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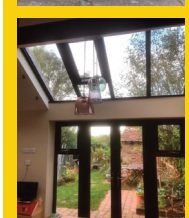
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We thank Diana Nason for the following photo and letter:- I don't know the date – but clearly it is old, around the 1940's? The picture was signed on the back by an 'A Westaway', I looked up the name and the only one living around 1939 was from Wivelsfield Green at Parkview, working as a Butler/Valet. So possibly the same person that signed the photo?
Perhaps someone could identify him or even the gentleman standing in the picture?
Please email into the Talk About at ***ed@villagemagazines.co.uk.***



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DAVE EVANS – We were very sad to hear the passing of Dave. He was a regular contributor to this magazine and had so many photos and stories and knew a lot about Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding villages and the people that lived there too. We will miss your regular visits to the shop.

Jo and the QD Team.



1ST HASSOCKS SCOUT GROUP - CHRISTMAS POST DELIVERY SERVICE The scouts are happy to offer a delivery service for local Christmas cards again this year.

For nearly half the price of a second class stamp, the scouts will deliver your cards in Hassocks over two weekends in December, to raise funds for the 1st Hassocks Scout group.

There will be 5 Collection boxes located at: QD Stationery, Marchants Estate Agents, Age Concern, Hassocks Hardware and Orion News.

Please bring along the correct amount of 50p per card, as the locations cannot provide change.

The boxes will go into the shops from the **1st December** service with the last collection at 4 pm on Friday **13th December** so cards can be delivered in time.

Fiz

A MAGICAL EVENING OF MUSIC IN SUPPORT OF ST PETER AND ST JAMES HOSPICE This concert will take place at Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint on Saturday **6th December** and will feature Mike and Reina Reinstein, Ian Roland, Lou Beckerman and Hector and Gavan. Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Tickets from **www.ticketsource.com/dannyhouse.**

Mike Reinstein

THE NSPCC HURSTPIERPOINT COMMITTEE are holding their annual Quiz night on Saturday **22nd November** in the Hurstpierpoint Bowls Club, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint.

It's 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Teams of 4 to 6 people. The price includes a fish and chip supper.

Tickets from Charlotte Grace, 40 High Street. Hurst. BN6 9RG. **07507 277689.** Cash only. Raffle and licenced bar.

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Jonet Marshall

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH If you go into the forest this autumn, you'd better take a tin hat, for, after long months of summer sunshine, this has turned out to be a 'mast' year. Acorns are in abundance, so much so that the weight of them has ripped some boughs from the trees at Stoneywish, and a gentle hail of nuts patters down with every breeze. They lie like shingle on the woodland floor, crunching underfoot. From the treetops they fall with the force of slingshot, which adds a piquant dash of danger to a walk.

In autumn, it seems, everything is falling. Apples, apples everywhere, beechnuts, conkers, chestnuts, the first leaves whirling down. As sap returns to the earth, the engorged roots of plants become winter storehouses of summer's wealth. The medicinal roots of herbs are at their most potent. Seeds work their way down into the earth and the rot of spent vegetation lays down a blanket to protect them from the cold to come.

In the old Celtic calendar this autumn equinoctial time was the beginning of the year – the start of preparation for the spring – a mysterious time of ending and renewal. In England's past, this would have been the great fattening time for hogs, feasting on acorns and windfalls; a time for human feasting too at Michaelmas celebrations, and a time for laying down winter stores, when the cider-press and the still-room were busy. Autumn bonfires cleared and purified the land and there were the comforts of the fireside to look forward to at home: buttered crumpets and roasted chestnuts and hot water bottles and vests and goosefat to ward off winter chills! All things mostly gone and forgotten now. And just as well, I hear you say. Good riddance to chilblains and damp and draughts under the door!

We live a cleaner, drier, more comfortable life. We have electric candles and there is neither need nor desire in our age for pantries stacked with jams and pickles, sides of bacon up the chimney and apples in the attic. But as we drift slowly away from our ancestral roots, autumn can feel like a neglected season, a stop-gap, sandwiched between the twin escapes of holiday breaks and Christmas frenzy, with Hallowe'en, a modern orgy of plastic, to distract us along the way. Nevertheless, there is much to be said for resisting the rush and savouring this season.

Beyond providing us with picture postcards, autumn has much to say to us still about our planet home and the cycles it weaves about us. We may have abandoned the customs of playing conkers and apple-bobbing (too dangerous), and our Harvest Festivals may consist of tins only (nothing perishable), yet we are still drawn to the shapes of primordial things. If our fascination with the stars must now make do with fairy lights, and our pumpkins and autumn leaves are made, like as not, from recycled milk-bottles, we still hold the image of the real things in our minds. A thread remains which can lead us back to the world we have all but lost. And that thread can restore richness and meaning to things which, in their synthetic form, seem empty and without purpose.

In the days when a Hallowe'en lantern was made from a real turnip, country people knew that this was one of the many turnips which lay heaped up in the barn to feed their cattle. The lanterns warded off ghouls and spirits with their grimaces at All Hallows, while the roots of which they were made, kept famine and death at bay on the farm. The worlds of the living and the dead briefly reached out to touch one another, then drew back. Tomfoolery embodied a subtle metaphor: beyond fear, lay a promise of life. In a similar way, a return to the *living* reality which surrounds us might provide the antidote to much modern ennui and anxiety. Living things are unpredictable, impermanent, messy and challenging, but

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they give out energy, transform energy, transport us, exhilarate us in ways no artificial substitute can do. If oak trees still fed our pigs, timbered our ships and our houses, warmed us in winter, supplied the blacksmith with iron, the scribe with ink, the tanner with tannin, the herbalist with medicinal bark; gave our flocks shade in summer and nourished us with myths and legends, imagine how these connections would enrich a forest walk. If we knew that the oak, as a magnet for lightning, was in many cultures dedicated to the most powerful of the gods, the god of thunder, and was a source of divination; if we knew that the oak ruled the season from Midwinter to Midsummer, and yielded his crown to the holly from summer to winter; even if we had tasted acorn coffee, or oak leaf wine, or could remember setting out oak cupules as fairy cups in our childhood games, how much further would each step be enriched. This was the world of vital consciousness that was the birthright of our forebears. And each tree and flower and fruit held a similar wealth of associations. Had Newton sat under an oak tree and been hit on the head by an acorn, would he have formulated his theory of gravity in the same way? Who knows what revelation might have come to him. Perhaps it is better *not* to have a tin helmet.

