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We thank Michael Alford for this postcard of Jacobe's Old Hall Tea Gardens. One of the many pictures on show at the latest exhibition at Stoneywish Museum in Spatham Lane, Ditchling.

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BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – OPEN MEETING On Wednesday **1st April**, speaker Michelle Emoult will be giving a talk with an intriguing title, 'I don't want that in my garden!' at Cyprus Hall. at 7.45pm, (doors open 7.15pm.) All welcome! Admission: BHHS members free,
www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com. *Flo*

HASSOCKS FC We're into the final month of our maiden season in the Isthmian South East semi-professional league. What a ride it's been. At the time of print I hope we're still in with a chance for survival. Your support could make the difference!
We have some big clubs visiting and they'll be a great atmosphere especially as the Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground is made for warmer spring weather. It's one of the best grounds when the sun is out.

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Note that our Hastings home match is now Good Friday at 3 pm, we expect a large crowd of home and away following for that game!
We've made some really substantial groundwork throughout the season and coupled with our south field training plans, things are looking promising whatever league we find ourselves in come the end. By now our solar panels on the stand roof should be completed and along with some electrical work at the front of the drive, we should be in efficient working order. The south field has been relentless in the number of surveys needed for planning permission (due to being part of the South Downs National Park). All we're trying to do is change grass rubble to a good grass playing surface for all the locals to use.
Thank you to all the match day staff and helpers, and you fans who have really turned up in numbers to support this small village club against big established town teams. Clubs visiting for the first time are always impressed by our facilities and friendliness.
We have also improved our social media, especially the video content which I hope the younger supporters have been enjoying. It gives an insight into the players training and personalities which helps gain an affinity to the club and connects to our fans. Here are the last month's fixtures!
Friday **3rd April**: 1st vs Hastings KO 3 pm.
Saturday **11th April**: 1st vs Croydon KO 3 pm
Saturday **18th April**: 1st vs Sittingbourne KO 3 pm. *Pat Harding*

BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT Don't miss Burgess Hill Choral Society's spring concert when we shall be joined by Sussex Classical Players and Brighton Chamber Choir as well as professional soloists in a performance of Beethoven's triumphant *Symphony no. 9* 'Choral Symphony' with its powerful finale 'Ode to Joy' as well as Handel's glorious *Coronation Anthems*. The concert takes place on Saturday **25th April** at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG. Tickets are available at: **www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshillchoral**, from Burgess Hill Help Point, on the door, by phone **07522 493966**, or visit our website at **www.burgesshillchoral.org**. *Jane Leng*

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH I would like to thank the couple who kindly gave me a lift from Hassocks Hardwear shop to my home in Wilmington Close on Wednesday 14th January. We never exchanged names, but they did say that they lived in Ditchling. So once again thank you, it was very much appreciated. *Hilary*

We thank Linda for the following article:- A reply to Sheila's email in January's issue of the Talk About re the Food Caddy. There have been previous notices by the Council about the forthcoming issue of these Caddies. Why didn't Sheila not get in touch with the Council to say she didn't want one!! Now, why not make another use for hers – E.G put holes in the bottom, add compost and grow something like bulbs or perennial plant or even use it for parcels, the list is endless!

BEACON DISTRICT TREFOIL GUILD The February meeting was very special celebrating 100 years of Guiding. A virtual tour of the 4 World Centres, Mexico, Switzerland, Pax Lodge, India, a chat and taste of the food from each of the countries.

Our March meeting was all about Hot cross bun tasting and Easter Fun!
April meeting will be all about flower arrangements and a quiz about trees and flowers.
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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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH After the floods of February, my craving for sunshine has reached a desperate pitch. I find myself scanning the sky for a patch of blue, like a shipwrecked mariner, straining after sight of a sail. What will save us from these winter doldrums? The news is full of gloom. All the world is going to the dogs and complaining about it brings scant relief. At Stoneywish, we have been battling with floods and fallen trees and potholes and as soon as one thing is fixed, we find there is something else amiss.

If we want to be cheered up it seems we will have to provide our own sunshine, as our forebears had to do. Inspired by their example, Michael is preparing an exhibition in his Visitor Centre Museum, to celebrate local 'bringers of jollity' from former days. Nothing lifts the spirits like a cup of tea, so first in the show are the Edwardian Tea Rooms of Hurst, and Ditchling, with their gracious gardens and idyllic settings of tables and chairs among the trees. Pictures of the 'Bungalow Tea Rooms and Garden' in Ditchling's Lewes Road, 'Wayfarers', a private garden in East End Lane and the 'Southdown Tea Gardens' in Hurstpierpoint, all depict golden days before the First World War.

The sun shone *all* the time and there was time for genteel leisure and pleasure. (Post-war photos show the pinch of economy but are still delightful.) But if it was leisure and pleasure you wanted on a grander scale, there were always the local Pleasure Grounds: the 'Victoria Gardens' in Burgess Hill, the 'Chinese Gardens' in Hurstpierpoint and the 'Orchard Tea Gardens' in Hassocks.

Public Pleasure Gardens had a pedigree going back to the 18th century, and the Chinese Gardens dated from 1843, but by the early years of the last century, all our local ones were thriving and the postcards of the day depict them in their heyday, offering the public an array of gentle amusements, refreshments and a taste of the country. Here was the perfect opportunity for ordinary folk to relax and enjoy themselves. Visitors flocked there by train from the larger towns. They were heaven for Sunday School outings and family excursions, for courting couples and for children in straw hats and Eton collars. Every need was catered for. Did you want to boat on a lake, or ride a bicycle, or swing in a swingboat, or take an aerial flight?

You would find all these thrills at Burgess Hill, together with a 3-course cold lunch for 1/6d, ginger

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beer at a penny a glass, and a 'choice' bunch of roses, cut to order. Hassocks offered seesaws and coconut shies. At Hurstpierpoint one could buy 'hokey-pokey' ice cream for 'a penny a lump'. The Pleasure Gardens kept going till the thirties, by which time they had to compete with other distractions. Perhaps radio and cinema took their toll, at any rate, the sites were gradually sold off for development.

In the days before 'the pictures', it was the theatre which provided audience entertainment. The Edwardian era saw a flowering of interest in musical comedy and London Theatres, like Daley's and The Gaiety, vied with one another to put on ever more lavish productions.

Their stars, precursors of the filmstars in Hollywood, were dressed like royalty and taught to dance, fence, sing, perform stunts and generally win the hearts of the public.

Mabel Russell was a Gaiety Girl who came to fame singing in operettas such as '*The Merry Widow*' and '*The Dollar Princess*'. She also starred in the pantomime Cindarella, as an unreasonably pretty 'Ugly Sister', and in a play called '*Jack and Jill*', (which was maybe prophetic for someone who would later retire to live in Ditchling).

Picture postcards, the emails of the day, ensured national fame and adulation for performers such as Mabel. By the time she moved to Barn Field Gardens, she had also had a successful career as the 3rd female M.P. to be elected to the House of Commons.

