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We thank Michael Alford of Stoneywish for this picture of Ditchling Fair in 1952. Can you spot him? Ditchling Fair is on 20th June 'Larks, Laughter and Legends' 9.30 am to 11 pm - See article for info.

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DITCHLING VILLAGE FAIR This year, the fair will be held on Saturday, **20th June**. It starts at 9.30 am on West Street, then moving to the village green from midday to 11 pm.

The theme is "Larks, laughter, and Legends" We strongly encourage you all to dress according to your interpretation of the theme,

We have so much to celebrate as a village. it will be 2 years since we all last came together to dance, laugh, dress up, eat and drink, listen to live music and performance, play and dance a little more; and in doing so earn some funds for our very own Ditchling Village Association which does so much good for the community.

As the present joint chairs of the Fair Committee, we are very aware that we have 714 years of history and heritage behind us. The strong and sincere sense of community, inclusivity, cheeky irreverence and fun attitude this village has gives it, we think, a unique character, and nowhere is this more poignantly portrayed than on that glorious Saturday in June, every two years.

So what is fair day all about?

Dressing up, stepping out early, staying out late. Admiring the speed - and laughing at the costumes - of the Jack and Jill racers. Watching grown men and women battle in the Tug of War and singing shoulder to shoulder at the bar. Watching your kids dance in the sunshine, and your parents dance in the moonlight. Marvelling at the history of Harris's funfair. Being inspired by the creativity and sheer energy of this ancient and highly vibrant village. Bathing in the joy that people of all ages and backgrounds are coming together to share a day of joy and jubilation. Truth be told, there's no place we'd rather be. And we very much hope you'll join us on the day to celebrate.

Full details are at our website and specific event timings available in our programme, which you can buy from late May at the village post office.

Simon Woplin and Jack Daniels

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE for the wonderful assistance I received last Friday lunchtime (24th April) when I fell over in Keymer Road. To Jen in particular for all her help and for bringing flowers to my home. But to all you loverly ladies who took care of me so well until the Paramedic arrived. Thank you all so much.

Ana Packham

BEACON GUIDE HALL – FUNDRAISING EVENTS Saturday, **11th July** – We are holding a stall at St. Francis of Assisi Church Fair at the Church in Priory Road, Hassocks. We are planning to sell jigsaw puzzles (used and new) and used gift bags. Donations can be collected.

Sunday, **26th July** – Afternoon Tea with fun activities for all, to be held at the Guide Hall, in Semley Road. More details to follow.

For details contact **carolinesteer@aol.com**.

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PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING IS COMING TO HASSOCKS 7 pm, on **21st JULY,** at the Hassocks Hotel.

The People's Emergency Briefing is an evening of film and community discussion. It is happening all over the country, bringing people and communities together to plan for a brighter future.

National Emergency Briefing - The climate and nature crisis affects major areas of UK national life - national security, energy security, health, the economy, food and farming. The evening starts with a 50 minute film, in which leading experts from these areas share the latest evidence about the threats we face - and what can be done about them. The film is narrated by Chris Packham, with contributions from Deborah Meaden, Jennifer Saunders and members of the British public.

Following on from the film, we will discuss what we can do about the issues raised. This is your chance to shape how we as a community respond.

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We are inviting local politicians, Councillors, farmers, emergency services, health experts, churches, businesses, sports groups, other community groups and you - the wider community - to be part of this important event and help to build a positive and united response. Please register in advance via Eventbrite so we can keep a track of numbers: '**Hassocks People's Emergency Briefing - Film and community meeting Tickets, Tuesday 21 July • 19 - 21 | Eventbrite**'

"Back by popular demand - Kidical Mass returns! Following on from the success of the first Kidical Mass family bike ride last summer, we keep on being asked when it's coming back.

