his own. So let me introduce myself. I have been designing all sorts of kitchens for longer than I can remember. I was once made European designer of the year for my inventiveness. I started by designing interiors of boats, so I know how to make space work. My first site visit is free and in around forty minutes or so I will give you various alternatives …usually I make people's heads spin with all the possibilities! As I go along, I can give you a fairly clear idea of the costs. I will scribble plans and drawings as we go along. Then I leave you to mull it over patiently and without any pestering. We also try to work within your budgets. If you are still interested, then we usually suggest you visit one of our finished kitchen installations near you. Still without obligation! Then we invite you to come to our extensive workshops on Ditchling Common where we can show you our door ranges and worktops etc. Only then, if you are happy with the process, and the proposed project do we discuss deposits. You can be assured that I will follow through on your project from the beginning to the end. Have a look at our website then email us through the website or just give me a call if you would like to chat first.

Regards Stephen Hamilton



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SABINE - WERE YOU WALKING TO SCHOOL ALONG WOODSLAND ROAD IN THE LATE 1980S? If so, you might remember Sabbie, the Wolfhound, who waited eagerly for you at the garden gate!
She enjoyed the company of human beings and loved the fuss you made of her.
When we moved to the corner of Ockley Lane and Oldlands Mill Lane she still waiting patiently at the garden gate, but no one came - and her disappointment was heartbreaking! *Jan*

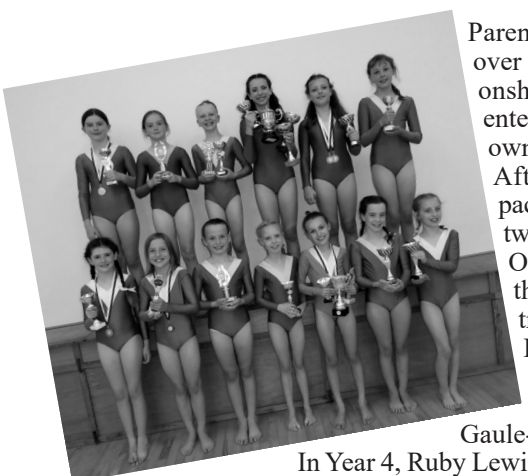
THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON This month's first two Sunday services of Morning Worship with Holy Communion and Little Beacons sessions for our youngest visitors will be at St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 10 am on Sundays **5th and 12th October**.
Do come along to The Green at Ditchling after the service on **5th October** to support our Beacon Parish stall at Apple Day: it will be full of delicious home baked goods just waiting to be bought and eaten!
On Sunday **19th October** our service will be at Streat Church at 10 am and on Sunday **26th October** we'll be back at Ditchling for an All Age Family Service, also beginning at 10. am.
Our regular mid-week communion services at St. Margaret's continue at 10 am each Wednesday.
If you enjoy singing, why not come along to SING! which will be at 6 pm in St. Margaret's Ditchling on Wednesday **1st October**. You'll be sure of a warm welcome at this and at all our services.
Do check our website **www.beaconparish.co.uk** for any alterations to the above. *Sherrian Guest*

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY 2nd October 8 pm to 10.20 pm.
The Outrun (15) Based on a memoir by Amy Liptrot, the film is set in the beautiful Orkney Islands where Rona goes to recover from her life of addiction to drugs and drink in London.
Saoirse Ronan is outstanding in this sometimes painful drama. The cinematography is at times breathtaking, and the film is brilliantly directed.
(2024) Directed by Nora Fingscheidt. 1h55 min. English.
On **6th November** 8 pm to 9.40 pm.
The Critic (15) Based on a novel by Anthony Quinn. The Critic is a period thriller drama with wicked humour and a twisty plot not to mention sumptuous costumes and an all cast.
(2024). Directed by Anand Tucker. English. 104 minutes.
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, **www.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, Ditchling Village Hall, There's plenty of parking in the village hall car park.
A year's membership gains you free entry. Guest entry is available for a small charge. 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.
Kate for The Ditchling Film Society.

HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS CLUB ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



41st Annual Championships - All Competitors



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.

