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Thank you to HHD U3A for this photo of The Old Castle at Clayton taken in the early 1900's. The house was still thatched and occupied as two cottages. It was built around 1490s and the rather grand title of Castle possibly originates from around 1860 when they built Clayton railway tunnel when hundreds of thirsty navvies were around and possibly used it as a pub. It would have been reverted back to a house once the tunnel had been completed because of insufficient trade.




It was also a stagecoach stop if Clayton Hill was muddy.

The Hammond family who once lived there are buried in Clayton Churchyard.

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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 via QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks or call **01273 846978** (Answerphone out of hours). *Chris Lambe*

**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 sharing seeds, seedlings and growing plans for the year ahead.

We hope to be joined by volunteers from a Touch of Gentleness who will be offering free hand massages.

We meet each month 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 on Saturday **14th March** from 10.30am to 12 pm at Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST.

This is the Quaker Meeting House (not to be confused with the Old Meeting House in the Twitten) Feel free to bring any seeds you don't need. Or just bring yourself! *Catherine, Imke & Julie*

**DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S** Spring Bulb Show takes place on Sunday **22nd March**, 2 pm to 4 pm, at Ditchling Village Hall. The show will feature spring-flowering bulbs grown by local gardeners. Open to the public.

More info: **ditchlinghortsoc.co.uk.** *Marija*

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**HASSOCKS FC** With a battle to survive at this level, the locals have been supporting in really good numbers. Thank you, it very much helps the team. We welcome families and young children, and it's a brilliant way to get out of the house and spend some time outdoors. Around the ground we have added more benches and new kids goals to enhance enjoyment on match days. It's been a great experience for Hassocks to represent at this level. We're keen to consistently belong amongst this division. Opposition clubs are very impressed by our facilities and the welcome they receive, which we have always prioritised. Maybe we'll survive relegation, maybe we won't but we are still building to become regulars within this semi-pro league.

Excitement builds this month as we are heading to Jersey to play. They pay for the team and staff to fly and stay over which is very generous.

We are leaving Saturday midday, kicking off at 4 pm and staying over to return Sunday afternoon. Many supporters are planning a long weekend; it's a great novelty, Jersey vs Hassocks isn't a fixture you think you'd ever see!

We are also running a coach for Margate away which supporters are welcome to join and can be booked by calling me on **07843 762132**.

Extensive ground electrical work has started which is going to improve the club, especially aesthetically with a new LED 5m by 3m scoreboard, this is going to be able to play graphics and all sorts of video content. Station Garage have kindly agreed to sponsor this and we thank Chris Beere and their team very much so!

We're looking at organising our clubhouse kitchen extension in the off-season to minimise upheaval.

South field training pitch news is still awaiting biodiversity details but is in progress. Here are the March home fixtures ahead.

Sunday **1st March**: Ladies vs East Preston KO 1.30 pm.

Saturday **21st March**: 1st vs VCD KO 3 pm.

*Pat Harding*

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**KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB** The Keymer Folk Dance Club will have three meetings in March,

It starts on Monday **2nd March** with a standard club night with calling by club callers.

On Monday **16th March** the music will be provided by Sally Course and Co with calling by club callers.

On the **30th March** we welcome Liz Boyers as our guest caller. Liz comes from Uckfield, and this will be her third visit to the club.

We meet at the United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks BN6 8AB, starting at 7.30 pm.

More details can be found at **www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk** or email **www.keymerfdc@gmail.com**. *Sean*

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We meet on the third Thursday of every month at Pyecombe Golf Club for a relaxed lunch, followed by a guest speaker presenting on a wide range of interesting and entertaining subjects.

Twice a year, in August and December, we host our popular Lunch with Ladies, where members are invited to bring their wife or partner for a special social occasion.

Spaces are limited, but If you would like to join us or learn more, please contact me on **07976 794237** or **clivelambert75@gmail.com**. *Clive Lambert*

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**HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Wild Flower Meadows their origins, their history, their beauty and their importance. An illustrated talk by Ian Parkinson Head of Landscape and Gardening at Wakehurst. Hurst Horticultural Society, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre at 7.45 pm on Tuesday **10th March**.

The Spring Show is at 2.15 pm Saturday on **14th March** at the Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Spring flowers, floral art, cookery, photography and children's section. Exhibiting is free and open to all. Pick up a schedule from Rhubarb in Hurstpierpoint High Street for full details. Tea and home-made cake, raffle and end of show auction. *Kathy*

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**SOUTHDOWNS WOODTURNERS** is a friendly welcoming club, with the aim to promote and encourage woodturning as both craft and art.

Our members primarily come from Sussex, but we extend into Surrey, Hampshire and surrounding areas.

Our monthly evening meetings, consist of either a demonstration or a hands on practical session. We also run afternoon workshops, on the same day, these are an ideal opportunity for members (especially newcomers) to get some tuition, advice and to give people access to club lathes and tools.

Meetings are the last Wednesday of the month. Evening session begins at 7 pm (afternoon sessions begin at 2 pm) at Beeding and Bramber Village Hall, BN44 3WN.

In addition to the demonstrations, we also run friendly competitions, lots of people available for informal chats, help and advice. Should you require tuition we have a number of registered tutors available for all levels.

Also at each meeting, there is a shop with woodturning related supplies and timber, a raffle and free tea/coffee/ biscuits. Members benefits also include use of a Toolbank enabling you to borrow some tools, loan of a small lathe, as well as a library of books and DVD's. We encourage members to bring items along for the 'Show and Tell' table.




Potential new members, or if you are interested to find out more, are welcome to come along for an informal chat and see what we are all about. Complete novices to those with experience are welcome to join, very reasonable yearly subscriptions.

Our programme goes from strength to strength, with a greater number of professional demonstrators appearing this year.

On **25th March** Professional woodturner, Stewart Furini afternoon workshop and evening demo, Texturising and Colouring.

Please see our website for more details **www.southdownswoodturners.com** or contact **secretary@southdownswoodturners.com**.

*Anthony Trigg*

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

In February, a minibus full of our members headed off to The Depot in Lewes to enjoy a matinee showing of Grease, which everyone enjoyed. Looking ahead, we're planning visits to The Orchards Shopping Centre, Haywards Heath and a return to Brighton Greyhound Racing – for those who missed out last time.

With Easter just around the corner, our Easter Raffle will be starting up. Tickets will be on sale from Monday **10th March** in both the Charity Shop and the dining room, so do pop by and pick up a few.

As always, there's plenty happening at the centre. We serve delicious homemade three-course meals from Monday to Friday, along with a lovely choice of hot drinks and sweet treats. Our hairdressers and a chiropodist are available, and we offer a wide range of activities.

We're hoping to start an additional table tennis group on Wednesdays, and we're also looking to start a fun and relaxed singing group on a Tuesday before lunch, so if they sound like something you'd enjoy — please give us a call or drop in for a chat.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

*All at Age Concern Hassocks*

**HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY** Meetings for March are on Monday **9th March**, Portsmouth Harbour and the three ships by Frances Farrer Brown and Monday **23rd March** The Lost Temples of the Angkor Wat by Roy Hale.

Meetings are held at Adastra Hall and commence at 7.45 pm. There is a small entrance fee for members and visitors with tea/coffee and biscuits served during the break.

Come and have an enjoyable evening amongst friendly local people - all welcome.

Also, please join us at our coffee morning at Adastra Hall on Saturday **21st March** from 10 am until 12 noon. Entrance includes coffee/tea and biscuits. All funds raised will go towards supporting St Peter and St James Hospice.