Let's take the risk! Get out and walk into autumn and reclaim the magic which Nature offers us with such bounty. Let's start *venerating* our green Earth again. To the Ancient Greeks, the Celts, the Vikings, Druids, Slavs and Baltic nations, the oak tree was king of the forest and provided a mythical doorway to other worlds. Its acorns were a symbolic source of greatness, of strength and courage. Love too. ... In ancient times merely carrying an acorn in one's pocket was believed to preserve youth and bring health, luck and long life. A forest walk might begin with just one acorn. Where will it take you? And when you return, well then you will have earned your crumpets by the fire! *Rosemary*

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BEFRIENDED in November. We start the month with our afternoon tea at St Andrews Church in Burgess Hill at 3 pm on Sunday **2nd November**, where Choir&Ko will be there to entertain you.

Our regular program of Cafe Neuro, Community Choir and Befriended Balance continues throughout November.

On Thursday **6th November** you're welcome to join us for our newest activity in Hurstpierpoint, Befriended Board Games: an afternoon of games, giggles and good company on the first Thursday of every month 2.30 to 4.30 pm.

We will be celebrating the official launch of Cafe Neuro at 10.30 am to 12 pm on Monday **10th November** at The Salvation Army Hall in Burgess Hill. This drop in cafe for carers and those they care for with dementia or recovering from stroke, offers you activities, advice, a listening ear and plenty of tea and cake.

You're also invited to come to our Hurstpierpoint afternoon tea party at 3 pm on Sunday **16th November** at the Court Bushes Community Hub off Willow Way in Hurstpierpoint.

Finally, if you're concerned about Christmas because you don't want to spend the day on your own, don't worry, Befriended will be hosting a Community Christmas lunch on Christmas Day at the Village Centre in Hurstpierpoint.

For more details of any of our activities please see our website or contact us on **0300 772 7703** or **office@befriended.org**, or you can speak to the social prescriber at your GP surgery. *Susan*

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DANNY FAMILY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS RETURNS FOR ITS 28TH EVENING on Sunday **2nd November**.

It will be celebrated with a spectacular display of fireworks from our firework maestros – Aurora. 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: Best value is a family ticket which will admit two adults and up to three children. Under threes are free. 20% of ticket income bought online will be donated to the group you choose to support. Single tickets for adults or children are available too.

Tickets will be 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*

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 will be hosting 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 **8th November** 10.30 am to 12 pm at Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST.

This is the Quaker Meeting House (not to be confused with the Old Meeting House in the Twitten). Feel free to bring apples or anything else from the garden that you are happy to contribute. Or just bring yourself! *Catherine, Imke & Julie*

DITCHLING CHRISTMAS MARKET at the Ditchling Village Hall on **7th December** between midday and 5pm. In aid of the St Peter and St James Hospice. *Marija*

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ALISON BENNETT MP: HAVING CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER IN MID SUSSEX I can say with some certainty that the most rewarding part of being your MP is being able to meet, chat to, and learn from residents all over our community, people I might never have crossed paths with were it not for this role.

These conversations are often inspiring, sometimes challenging, and always grounding. They remind me daily why I stood for Parliament in the first place: to be a strong, compassionate advocate for the people of Mid Sussex.

One way I do this is through my regular residents' surgeries, which I conduct both online and in-person.

Following the tragic murders of MPs Jo Cox and Sir David Amess, the Parliamentary authorities now advise against MPs advertising drop-in surgeries, and we are encouraged to offer a pre-booked appointment system.

If you want to talk to me about an issue of concern or personal casework, my team will offer you a short confidential appointment to discuss this with me. I'm joined at each surgery by a member of my casework team, who is there to support and take notes so that we can agree any next steps and action them quickly and effectively. I hold surgeries like this across the towns and villages of Mid Sussex including Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint.

My online surgeries are conducted via Zoom, or the telephone if you prefer. These are proving very popular as they are often easier and more convenient for people with accessibility needs, or whose schedules do not align with timings of in-person surgeries. These online appointments allow you to speak to me directly from your home or work on the issues that matter most to you, whether it's housing, local services, the environment, or anything else on your mind.

If you have a matter that you would like to discuss in a surgery appointment, please get in touch email **alison.bennett.mp@parliament.uk** or phone **01444 224458**. My team and I are here to listen, to help, and to ensure your voice is heard.

Clara Howard

HURSTPIERPOINT CHRISTMAS FAIR organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club will be held at the Village Centre, Hurstpierpoint on Friday **28th November** from 6 pm to 9 pm and on Saturday **29th November** from 9.30 am to 1 pm.

Entry is free and there will be a wide range of stalls selling a variety of Christmas gift ideas. Cards, advent calendars, craft kits, pottery, knitted crafts, jewellery and much more will be available. For further information or stall availability, please contact **hurstchristmasfair@yahoo.com**. *Rebecca Hair*

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

October flew by in a flash… Our members enjoyed an early Christmas shopping trip to *The Range*, and we hosted a lively Halloween Quiz Night that successfully raised funds for the Centre—thank you to everyone who joined in!

Our dining room has been given a fantastic new look over the last few weeks. Huge thanks to Interior Designer Emma Cons, who has been extremely generous in offering her expertise and time for free. Thank you also to Matthew Legg 'Brighton Carpenter', Matthew Morgan/Adam Boroman Decorating and Mid Sussex Flooring. Pop in and have a look!

As we head into November, we've got two exciting outings planned: Haskins Garden Centre, Snowhill and Brighton Greyhound Racing *l*ater in the month. Give us a ring if you would like to join us.

With Christmas just around the corner, we will be welcoming Vicki from Avon and JJ Fashions into the Centre—perfect for ticking off some early gift shopping!

Mark your calendars—our festive Christmas Fair is happening on Saturday, **6th December**, from 10 am to 1 pm. Expect a warm, welcoming atmosphere filled with seasonal cheer, unique handmade treasures, and plenty of holiday spirit! If you are interested in booking a stall or learning more, give us a call.