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

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

Useful Information

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Mon. to Fri. 5.30pm - 6pm.
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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.
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DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

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, **Thatched Inn**, Grand Avenue
Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club, Adastra Park (South Field)
Hassocks Health Centre, Windmill Avenue, **Oldland Windmill**, Oldlands Lane, Keymer
Weald Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, South Bank, **South Downs Garden Centre**, Brighton Road

Whats On in October

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) 10 am - 12 pm, Methodist Church, Burgess Hill. 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 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.

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.

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 OCTOBER Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **5th & 12th** (both inc Little Beacons)
All age family service on **26th**.
On **19th** Streat Church at 10 am.
Wednesday @10 services of communion at St Margarets Church.

HASSOCKS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH 19th October Evening service 'Worship & Praise' at 6 pm. All welcome.

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

1st UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

1st HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'The Fire Service' Ben Aplin. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

1st BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. 'Wakehurst: The Garden and some of its Special Plants' Paul Reader. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com. All welcome.

1st 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.

3rd HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'The Museum of Gardening in Hassocks' Clive Gravett. See article for more info.

2nd DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - 'The Outrun'. Tickets available on the door - see article.

4th COELIAC GROUP South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road, Hassocks 9 am - 11am. 'Brunch and Chat'. All welcome.

4th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Sheppey. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

5th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 - 5 pm. Open afternoon.

5th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Worthing. Bar & Food available. Free entry.

5th BEFRIENDED St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill 3 - 5 pm. Afternoon Tea Party with quizzes, celebrations, making friends, information, advice and great entertainment. More info www.befriended.org.

5th DITCHLING ORCHARD Ditchling Village Green 11 am - 4 pm 'Apple Day' Fun, food stalls and welly wanging. Bring your apples to be juiced.

6th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

6th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Caller Lorna Shephard from Littlehampton. No partner needed just come along.

7th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Proper Cycling and Coffee, Hassocks 7.30 to 9 pm. Climate Hub Monthly Meet-up: Supporting Swifts All welcome.

7th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'Brunel - Father, Son and Grandson' Bill McNaught.

7th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 7.45 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Deal Town. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

8th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Drop in all welcome.

9th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach, Hassocks 8 pm. 'Hackensaw Boys' Tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

10th BURGESS HILL HISTORY GROUP Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. 'Tombstone Tourists - The development of large municipal cemeteries during the 19th century and how they can be reference for local families and social history' Ian Everest. All welcome.

10th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Aircraft Scatter' John GM8JBJ. Zoom link email progsec@midsussexars.org.uk. Refreshments available. All welcome.

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COME AND HAVE A BROWSE.

11th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book sussexsewingclub@gmail.com.

11th 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.

11th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

12th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 75th Anniversary Dance. No partner needed just come along.

12th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT Ditchling Museum. 2.30 pm 'A Different Kind of Life in Ditchling' To book www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk

13th 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.

14th 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.

14th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 7.45 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on East Grinstead. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

13th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Illustrated talk' Ivan Weightman. All welcome more info hhs1886@btinternet.com. See article.

15th 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.

17th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'Conclave'. Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door.

17th POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 11 am - 12 pm. Come along to get crime prevention & advice on neighbourhood issues.

18th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS Hurstpierpoint 4.5 mile walk. visit www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk.

18th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk

19th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Burgess Hill. Bar & Food available. Free entry.

19th 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 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.

20th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Paranormal Mysteries and cover ups' Andy Thomas. Visitors welcome.

20th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. No partner needed just come along.



22nd DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT Ditchling Museum. 2.30 pm '18th Century triple murder at the Royal Oak on Ditchling Common' To book www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk

23rd DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning run by Ditchling Downs WI. All welcome.

23rd LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

24th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'The Winning T.E.A.M Formula - My life in Motorsport and Beyond' Peter Burns. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

24th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag & Natter Evening' Refreshments. All welcome.

25th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 3 pm. Concert of Chorus and Solo based on Shakespear Plays. Tickets 07867 975967

25th REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransition.org.uk.