For further information please contact the secretary Beryl Varley on **01273 832351**.

*Cathy*

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**BEFRIENDED MOVE INTO OUR DITCHLING HUB** In March, we launch our new programme of activities at the Befriended Hub in Ditchling (previously known as the Emmanuel Centre) at 20 South Street, BN6 8UQ. Befriended's vision is to end loneliness and isolation among older people in Mid Sussex, everyone is welcome at our activities.

On Monday mornings, we have Cafe Neuro at 10.30am to 12 pm, a drop in cafe for those living with dementia or other cognitive loss and their carers to come along together. On Monday afternoon, there's our balance exercise class at 2 to 3.30 pm with our wonderful instructor Steph.

On Tuesday afternoons, we have the Community Choir at 2 to 3.30 pm, no need to sing well, just sing along to well loved tunes and find joy in singing with others.

Wednesday mornings will be Befriended Bytes at 10 am to 12 pm, to help you with your tech problems.

On the first and third Thursdays of each month we have Befriended Boardgames 2 to 4 pm. Thursdays are also our Bereavement support day, with Bereavement Cafe on the first Thursday of the month and our Compassionate Conversations course on the other Thursdays.

You're welcome to drop into the hub when you see the flags outside, a friendly host will be there to welcome you.

All activities have a suggested donation and include tea and cake and time to get to know people. All our regular activities in Burgess Hill and elsewhere continue as normal including our popular afternoon tea party at Court Bushes off Willow Way in Hurstpierpoint on Sunday **15th March** at 3 pm. For more details of any of our activities, please contact **office@befriended.org** or **0300 7727703** or **www.befriended.org.** *Susan*

**HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY** Tuesday **10th March** at 7.30 pm. Talk on "Convicts Galore" This talk uses historical records to uncover the 18th & 19th century story of Urias Allender. A former sailor, convicted of theft in Britain, who then made a new life for himself in Australia. The speaker is Hilary Blansford. This talk will be held at The Players Theatre at 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint. Small charge for Non Members. All welcome.

For further details please email **hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com.** *Mrs J Simmons*


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**HASSOCKS WI** - Meet 3rd Monday in the month, **16th March** at Adastra Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm, start 7.45 pm.

When you read this article, we will have had our February Annual Meeting and hopefully welcomed new members on to the committee.

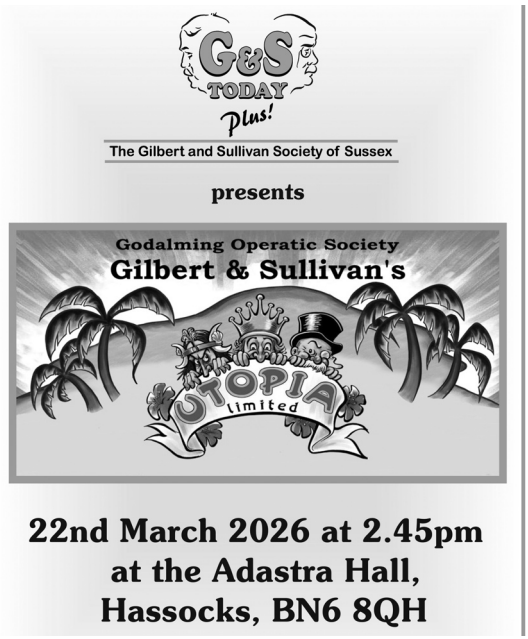
All committees need to be refreshed; new members bring different skills and ideas to help keep our WI vibrant and meaningful to all.

Thank you to Belinda and Dave for providing musical delights to round off our evening of finance, past year thoughts and hopefully forward looking events for our shiny new year.

Margaret Watson harpist will give us her unique take on 'Harp Music and Banter' at our March meeting. It will be fun.

In April we welcome Michaela from House of Colour to guide us embracing new colour shades and styles, beige, greige, taupe nay- peacock blue and lime perhaps! Who knows come along for an interesting evening, visitors welcome (donation), and by the way annual subs will be due too. Don't forget members receive free monthly WSN news, WI Life magazine from NFWI, and locally a welcome to our various smaller groups, book groups, Arty Group outings, community choir and of course our very popular Craft Club which meets 1st Monday afternoon in the month.

Opportunity for companionship, make new friends + delicious cake. *Gerry*




**THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX** present Goldalming Operatic Society in concert with Utopia Limited.

On Sunday **22nd March**, 2.45 pm at Adastra Hall, Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8QH.

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*Pennie Ingram*

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**PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB** January brought an unusually cold start to 2026, with freezing conditions over much of the country and even a sprinkling of snow to the deep south. It is so unusual, in these days of climate change, to see snow by the sea but, as someone who vividly remembers the winter of 1963, I am glad we no longer face being "snowed in". Of course there were compensations: bright sunshine and the bluest, cloudless skies. If you had enough hats, scarves and gloves, it was the most perfect walking weather. I'm sure we're all looking forward to spring along lanes lined with primroses and through bluebell woods. As we never tire of saying, we are so lucky to live in this beautiful county and have the opportunity to walk on the Downs and by the sea.

Here are brief details of the walk in your area for other areas visit the website.

Saturday **28th March** Twineham 10.30 am meet at Twineham Church. 4.5 miles, fields and paths. Limited on street parking.

Full details of all our walks can be seen at **www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk.**No need to book just turn up and introduce yourself to the leader for that day.

*Diann*

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**4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT LAUNCHES MAJOR FUNDRAISING APPEAL ON VALENTINE'S DAY** We are a registered charity supporting blind and partially sighted children and adults, their families and carers, across West Sussex. Its free, services help clients maintain independence with advice on accessible technology, education, employment, obtaining financial assistance, social activities, and health and wellbeing.

Despite receiving client referrals from West Sussex County Council, it receives no council funding in the face of growing demand: it relies heavily on donations, legacies, and community fundraising – which is increasingly challenging in today's climate. Valentine's Day is a time to show those around us how much they matter and was therefore the perfect time for 4SVS to launch a major fundraising appeal to raise the funds needed to continue providing its support.

Fundraising Intern Philip shares his story of how 4SVS can really make a difference. "I lived a busy life building a career I loved: I was diagnosed with Glaucoma in my early 30's and suddenly everything changed and a haze descended. My sight deteriorated, and it felt overwhelming. I lost my job and my family dynamic changed: I felt I was a liability, I couldn't even do the washing up or cook.

My brother pointed me to 4Sight Vision Support where a Vision Support Advisor advised me about my sight loss, and introduced me to magnifiers and reading tools. I could read newspaper sized print for the first time in two years! It gave me a spark of hope, things changed, and I now work at 4SVS helping others living with sight loss while rebuilding my independence, confidence, and life."

Your donation, however small, could help provide support that helps change lives. You can donate online at **www.4sight.org.uk** or call the Fundraising Team on **01243 828555** or email **fundraising@4sight.org.uk**. *Cathy Clark*

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**GYMNASTICS COMPETITION TIME**

Twenty five years ago Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club organised its first Arts competition in which over fifty gymnasts performed. This year sees the Silver Jubilee 25th Arts Competition which will showcase over eighty gymnasts performing routines with ribbons, balls, on the beam and in Sports Acrobatic Sixes.