We're now offering a Monday minibus service exclusively for Burgess Hill residents, so if you're looking for a friendly place to socialise and enjoy a delicious home-cooked three-course meal—we'd love to welcome you.

If you are looking for a new hobby, we're currently looking for new members to join our Art Group – Tuesdays, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm and our Canasta Group – Thursdays, 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm. Interested? Just ring us for more details!

We look forward to seeing you! *Nina Hawes*

DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MARKET on Saturday **29th November** 11 am to 2 pm at Downlands School, Dale Avenue, Hassocks. You will find festive food and drink, Christmas stalls and games, arts and crafts market. Downlands school choir and orchestra will be there too. *Jo Miles*

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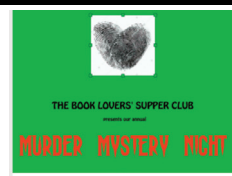
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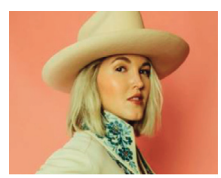
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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON Our first service of the month on Sunday **2nd November** will be one of Morning Worship with Holy Communion at St. Margaret's, Ditchling at 10 am. This will include a 'Little Beacons' activity season for our youngest visitors.

The following Sunday, **9th November**, is Remembrance Sunday and there will be a 9.30 am service of Holy Communion in St. Margaret's, an Act of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial starting at 10.50 am. and a Remembrance Service in St. Margaret's at 11.15 am.

An Act of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial in Streat from 10.45 am followed by a Service of Morning Prayer in Streat Church

For more information about the Remembrance events in Ditchling, including the parade, please see the separate article by the Royal British Legion.

On Tuesday **11th November**, Armistice Day, there will be an Act of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial starting at 10.50 am.

Our service of Morning Worship with Holy Communion on Sunday **16th November** will be held at St. Martins, Westmeston at 10 am.

On Sundays **23rd and 30th November**, Morning Worship with Holy Communion will be in St. Margaret's, Ditchling.

Wednesday @ 10, our mid-week Communion will be held each week in St Margaret's at 10 am.

This month's 'SING!' our monthly opportunity to sing worship songs, old and new, will be on Wednesday **5th November**. Do join us.

Everyone is welcome to all our services and events but do check our website **www.beaconparish.co.uk/** for any changes to the above. *Sherrian Guest*

CRAFT FAIR, HURSTPIERPOINT If you are a crafter and you're looking for a pitch for Christmas sales, please get in touch with me **jenny@heberopera.co.uk** - we still have a few pitches available at the Heber Opera craft fair on **6th December** in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Pitches will have a table provided.

For excellent Christmas shopping, put the date in your diary: open 10 am to 2 pm with lots of opportunities for buying unusual, handcrafted gifts, not to mention homemade cakes and savouries to eat in or take away. *Jenny Hawkes*

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2025 The Parish of Keymer with Clayton community will meet on Sunday **9th November** from 1.15 pm when there will be a procession and Marching Band leaving Adastra Park at 1.30 pm.

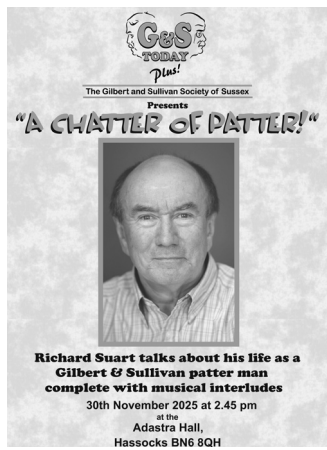
This will continue up through the village arriving at the War Memorial at Keymer Church where there will be a family friendly short act of worship, the act of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths. Hospitality and refreshments at the Greyhound Pub Road closures will be in place for Safety and we look forward to welcoming as many people as possible to support this renewed community event out on by the Parish Council and the Parish Church.

Father Alex

STAR CINEMA The film for on Friday **21st November** at the Adastra Hall, Hassocks is Bridget Jones - Mad About The Boy**.**

Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Wine, tea, coffee, raffle are available. Tickets are on the door. The Star Team look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Edmunds



THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX presents "A Chatter of Patter". Richard Suart talks about his life and as an internationally renowned Gilbert & Sullivan patter man, complete with musical interludes.

Sunday **30th November**, 2.45 pm at Adastra Hall, Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex. Tickets include refreshments. To Book email **gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.** *Pennie Ingram*

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GIRLGUIDING SUSSEX CENTRAL RAINBOWS & BROWNIES 'GO FOR GOLD' On Sunday 15th September at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, Girlguiding Sussex Central County held a very special ceremony for its younger members who had gained their Rainbow or Brownie Gold Award.

Caroline Hitchcock, Chair of Awards and Wendy Colson, County Commissioner welcomed over 40 Rainbows, Brownies & their invited guests to the first such event to be held within the county. It was noted that some of the girls had moved up to the next section since gaining their award and that there were many other Gold award holders within the county who had been unable to attend the event.

Before the actual presentation the girls were treated to a magic show performed by Andy Hiccup.

After discovering it was possible to tear a newspaper into tiny pieces & see it return to its original complete sheet by the wave of a hand, watch a jug of milk miraculously disappear into a cone of paper and many other tricks the presentation began.

To gain a gold award each girl must earn all the 6 programme theme awards of 'Know myself', 'Express myself', 'Be Well', 'Have adventures', 'Take action' and 'Skills for my future'. Each is achieved by gaining 1 interest badge, completing 1 stage and 2 hours (Rainbows) or 3 (Brownies) hours of unit meeting activities of each theme. In addition, they must complete a final challenge

The Rainbows and Brownies were each presented with a county certificate by Janet Samuel and Lisa Barden, Sussex Central's Vice Presidents who are themselves Rainbow & Brownie leaders.

Wendy concluded the afternoon by congratulating all the recipients, reminding them that *'Girls Can Do Anything.'* She then surprised them by saying each would receive a 'bag of gold' (golden sweets & mementos) when they left. Finally, Wendy thanked Caroline & her team for organising the event.

For further information go to **www.girlguidingsussexcentralcounty.com.**

Janet Samuel

LIGHT UP HASSOCKS It's all going on at the Hassocks North Pole substation and the rumours are flying! The jolly man himself is coming... it's likely to snow...there will be angels on the streets...!