She features in our exhibition as the diminutive darling of the Gaiety Theatre. Her 1916 recording (78 r.p.m.) of the song *A Broken Doll,* inspired loving letters from troops who heard it at the front line in France. Her archive of letters, playbills, play notices, and publicity photos came to Michael through her son, Major Philipson. Mabel died in 1951, just before another virtuoso of humour arrived in the village.

Our last 'entertainer' is Rowland Emett, the 'Punch' cartoonist and kinetic sculptor, who kept people laughing throughout the Second World War, with his eccentric take on British life, and then became a household name through his civic 'installations' and quirky film-set contraptions.

Our display about Emett is normally housed in a dedicated building called The Emett Hut, but alas, the winter rains have got in and done some damage

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there, so Emett has come to join the rest of the Museum collection temporarily, until restoration is complete. Whereas the world of theatrical pantomime presented magical tricks and transformations on the stage, Emett wrought his magic on paper and through whimsical automata, built from mundane objects which he sometimes scavenged from Michael's farmyard, or found in the local ironmonger's shop.

Emett called himself 'The Ditchling Tinkerer', ever modest and self-effacing, but his work constitutes a significant body of gentle but pithy comment the meeting of two worlds – the old tea garden world of pre-war antimacassars and doilies – and the aggressive, new technological world of computers, space travel and urban development. His declared ambition was to make people smile, and watching people chuckle over his cartoons is in itself a tonic.

A short film about Emett's life in Ditchling can be seen as part of the exhibition.

The Museum opens on 28th March, along with the Nature Reserve and Campsite. Why not come along and indulge in a little light-heartedness with us? We can offer fresh air, birdsong, spring flowers, newborn lambs... who knows, perhaps even some genuine sunshine!

A Happy Easter to One and All.

Rosemary

DITCHLING DOWNS WI We braved the rain in February to enjoy a glass of wine and a catch up with friends before settling down to listen to Helen Poole. Helen shared her extensive knowledge about Firle Place, the Gage family and their very significant part in the history of this beautiful house tucked under the Downs not so far from us in Ditchling.

Our April meeting will feature Kathy Johnson who will be talking to us about 'Tapping and Hypnotherapy.

Our monthly meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month in Ditchling Village Hall. 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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LET'S TALK ABOUT POTHOLES Driving around Mid Sussex during the winter months, it was clear that our roads and lanes are in poor condition. My inbox bore this out, with many residents sharing their concerns about potholes, which have become a daily hazard that make journeys unpleasant and often dangerous.

One constituent told me that during a rainy dog walk, a car hit a water-filled pothole at speed, spraying them with filthy water and small pieces of broken road surface. Someone else had their tyre burst by a pothole, which cost them £120 to replace. Although West Sussex County Council acknowledged that it was aware of this pothole and repaired it, they rejected the compensation claim because the inspection time limit had technically been reached. So, this person had to pay out of pocket for something that was not their fault.

West Sussex County Council is responsible for the maintenance of our highways, and our Council Tax is meant to pay for our roads to be in good condition. Whenever we knock on doors or talk to residents in the street, as we did at the Hassocks Village Market at the end of February, my colleagues and I hear how frustrated you are with the state of our roads. As local road users, it frustrates us too.

This is why my county councillor colleagues have been pushing the Council year after year for more investment to stop the endless cycle of patch and repair of potholes. As your local MP, I continue to report potholes and raise resident's claims for damage with West Sussex County Council.

This May, you will have the chance to vote in the West Sussex County Council elections. These elections matter, as county councillors are responsible for many of the day-to-day services we all rely on, including our roads. If you're frustrated by potholes that go unfixed, by patch-and-mend repairs that don't last, or by decisions that don't feel fair, this is your opportunity to have your say and elect a councillor who understands and shares your concerns. Please do use your vote in May!

Alison Bennett MP

STOOLBALL DITCHLING – New Players Wanted! Stoolball is a traditional bat-and-ball game dating back to medieval times in Sussex. Believed to predate cricket, it shares some similarities with the modern game while keeping its own unique character and charm.

Stoolball Ditchling Club is based at the beautiful Ditchling Recreation Grounds. Our season begins in April with training sessions and then league matches starting in May 2026, played on Tuesday or Thursday evenings.

Stoolball is a wonderful and affordable way to stay active, set in the stunning Sussex countryside. Beyond the game itself, we're a friendly and welcoming club, with plenty of social events and fundraisers throughout the season.

If you're interested in joining our ladies' team, we would be delighted to welcome you.

Please get in touch at: **sbditchling@gmail.com**

Come and give stoolball a try — we'd love to see you there! *Tania*

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GIRLGUIDING SUSSEX CENTRAL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF WORLD THINKING DAY One hundred years ago in 1926, the joint birthday (22nd February) of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout and Guide movements, and his wife Olave, who served as World Chief Guide was chosen by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) as a day of international friendship. They called the day, 'Thinking Day'. It is an opportunity to celebrate the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement, speak out on issues that affect young women and fundraise for 11.2 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 153 countries.

A number of members in Sussex Central had begun the celebrations early on Sunday 22nd February, by joining other members from all over London and South East Region (LaSER) in a special virtual brunch to celebrate World Thinking Day! They received greetings from the WAGGGS' five World Centres, based in London (Pax Lodge), Switzerland (Our Chalet), Mexico (Our Cabana), India (Sangam) and Kusafiri (Africa).

In the afternoon, 500 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers together with their leaders, Trefoil Guild and other volunteers from Sussex Central county gathered together to celebrate 100 years of World Thinking Day at Tanbridge House School in Horsham. The theme of the event was a whirlwind visit to some of the countries of the five World Centres with a variety of activities:- Bollywood dancing for India, African drumming, making marshmallow snowmen for Switzerland and maracas and Gods Eyes from Mexico.

Each girl made their own Guiding light for the closing ceremony, when everyone joined together to renew their Promise, then as the lights lowered & the 'candles' flickered, all sang the traditional guide song 'This Little Guiding Light Of Mine'.

On leaving, each girl was given a card from another girl, which had been made in advance of the day & a special badge based on the designs submitted by two 1st Hassocks Brownies, a guide from 1st Crawley Down Guides and 1st Felbridge Guides, together with a ranger from Sackville Rangers. Each girl was presented with a goody bag & certificate to acknowledge their contribution.

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Before everyone left, Wendy Colson, county com missioner remarked 'it has been wonderful to see so many of the county celebrating together, on this very special Thinking Day. Walking around during the afternoon I have seen such a lovely atmosphere with lots of laughter and big smiles. The 'guiding lights' at the end looked spectacular. I hope that your special badge will be a lasting memory of the event. My thanks go to all the volunteers who arranged the day & those who accompanied their girls to the event'.

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. We empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community. Through fun, friendship, challenge, and adventure, we give girls a space to have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills, and make memories to last a lifetime.

We offer a safe, girl-led space for girls to be themselves, to try new things, and to have adventures. Girlguiding Central geographically covers Mid Sussex, Crawley and Horsham areas. To find out more and join us go to **www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/**

Janet Samuel

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

With the weather finally starting to brighten, we're looking forward to a couple of lovely outings this month. First up, we're hoping to enjoy lunch at The Perch Café/Restaurant in Lancing, and later in the month we'll be heading to the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst — always a fascinating place to visit.