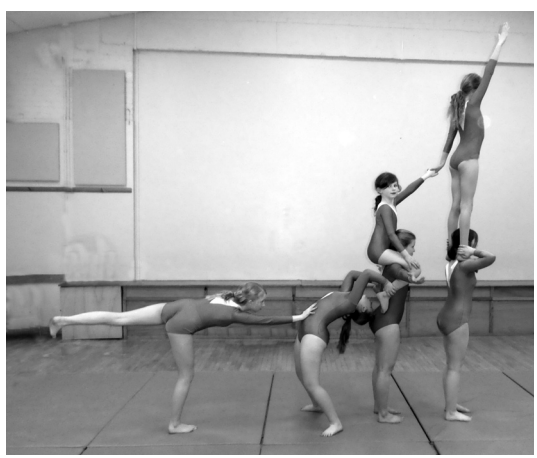
The gymnasts choose their own music, choreograph their own routines and incorporate the skills they have learned for their performances.

The competition will be held in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre in the morning of the **21st March**. The gymnasts will be competing appropriately for the twenty five silver trophies and scores of medals available. Spectating for parents & friends is free.

The following opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 42nd Annual Championships on the **4th July**.

The Club offers weekly classes at affordable costs with fully trained coaches, free awards each term, two free entry competitions each year and subsidised clothing.

The Club was started in 1980 with just twenty junior girls, now it caters for boys and girls, from just three years old up to sixteen. There are currently spaces to join all groups:- for boys & girls on Tuesdays, girls on Wednesdays and Thursdays and Preschoolers on Fridays. If you want to join, please visit the website **www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk** and follow the link to an email enquiry. *Andrew*



*One of the Acrobatic Six balances.*


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We offer free tuition and bowls sets supplied on loan (you just need your own flat soled trainers).
Taster sessions are two hours long on Wednesday **15th April** 5.30 pm for 5.45 pm**, Saturday 18th April** 10 am for 10.15 am, Wednesday **22nd April** 5.30 pm for 5.45 pm and Saturday **25th April** 10 am for 10.15 am**.**
Contact Sarah Salisbury on **01273 834356** for more info; or just turn up at the clubhouse on South Avenue Hurstpierpoint at the above dates/times.
*Sarah Salisbury*

**SUSSEX CHORUS** concert will be on Saturday **21st March** at 7.30 pm. Tickets available from Sussex Chorus **01444 412579.**
Burgess Hill Help Point & Eventbrite.co.uk OR on the door
**sussexchorus.org.** *Angela Holroyd*

**QUAKER MEETING HOUSE CELEBRATE**
The 60th (diamond) anniversary of the purchase of Ditchling Quaker Meeting House is in April and we invite everyone to come and help us celebrate this on Saturday **18th April** between 2 and 5 pm. There will be free beverages and delicious cakes; a unique exhibition about the building's history and local Quakers who bought it – can you contribute any memories or photos to this? If so, please contact **ditchlingquakerclerk@gmail.com**.
Activities for younger children; board games for ages 12+. From 3 pm there will be singing led by local musician Caroline Kendall. Quiz 'What do you know about Quakers?', with answers at 4.45 pm. We look forward to welcoming you at Ditchling Quaker Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST. Park in car park on Keymer Road, short walk towards Ditchling, turn left past the pond, right up Boddington's Lane and East Gardens is opposite you, across the main road. There is disabled access at the Meeting House.
*Janet Shimmin*

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**DITCHLING-BASED CHARITY THE TURNER DUMBRELL FOUNDATION IS PREPARING FOR ITS GRANT GIVING WHICH TAKES PLACE EVERY SUMMER**

Charities and other local groups with projects in the village are being invited to apply for funding by the end of April.

Applicants should be either a charity or group, based in the village or the immediate locality, which has a project that benefits the community; or be involved in the practice of preventive cardiology. Many recipients satisfy both criteria by being both local groups and encouraging residents to take part in activities and sports that help to keep hearts healthy.

Last year the foundation agreed to make grants totalling more than £47,700, including a £20,000 grant to help fund a complete renewal of the play area at Ditchling Recreation Ground.

Other recipients were:

Beacon Parish for upkeep and maintenance of St Margaret's churchyard. FPTA of Ditchling Primary School to resurface a quiet/sensory area. The Monday Group for annual fixed costs of footpath maintenance. The Garden Gang at Mac's Farm for equipment. Oldland Mill training for volunteers. Friends of Ditchling for work on the newly acquired Keymer Road field. Ditchling Pavilion towards upgrading its facilities. Ditchling Morris for equipment. Finally, Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Sports to support the village sports day.

If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation there is more information on the website, **www.turner-dumbrell.org.uk** or you can contact the secretary by email at **secretary@turner-dumbrell.org.uk**. Please note the **.uk** at the end of the website and email address.

*John Wood*

**MND ASSOCIATION** (West Sussex North)

MND West Sussex (North) Chairman, Michael Stratford, is proud to announce several events for 2016

Kicking off (Literally) with a bucket collection at all the 'Mid Sussex Football League' cup finals, in memory of referee Mark Jackson.

**22nd May** sees a chance to dust of your dancing shoes with a fun 'Spring Ball' at the Hassocks Hotel, with the theme of black & a touch of orange, (sponsored by John Broomfield Removals) finger buffet Music from the popular 'In your Face' & DJ Chris Jump

Tickets available from Andrea **07816 538745** or Sandra **07512 710785.**

Future events include a Comedy evening, cricket match, golf tournament, quiz night, 'Bad Girls Grove' afternoon of music plus finally a music event, more details to follow:

For further details contact me on **07837 916087** or **michael.stratford@mndassociation.org.**

*Michael Stratford*

**DEADLINE DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE IS 1ST MARCH**

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**CHRISTMAS CAME LATE THIS YEAR FOR CHAILEY TRACTOR CLUB** Chailey Classic and Vintage Tractor Club remains a fast growing and harmonious family orientated group of friends and enthusiasts with an interest in tractors, agricultural bygones and all things relevant.

Founded in August 2017 in East Sussex by Chairman Howard Venters they will soon be celebrating their 10th anniversary.

Sometimes referred to as the 'Chigleys' their club logo remains an affectionate memory of the children's television programme based around their local villages of Chigley, Camberwick Green and Trumpton which will be well remembered by some of the older members.

The Club's designated charity is St Peter & St James Hospice located in Wiversfield Green (Sussex) aka Camberwick Green - first broadcast in 1967 as a part of Gordon Murray's 'Trumptonshire Trilogy'.

This January, as a part of a nationwide scheme, the club engaged in collecting Christmas trees following the festive period from many locations within their area for recycling following donations.

The target for the Hospice was to collect upwards of 1300 Christmas trees and over three or four days a team of Land-rovers and trailers manned by volunteers from the club collected a significant portion of those trees aided by other collectors comprising staff or friends of the Hospice.

CTC highly values the importance of encouraging their younger members to get involved with club activities and the vehicle teams included several younger members from the club.

'The importance of getting our younger members out and about and pursuing charitable initiatives is at the heart of the whole ethos of the club' said Howard.

A good example of that mindset can be seen on BBCs 'Celebrity Escape to the Country' featuring opera singer Alfie Bowe. Broadcast on prime time TV the episode is available on BBC iplayer.

Donations in the region of £29,000 was the financial result to St Peter & St James Hospice, Wivelsfield Green, Sussex for Christmas tree collections this year. *Liz*



# QUIRKY MUSEUM MARKS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

An unusual Sussex museum cataloguing horticultural history is celebrating its tenth birthday as it continues to grow in popularity and size, attracting visitors from around the world and an eclectic mix of exhibits.



The Museum of Gardening was opened in Hassocks in 2016 by the Budding Foundation. It's become central to the charity's fundraising as it seeks to assist young people in the county who lack the support and finance to achieve their goals.