Well, we Hassocks based Elves have set our festive levels set to 5 out of 5 so we're ready for anything, and we are beavering away to bring you the hollyest jolliest Light Up Hassocks yet!

So, pop the date in your diary Friday **5th December** 4 to 8 pm and remember to leave your cars at home so we can fill the high street with festive joy and you with scrumptious food and perhaps a cheeky mulled wine...

More information will be coming out soon, but if you need any details sooner or want to help, contact us at **lightuphassocks@gmail.com**.

Erika Woodhurst-Trueman

CLAYTON CONTACT CLUB for the Visually-Impaired urgently need another helper - male or female! We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm.

If you could help or would like to become a member, please ring me on **01444 450947**.

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HASSOCKS FC We've had a lot of home games at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground in the last month including the Brighton and Hove Albion u21 fixture. I want to thank all the local match day volunteers (Tony, Lee, Matt, Colin, Jason, Nick, Ant) for giving up their time to help with parking and stewarding. A lot goes into running a match day and they make it all possible with their efforts.
The team is currently sitting around mid-table and that is a great return for a village club competing at this level.
If we can survive relegation that would be a brilliant achievement as we're competing with bigger clubs and towns.
Thank you for your support in helping the guys on the pitch!
We have a new Robin mascot and his name is Rocky! Good for encouraging families to come and visit and good for sponsorship photos also. There's talk of him flying in at Light Up Hassocks!
Excitement about our away Jersey trip in March but before that we have a coach travelling to Herne Bay on the **29th November**.
Limited seats but if supporters want a fun day out, we're leaving the Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground at 10.30 am and returning around 8.30 pm. Message me if keen for cost and booking **07843 762132.**
Plenty of fixtures ahead. Coming into winter we hope not too many cancellations. Our social media is your best bet for latest news. Here are our home fixtures in **November**.
Saturday **8th** 1st vs Jersey 2 pm.
Tuesday **11th** 1st vs Crowborough 7.45 pm
Saturday **22nd** 1st vs Ashford 3 pm
Sunday **23rd** Ladies vs Eastbourne Town 2 pm.

Pat Harding

SUSSEX CHORUS WITH BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY AND SUSSEX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. On Saturday **15th November** at 7.30 pm at All Saint's Church, Hove. BN3 3QE.
'Carmina Burana' & Hymn to the Fallen'. Conductor: Mark Andrew James with Soloists.
For tickets visit **sussexchorus.org**.

Angela Holroyd

Deadline Date for the December 2025 issue is 1st November 2025

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RAIN FAILED TO DAMPER CHAILEY'S HARVEST FESTIVAL An inaugural Harvest Festival, was on (13th September) at the 5 Bells in Chailey, and proved to be a phenomenal success despite the rain.

Fortunately, the weather eased just in time for the sun to shine on the Chailey community as many joined the occasion from the village and surrounding areas.

The event, organised by Tom Stovold and Melle Routledge (landlady) put on an impressive selection of local ales and a variety of ciders plus high quality burgers and hot dogs cooked on site by Alfie, the pub's chef.

Chailey Classic and Vintage Tractor Club were partners in the organisation of the day with an impressive display of classic and vintage tractors.

A tug of war competition followed involving both adults and children and interestingly church records show a similar event celebrating the Harvest taking place just 7 days apart in the church way back in 1930...!

On this occasion Chailey, well known for its Heritage centres caring for the less fortunate, really brought together the community in a spirit of village 'togetherness'.

CTC's vintage tractors were supported by a local steam traction engine and local contribution in the garden comprised charity stalls, a display of honeybees with locally produced honey and not least a pen of lambs with a guess the weight competition. The kids loved it...!

Music was another key factor in the programme and local bands played throughout the day. The Reverend Paul Mundy blessed the Harvest followed by an impressive performance by Chailey's Church choir.

All proceeds will be divided between Chailey Tractor Club and a designated charity.

With a massive thank you to the owners of the adjoining field whose kind help and cooperation made it available for the weekend, the Chailey community were able to come together in good spirit to celebrate the Harvest and in turn support the village's very last pub. *Liz Venters*

DITCHLING DOWNS WI A group of us enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Newhaven Incinerator in early September. We learned from the very welcoming Veolia team, about how all the black bin rubbish from Brighton and East Sussex is incinerated at very high temperatures to produce steam and finally power to be fed back to the grid. Veolia run a very good Visitor Centre with loads of information about the disposal and recycling of waste - well worth a visit!

Our November speaker is John Vine who will talk about 'Using your voice - Understanding your voice'. As always - we welcome visitors to our monthly meetings - first Tuesday in the month in Ditchling Village Hall.

Please contact **gmtennant.ddwi@yahoo.com** for more details. *Alison White*

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

Our September Fayre was very successful, the charity raffle raised £140 for 'Breast Cancer Now', and nearly £600 for our funds. Well done to everyone who helped. I hear the craft stalls were excellent and there were lovely flowers.

Hassocks WI took part in the South of England Show end of September. The theme was 'Alice in Wonderland'. Well done to Shirley for achieving a first with your amazing entry. (See our website of photo).

Andy Thomas one of UK most prolific authors on the paranormal and global cover ups gave us an intriguing talk in October. It was also the West Sussex Federation Annual Meeting in Horsham.

On **17th November** our evening will be a lively drumming and percussion workshop with Sean (no experience necessary) drums provided.

On Wednesday **19th November** committee room, we are holding an afternoon meeting 2 pm to 4 pm 'No More Violence to Women and Girls'. We will have speakers from 'Safe in Sussex' and hold a short vigil in memory of victims of domestic violence.

As usual we will have our popular Craft Club on Monday **3rd November** in the committee room, a chance to enjoy creative 'me' time. Don't know what we will be doing but it is always fun.

So, don't be lonely or alone come along for a social time. Visitors are always welcome (donation). Then of course our December meeting will be Christmas themed, and we have our wonderful Xmas hamper raffle.

Hope to meet you soon. *Gerry*

HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY meet Monday **10th November** for a talk entitled National Trust at Sheffield Park - Past and Present.

On Monday **24th November** we have a talk by Ian Gledhill. "Transports of Delight". Trains on the pier, miniature railways and various forms of transport to amuse holiday makers.