25th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Broadbridge Heath. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

25th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email mo.delaine@btinternet.com.

25th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

26th THE BUDDING FOUNDATION Adastra Hall, Hassocks 9 am. 'The Big Wrap' See article for more details.

27th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Lewes and Bonfire Night' Andy Thomas

27th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

28th BEFRIENDED Woolpack, Burgess Hill 7 pm. Quiz Night. All welcome. More info www.befriended.org.

29th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm Hands on practical evening. Visitors welcome.

30th 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.

31st HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'The Long Walk Home' Michael Blencowe. See article for more info.

31st AGE CONCERN Dale Avenue, Hassocks 6.30 pm Halloween Quiz night. Tickets 01273 844461



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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

It's funny how wrong I can be sometimes. I thought that when the Purple Carrot closed the owners of the building would take the opportunity to refurbish it back to being a residential property. With its proximity to the station and shops it could be argued that it would be a nice earner. However, looking at it sensibly the cost to turn it back into a residential property would be a lot and then once you've done that you have all the new legislation which has been introduced to deal with. People trying to earn a bit more by renting out property is now not the dream it used to be, entrepreneurs are being strangled out of business. So that said, what was the Purple Carrot, will be reopening having had a major makeover as a Wine Bar/Bistro. At this time I have no idea what name has been given to it but I wish the new owners all the best.

The shop in Keymer has still got 'Under Offer' on it, legal wheels can turn slowly. It looks like these wheels have ground to a halt but looks can be deceiving and the truth is the shop has been let and will be reopening in the not-too-distant future.

I've had a few people ask me if I knew that Villa Adastra was up for sale, well it isn't at the moment. Yes, the Salvation Army is in the middle of a major restructuring plan. They apparently own approximately 11 care homes and some, mostly up north, are up for sale but nothing is being planned for any based down here in the south. Obviously, The Salvation Army like a lot of businesses these days is having to look at the huge increases introduced in last years Budget. This makes the running of any type of business much more challenging but care homes in the south can obviously charge a lot more than those up north. That is why it makes sense for them to offload these but any developments I'll let you know.

Still no news on the weed farm opposite me or the retirement village opposite the park such big projects do sit in limbo until someone hits the start button and then we're off.

There's a small group of garages next to the Age Concerns Charity Shop they have been there donkeys years but all of a sudden the tenants have been given notice to vacate - so this site can be redeveloped? What exactly you'd put there instead of a block of garages is a mystery not a house surely?

It's funny the things you suddenly remember as you get older, when my sister and I were kids as a special treat mum would buy one of those little glass pots of Shipham's crab paste with which she'd make a plate full of sandwiches. We'd sit down in front of the telly with a couple of sandwiches each and watch Sunday Night at the London Palladium or an Errol Flynn film if there was one on, good old days and happy memories.

I can't tell you how happy I am that the lady I mentioned last month got her tortoise back, but before I tell you I must apologise to the lady for calling her elderly, I was wrong to assume she was of a certain age. Anyway, the tortoise, after it was stolen, was dumped by the side of the road in Horsham. By luck it was spotted by an eagle-eyed trucker who picked it up and took it back to his base in Bradford where he gave it to his boss who handed it over to his daughter who was deeply upset having just lost her Grandfather. So as a distraction to the grief she decided to sit down with her computer and track down the real owner, after a while she started talking to a man in Australia who had knowledge of the tortoise. He mentioned that his sister who lived in Hassocks had just had her tortoise stolen, he messaged his sister to say that he was talking to a lady in Bradford who was trying to find the owner of the tortoise found in Horsham and was there anything distinctive about him that she that could identify it as hers. She messaged back saying to be careful because he'd bite your ankles when wandering around on the floor and just at that moment the tortoise had its jaws locked on to her dads trousers. Now all that had to be done was to get him home, arrangements were made to rendezvous at Kings Cross where a bottle of champagne was opened to celebrate his safe return.

I hope you enjoyed this wonderful story of someone's determination to track down this animal's rightful owner using the power of the Internet.

Love it! Steve (I just wish I could remember what the tortoises name was – this is down to me and my memory)

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392