Clive Gravett from Lancing charity has raised £390k since its founding in 2013. Clive is proud to support local young people and families in need and collaborates with local authorities, schools and colleges, various organisations, and other charities working towards similar aims.




Based at South Downs Nurseries, the collection's scope has grown substantially and now includes a range of distinctive and rare items, some of which are considered unique on a global scale.

Clive and the exhibits have appeared in numerous film, television, radio and magazine features. "The most memorable was when we took part in BBC Gardeners World in 2021, Susan Calman in 2024 and more recently with Ruth Goodman on 'Inside the Factory' featured on BBC 1 this year", he explains. The museum has hosted numerous radio and television broadcasts as well as a feature film awaiting release.

From an early age Clive took a keen interest in gardening and conservation, with knowledge and skills being passed down from his father, Denis, and grandfather, Harry. For several years he volunteered at local schools with projects to promote conservation and gardening, including the design and construction of one of the first bottle greenhouses, featured by the BBC in 2009. His work won a prestigious national sunflower-growing competition organised by one of Alan Sugar's companies as his small group of children beat those from 800 other schools nationally.

During this period, Clive came into contact with many young people who lacked support and the finance to help them achieve their goals, so on his 60th birthday he asked his friends and relatives to donate to a potential charity fund, rather than buy him presents. His birthday celebration 'CliveFest', held at Shoreham Community Centre in July 2013, raised £700. Clive has a keen interest and is somewhat of an expert in Vintage Lawnmowers, so he decided to dedicate the charity to Edwin Beard Budding, a much-underrated inventor and engineer who invented the lawnmower in 1830.

Family-run Tates of Sussex garden centres have worked closely with the Budding Foundation for a number of years and enjoy collaborating and supporting such a wonderful charity for young people. "Marking ten years since the South Downs Heritage Centre was built is a real milestone for all of us", says Tates' executive director, Benjamin Tate. "From day one, we wanted it to be more than a building; seeing it thrive with the Museum of Gardening, and the positive impact their charity has on young people, has been especially rewarding. We're proud of what the last decade has achieved, and we've got big plans to keep investing and evolving the Centre, so the next ten years are even more exciting."

Looking to the future and reflecting on what's been accomplished, Clive says: "It's hard to believe what we've achieved together over the last decade, from building a truly unique collection and uncovering new horticultural knowledge to creating displays that educate and spark curiosity. Working alongside Tates has been a great recipe for success, and we're excited to continue developing the collection and preserving horticultural history for future generations."

The museum is open daily and admission is free: **www.museumofgardening.co.uk** *Trevor Butler*




**AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY KENT SURREY SUSSEX (KSS) BRINGS TOGETHER LOCAL CIVIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO CHAMPION LIFESAVING SUPPORT** KSS welcomed civic and community leaders from across the South East to its Redhill base this week for one of two special events focused on working even more closely together to strengthen community resilience and increase support – helping to save more lives and ensure the best possible patient outcomes.

Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Council Leaders and Business Improvement District Leaders, as well as other local representatives, met KSS senior leaders and other team members. Together they examined how collaborative action can improve emergency preparedness within their communities, as well as help ensure KSS can continue to deliver its vital service across the region through increasing awareness and support.

(Civic and Community Leaders from across Surrey and Sussex during their visit to the KSS base at Redhill)

Attendees gained a unique insight into the frontline operation of KSS, the only air ambulance serving Kent, Surrey and Sussex, and met doctors, paramedics and pilots, as they toured the charity's operational base.

Discussions centred on practical opportunities for collaboration, and included CPR and defibrillator training, as well as the chance to meet a former KSS patient, alongside the charity's Patient and Family Aftercare Service team members. Leaders also heard how they can make a tangible lifesaving difference in their communities every day by choosing KSS as their Charity of the Year partner. Choosing to support KSS in this way helps fund lifesaving missions, while engaging staff and communities through meaningful fundraising, as well as enhancing local safety with CPR and defibrillator training.

In 2024/25*, KSS responded to over 3,100 incidents, an average of nine every day at a cost of around £57k each day. As an independent charity, every lifesaving mission KSS makes is almost entirely funded through the kindness and generosity of supporters within its communities – raising the vital funds needed to keep flying and saving lives.

David Welch, KSS Chief Executive, said: "We're proud to be working ever more closely alongside civic, community and business leaders from within our communities in our shared commitment to saving lives and ensuring best possible patient outcomes. Together we can strengthen local resilience by helping communities be more prepared for a medical emergency, so that everyone can play their part in giving patients the best chance of survival ahead of the arrival of the emergency services and KSS. Through increased awareness and support, community leaders can also help raise the vital funds we need to be here 24/7 for the most suddenly critically injured and unwell people – ready to respond when every second counts."

David added: "Working so closely together in this way is crucial if we are to achieve our vision of an end to preventable loss of life from medical emergency. We know we can't achieve this alone. That's why this week's events mark an important step towards building a better future, while helping to increase awareness and support – keeping us flying and saving lives."

For more information on collaboration opportunities or to support the lifesaving work of KSS, visit **www.aakss.org.uk**.

*Gavin Sherrif*

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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** Thursday **5th March**, I'm Still Here (15). 2024 Director Walter Salles, 135 minutes. Portugese & French.

An intense film based on the true story of Eunice Paiva, a mother and activist coping with the forced disappearance of her husband, the dissident Brazilian politician Rubens Paiva.

Despite being the target of an unsuccessful boycott by the Brazilian far-right, the film surpassed 5 million admissions within 3 months of its release. A fitting appreciation and recognition for an individual fighting back; a triumph of humanity over state terror.

Our guest critic Beth writes; "Mother of five, Eunice Paiva, played by Fernanda Torres, carries us and her children through her family's period of uncertainty and immense stress, as Rubens Paiva becomes one of Brazil's best known "Politically Disappeared". I was captured by Torres's performance, feeling my heart break at her stifled composure and quiet strength. Her attempt to maintain stability for her children, while relentlessly seeking justice exposed me to a new kind of female resilience."

'I'm Still Here' received an Academy Award for Best International Feature Film. Golden Globe; Best Actress in a Motion Picture and Drama award for Fernanda Torres.

On Thursday **2nd April,** Holy Cow (15) 2024. Director Louise Courvoisier. 90m. French with English subtitles.

Awards: César Award for Most Promising Actress, César Award for Best First Film, Un Certain Regard Youth Prize.

To keep up to date with our film showings and special events please go to our website, **ditchlingfilm.org.uk**. We are on Instagram **@ditchlingfilmsoc** and X **@Ditchlingfilm**.

Films are shown in Ditchling Village Hall, 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.

Yearly memberships and Guest entry are available, cards accepted. Members can pre-booked meals and drinks at The Bull Pub on film night and get discount! *Kate for The Ditchling Film Society*

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**DITCHLING DOWNS WI** We were very disappointed to have to cancel our January meeting, but with very cold and icy weather forecast and, as most of our members walk to our meetings, we felt that we should take the safe option. We're planning to reschedule the talk about Breakeven - the gambling addiction charity - later in the year.

Our March meeting will feature Dr Janet Pennington who will be talking to us about Chanctonbury Ring.

We love to welcome visitors and new members to our group and to our regular meetings and trips - if you're interested, please email **gmtennant.ddwi@yahoo.com** *Alison White*


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**SOUTH EAST WATER LEAVES TAPS RUNNING DRY IN MID SUSSEX** Water is a topic that comes up time and again when I talk to people here. Frustrations have existed for many years, but last summer was a turning point with a hosepipe ban, leaks everywhere and rising bills now becoming normal.