Both talks are at Adastra Hall, Hassocks at 7.45 pm. *Pat Blackford*

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DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

-AGM. Thursday **6th November**, 7.30 pm to 9 pm at The Old Meeting House, The Twitter, Ditchling. Our special guest speaker is Ed Nugent from Garden Sage Nurseries "Drought proof your garden". Everyone is welcome. Drinks, nibbles and a raffle will be provided. *Marija*

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Join us for The Critic (15). **6th November** from 8 pm to 9.40 pm. 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 a strong cast. The film stars Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong, Ben Barnes, Alfred Enoch, Romola Garai, and Lesley Manville.

Ian McKellen plays Jimmy Erskine, a malicious, conniving and brutally honest newspaper theatre critic in 1930's London but as the film progresses it becomes darker and more violent and more of a thriller.

(2024). Directed by Anand Tucker. English. 104 minutes.

Our Christmas show with mulled wine and mince pies is… The Holdovers (15) on **4th December** 8 pm to 10.15 pm.

For more information on our film showings and special events go to **ditchlingfilm.org.uk** where you can also sign up to our Newsletter.

Doors open at 7.30 pm at Ditchling Village Hall and you can buy a glass of good wine or enjoy a complementary soft drink.

Membership or Guest entry available and Members are eligible for a 20% discount on pre-booked meals and drinks at The Bull Pub on film night!

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STOOLBALL DITCHLING – END OF SEASON ROUND-UP As our fourth season draws to a close, we look back with huge pride at all we've achieved—developing our skills, building strong friendships, and, most importantly, having plenty of fun.

This year saw us finish 4th in the Central Sussex Stoolball Division. Highlights included two exciting wins over Chailey (92–84 and 164–92) and a very close match against our lovely opponents Partridge Green, where we narrowly lost 101–112.

In the Hepsey League, we were thrilled to secure 3rd place, a fantastic achievement for the club. Our victories included a 207–198 win against Chailey and a 201–176 win against Partridge Green.

We also enjoyed coming together off the pitch at our AGM and family fun rounders night, a brilliant opportunity to celebrate the season as a club with our Club President Michael Stratford. Awards presented by our Chair Lana Malet went to:

Emily Viljoen - most runs Hepsey League, Abigail Lock - most runs for Ditchling in CSSD league games Most Valuable Player – Rachel Merabti, Most Improved – Hayley Pearce, Player Contribution – Sue Forsyth.

A huge thank you goes to our players, coaches, committee, and supporters for their dedication throughout the year.

We'd love to see you at Light Up Hassocks, where we'll be selling mulled wine outside Proper. If you're interested in joining—ladies or juniors—we'd be delighted to welcome you. Please get in touch at **sbditchling@gmail.com**.

Here's to another successful season for Stoolball Ditchling! *Sally Brown*

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3.6kg-4.1kg	14 people	8 people	£ TBA	☐
4.1kg-4.5kg	16 people	9 people	£ TBA	☐
4.5kg-5.0kg	18 people	10 people	£ TBA	☐
5.0kg-5.5kg	20 people	11 people	£ TBA	☐
5.5kg-6.0kg	22 people	12 people	£ TBA	☐

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SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB I am writing this on the last Saturday of September, after walking six miles from Hangleton (north Hove) to the Devil's Dyke and back. It has been so cold here on the south coast this last week but today the weather was perfect with sunshine, magnificent clouds and an acceptable breeze rather than the biting winds from the South Pole.

The walk started from outside St Helens church in Hangleton, famous for being the oldest surviving building in Brighton & Hove City. From there we took the route of the disused railway line that used to take Victorian day trippers up to the many delights of the Devil's Dyke, which itself is steeped in well-known stories and legends.

Under different iterations a hotel has stood at the Devil's Dyke since 1831 and the current building dates from the 1960s. The views were splendid, and I felt I could have gazed at them for several hours but we had to retrace our steps and continue on our way.

We passed three immaculately manicured golf courses on our walk with many cars parked outside their club houses, but I never saw anyone actually on the greens.

From there it was mostly downhill to the local nature reserve of Benfield - the oldest local nature reserve in the city since it's declaration in 1993.

Magnificent views were on show for most of the walk featuring a variety of downland, the English Channel and then the ubiquitous, but necessary, wind turbines on the horizon.

All our weekend walks for the remainder of 2025 can be viewed on our website **www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk**. No need to book, just turn up and introduce yourself to the group leader. *Diann*

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DOWNLANDS STUDENTS CELEBRATE AMAZING GCSE RESULTS We're proud to celebrate another outstanding year for our learners. Thanks to the support of our school community, our students have achieved results that secure strong pathways into further education and apprenticeships.

Results day was filled with emotion and pride, as this cohort outperformed national trends, with over a third of students earning a grade 7 or above.

All groups exceeded national progress levels, leaving a lasting legacy of achievement.

We wish our pupils every success as they embark on the next stage of their journeys, confident that the values they've embraced and the progress they've made will lead them to a fulfilling future. Thank you very much! *Jo Miles*

HASSOCKS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU Are you seeking God? Are you just intrigued? Are you ready to rejoice and praise?

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 **16th November** at 6 pm and will be held in subsequent months on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the same time.

We look forward to worshipping with you!

Rev. David Cumbers



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ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB - 2025 SEASON As Autumn arrives, Adastra Bowling Club has closed its green after a very successful 2025 season. Our four Open (Satur)Days in May attracted a lot of interest and eleven new members joined us.

The fine, dry Summer has meant that many games could be played. Some of these were practices, some were competitions within the Club and others were friendly matches against other Clubs in the area. We held a Charity Day with fun competitions and raised £750 for Parkinsons Disease research, our chosen charity this year.

By September two of our teams were in a County wide final and semi-final for two competitions. Sadly, we were runners-up, but this is still a great achievement for a village club against much bigger clubs in Sussex.

Next year we plan to hold more Open Saturday mornings in May (watch this space for dates) We will also hold a couple of Open Tuesday evenings for those of you still working. This year it was good to welcome some younger members, and we have held games on Tuesday and Friday evenings, with the necessary social in the Bar afterwards!

We will reopen in mid-April 2026, but in the meantime some of us play Short Mat Bowls in the Adastra Hall on Tuesday mornings from 9.15 am to 11.45 am.