Easter is just around the corner, which means our Easter Raffle is back. Tickets will be on sale in the charity shop and dining room right up until lunchtime on the Thursday **2nd April**, when the raffle will be drawn. Also, on the **2nd April** Avon will be visiting and setting up in the conservatory from 10 am to 12 pm — feel free to pop in and have a browse.

We are welcoming a couple of new groups to the centre. We have a singing group called 'Sing for Joy' starting this month on the **8th April** and will run every Wednesday at 2 pm, and we are also adding an extra table tennis group on Wednesdays before lunch - they'd love a few more people to join them. If any of these sound like something you'd enjoy, please give us a call or drop in for a chat.

We look forward to seeing you soon. *Age Concern*

THE GROWING NETWORK We are a freely-giving community network that supports local people to grow and share food, with no one left out. Do call in and join us for a cup of tea, pick up some seeds and maybe even stay for a free hand massage...

Saturday **11th April** 10.30 am to 12 pm.

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.

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

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ITS NEARLY CRICKET SEASON and Keymer & Hassocks Cricket Club are setting up for their 130th anniversary year. By the time you read this pre season nets will be well underway at Sussex University on Thursday evenings and then we kick off games outdoors on the last weekend of April.
If you would like to be part of this then or want more details of the club do, please contact **hello.khcc@gmail.com** for more details. We are always on the lookout for more players and volunteers.
Junior cricket starts at 5 years old with our All Stars programme, then we have age group squads from Under 9 through to Under 16. Once over 16 we have 3 Saturday teams, a Sunday development friendly XI and a 2020 team play midweek through the summer. If you feel your playing days are perhaps behind you then there is always umpiring, scoring or coaching to stay involved. Alternatively, just come and see us for a beer!
Our anniversary celebrations will include a Club legends day in May, a Presidents Day in August, an end of Season dinner at the county cricket ground plus other social events to ensure we thoroughly enjoy 2026. *Ross Watkins*

BASKETS AND TUBS – how to get the best out of them. An illustrated talk by Mark Dobell.
Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society 7.45 pm Tuesday **14th April** Hurstpierpoint Village Centre.
Mark will make up a basket to raffle on the night.

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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.
Well, we had our Annual meeting in February, our finances are good and we welcomed two new members to the committee, thank you. There were no retirees and no new president, so I am it for another year. The Abba singalong was fun.
Our March evening saw Margaret Watson entertaining us with her golden harp which was much enjoyed. In March we had a presence at Hassocks Sports Centre Open Day, when they showcased their new Chatty Cafe scheme which runs every Wednesday.
For April we will have a demonstration and talk from House of Colour. New hues for you for Spring! We also aim to do some water testing with Earthwatch Great Water Blitz **24th to 27th April**, citizen science with the help of Greener Hassocks and Ditchling. One of the NFWI current campaigns is Cleaner Rivers for People and Wildlife.
Something different for May when we will hear about the work of Hurst Hedgehog Haven rescue and rehabilitation charity. As usual visitors are welcome (donation). *Gerry*

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DITCHLING COMMON SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (Part 1) Although well-used, especially by dog-walkers and fishermen, the greater part of Ditchling Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), containing many rare birds, insects, plants and fungi. Ditchling is fortunate in having two commons, Ditchling Beacon and Ditchling Common, that are quite distinct but equally diverse and both Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Common, the subject of this article, lies to the north of the village either side of the road to Haywards Heath and is bisected by Folders Lane, leading to Burgess Hill. It is currently managed by two bodies. The Common to the north of Folders Lane is a Countryside Park that comes under the jurisdiction of East Sussex County Council, whereas the grassland nearer the village belongs to the Ditchling Beacon and Common Trust. The Countryside Park now consists of a mosaic of young woodland, scrub and open grassland and bracken. The southern area is more open and comprises mixed herb-rich grassland, small fragments of woodland and scrub and a large area of improved grassland, which was ploughed and seeded in the early 1970s. The SSSI grassland lies on Wealden clay and is acidic, and increasingly rare habitat in Sussex because, following the last War, grazing ceased or reduced on many of our commons, which rapidly turned into woodland as can be seen today in the Countryside Park.

The Common has a long history of human interference and utility. It was grazed by cattle (and formerly pigs) for hundreds of years and also used for fishing (in the Common Pond), collecting firewood and bracken and for leisure activities.

Sixty years ago, the Common presented a very different sight with scarcely a tree on it except around the margins. It was a mosaic of grassland, bracken and small areas of scrub dominated by hawthorn and sloe. In the Spring, the Common was sea of bluebells (*Endymion non-scriptus*), a wonderful sight, especially from the top floor of the bus heading for Haywards Heath. Three events changed this, the first was the ploughing of the southern area by a small group of commoners in the early 1970s. Legal action by the remaining commoners stopped this process but not before considerable damage had been done to the field south of the railway and a smaller area just north of it (both areas were ploughed, treated with herbicide and sown with Rye Grass). The second was the purchase of the northern part of the common by East Sussex County Council as a Country Park. The management plan for this part of the SSSI, has only been partially implemented and, as a consequence, dense scrub and woodland developed around and north of the Common Pond. Only recently, clearance of scrub has extended the open areas where the Bluebells, Dyer's Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*) and Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) survive. The third was the purchase by the commoners of the Spoil Bank area at the start of Folders Lane, the spoil being the soil dug out from the adjacent rail-

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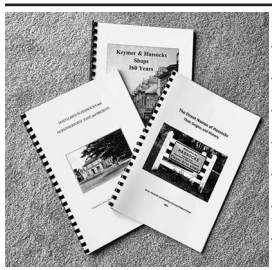
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way cutting. Its historic interest stems from the erection of a large crucifix at its summit, then unwooded, by the Guild of St Joseph and St Dominic, whose workshops were situated on the other side of the railway cutting on Folders Lane. The Guild and its craftsmen survived until the 1970s but the site was then sold for housing.

The Country Park has many birds and insects, some survivors of its more open past but others recent additions. The Nightingale can be heard singing in the spring in the scrub along the upper margins above the pond. Warblers, tits, linnets and finches are present in significant numbers. The Buzzard and the Red Kite are now seen on a daily basis. The butterflies have increased remarkably here in recent years. Four species of hairstreak occur here: Green Hairstreaks feed on the gorse, Purple fly around the oaks and White letter on the elm scrub. The most surprising is the recently arrived Black Hairstreak, formerly known in England only from a series of woods between Oxford and Peterborough. Its larvae feeds on the abundant Sloe (*Prunus spinosa*). Its occurrence here is a mystery – did it arrive naturally or was it introduced by man? Larger butterflies that have appeared recently and naturally include the Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral and Purple Emperor, the last probably having moved over from West Wood to the north of the common. (Part 2 next month).

Hugh Felton



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

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Hassocks Goes Gold

HASSOCKS GOES GOLD returns for another fabulous month of GOLD fundraising this September. This year's Gold theme will be GOLDEN PINEAPPLES! We're turning Hassocks tropical this September!