Even when the warm weather ended, the saga was not over. Due to a lack of rainfall in the autumn, reservoir levels hit worryingly low levels. Then, the heavy rain at the start of 2026 posed a different problem. South East Water told us that as the rivers were flowing so fast, the water had more sediment in it, making it too difficult to be made safe to drink.

Thousands of residents experienced significant outages in Albourne, Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint, Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath and Cuckfield. Local secondary school Downlands was forced to close, and tankers were sent to supply water to the Princess Royal Hospital.

During this time, I was in daily contact with South East Water, spoke in meetings with government ministers, and liaised directly with our local councils. Thankfully, these disruptions were resolved within a day or so in each case. However, our neighbours in East Grinstead were not so lucky, with 16,500 homes without water for five days.

It was a relief when the water came back on, but these events underline the fragility of our water supply. We should have a system resilient enough to cope with heavy rain and sub-zero temperatures.

Now South East Water have decided to increase their bills by 7% in April, even though they are currently under investigation by OFWAT for their recent failings and customers still found themselves under a hosepipe ban.

Following this announcement, I asked the Leader of the House of Commons - who is responsible for organising government business and the parliamentary timetable - to make time for a debate to discuss the future of our water industry. I also wrote to the Chief Executive of South East Water calling for the hosepipe ban to be dropped, given the recovery in groundwater and reservoir levels.

We cannot go on like this: we should not have to pay the price for the mistakes of companies like South East Water. If you have problems with your water supply, or I can help with any other matter, please do get in contact with me at: **alison.bennett.mp@parliament.uk**.

*Alison Bennet MP*

---

**HHD U3A** Many of us might look blank if asked to name 'the Ploughman's Poet.' But not if you're Scottish or a U3A member lucky enough to attend our recent Monthly Meeting. The poet is, of course, Rabbie Burns and in honour of Burns Night our member Marie Fraser presented a 'Tribute to Rabbie'. With words and pictures, she gave us a vivid portrayal of his life, how he rose from a tough and humble background to being accepted into the higher echelons of society. His fame rested on his deep love for Scottish history, folk lore and landscape, expressed in poems such as 'To A Mouse' and the epic 'Tam O'Shanter.' Love also for, and from, his female admirers. This could lead to turmoil and scandal but didn't detract from the beautiful songs about how 'luve is like the melody That's sweetly played in tune.' The audience enjoyed these favourite tunes and were singing Auld Lang Syne only to be surprised and delighted when they were joined by a kilted piper and his bagpipes. A lively and entertaining start to 2026.

For more information about future Monthly Meetings and our many groups google **www.hhd.u3asite.uk**.

*Jeremy Weinstein*

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**IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, CARE FOR A PERSON LIVING WITH DEMENTIA, COULD THIS BE THE GROUP FOR YOU?**

Raise Your Voice is a celebrated local singing project for those living with dementia and their carers. You would both love the joyful time together meeting others and singing. Starting with refreshments and time to talk, then moving into the creative time, led by Jane Haughton, members feel welcomed and at ease.

A recent Guardian article highlighted the achievements of the group in creating original words and music to nine songs, now released as an album and available on their website. (25th Nov.'25. Article by Amelia Hill: UK Charity records original music by people living with dementia). The launch event for the album even made it on to South East TV News!

Research is ongoing into the part that music and other forms of creativity play in stimulating the parts of the brain that are still active even after a diagnosis. Families report the benefit of attending as having provided a fun time for them to share with their loved one.

There are current vacancies at the Burgess Hill group, meeting fortnightly on a Thursday morning, at St Wilfrids Community Centre, Station Road RH15 9EN. If this would be something you would enjoy, then applications are open until the places are filled. Do get in touch.

Group member Anne from Hassocks said: My husband absolutely comes to life; it gives us an amazing sense of wellbeing and lifts our mood.

For further information or to apply for a place, or to donate to this worthwhile charity, visit**: www.raiseyourvoice.org.uk** *Hazel Gaydon*

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**BEACON DISTRICT TREFOIL GUILD** The A.G.M in January was full of ideas for our meetings this year. The committee are making an exciting programme.

A celebration for Thinking Day was held on 14th February at the Guide Hall. Badge making, Crafts, Team building and Campfire singing took place. The Thinking Day Badge was awarded and the refreshments were delicious!!

We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road on the 3rd Wednesday in the month. 8 to 9.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome. *Pam Strong*

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**HAVE YOU BEEN A BADMINTON PLAYER IN THE PAST AND FANCY DUSTING OFF YOUR RACKET?** Keymer Badminton Clubs need you! We are a friendly ladies club who meet on Thursday evenings from 7 pm at Keymer Church Hall if you are interested in knowing more, please contact Denise on **01273 967774**

*Norma Drew*

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**CARNIVALS FOLLOW ONE ANOTHER SWIFTLY IN THE FESTIVE FOLK YEAR.**

Hot on the heels of Christmas comes, February. Its epithets - "February fill-dyke" and "February black or white" - neatly sum up the dark days and soggy ditches, floods and snow flurries one can expect. Before the days of 'winter escapes', people had to make their own sunshine, urging spring on as best they could with music, dance, and general conviviality.

In Ireland the celebrations began on the 1st February with St. Brigit's Day. Across Europe, Candlemas followed on the 2nd, while the Pre-Christian, cross-quarter day festival of Imbolc fell on one or other of these days. The candles of Candlemas created a dazzle of light to mimic and encourage the sun's return - sympathetic magic!

Snowdrops are the flowers most closely associated with Candlemas and fortunately for us, the banks of the Big Pond at Stoneywish are just now awash with them. Though not native to Britain, (according to Richard Mabey in his *Flora Brittanica*, they did not make their way into the wild here until the 1770s), snowdrops quickly won the hearts of the people, who loved them, as we do now, for bringing the first signs of spring. Their simple forms perfectly symbolise the emergence of light from darkness at this time of year. They belong equally to winter and spring, and their delicate blossoms will grow through obstructions of old leaf-mould rubbish and snow-drift alike, with quiet determination. For country folk, it became the custom to set out bowls of snowdrops (as 'green' lanterns) beside their church-blessed candles, as one finds in their common names. *Candlemas bells, Mary's Taper...*

In Poland, I read recently, the February carnival lasted from February 2nd until Ash Wednesday, when the solemnities of Lent commenced. By the same sympathetic magic, people urged spring on with public dancing, singing, drinking and flirtatious games to strengthen the bonds between Man/Woman and Nature.

In England, the carnival was shorter and confined to Shrovetide itself, with a boisterousness and unruliness which was later condemned. Hen-bashing, egg-smashing and violent games of football (whose pagan origins can only be guessed at) were all gradually suppressed and of our native *Mardi Gras* customs, only the pancakes survive today.

When the last pancake had been eaten, came the fast of Lent. And while the people fasted, the seeds of their next harvest lay buried in the fields, quietly germinating, before

Europe's early farmers also imitated the dark-to-light path of their seeds, keeping them company, so to speak, during their journey from the Underworld back to Earth. The mystery rites at the temple of Demeter in Eleusis, consisted of a period of fasting and abstinence, followed by an ecstatic festival of light. Earth's bounty was secured for another year!

By time of the Renaissance, ancient cosmology was being challenged by a new concept, which placed man, rather than Earth at its centre. Fertility customs would continue for as long as the new dispensation would allow. But from now on the essential efforts of humanity would not be to entrain to Nature's rhythms, but rather to adapt, mould and exploit them for human gain. Initial results were spectacularly successful and seemed to confirm the positive evolution of our species. Natural magic became an object of ridicule. From this point on we would be encouraged to adapt ourselves, not to the seasons of the year or the phases of the moon, but to economic models and mental compliance with our machines.