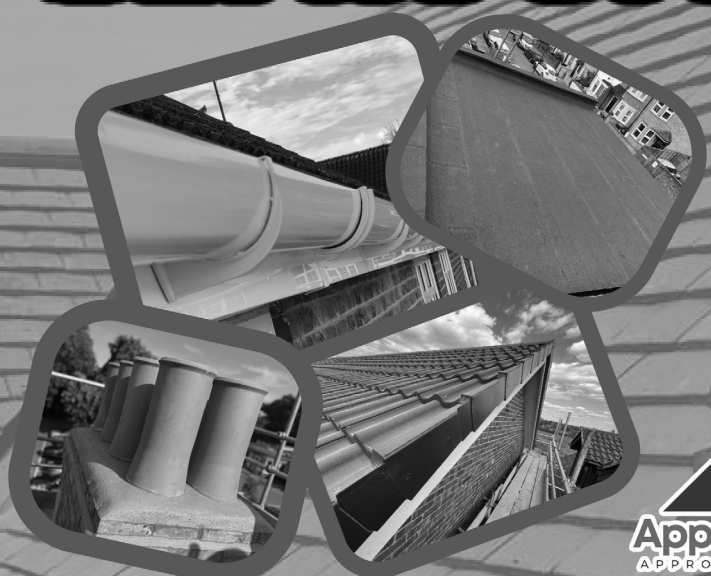
Well, the answer is soon – **5th July** to be precise. Riders will gather at 1.30 am in Adastra Park, in the area next to the Car Park, north of the bowling green and playground. We depart at 2 pm prompt, for a short Tour de Hassocks: 3 to 4 miles, no big climbs, marshalls, flags and lots of fun. Based on last year our average speed will be around 3 to 4 miles per hour, which is a brisk walking pace.

The ride is aimed at all ages. Children under 16 need to be accompanied by an adult. The route will be risk assessed, and marshalls will repeat last years training and test ride of the route. More details coming soon on posters around the village and on the Greener Hassocks and Ditchling website **www.greenerhassocksditchling.org.uk** and newsletter.

See you there! *Andy Hansen*

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH Down by the Black Swan Pond is a patch of land which Michael planted with trees thirty-five years ago. This land, in the days when Stoneywish was a dairy farm, was once meadow, lying beyond the cart-shed at the bottom of the farm-yard. During the Second World War, rolls of barbed wire were laid along the boundary to provide last-ditch protection in the event of an invasion. Today, a wooden bridge crosses the ditch giving us access to an area cut off by footpaths on sides. Michael's trees have matured and now tower above the pond with small, grassy glades lying in-between. Michael and I call this space 'Little Russia' because there are white-trunked birches here and the light through the high branches is reminiscent of paintings by the Russian painter, Shishkin. With a very little imagination it would be easy to imagine a Tolstoyan scene here: some family picnic - a trestle table with a white tablecloth, a samovar and tea-glasses, and old retainers shuffling about with cushions and pots of jam.

The glades become waterlogged when it rains, so this year it has become impossible to mow until now, and *now* there are bluebells and the white pompons of wild garlic flowers and cut-leaved cranesbills and Queen Anne's lace embedded in the grass, so we must wait for these to 'finish' before touching anything.

I came here today to cudgel my brains for ideas for this article, being, as ever, late for the editorial deadline, and wondering whether the world is tired of my Stoneywish 'pearls of wisdom' and perhaps feeling already sated with Nature information. But sitting here, my mind has ceased to fret about ideas. It is enough to sink into a secret world, to become part of a landscape quite replete and self-sufficient, without need of concepts and arguments.

Those who know tell us that the world is running out of insects, but here the air is full of them, spinning like atomic particles; golden dust-motes in the sun. There are damsel flies, blue and red, resting on the long grass-blades; butterflies – Speckled Wood and Orange-Tip – intent on their own business. The spears of docks, (which as a true farmer, Michael deplores, despite their medicinal virtues), gleam, translucent, against pools of shade. A buzzard glides overhead. Two ducks hurtle suddenly out of nowhere and dive into the pond. There is

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a great silence at the heart of this tiny place – a stillness, not touched by the birdsong or the distant calling of lambs, or the sound of aircraft, or the whine of a neighbour's strimmer. And I realise that this is something I *would* like to share with you.