Come along, get to know us and have a try at bowling before April 2026. *Diana Webley Ward*



Photos show our Mens and Womens 2025 Club Champions

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Who are Kitchen Carousel? - No doubt you've see my advert here before. My name is Stephen Hamilton and I have been designing, installing and project managing kitchens in the local area for 35 years. My skilled and friendly team make fine sensibly priced kitchens which we project manage right through from beginning to end.

I'd like to change my whole kitchen - No Problem! Our fantastic building and fitting partners can knock down walls, fit new windows or doors, re plaster, provide all the necessary electrical and plumbing work as well as laying new floors and if needed, even completing the final decoration for you. Everything for a complete, hassle-free project.

If you're looking for a supply-only kitchen then we're also happy to help.

Could I just refurbish my existing kitchen? - Yes! - perhaps you don't need to remove the whole kitchen. We can advise you on the cost effective and environmentally friendly option of replacing doors and drawers to give your existing kitchen a brand new look and a whole new lease of life.

How does it work? - Well, just get in touch! I am the chief designer and company founder and I've been designing all sorts of kitchens for longer than I can remember. I'll arrange a free site visit with you and in around fourty minutes I will give you lots of design ideas and possibilities for your project, scribbling plans as we go along. Furthermore I can give you a fairly clear, on the spot idea of what the costs might be, keeping your budget in mind. Then I'll leave you alone, to mull it over, without any pestering.

Contact us - We would love to hear about your kitchen project, call us for a chat, or email us with your thoughts and ideas. Don't forget to check out our website and social media.

Thanks for Reading! Speak to you soon, Stephen.

kitchencarousel.co.uk email: info@kitchencarousel.co.uk

or call Stephen on 07565 722055

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT THIS CHRISTMAS In the run up to the Festive Season, 4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is raising vital funds with events, cards and Christmas gifts to help its work supporting those of all ages living with sight loss across the county.

The highlight of 4SVS's Festive season is its wonderful Christmas Concert with Seaford College Chapel Choir, held on Monday **8th December** at 6.30 pm at St Mary de Haura Church in Shoreham. 4SVS advises reserving a place well in advance, with payment then taken (cash or card) on the door including festive refreshments. The big Christmas Prize Draw has a number of fabulous prizes, with the main prize worth £250. 4Sight Vision Support is encouraging everyone to share the news of the Draw with family and friends.

Christmas cards are on sale with a variety of seasonal designs, which can be viewed on 4SVS's website News page. There are also gift ideas for those living with sight loss, including large print playing cards, large print Scrabble, large print calendars and diaries, as well as equipment such as talking kitchen scales. A book of 35 'Short Rambles in the Sussex Countryside and Days Out' by volunteer Jane Aston features walks designed to be suitable for everyone including those with living with sight loss.

Christmas Prize Draw tickets, cards and gifts can be purchased by debit card from 4Sight Vision Support by calling **01243 828555** or bought in person from its Head Office in Bognor Regis or its Shoreham office. For further information, please call, or email **fundraising@4sight.org.uk.** *Cathy Clark*

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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*



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BRIDLEWAYS The Road Safety meeting mentioned in our last post, held in Ditching Village Hall, was extremely well attended and included team members from the BHS (British Horse Society) our local Police and Crime Service, and Jen from the Bridleway Group. It was an informative, in-depth and engaging discussion highlighting issues of concern for people such as riders when using the roads as a non-motorist. The Pass Wide and Slow campaign is aimed at informing motorists how speeding past a horse, walker or cyclist and passing too close could result in an accident, for instance causing a horse rider to lose control. It's a real danger for all concerned.

You can find out more and join the campaign via The British Horse Society website **www.bhs.org.uk/support-us/our-campaign** or at **www.passwideandslow.co.uk.**

With autumn fast approaching, paths and bridleways that have become overgrown need to be cleared before it becomes too wet and muddy. Also, any gates that have become difficult to use will only present more problems as the colder wetter weather takes hold. You can report issues with gates to the relevant council — if a path needs to be cleared using machinery this is also for the council to organise. A clear-up that could be undertaken by a group of volunteers is something that the Bridleways Group can help organise, as well as providing support with tools. You can find out more on the Bridleways website along with other useful information about our work behind the scenes and what we're working on at the moment to ensure our paths and bridleways remain accessible and in good order for all to enjoy.

Jacqui Manley

BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – Open Meeting on Wednesday **5th November**, tree surgeon, Lesley Baker, will be giving a talk, 'Pruning and Tree Surgery' at Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill at 7.45 pm, (doors open 7.15 pm.) All welcome! Admission: BHHS members free, Visitors small charge. **www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.**

Flo Whitaker

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. Our November talk will be on Friday **28th November** 7.30 pm "Nymans and the Messel Family." It will look at the history of how the family transformed this fascinating National Trust Property. The speaker is Sue Bourn and 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**.

Mrs J Simmons

CHRISTMAS FAIR in Adastra Hall Saturday **8th November** 10 am to 12 noon

Stalls include a raffle, cakes, bottle tombola, Craft stalls, good as new, children's activities teas and coffees.

Juliet Strange Clayton with Keymer Parish

DID YOU KNOW ??

You can now read the Hassocks Talk About inc Village Voice online?

www.villagemagazines.co.uk



Remembrance Sunday
Community Event
9th November 2025
13.30 – 14.45
EVERYONE WELCOME

We hope that many of you of all ages, will join the Parish Council and the Church of St Cosmas and St Damian to mark Remembrance Sunday this year.

Burgess Hill marching band has been commissioned to support a procession, with the Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Cubs, starting from Adastra Park at 1.30pm and proceeding to the Church at Keymer where there will be a short ceremony led by Fr Alex. This will include the laying of wreaths by adults and of small crosses by children and young people. We have been liaising with the Guide Leader to build in some activities that will involve young members more closely with the essence of the event and will help raise their awareness of real people who lived in Hassocks and had their lives curtailed through war.

In order to make the route safe for the procession we have applied to close a section of Keymer Road from Adastra Park to Beaconhurst. Residents and visitors will be unable to use their vehicles to traverse this section of Keymer Road and some adjoining roads for a short period of time from 1.00pm for around two hours. Residents and businesses likely to be affected will be leafleted when we have finalised the planning of this event.