Our reward? Promises of unlimited comfort, leisure, wealth, health - immortality by any other name. And distractions by the score! But what would become of Life itself? And public merriment – the levelling, topsy-turvey irreverence of Carnival - the pact we once had with the world which conceived us?

During the Anthropocene we have 'come of age'. We no longer believe that the Earth will wake up to the sound of dancing feet or respond to libations of wine. We no longer imagine that we can banish

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misfortune or secure good harvests through sympathetic magic. We no longer feel a need to consult Nature for wisdom. We have information, which outranks wisdom. But deep in our hearts we know something is amiss.

Nature is like the Fairy Cow, which once gave unlimited milk to all, but which, when a witch milked her into a sieve and wasted the milk, dried up and gave no more.

Science has conquered the forces of Nature. Soon it will conquer Space, but something worrying is happening to Life around us. 'The Mainstream' tells us we can fix things with another dose of technology, yet injustices remain, wars loom, and meanwhile species, whole eco-systems, disappear. Is it just possible that this anthropocentric dream that we have cherished for so long has lost its relevance and become tired, stale, no longer fit for purpose, just as the Medieval world-view had atrophied by the time of the Renaissance?

The harder we cling to our current model, the more dead and dysfunctional becomes our living environment. A self-imposed winter tightens its grip. But what would happen, if the shoots of a new idea, like the snowdrops of spring, broke through the crust of this tired mindset and brought a fresh sense of community, of festivity, of laughter, sufficiency, giving and sharing?

What if society stopped demanding more than the Earth can provide, squeezing the last drop of profit out of the Fairy Cow? Could another way be found? In the sacred texts of the Shinto religion is a tale of cosmic renewal.

The sun, so they say, once hid herself in a cave and, deaf to all appeals, refused to come out. Deprived of light, the world began to die until Kami, the goddess of Nature came to the rescue and performed a 'rude' dance before the door. This rude dance made all the spectators laugh and, curious to know what was going on, the sun showed her face again.

Here is a wonderful teaching about winter and spring and the joyous will to life. A little thing might be all it needs to achieve a miracle. The first tendrils of hope, I believe, are already beginning to show. Raise a glass with me to the joys of spring and see what happens! *Rosemary*

---

**HOBO**

I am a Hobo
& Homo Sapiens
I live on the streets
& have no friends
I am a Vagabond
No money to my name
Once a Socialite
Those days are down the drain
I am a Tramp
The lowest form of life
& in the distant past
Married with a wife
I am a Vagrant
A lowly Picaroon
& I may as well
Be living on the moon
I am a Hobo Vagrant Vagabond Tramp
& sleep under bushes which I call camp
My Hair is wild, whiskers long
Nowhere to bathe so I smell strong
I am a Hobo
& Homo Sapiens
I live on the streets
& have no friends

*© Manic (Ian Allan)*

---

**THOUGHTS THAT COUNT** A booklet of song Lyrics and verse produced to raise money for the Princess Royal and Royal Sussex County Hospitals on sale at QD Stationery. *Manic (Ian Allan)*

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**NEIL FERRIGAN RELEASES NEW SINGLE 'LOVE HER TODAY'** A tender, intergenerational song about care, reassurance and growing up in an uncertain world

Hurstpierpoint, Sussex – Neil Ferrigan, the much-loved Sussex singer-songwriter now in his 81st year, will release his new single Love Her Today in February, available on all major streaming platforms.

Written in 1980 and revived more than four decades later, Love Her Today is a deeply moving and intimate song that speaks to the role of parents, grandparents and carers in a child's emotional world. Told through a series of gentle questions asked by a young girl — "Are you my friend?", "Will you stay with me when I feel alone?" — the song gives voice to a child's need for reassurance, closeness and safety.

Addressed in turn to mum, dad, nana and grandad, the lyrics reflect a child's instinctive awareness that the world is "a very big place", and that growing up takes time. The refrain delivers the song's quietly powerful message:

"So love her today
And then give her tomorrow."

Reflecting on the song, Neil says:

"I wrote Love Her Today when my children were very young. It was about recognising how dependent a child is on the people around them, and how important it is that they feel loved, protected and supported. In many ways, that feels even more relevant now than it did back then."

The song was originally written during Neil's early years of guitar playing and songwriting, before being set aside and left, as he describes it, "on the shelf". Encouraged by his family to continue sharing his music, Neil has returned to these earlier compositions — this time with the perspective of a grandfather to four young grandchildren, for whom the song now carries renewed meaning.

At its heart, Love Her Today highlights not only the love a family feels for a young child, but also the reliance that child places on those around them. Musically and emotionally, the song speaks to the idea that a loving foundation is a solid foundation — one that gives a child confidence to face the future.

In an increasingly unsettled world, Love Her Today gently underlines the importance of love, protection and reassurance in early life, offering a message that feels both timeless and urgently relevant.

The release follows Neil's debut EP I'm a Little Clock Man (and friends) and the festive single The Robot Man – A Christmas Story. Alongside his recorded work, Neil continues to perform regularly, appearing as a solo artist at the annual HURSTfolk Festival in Hurstpierpoint (2023–2025), and leading music sessions at St Peter & St James Hospice in Wivelsfield, West Sussex, where he works with patients attending the Living Well Centre.

Recorded by Ali Gavan at Transmission Recording Studios, Love Her Today retains a simple, intimate sound that allows its message to remain front and centre. Neil's music, released later in life after decades of songwriting, stands as a quiet celebration of family, care and the enduring power of songs written with love.

Available on: Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music and all major platforms, Music copyright: © 1980 / 2026 Neil J. Ferrigan. All rights reserved.

About Neil Ferrigan - Neil Ferrigan is a Sussex-based singer-songwriter whose music reflects a lifetime of creativity, family and community. Having written songs throughout his life — often for his children — Neil began releasing music publicly in later years, proving it is never too late to share meaningful work with the world.

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**DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND AIMS TO REACH MORE CHILDREN THAN EVER** Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (DVLCC) is proud to celebrate 25 years of providing life-changing support to babies and young children living with cerebral palsy and other motor learning impairments. Since opening its doors in 2001, the charity has grown from a vision by the late Dame Vera Lynn into a vital regional service supporting families across the entire southeast. As they mark this special milestone, they are setting an ambitious goal to support 25 more children this year—ensuring even more families can access the early intervention that can make all the difference. Supporting a child for a year costs £7,000, and every donation helps give these children the care and therapy they need to thrive.

Dame Vera Lynn's legacy remains at the heart of everything the charity does. Her deep compassion for children facing difficult starts in life, coupled with her determination to ensure families never feel alone, continues to guide the charity today. What began as a small, dedicated service has grown into a specialist centre offering physiotherapy, music therapy, speech and language therapy, swimming sessions, rebound therapy, outreach home-play, parent support, and a warm, family-centred approach.

Over the last 25 years, DVLCC has expanded its reach to support families from across the southeast, including West Sussex, East Sussex, Surrey, Kent, Hampshire, and beyond. Each year, the charity provides tailored support programmes that help children build confidence, mobility, communication, and independence — always working in partnership with parents, who are central to each child's progress.

"Reaching our 25th anniversary is a powerful reminder of the impact Dame Vera Lynn's vision continues to have," said Glenys Creese, CEO. "We are incredibly proud of the children and families we've supported, but we know the need continues to grow. Our aim for the next 25 years is simple: to reach even more children, earlier, and with even greater impact."