Drawings of sun-drenched, plump and juicy pineapples all glowing and gold will be brightening up the village and helping to raise money for the Children & Young People's Cancer Association. The PearlPower fund now stands at a whopping £163,000 and we have now managed to help fund our SIXTH research project, a really inspiring legacy for our beautiful Pearl whose life was cut so tragically short aged just 10.

Adults and children alike are all invited to enter the annual drawing competition for the GOLD poster. Draw your very own PINEAPPLE or colour in the pre-printed one on the entry form…. It's completely free to enter and in September the winners from each age category will receive fabulous prizes and be featured on the Hassocks Goes Gold poster! Plus, ALL entries will be included in the fantastic annual Parklands Road Art Gallery.

Free entry forms are available to download on the Hassocks Goes Gold Facebook page, via Hassocks' schools or to pick up from QD Stationery! The deadline for entries is Friday the **3rd July**.

Hassocks Goes Gold

But of course, it's never *just* about the poster! The competition is on to grow the Tallest, Prettiest or *new for this year* the Biggest-Headed Sunflower and in September the sponsored trail of Giant Gold Bows will be back, along with the ever-popular daily FaceBook auctions, our Craft, Facepainting and Tombola stalls at the village markets, AND the Golden Gala finale extravaganza on Friday the **25th September**.



September in Hassocks is all about GOLD, it's all about raising awareness and the research funds desperately needed to find kinder and more effective treatments for the childhood cancers with such poor outcomes, it's all about Community Fun and this year it's all about GOLDEN PINEAPPLES!

hgg@pearlpower.co.uk

Rachel BartlettBundy

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY 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.
Holy Cow is the feature debut from director Louise Courvoisier. A part time farmer herself, Courvoisier is at home with the reality of rural life in the Jura region of France.
The cast are non professional and take us right into a life that is intrinsically hard. Clément Faveau plays an 18 year old lad whose interests are girls, beer and mopeds. While this doesn't change, he unexpectedly finds himself alone caring for his 7 year old sister. How do you brush her hair? Get her to school? Make money? How indeed? His answer is learn to make prize winning cheese!
We are making this a special night. High Weald Dairy from Horsted Keynes will visit us. Many of you will know their cheeses in Ditchling and Hassocks as they are brought to our Farmers Market by The Sussex Peasant. They will bring tasting samples and cheeses to sell and will talk about cheese making and also their successful and sustainable farming methods.
It will be a convivial evening and nicely accompanied by a selection of fine wines.
Thursday **30th April,** The Room Next Door (15) 2024, Director Pedro Almodovar 107 minutes. English.
Ingrid and Martha became close friends while working together at the same magazine. After years of being out of touch, they meet again in an extreme but strangely sweet situation.
This is Almodovar's first English language film. It is a powerful exploration of euthanasia, where Ingrid (Tilda Swinton) asks her old childhood friend, Martha (Julianne Moore), to stay with her until Ingrid decides she is ready to die. When she has made that decision, she will close her bedroom door which is next to her friend's. The repercussions following Martha's death resonate with the current debate in this country on assisted dying.
This film won the Golden Lion award at the Venice International Film Festival in 2024.
General. To keep up to date with our film showings and special events please go to **www.ditchlingfilm.org.uk**. We are on Instagram **@ditchlingfimsoc** and X **@Ditchlingfilm**.
Films shown at Ditchling Village Hall, (Car parking on site). Doors open at 7.30 pm you can buy good wine or enjoy a complementary soft drink. The film starts at 8 pm.
Memberships and guest entry available. Half price for under 25s. Members are eligible for a 20% discount on pre-booked meals and drinks at The Bull Pub on film night!! *Kate for The Ditchling Film Society*

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MID SUSSEX BRIDLEWAYS With winter almost behind us, we're all looking forward to Spring, and it won't be long before work will be needed to keep our current Bridleways fully useable. The always necessary maintenance work that is ongoing throughout the year will begin in earnest again. This winter has been so wet, with the mud situation making our activities particularly difficult. And as soon as it dries up, the sleeping vegetation will start to take over and the cycle for another year begins. When you're out and about and come across an issue, broken gates, fences fallen down or a gate post that has dropped, please report it to the appropriate council. If you're not sure which one, you can find information and how to report it on the MSBG website.

Throughout the winter months, and ongoing, our members currently are looking into where plans for large housing developments encompass a Bridleway and how it will impact users. We make sure the developers know what the needs of Bridleway users are and ensure that access and new roads take this into consideration. Also, there are Bridleways that have lapsed into disrepair and need to be cleared or have the surface reinstated. Sometimes a Bridleway status is changed or withdrawn, which means lots of meeting, emails, gathering evidence from users for proof of historical usage, along with many other time consuming emails and meetings. Members are also working with the BHS in a nationwide programme to encourage vehicle drivers to go wide and slow when passing other road users, which includes horse riders, pedestrians and cyclists, keeping everyone safe.

If you would like to know more about our Group and how you can get involved take a look at MSBG website **www.midsussexbridleways.org.uk**.

Jacqui Manley

THE LAZY GARDENER - THE EASIEST WILDLIFE WIN: JUST ADD WATER Even the smallest garden can become a wildlife haven, and the simplest way to make that happen is to add some water. You don't need a pond, a pump, or a grand design. A washing-up bowl sunk into the ground, a deep plant saucer, or even a bucket tucked into a shady corner can transform your garden into a lifeline for birds, insects, and amphibians.

Water is the one resource that wildlife can't improvise. As the weather warms up and all this exciting spring activity begins, everything from blackbirds to solitary bees are searching for somewhere safe to drink and bathe. A small, shallow water source gives them exactly what they need.

If you can, place your water dish somewhere quiet, with a stone or a stick inside so insects can climb out easily. Top it up when you remember and give it a quick scrub under running water if it turns green. That's it. No fuss, no maintenance plan, no special equipment.

A tiny pool of water is one of the most powerful things you can add to a garden. It invites life in, supports creatures through dry spells, and gives you a front-row seat to the small, everyday magic of spring.

Lazy Gardener tip of the month: Add a shallow dish of water and sit back and watch... it's the easiest wildlife win of all.

Helen Codd is a local garden designer specialising in ecological, wildlife-friendly gardens. *Helen*

CLAYTON WITH KEYMER PARISH are holding a Quiz with Cheese and Wine on Saturday **25th April** at Keymer Church Hall BN6 8BN at 7 pm for 7.30 pm start. Teams of six, come as a team or take potluck on the night. Bar, Raffle. Prizes. Call me **01273 843908** to book your place.

Juliet Strange

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THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN directed by Hannah Porter.

Based on the novel by Paula Hawkins, this story was adapted for the stage by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel and premiered as a play at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in 2018.

14th to 18th April at 7.30 pm (bar opens 30 mins prior) at Players Theatre, 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint.

Tickets now available online at Hurst Players website and in person at PSP Homes, 106 High Street, Hurstpierpoint.