We have a Traffic Management Consultancy assisting us with the road closure on the day. To keep the cost down they are providing just two operatives to manage traffic. If anybody would be willing to volunteer, we would really appreciate the extra help. You will be provided with a hi-vis vest and given instructions.

If anyone is able to help, please can you email helen.valler@hassocks-pc.gov.uk

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 9TH NOVEMBER, 2025. The Royal British Legion – Ditchling & District Branch Act of Remembrance Service will take place at Ditchling War Memorial beginning at 10.50 am. Once the ceremonies at the War Memorial have ended, we will move into St Margaret's Church to continue Remembrance.

The Parade will leave from St Margaret's School and everyone taking part should be outside the school ready to step off no later than 10.20 am. Everyone is most welcome to come and join the parade.

Remembrance Sunday at Streat Church - please gather at the War Memorial by 10.50 am

Armstice Day – Tuesday **11th November** - there will be a brief service of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial starting at 11.00 am

Field Of Remembrance 2025 at Ditchling War Memorial. Further information about this can be found in Ditchling Post Office.

Lest We Forget. *Margaret Bovill*



We thank Katherine Sheldon of Hassocks for this picture St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer War Memorial last November 2024 - 'Lest We Forget'

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Donation sees village school garden spruced up



The boss of a family-run Hassocks firm has ensured a donation to improve the visual appearance of his old school's flower beds.

Windmills Junior School in Hassocks has been given plants, compost and bulbs to brighten some empty borders by its main entrance.

The donation from nearby South Downs Nurseries has an even more local connection in that the family-run garden centre chain's executive director is a former pupil of the village school.

Benjamin Tate said: "It was a real pleasure to be able to donate plants, bulbs and compost to Windmills Junior School. Having gone to Windmills myself, it's especially meaningful to support the school and help inspire a love of gardening in the next generation. I hope the children enjoy planting and seeing everything grow."

Benjamin joined Tate's Gavin Mumford to delivery a range of plants giving colour and interest. The Three Cornus 'Baton Rouge' plants have bright red stems throughout the winter, three Pieris Katsura are evergreens for year-round foliage, red in the spring followed by and pinky flowers. There was also a mixture of daffodils, species tulips (which have the advantage of reappearing year-after-year) and crocus bulbs.

The delivery was warmly welcomed by many of the pupils who were on hand to help (pictured).

Trevor Butler

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HASSOCKS FOOD BANK
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Lewes Road, BN6 8TT

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PARISH COUNCILS
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Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common
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www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
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Ditchling
01273 844733
www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk

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DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

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 November

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 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 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 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.

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)

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

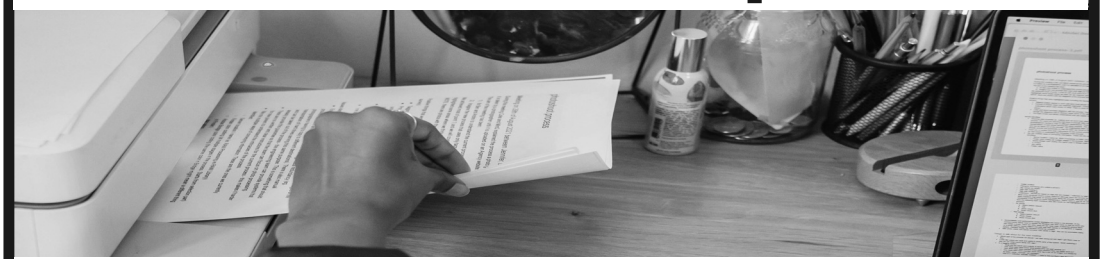
HASSOCKS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH 16th November Evening service 'Worship & Praise' at 6 pm. All welcome.

BEACON PARISH SERVICES NOVEMBER Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **2nd** (both inc Little Beacons) On **16th** St Martins at 10 am. and back at St Margarets on **23rd and 30th**.
9th 9.30 am Holy Communion. Act of Remembrance and Service 10.50 am St Margarets. and at Streat Church from 10.45 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

2nd DANNY FIREWORKS Danny House, New Way Lane, gates open 4.30 pm. Fireworks, Bonfire & BBQ. Tickets QD Stationery, Pierpoint Pets or www.dannybonfire.co.uk. Restricted parking see article for more details.
2nd 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.
3rd HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.
4th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'Using Your Voice - Understanding Your Voice' John Vine.
4th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East, Hassocks 7.30 - 9.30 pm . AGM.
5th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'The Womens's Land Army - Cinderellas of the Fields' Ian Everest. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.
5th UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.
5th 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.
5th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. 'Pruning and Tree Surgery' Lesley Baker. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com. All welcome.
5th THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.
6th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - 'The Critic'. Tickets available on the door - see article.
6th DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Old Meeting House, Ditchling 7.30 pm. AGM followed by 'Drought Proof Your Garden' Ed Nugent. All welcome.
6th BEFRIENDED BOARD GAMES Hurstpierpoint 2.30 pm. An afternoon of games, giggles and company call 0300 772 7703 to book.
8th 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.
8th 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.
8th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 2 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Jersey. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.
8th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.
8th KEYMER WITH CLAYTON PARISH Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Christmas Fair
9th PARISH OF KEYMER WITH CLAYTON Remembrance Sunday Parade leaves Adastra Park at 1.30 pm heading to St Cosmas and St Damian Church for the The Act of Remembrance - See Advert for more info.
9th DITCHLING REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY St Margarets Church, Ditchling. 10.20 am Parade leaves St Margarets School. 10.50 am The Act of Remembrance followed by Service of Remembrance. - See article for more info.
9th STREAT CHURCH REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10.45 am The Act of Remembrance - See article for more info.
9th ALBOURNE CHURCH REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10 am Remembrance Service
10th 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.
10th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'National Trust at Sheffield Park- Past and Present.
11th AGE UK MEMORY CAFE Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their

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11th DITCHLING ARMISTICE DAY St Margarets War Memorial Ditchling, 11 am Act of Remembrance.

11th 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.

11th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Can we leave the countryside to Mother Nature or is intervention necessary to protect wild spaces' Steve Webster. All welcome more info hhs1886@btinternet.com.