Virginia Lewis-Jones, Dame Vera's daughter, is so thrilled about the achievements of her mother's charity. "It obviously means a huge amount to see how my mother's initial thoughts for the charity have gone forward in leaps and bounds over the past 25 years. Initially her determination was to improve the quality of life for children with cerebral palsy and allied neurological conditions, and we now have over 1,000 children and their families that we support and nurture. I am obviously really




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proud of what has been achieved so far and the future achievements that I know will happen. My mother would be also really proud of the love, care and expertise that continues in her name."

As demand for specialised support continues to rise, the charity is committed to expanding its services, strengthening outreach, and ensuring families across the region can access the help they need at the earliest possible stage. New initiatives planned for the coming years will allow DVLCC to build on its reputation as a trusted, expert provider of early intervention for children with motor learning challenges. Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity receives no statutory funding and relies entirely on community support to provide its vital services. It costs over £600,000 per year to run the full service which is provided free of charge to families.

Throughout the anniversary year, the charity will share stories from families past and present, celebrate the legacy of Dame Vera Lynn, and launch opportunities for supporters to help shape the charity's next chapter.

For more information about the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity or to support its 25th anniversary initiatives, please visit **www.dvlcc.org.uk/25th-anniversary** or contact Amalia Lovett, Head of Fundraising and Marketing at **Amalia.lovett@dvlcc.org.uk**.

For further information on Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, please contact Amalia Lovett at **Amalia.lovett@dvlcc.org.uk** or call **01444 473274**.

*Molly Devine*

**CALLING ALL CRAFTERS** Heber Opera is holding a Spring craft fair in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on Saturday **18th April**. We have space for up to 30 stalls which includes a 6ft table. The fair is open to the public from 10 am to 2 pm, with plenty of set up time. We also provide delicious homemade sweet and savoury refreshments throughout the day. If you would like a stall at our fair, please contact me on **jenny@heberopera.co.uk** or call **07770 962811**.

*Jenny Hawkes*

**BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL** Society On Saturday **28th March**, Burgess Hill Horticultural Society are staging their Spring Show in the Cyprus Hall, 1.30 pm to 3.45 pm.

Come and enjoy some glorious springtime scents and colours; along with refreshments, homemade cakes, tombola and produce stalls.

Info **www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com**

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# DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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## 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 March

**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** 20 South Street, Ditchling. Support those living with dementia, their carers and loved ones. Email: office@befriended.org.
Mondays - Cafe Neuro 10.30 am - 12 pm and Balance Exercise Class 2 - 3.30 pm with Steph.
Tuesdays - Community Choir 2 pm - 3.30 pm, no need to sing well, just come along.
Wednesdays - Befriended Bytes 10 am - 12 pm helping you with your tech problems.
Thursdays are Bereavement Support Day, Board Games are on first & third Thursday from 2 to 4 pm, Bereavement Cafe is on the first Thursday of the month and Compassionate Conversations Course every Thursday except the first.
**DITCHLING MORRIS** - Practice Thursdays 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 WI LADIES CHOIR** meet Tuesdays (except 2nd in the month) 7.30 pm at St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks . All welcome.
**HASSOCKS YOUTH GROUP** The Green Room, Adastra Hall, Hassocks. Thursdays 5.30 - 7 pm School Years 4 - 13 (Term time). 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 BADMINTON CLUB** - We are a friendly ladies club which meet Thursdays at 7 pm at Keymer Church Hall. Info call Denise 01273 967774.
**MID SUSSEX RAMBLERS** We offer a varied programme of walks for the new and experienced throughout the year to suit all ages and abilities. More info phone Sue Blandford 01403 255654 www.midsussexramblers.org.uk
**MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP.** Tuesdays 7.30 pm, 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. (excluding July or August)
**SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD** Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Thurs. 7 - 8 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

**DITCHLING UNITARIANS** The Old Meeting House, The Twitten, Ditchling. Sunday Services at 11 am www.ditchlingunitarians.org.uk.

**HASSOCKS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH** Evening service 'Worship & Praise' at 6 pm on 3rd Sunday in the month. 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

**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON 1st, 8th and 22nd March** Sunday services of Morning Prayer with Holy Communion are in St Margaret's Ditchling at 10 am. Sunday **15th March**, Mothering Sunday, will be in Westmeston at 10 am. Little Beacons is on **1st and 8th March** in Ditchling during the service. Our weekly Wednesday@10 Holy Communion continues and SING is on the first Wednesday (**4th March**) at 5 pm in Ditchling.

**HOLY WEEK IN THE BEACON PARISH** Palm Sunday Procession **29th March**. From the Vicarage in Charlton Gardens to St Margaret's Church at 10 am. Join us for the procession or come straight to Church at 10 am. A Time of Reflection in each of our churches at 6 pm on Monday **30th March** in Streat, Tuesday **31st March** in Westmeston and Thursday **2nd April** (Maundy Thursday) in Ditchling. Good Friday **3rd April** in St Margaret's at 11 am – Worship at the Cross. Easter Celebration on Sunday **5th April** at 10 am in Ditchling.
Everyone is welcome to all our services and events but please always check our website www.beaconparish.co.uk for any changes or contact Tessa on admin@beaconparish.co.uk.

**THE PARISH OF CLAYTON WITH KEYMER** Our usual pattern of Worship for Sunday services is 8 am 1662 Book of Common Prayer Eucharist st at Keymer. 9.45 am Mass at Keymer 9.45 am Service at St Francis and 11.15 am Holy Communion at Clayton.
For other information see our website **www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk -** Fr Alex

## Dated Events

**12th Feb - 6th March** PEMBURY HOUSE Clayton Thurs & Fri 10.30 am - 2 pm. Open Garden - Snowdrops, Hellebores and winter flowering shrubs. Book your 90 minute slot at www.ngs.org.uk for more info www.pemburyhouse.co.uk.

**1st** HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road KO 1.30 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on East Preston. Bar & Food available. Free entry.

**2nd** KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. No partner needed just come along. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

**2nd** HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

**3rd** DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'Chanctonbury Ring'. Dr Janet Pennington

**4th** HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'My Life as a Genealogist with Matthew Homewood. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

**4th** UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

**4th** 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** DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. Film - 'I'm Still Here'. Tickets available on the door - see article.

**5th** MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Scott Matthews' Tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

**5th** HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. Film - Another Round (12A). More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.

**6th** DUSTY SHELF Proper Coffee & Cycling, Hassocks 7-10 pm. DJ Night - Indie bangers, 80's power ballards. Free Entry.

**9th** HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Portsmouth Harbour and the three ships' Frances Farrer. All welcome.

**9th** 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** HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Wild Flower Meadows their origins, their history, their beauty and their importance'. Illustrated talk by Ian Parkinson. All welcome more info hhs1886@btinternet.com.

**10th** HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY The Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'Convicts Galore' Hilary Blansford. See article for more info.

**10th** AGE UK MEMORY CAFE Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.

**10th** HASSOCKS JAZZ LUNCH Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East, doors 11.45 am Start 12 pm. Muskrat Ramblers Great Food, Great Jazz & Great Company. A set lunch included in the entrance fee. Pop in or call QD Stationery on 01273 846978 to book.

**11th** DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Monthly meet drop in all welcome.

**11th** POYNINGS POLICE BEAT SURGERY Rushfields Plant Centre, Poynings 11.30 am - 12.30 pm. Come along to get crime prevention & advice on neighbourhood issues.

**12th** HURSTPIERPOINT POLICE BEAT SURGERY Court Bushes Rec Ground, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 9.30 - 10.15 am. Come along to get crime prevention & advice on neighbourhood issues.