Unhappy Rachel catches the same commuter train every morning and longs for a different life. Her only escape is observing the perfect couple, (in her imagination Jess & Jason), watching them through the train window every day, happy and in love. Or so it appears. When Rachel learns that the woman she's been secretly watching has suddenly disappeared, she finds herself as a witness and even a suspect in a thrilling enigma in which she will face bigger and more tragic revelations than she could ever have anticipated.

Visually complex, the narrative of the play is driven by flashbacks, illusion, imagination and the impact of the characters' actions to shock and misdirect the audience. A mystery not to be missed!

Please be aware there is use of adult language.

Jo Kearns



QUAKER MEETING HOUSE CELEBRATIONS Saturday **18th April.**

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+. 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. Please 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

DITCHLING NEWCOMERS' PARTY Saturday **18th April** 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

Ditchling Village Association is pleased to invite new residents of Ditchling, Westmeston, Streat and St George's park to their annual Newcomers Party at Ditchling Village Hall. Open to anyone who is new to the area and hasn't been to a Newcomers' party before.

Drop in to meet other newbies and find out more about local clubs and societies. Light refreshments provided. Book a free ticket at **www.ditchling.com** or email **newcomers@ditchling.com**.

Neil

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FREE WOODLAND WILDLIFE TALK & BAT WALK AT SAYERS COMMON - 30th April Residents of Sayers Common and Hurstpierpoint are invited to discover their local woodland inhabitants at a free Woodland Wildlife Talk and Bat Walk on Thursday **30th April**, 7.15 pm to 9.15 pm at Sayers Common Village Hall.

The event is being organised by local sustainability group Hurst Rethink in partnership with the Lost Woods Project.

The evening will be led by acclaimed Sussex naturalist Michael Blencowe, a highly entertaining and knowledgeable speaker known for his infectious enthusiasm and gift for storytelling. Blending folklore, science and humour, Michael brings woodland wildlife vividly to life and makes complex ecology accessible to all.

The evening will begin with an illustrated indoor talk at the Village Hall exploring the rich ecology of our local Sussex woodlands and the vital role they play in supporting biodiversity. As dusk falls, participants will head outdoors for a guided bat walk, using specialist bat detectors to tune into the ultrasonic calls of bats as they swoop and forage overhead.

The event is FREE to attend, but booking via Eventbrite is essential as places are limited. Warm clothing and sturdy footwear are recommended. **www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1984293326756?aff=oddtdtcreator**

Early booking is strongly advised to avoid disappointment. For more information, please email **hurstrethink@gmail.com** *Charlotte*

BEFRIENDED - The new activities programme at the Befriended Hub in Ditchling is continuing to grow, offering a warm and welcoming space for everyone. Throughout April, on Mondays we'll have Café Neuro from 10.30 am to 12 pm (except Bank Holidays) and Balance from 2 pm to 3.30 pm. On Tuesdays, we sing for joy with our Community Choir from 2 pm to 3.30 pm, (both these activities are term time only).

While Wednesdays feature Befriended bITs & PCs which is IT help and support from 10 am to 12 pm. On Thursdays, our Bereavement Café is on the first Thursday of each month from 10 to 11.30 am as part of our ongoing bereavement support.

Board Games is on the first and third Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm and our Craft and Chat afternoons are on the second and fourth afternoons of the month again from 2 to 4 pm.

When the Befriended flag is flying outside the Hub, you're always welcome to drop in. All activities have a suggested donation.

We're excited to invite everyone to our official Befriended Hub launch on Wednesday **6th May** from 3 pm to 5 pm.

For more information, please contact **office@befriended.org** or phone **0300 772 7703** or visit **www.befriended.org.** *Sally*

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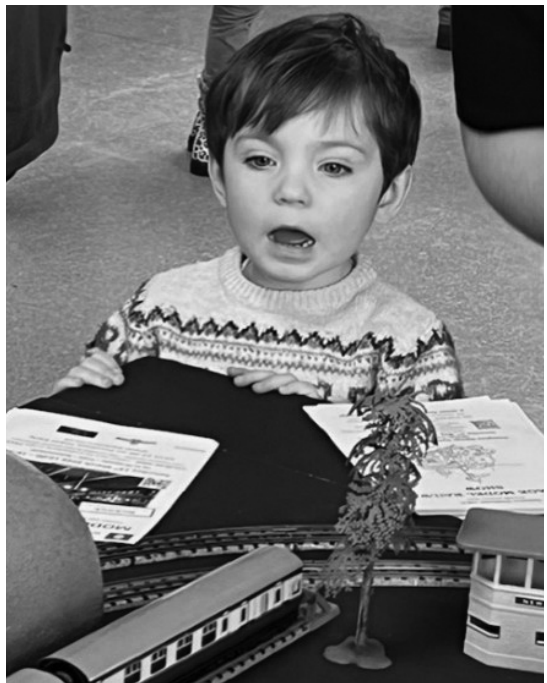
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SUMMER'S COMING! This constant rain must stop soon, and Adastra Bowling Club are planning their summer season in the park. The green has been well watered and tended, so will be ready to play from the end of April.
Saturday open mornings will take place at 10 am to 12 pm on **2nd, 9th & 16th May.**
For the first time on Tuesday open evening **5th May** from 6 to 8 pm, finishing in the bar afterwards!
Why not come and have a 'go'? No equipment is needed, as we will loan you some bowls. You just need to wear some comfortable clothes and bring a pair of flat clean shoes, so that stones or dirt do not get on the grass.
Some members will be there to get you started and chat to you about the Club. It is very social place, and we hold different events throughout the year.
We raise money for charity and this year we have chosen to support St Peter & St James Hospice.
No need to book a place on one of the Open sessions, just turn up! If you want more information before and call me **07799 642992.**

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"Wow!" A young enthusiast reacts to our Hornby Dublo layout at a recent event in Bognor.

CATCH YOUR TRAIN... AT A VILLAGE HALL Have you ever played with Hornby Trains, or Hornby Dublo, or trains by Tri-ang or Trix Twin? If you have, visit Plumpton Village Hall on **9th May** 10 am to 4.30 pm and see (and hear) them running again on lively layouts for a great nostalgia trip. If you haven't, come and find out what you have missed! Bring the children – there are family tickets - and show them how exciting these trains were - and still are. Now valued as collectors' items, most of them were marketed for children originally.
You'll see about eight very active layouts – no waiting for something to happen. Other attractions including some "hands on" for the young, and (mostly pre-owned) trains for sale. Refreshments, too. And if you have an old toy or model train gathering dust in your attic, bring it along and ask to give it a run.
We are The Sussex Vintage Model Railway Collectors, the only club of its kind in the county. We meet regularly to run and discuss our trains in an easy to get to part of Brighton, and if old toy or model trains are your scene, we'd love you to join us. Why not come as our guests for a couple of meetings to check us out for free. Ask at the show for an invitation or call **07785 567251**. *John Hollands*

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GOSHAWK: PHANTOM OF THE FOREST For many of us, film and literature may be the closest we get to experiencing the sharp detail of certain charismatic wildlife goliaths; the breath of a Bengal Tiger, the splashing breach of a Humpback Whale or the down-the-barrel fire-eyed stare of a Goshawk. If you've watched this year's film adaptation of Helen Macdonald's best-seller, H is for Hawk, you'll have been treated to some beautiful close-ups of these impeccable birds. Cherish these shots – they're not common.