11th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 7.45 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Crowborough. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

12th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Drop in all welcome.

13th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning run by Beacon Parish. All welcome.

13th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email mo.delaine@btinternet.com.

14th BURGESS HILL HISTORY GROUP Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. AGM followed by 'How growth of Burgess Hill, post 1829, was influenced by its families, trades and occupations' Heather Warne. All welcome.

14th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag and Natter Evening'. Refreshments available. All welcome.

14th POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 2.30 - 3.30 pm. Come along to get crime prevention & advice on neighbourhood issues.

15th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk

15th SUSSEX CHORUS All Saints Church, Hove 7.30 pm Carmina Burana & Hymn to the Fallen. Tickets www.sussexchorus.org.

16th 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.

16th BEFRIENDED Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 3 - 5 pm. Afternoon Tea Party with quizzes, celebrations, making friends, information, advice and great entertainment. More info www.befriended.org.

17th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Lively Drumming Percussion Workshop' Sean. Visitors welcome.

19th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'No More Violence to Women and Girls' Safe in Sussex. Visitors welcome.

19th 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.

REMINDER - DECEMBER EVENTS DEADLINE IS 1ST NOVEMBER

21st STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'Bridget Jones - Mad About The Boy'. Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door.

22nd NSPCC Hurstpierpoint Bowls, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint 7 pm. Annual Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper. Tickets from Charlotte Grace.

22nd HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

22nd 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.

22nd CRAFT FAYRE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 3 pm. Gifts, Art and Craft, Homemade Lunches, cakes, refreshments and raffle.

22nd HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Ashford. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

23rd HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Eastbourne Town. Bar & Food available. Free entry.

24th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

24th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Transport of Delight' Ian Gledhill.

26th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm Evening demo by Les Thorne. Visitors welcome.

27th 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.

27th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

28th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. 'Rajah Brooks and the Head Hunters of Sarawak' Ray Hale. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

28th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Fish & Chips with a Twist' All welcome.

28th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'Nymans and the Messel Family' Sue Bourn. See article for more info.

28th/29th HURSTPIERPOINT GYM CLUB Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 28th 6 - 9 pm & 29th 9.30 am - 1 pm. Christmas Fair.

29th DOWNLANDS SCHOOL Dale Avenue, Hassocks 11 am - 2 pm. Christmas Market and entertainment - See article.

30th GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. 'International renowned Patter Man complete with musical interludes' Richard Suart. To book email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

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GILES TURNER
FINANCIAL PLANNING

Should you change your plans based on speculation?

There's already plenty of talk about what the Chancellor might do in the 2025 Budget. Some commentators expect changes to ISA limits and pensions, while others predict tweaks to inheritance tax (IHT) or capital gains tax (CGT). At this stage, though, these are only rumours. Acting too quickly on speculation can easily upset well-thought-out plans and sometimes prove costly. We saw this only last year, when some individuals rushed to withdraw pension lump sums after hearing unfounded claims that the tax-free allowance was about to be scrapped. When the rumours were proved false, those who acted in haste risked undermining their long-term plans — missing out on potential growth and reducing the flexibility they might have needed later on. It was a clear reminder of why patience and perspective are so important.

The reality is that successful financial planning isn't about reacting to headlines; it's about building a strategy that stands the test of time. Rules will change, but making decisions based on rumour rather than fact risks doing more harm than good.

This is where advice matters most. By speaking with a financial planner, you can cut through the noise, understand how any confirmed changes might affect you, and adjust your plans in a measured way if needed. More importantly, you'll have the confidence of knowing that your decisions are based on sound guidance rather than short-term chatter.

In uncertain times, the best action is often to pause, take stock, and seek advice. That way, your financial future remains firmly on track — whatever the next Budget brings.

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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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

And so, it begins - I see the people in the other house No68 have now moved out so with 68 and 70 Keymer Road, both empty that means demolition work on both properties will begin soon to make way for the retirement village which Churchill Homes are building. It'll be sad to see two such beautiful houses knocked down, but apparently even before work has begun a lot of people have put their names down to show an interest - so do you buy one of these homes or lease them and do they come with massive maintenance charges? Not that I'm trying to put anyone off but with the outlay of buying those two houses and the huge construction costs then they are going to cost a bob or two too live there, but as soon as I get some prices, I'll let you know.

A word of warning - two of my customers have just been diagnosed with Lyme disease which means they've picked up deer ticks probably while walking the dog. It's most important that you check yourselves after every walk, there are a lot more deer in the area than you realise. Deer ticks are black and can look like a skin tag just be careful and observant and keep a tick remover close to hand.

It's interesting to see that the new café/wine bar on the corner of Woodsland Road has been called Eastwood. Is it that because across the road from them where Proper is now, a double fronted shop called Eastwoods once stood. It was a very popular fruit and veg florist and garden shop, Mr and Mrs Eastwood ran it for great number of years before they eventually retired.

Also, in Ditchling Eastwood Plants has been a stalwart of the village for as long as I can remember, so the name Eastwood is no stranger to the area. I just wondered if there might have been some tenuous connection, but as I understand it the new owner is Australian so I kind of doubt it?

I think this governments pledge to build 1,000,000 new homes over the next five years are all down here in the South East? Yet another livery yard has been forced to close in the area because of this plague of new builds. Finding some where reasonable to keep a horse these days is getting harder and harder also the cost of feed and bedding keeps creeping up and because of the long dry spell hay this winter will be in very short supply, so a very difficult time for horse owners at the moment. I just wish they'd stop destroying our countryside, but that doesn't seem to matter these days another 21,000 new homes have just been announced on land between Crawley and Horsham, my first thought is where is all the water meant to be coming from? Poor Ardingly Reservoir is almost empty as it is - standpipes for Christmas?

It's always nice when someone decides they don't want to keep giving their money to the bigger outlets, a local cattery came to us recently to see if we could supply them with what they would normally buy from another source. They gave me the products they had used and the price, they were quite happy for us just to match them, but we could in fact save them money as well it's good to get the chance to prove there are times when the bigger outlets aren't always the cheapest and it helps to keep us in business.

Thank you everyone who bought in cat food and stuff they didn't want any more always gratefully received and if you've got any unused toiletries, you don't want then our local Hassocks Food Bank would be grateful to receive them. Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392