**12th** HASSOCKS POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 11.30 am - 12.30 pm. Come along to get crime prevention & advice on neighbourhood issues.

**12th** FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP Chloe Cafe, South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 10.30 am. Support group for Fibromyalgia or Chronic Pain. To book email hassocksfibrogroup@gmail.com.

**12th** WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email mo.delaine@btinternet.com.

**13th** STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'The Ballad of Wallis Island' a comedy drama starring Carey Mulligan. Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door all welcome.

**13th** BURGESS HILL HISTORY GROUP Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. 'Sussex Roots - Genealogy and how to bring our ancestors stories to life' Helen Rimmer. All welcome. More info www.burgesshillheritagehistory.org.uk.

**13th** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Social Evening'. Refreshments available. All welcome.

**14th** 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 - All welcome.

**14th** HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 2.15 pm. The Spring Show. All welcome more info hhs1886@btinternet.com.

**14th** CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

**14th** 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.

**15th** 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.




## Lost Property

'Like' our page on Face book & keep up to date with all the lost property items 'QD Stationery'

**16th** KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Guest caller Sally Course and co. No partner needed just come along. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

**16th** HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Harp Music and Banter' Margaret Watson. Visitors welcome.

**18th** 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 01444 450248.

**18th** TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks 7.45 pm. Monthly meeting visitors welcome.

**19th** DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning. All welcome.

**19th** CLAYTON AND WINDMILLS PROBUS Pyecombe Golf Club. A club for retired & semi retired professional business people. To book call 07976 794237 or email clivelambert75@gmail.com.

**21st** MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk

**21st** SUSSEX CHORUS St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm Spring Concert - Rossini 'Petite Messe Solennelle'. Tickets www.sussex-chorus.org.

**21st** HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on VCD. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

**22nd** GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. Goldalming Operatic Society in concert with Utopia Limited. See article for more info. To book email gandstoday-sussex@gmail.com.

**22nd** HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint 2.30 pm. Film - How to Steal a Million (U). More info & tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.

**22nd** DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 2-4 pm. Spring Bulb Show. Open to the public. All welcome.

**23rd** HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Lost Temples of the Angkor Wat' Roy Hale. All welcome.

**23rd** CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

**24th** FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP Chloe Cafe, South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 10.30 am. Support group for Fibromyalgia or Chronic Pain. To book email hassocksfibrogroup@gmail.com.

**25th** SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm 'Texturising and Colouring Stewart Furini. Visitors welcome. Please visit southdownswoodturners.com for more info.

**26th** BEREAVEMENT WELL-BEING GROUP Clayton Wood, Natural Burial Ground, Brighton Road, Clayton 10 am - 12 noon. Come and meet others who understand what you are going through. www.bereavementcare.uk.

**26th** LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen, Chris Hobbs & WSCC Councillor Erika Woodhouse-Truman. No appointment necessary.

**27th** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'AGM'. Refreshments available. All welcome.

**27th** HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'The Adastra History Mural and how we made it' Richard Ware & the local History Team. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

**28th** BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 1.30 pm to 3.45 pm. Spring Show. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.

**28th** HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

**28th** 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.

**30th** KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Guest caller Liz Boyers. No partner needed just come along. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

**REMINDER - APRIL EVENTS DEADLINE IS 1ST MARCH**

GILES TURNER
FINANCIAL PLANNING

## The clock is ticking... have you made the most of this tax year?

As the end of the tax year approaches, time has a habit of speeding up. One minute you're thinking *"I'll sort that soon"*, the next the deadline has passed and valuable allowances have gone unused. In financial planning, missed time can mean missed opportunity.




Each tax year gives you a range of allowances — from ISAs and pensions to capital gains and inheritance planning — designed to help you protect and grow your wealth tax-efficiently. Once the deadline passes, a number of these allowances are gone forever. You can't roll them forward, and you can't reclaim them later.

Successful financial planning isn't about chasing returns or reacting to headlines. It's about consistently putting the fundamentals in place — and using your tax allowances wherever possible is integral to your long-term financial future. Over time, the difference between using them and missing out can be substantial.

With the clock counting down, now is the moment to review what you've used, what you haven't, and whether you're making the most of what's available to you. Because when it comes to tax planning, time really does matter — and you don't want to look back wishing you'd acted sooner.

**"The path to the financial future you desire starts with the plans that you make today."**



If you would like to find out more, please get in touch.

**01273 044951 or 07502 360517**
**giles@gilesturnerfinancialplanning.co.uk**
**gilesturnerfinancialplanning.co.uk**

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*Please note that the value of your investment, along with any income derived from it, can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.*

# David J Stevens

Property Maintenance

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# STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Hello everybody hope you've survived the first month. It's been a bit wet, my heart goes out to all you horse and dog owners, the muddy conditions are just horrendous. I hope by now as we near the end of February things are getting a bit better, Spring is just round the corner.

A message from Duncan at Hassocks Hardware he's very sorry about the Merry Christmas sign but every time he tried to put it on, the trip switch went off, so this year he intends to make sure it's fitted properly. Also, My Vintage would like to reassure all its customers that although the building is up for sale My Vintage Shop will remain trading and open.

This habit of having Road Closed signs up at Stonepound crossroads gives motorists and our delivery drivers the notion that you can't drive into Hassocks at all, especially as the work being done is usually controlled by temporary traffic lights and the road isn't closed at all. Shopkeepers are a bit fed up with the attempt by the authorities to make life even harder if that's at all possible. Why don't they get on and fix some of those potholes which we seem to have an epidemic of, instead of wasting money on whatever they did on the pavement outside what was previously Budgens, it looks like some kind of messed up board game. I just don't get these paving stones with big bubbles on them someone please explain.

Some of you seem quite concerned that one of the windows in our favourite eyesore seems to have been damaged. You must remember this building is predominantly wood and glass, the wood is rotting away, so what is holding the glass in will eventually fail besides the quicker it implodes on itself the quicker something will be done about it. However, I did meet someone the other day who was happy to see it like it is and that's the company who rents out to the owners the protective fencing that surrounds it - nice little earner that.

We must congratulate Andy Twine and his team of fine butchers for achieving 5 star hygiene rating, what that is meant to mean I don't know because we already trust Andy to supply the very best meat in the area. People come from miles around to use his shop because of its reputation for quality and service, and this rating just enhances his commitment to his business but not only that as we all know Andy is just a very nice bloke.

Talking of very nice people Zoe Ball popped in to see me. She was a very regular customer when she lived in Ditchling, her and her daughter Nell used to love coming in and just sitting with the cats. They called it their happy place, but then they moved to Newick and now Brighton, so the visits stopped. Now she is in the area more often and is very glad to see I'm still here, which just goes to show people know what being in business is like these days. I got a nice hug and a promise to return soon, and I have to be honest, I did add my support to get the much sought after job on Strictly, but that's a long way off yet, but I do think she'd be perfect for the job such a generally lovely person.

It is the cats that people travel to come and visit but now we have a meet and greet rabbit who loves sitting on the counter to get stroked. It's amazing the amount of people who come in just to stroke her and say they've never stroked a rabbit in their lives, but now you can, I don't know why she just enjoys sitting there but as long as she's happy long may it last. Love Steve

******PLEASE REMEMBER WE STILL DO A VERY CHEAP RANGE OF HORSE PRODUCTS******
Field Safe Headcollars £7.50 ~ Overreach Boots £7 pair ~ Bedmax Horse Bedding £8.95.
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