Nicknamed 'Phantom of the Forest', Goshawks are extremely secretive, flying under the radar and shrouded in mysterious woodland wonder. It's said their name was bestowed upon them by medieval falconers; Goose-hawk, for their apparent ability to take down geese. Anyone who's ever had a run in with a lairy farmyard goose will know they're quite a contender, and the name immediately conjures images of the Goshawk's mighty strength and hunting prowess.

Goshawks share a similar barred chest, yellow legs, and bright eyes with their cousin, the Sparrowhawk. But the similarity ends with size, and with a wingspan of up to five feet, a female Goshawk can easily weigh four times as much as a female Sparrowhawk.

Despite their impressive bulk, Goshawks are tricky to spot, and surprisingly agile. Preferring to nest and hunt in deep forest, they whip through thicket and glade at speeds of up to 38 miles per hour to silently dispatch unsuspecting birds and small mammals with spearing golden talons.

Like many awesome predators, these magnificent birds get a rough reputation. Historically persecuted, by the late 19th century Goshawks were all but extinct in the UK. Due to accidental escapees, and perhaps some deliberate releases, these birds have bounced back. Although, their trauma is not as much in the past as you would like to assume, with vilification and very real crimes against the species still happening. Along with added threats of habitat loss and climate change, this serial oppression has slowed their steely return.

But return they do. Although populations are patchy across the UK, those that do persist are strong in number, including here in Sussex, with around 65 breeding pairs now thought to be resident. If you see one, you're ever so lucky. But if you miss out, don't despair. Lean into the mystery, the stuff of film, and tales of the forest. You might not have seen them. But they've probably seen you.

Kerry Williams
Communications Officer Conservation, Sussex

STATION GARAGE Hassocks 01273 844256
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STAR CINEMA The last of the winter season's films is Downton Abbey - The Grand Finale - on Friday **10th April** at the Adastra. Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Tickets on the door. Wine, tea, coffee, raffle.
The Star team look forward to welcoming you, and we thank you for your continued support. All profits go to the HCO for the benefit of the community. Next season starts in September. *Liz Edmunds*

GARDENERS IN THE MAKING TAKE THEIR FIRST STEPS AT HASSOCKS MUSEUM Budding gardeners of the future discovered about the past during a visit to the Gardening Museum at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks.
Reception year pupils from nearby Hurstpierpoint College visited for a fun and educational day at the Brighton Road site.
The children were given a special tour of the museum by Clive Gravett of the Budding Foundation, and volunteer Tony Clement. They were then treated to an introduction of how plants grow with the nursery's plant buyer and horticultural expert Hazel Still. The visit ended with a practical activity, with every child planting their own container to take back to school and look after as it flourishes.
"It's a real pleasure to welcome young people into our garden centres and see their curiosity come to life", said Benjamin Tate, executive director of Tates of Sussex. "Experiences like this help children connect with nature in a meaningful way, and we're proud to play a small part in inspiring the next generation of gardeners."
Before they left, there was the opportunity for the youngsters to order their own hot chocolates in the coffee shop before putting their plants through the till; a fun way to practice confidence and real-world skills. *Trevor Butler*

SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB
Hopefully, April will be without too many of the usual showers and walkers throughout East and West Sussex will be enjoying this month with it's wonderful display of new green leaves on trees and shrubs across downland, woodland and country lanes.
Of course, on the **12th April** the wonderful Brighton marathon runners will be hoping to achieve success pounding the roads for 26.2 miles raising much needed funds for deserving charities. On that day, I have included in the following list a 'figure of 8 walk' from Sussex Pathfinders, which is more manageable for the likes of me, together with our own longer distance walks.
Sunday **5th April**, start 11 am for 9.5 miles. Sunday **12th April**, start 10.15 am and 2 pm, 5.5 and 4.5 miles (possible total of 10 miles). Sunday **19th April**, start 10.30am for 10.5 miles. Sunday **26th April**, start 10.30 am for 8 miles
Saturdays have shorter walks and full details of all our walks, up to the end of June, can be seen on our website as follows **www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk** There is no need to book, just turn up and introduce yourself to the leader. *Diann Clarke*

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BEE SWARMING it may be a little early, but with our changeable weather we cannot take a risk.
If you see a swarm of honey bees-or a mass of bees hanging in a tree/hedge, please don't be alarmed. They are precious and need to be collected away from public areas to a new home. Please note wasps (yellow) don't swarm- bumble bees (fat and furry) don't swarm. Honey bees (brown) do. We do not charge for removing but will collect as soon as possible'. All advice given. Big thanks.
Call Ken Isted **07970 635034** or myself **07792 551413**. *Heather McNiven*

A TALK ON HEDGEHOGS BY ANN WINNEY
The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, a volunteer organisation dedicated to protecting local countryside and wildlife, invite you to a talk by the founder of a local hedgehog rescue centre, Ann Winney.
It will take place on Wednesday, **15th April** at 7.30 pm in the Club Suite at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY.
Hedgehog numbers are declining nationally in both rural and urban habitats for a range of reasons. Although still relatively common and widespread, the dramatic population decline in recent years, has resulted in around a third of the national population lost since the millennium. Hedgehogs are listed as 'vulnerable to extinction' on the UK's endangered red list for mammals. The hedgehog is legally protected from trapping or intentional harm, but none of the legislation deals with the drivers of the decline. To help to address this problem locally, Ann Winney has set up a charity to encourage local people by providing advice on helping their survival, and a rescue service to care for any injuries they sustain.
We hold talks given by knowledgeable speakers who can provide valuable information about nature and wildlife. These opportunities don't come very often, so please join us to hear Ann's talk to learn more. It will immediately follow a brief introduction by The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, the organisers of the evening, who use these events with leading naturalists to generate any donations people can spare to support our widespread nature conservation work around Mid Sussex and adjacent villages. The natural world is struggling to survive and needs all the help it can get, so any help received is invaluable.

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CRAFT FAIR, Hurstpierpoint Village centre, **18th April** in support of Heber Opera. There are homemade refreshments available all day, and the fair is open 10 am to 2 pm. Stalls have a table provided, and sometimes there are spaces close to the date so please get in touch if you'd like a stall. Do come along and support our amazing crafters and enjoy our refreshments - we are hoping for a lovely spring day! **jenny@heberopera.co.uk** or **07770 962811**.
Jenny Hawkes

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Tuesday **21st April** Talk on "Holy Trinity Church Hurstpierpoint" This talk is about the history & architecture of our Victorian parish church, built to the designs of Sir Charles Barry. The speaker is John Norris. This talk will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint. Small charge for non members. All welcome. For further details please email **hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com** *J Simmons*

ADASTRA JUNIOR STOOLBALL GIRLS CLUB Thinking of warmer weather, green grass, lighter evenings and playing stoolball in the park? We hope to meet again for this season on Wednesday **15th April** in Adastra Park, Hassocks.
Younger members (8-10 years) meet 4.15 - 5.15 pm, The older group (11-16 years) meet 5.30 - 7.00 pm to learn the skills of this old Sussex game.
Adastra senior ladies meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, we are all members of the Mid Sussex Division. Friendly and league matches are played from April/May - early September.
For more information please call Joy Mans 01444 236788 or 07986 584228 for the juniors or Jenny Handley 07968 956924 for the seniors. *Joy Mans*

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Hassocks - 01273 842779
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Open to anyone in need of support. Held in Powell House (next to United Reformed Church), Hassocks, 10am to 12noon, every Friday.
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Windmill Avenue BN6 8LY
Hurstpierpoint Surgery
The Health Centre, Trinity Road BN6 9UO
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Lewes Road, BN6 8TT

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Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common
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Mon.- Fri. 9.30am - 1pm.
Ditchling
01273 844733
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DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

Ditchling Village Hall Lewes Road
Ditchling Church West Street
Streat Church Streat Lane
Westmeston Church and Westmeston Village Hall Lewes Road

HURSTPIERPOINT

Village Centre Library Entrance, Trinity Road
Cricket Pavilion Cuckfield Road
St Lawrence School Cuckfield Road
Flat 40 High Street
St Peter & St James Distribution Centre Albourne Road
Court Bushes Community Hub Willow Way
Hurst College Chalkers Lane

SAYERS COMMON

Sayers Common Community Shop London Road
North Star Garage London Road
The Woodlands Reeds Lane

PYECOMBE

Pyecombe Golf Club Brighton Road

HASSOCKS & KEYMER

Adastra Hall Keymer Road
Adastra Bowling Club Adastra Park (North Field)
Age Concern Dale Avenue
Freedom Leisure Centre Dale Avenue
DMH Stallard Keymer Road
Downlands School Dale Avenue
Friars Oak London Road
Graystone Referral Centre 38 Keymer Road
Hassocks Dental Surgery 54a Keymer Road
Hassocks Health Centre Windmill Avenue
Hassocks Infant School Chancellors Park
Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club Adastra Park
Oldland Windmill Oldlands Lane
Hassocks Railway Station, Outside Ticket Office
South Downs Garden Centre Brighton Road
Thatched Inn Grand Avenue
Weald Lawn Tennis & Squash Club South Bank
Windmills Junior School Dale Avenue

Local Clubs

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 (except Bank Holidays) and Balance Exercise Class 2 - 3.30 pm with Steph (term time only)

Tuesdays - Community Choir 2 pm - 3.30 pm, no need to sing well, just come along. (term time only)

Wednesdays - Befriended bITs & PCs 10 am - 12 pm helping you with your tech problems.

Thursdays is Bereavement Support Day. Bereavement Cafe 10 am - 11.30 am is on the first Thursday of the month. Board Games are on first & third Thursday from 2 to 4 pm. Craft and Chat on second and fourth afternoons 2 to 4 pm and Compassionate Conversations Course every Thursday except the first.

When the flag outside is flying your always welcome to drop in.

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 COMMUNITY RUNNERS local, free, volunteer run, community running group meets outside the Sports & Social Club in Adastra Park on Mondays 6 pm, Wednesdays 7 pm and Fridays 9.15 am. Distances to suit everyone 3k to 10k as well as a walk and periodically, a couch to 5k group. Do join us or look at our Facebook page.

HASSOCKS TABLE TENNIS CLUB - Monday & Thursdays 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 information.

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, Thursdays 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.



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Whats On in April

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.**

1st HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'A Musical Afternoon with Belinda Sharpe & David Farmer. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

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

1st AGE UK MEMORY CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.

1st BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. 'I don't want that in my Garden' Michelle Emoult. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.

2nd DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - 'Holy Cow' (15) plus High Weald Dairy will be there. Tickets on the door - see article.

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

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

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

7th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'Tapping and Hypnotherapy' Kathy Johnson.

7th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Age Concern Veg Patch, Dale Avenue 7.30 pm. Food and growing event. All welcome.

8th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Monthly meet drop in all welcome.

8th POYNINGS POLICE BEAT SURGERY Rushfields, Poynings 11.30 am - 12.30 pm. Come along to get crime prevention & advice on neighbourhood issues.

9th 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.

9th 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.

EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

ALBOURNE, SAYERS COMMON & TWINEHAM (ASCAT)

1st Evening Prayer with Stations of the Cross at St Bartholomew, Albourne at 4 pm.

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion at Christ Church, Sayers Common at 4 pm.

Good Friday Morning Worship at St Peter, Twineham at 11 am.

Holy Saturday Messy Church with crafts and fun for children plus Easter egg hunt at Christ Church, Sayers Common (booking helpful 07739 507978 as places limited) 10 am to 11.30 am.

Easter Sunday Parish Eucharist at Christ Church, Sayers Common at 10 am.

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

Holy Week. A Time of Reflection in St Margaret's Ditchling for **Maundy Thursday** at 6 pm. Worship at the Cross on **Good Friday** in Ditchling at 11 am. Easter Celebration with Easter Egg Hunt on **Easter Sunday** at 10am in Ditchling.

HASSOCKS CHURCHES

Maundy Thursday - Communion Services
7 pm - St Cosmas & St Damian, Keymer,
7 pm - St Francis Church, Hassocks.
7 pm - The URC, Hassocks.

Good Friday
10 am - Service URC, Hassocks.
11 am - Churches Together act of witness outside the URC, Hassocks.
2 pm - Liturgy St Cosmas & St Damian, Keymer.

Holy Saturday
8 pm - Easter Vigil St Cosmas & St Damian, Keymer

Easter Day
8 am - Communion BCP St Cosmas & St Damian, Keymer.
9.30 am - Mass at St Edwards RC Church, Keymer
9.45 am - Eucharist at St Cosmas & St Damian, Keymer.
9.45 am - Communion Service at St Francis, Hassocks.
10.30 am - Service URC, Hassocks.
11.15 am - Eucharist St John the Baptist, Clayton.

9th 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.
9th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email mo.delaine@btinternet.com.
10th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Construction Contest'. Refreshments available. All welcome.
10th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - Downton Abbey. Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door all welcome.
10th BURGESS HILL HISTORY GROUP Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. 'Brighton Tramways - history of the transport' Ian Gledhill. All welcome. www.burgesshillheritagehistory.org.uk.
11th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Croydon. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.
11th THE GROWING NETWORK Friends Meeting House, Ditchling 10.30 am to 12 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books/tools you don't need - All welcome.
11th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.
11th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book sussexsewingclub@gmail.com.
12th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 - 5 pm. Open afternoon.
13th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached for more info www.thegroup.org.uk.
14th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Baskets and Tubs - how to get the best out of them' Illustrated talk by Mark Dobell. All welcome more info hhs1886@btinternet.com.
14th AGE UK MEMORY CAFE Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.
14th - 18th HURST PLAYERS Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint 7 pm. 'The Girl on the Train'. More info and tickets from www.hurstplayers.org.uk or PSP Homes.
15th AGE UK MEMORY CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info 01444 450248.
15th TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks 7.45 pm. Monthly meeting visitors welcome.
15th WOODLAND FLORA & FAUNA GROUP Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.30 pm. Talk 'Hedgehogs' Ann Winney. Free Entry all welcome.
16th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning run by Ditchling Players. All welcome.
16th 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.
17th JAZZ ETC Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 'One World Jazz Orchestra'. See article. Tickets Ditchling Post Office.
18th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 10am - 2 pm. Craft Fair with refreshments available.
18th DITCHLING QUAKERS Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling 2 - 5 pm. Celebration - 60 Years of purchasing the Meeting House. See article for more info. Visitors welcome.
18th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 6.30 - 8.30 pm. Newcomers' Party. See article for more info.
18th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk
18th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Sittingbourne. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.
19th BEFRIENDED Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 3 - 5 pm. Afternoon Tea Party with quizzes, celebrations, making friends, information, advice and great entertainment. More info www.befriended.org.
20th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. AGM and dancing with music from Fiveways Ceilidh Band. No partner needed just come along. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.



Lost Property

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

20th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Demonstration and Talk 'The House of Colour' . Visitors welcome.

21st HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'Holy Trinity Church Hurstpierpoint' John Norris. See article for more info.

23rd HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 6.30 pm. National Theatre Live - All My Sons (15). More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.

23rd 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.

24th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 7 pm. Film - Sorry Baby (15). More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.

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

24th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. AGM and 'A Turbulent History of Pub Life in Lewes. Matthew Hall. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

25th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Age Concern Veg Patch, Dale Avenue 9 am - 1 pm. Seedling Swap. All welcome.

25th CLAYTON WITH KEYMER PARISH Keymer Church Hall 7 pm. Quiz Cheese and Wine evening. To book call 01273 843908. All welcome.

25th BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. Beethoven Symphony no.9 'The Choral' & Handel Coronation Anthems. Tickets 07522 493966. See article for info.

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

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

26th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'Julian Taylor & Michelle Stodart' Tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

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

28th 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.

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 12th and 26th April Services with Holy Communion in Ditchling 10 am. 19th April in Streat at 10 am. Little Beacons is on 12th and 26th in Ditchling during the service. Wednesday@10 Holy Communion continues and SING 1st at 5pm in Ditchling. Everyone welcome 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

29th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm AGM and Professional Woodturner Rick Dobney. Visitors welcome. Please visit southdownswoodturners.com for more info.

30th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - 'The Room Next Door' (15) Tickets available on the door - see article.

30th BEREAVEMENT WELL-BEING GROUP Clayton Wood, Natural Burial Ground, Brighton Road, Clayton 10 am - 12 noon. Come and meet others who understand what you are going through. www.bereavementcare.uk.

30th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 7 pm. Film - Bacurau (18). More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.

30th HURST RETHINK Sayers Common Village Hall 7.15 pm to 9.15 pm. Free Event 'Wildlife Talk and Bat Walk' Free event to book via eventbrite see article.

CARTRIDGE AND MOBILE PHONE RECYCLING CENTRE
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GILES TURNER
FINANCIAL PLANNING

It is time to spring into action

The start of a new tax year is more than just a date on the calendar — it's a fresh opportunity to set your financial plans on the right course. From 6 April, your allowances reset.

Your ISA allowance, pension annual allowance, capital gains tax annual exempt amount and gifting allowances are all available again. Acting early can give your investments more time to grow (although returns are not guaranteed) and may help you manage tax more efficiently. It also avoids the year-end rush when opportunities can be missed.

Now is the time to ask:

- Am I making full use of my ISA allowance?
- Are my pension contributions structured tax-efficiently?
- Could I reduce income tax or capital gains tax?
- Is my protection in place for my family?
- Are my long-term goals - retirement, education funding, legacy planning - still on track?

As an Independent Financial Adviser, I bring clarity and structure to these decisions. Rather than reacting in March, I help you plan proactively in April. I can assess your full financial picture, identify tax-saving opportunities, align investments with your goals and risk tolerance, and adapt your strategy as circumstances change.

Taking professional advice provides confidence, discipline and accountability. It helps you avoid costly mistakes, make informed decisions and build a clear, tax-efficient strategy designed around you.

Start the tax year with direction, not doubt — and put your financial future firmly on course.

"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.

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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.
Tax treatment depends on individual circumstances and may change in future.

David J Stevens

Property Maintenance

Feel free to contact me
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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

OK, So what would you do? I'm in a local store to get a couple of 'keep me looking young' products when I spot this person with a large Mary Poppins type bag walking along the shelves and just putting stuff in it. The person in question in no way resembled Mary Poppins so I thought I'd give her my best shocked expression - mouth open eyes popping out - that didn't seem to have much of an effect so I went for the Jim Carrey style face gurning to express my displeasure at what she was doing. Obviously I'm not very scary in the facial expressions department. Now I may be the same height as Bruce Lee or Tom Cruise but that's where the similarity ends so I wasn't going to be brave and try and grab the bag you could end up with some sharp pointy things stuck in you so I took the other option and went and told staff by which time she casually walked out of the shop and disappeared. The staff have been advised not to tackle them but make a note of the time to find it on the CCTV and pass it on to the police and head office. It's a sad reflection of our society these days that this goes on without any deterrent and people like me who observe but don't want to get involved.

I had yet another long conversation with the owners of our favourite derelict monument across the road. I know a lot of you have been complaining to Mid Sussex Council about it, all I can tell you is that they can apply to the planning ombudsmen who according to them would just green light it at the stroke of a pen. I'm not quite sure if that's how it works but judging by the strength of feeling about it I think most of you feel that anything is better then what we've got at the moment. I did suggest how about making it into a green space where people can sit and relax and be at one with nature it could have all sorts of innovative and environmentally friendly sections designed by local artists and sculptures. They've done, something like it in London in deprived areas but the chances of it happening here is pretty slim simply because it won't make them any money and that these days is the name of the game.

My sincere apologies in my excitement to break the news about the imminent arrival of the new Estate Agents. I forgot to tell you who it was, well you'll be happy to hear it's Hamlyn Smith. No, I hadn't heard of them either but I'm sure they'll throw a lot of money at the shop to make it look like they know what they're doing, which I am sure they do. Mind you it's not just about making the shop look professional and inviting, you have to run your business while hand in hand with Right-move and that apparently comes at a premium, these are the ups and downs of being an Estate Agent and I thought they had it easy, apparently not.

It's a shame to hear about the closure of one of the local hay and haylage suppliers, a lot of you wouldn't have heard of them but they've been around a long time supplying the horse fraternity and this is another example of how impossible it has become for some farmers to stay in business. Jenners Farm in Plumpton has a large livery yard which is unaffected by the decision to close the forage business and will remain open, but as a working farm it can no longer carry on and with the possible large spike in oil and fertiliser prices again then things are never going to get better.

A bit of good news for the hard hit horse owner:- Bed Max £8.95 ~ Little Max £9.50 ~ Shavings £10.50 also a huge range of hay nets in an assortment of colours and sizes in stock. Love Steve.

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392