Left almost to itself, 'Little Russia' has got on with life in a way which, despite inevitable individual catastrophes, might be said to be conflict-free. Our garden, likewise, in the absence of an assertive gardener, hums with life – forever changing. Just now there are red and white banded bugs, bees, beeflies, hoverflies, foraging birds, for whom the whole garden is a picnic of luscious delights: leaves, flowers, juicy aphids, fat slugs. (The carnivorous insects which will later look on *me* as their picnic have, mercifully, not yet made an appearance!)

How to find a point of acceptance of all that *IS*, without feeling the need to police it, enhance it, shape it? How to see this and the wider world as something that simply *is*; something which a more enlightened self can respect and accept without tension and without the interference of an ever-restless intellect?

I recently read a Tibetan tale of a man who walked into a butcher's shop and demanded the best piece of meat. "All my meat is the best meat," said the butcher. "Good and bad, it is all the best." This takes some thinking about. What would the world be like if suddenly we were relieved of the obligation of choosing the best of everything – or forever competing, attaining, succeeding, winning the superlative in life? Not one tulip, but 200,000 tulips! Not one butterfly, but the rarest, the most endangered. Not one tree, but the biggest, the oldest. Perhaps if we could truly see the miraculous in ordinary, everyday, common or garden weeds and love the plain, dusty-coloured nobody's in Nature, then the rest, the exotica, would also have a chance.

What *IS* is all we have, after all, and it may just be that what seems dull or second-rate, actually *is* the best, concealing the treasure and the teaching we need just at the moment it presents itself. Read any fairy story for a full exposition! As for docks, we know them as a salve for nettle sting. As the old country saying goes: "Dock in; Nettle out!"

In herbal medicine, members of the dock family hold a reputation for relieving intestinal heat, assisting the liver and kidneys and providing a balm for skin eruptions. The cooling leaves were once used to wrap butter and cheese for market. Who needs plastic? *Rosemary*



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HASSOCKS FC Unfortunately, we didn't escape relegation but I'm so proud of how the team performed on the pitch, and the support we received throughout the season off the pitch from the locals.

We had some excellent crowds, top half in the attendance table if nothing else! Thank you to those who visited.

It's not too down beat as we're looking to be strong in the division below where we now become a bigger club in relation to others. Amazing for our village.

The score board sponsored by Station Garage Hassocks will be a new arrival next season and The Hassocks Hotel pub have continued their excellent support by renewing the stadium sponsor.

We also have a new kitchen extension so the place will have extra energy when the new season comes round.

Thank you also to local pitch side banner sponsors who are helping to contribute, if you fancy some exposure and fun then please help by contacting me on **07843762132**.

The pitch itself has had extensive work to really level it flat, so we continue to provide a great environment for you all to enjoy your Saturday afternoons and Tuesday nights.

We received so much positive feedback from Isthmian clubs visiting and they commented how sad they were to see us leave. I say it's a "see you later, not goodbye" to that level.

We're building all the time. The south field training pitch hits so many obstacles but we're here to provide a great extra pitch for the community to use, and we will complete in time.

We have some exciting home pre-season fixtures lined up already vs Burgess Hill and Horsham, and we hope to see you next season!

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Run solely by volunteers we guarantee that, after costs, all takings are banked for the HCO, to be used for the benefit of the whole community.

Next season starts on **18th September** with 'Song Sung Blue' starring Hugh Jackman. Dates for the rest of the year (diaries ready) are **16th October, 20th November and 11th December**.

The Star team look forward to welcoming you as usual.

Liz Edmunds

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SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB There is something rather special about walking through one of our ancient woodlands and seeing the imposing majesty of trees as they dance and sway in the breeze. And there is nothing prettier than the delicate pink of a cherry blossom tree as it heralds in the first sign of spring. And regardless of where there are placed, or how majestic their foliage, trees are such an important feature of our landscape so they should be cherished and protected.

I first came across that poignant statement in the Letters section of a newspaper. It had been sent to protest about the proposed destruction of woodland in a local area where developers wanted to build houses.

However, I have just returned from a wonderful walk with SPRC which included Angmering Park Estate, which falls within the South Downs National Park, and is characterised by lush, deer-filled woods and sweeping downland views. The main draw for Angmering Park Estate is simply the landscape itself, a mix of pristine forests - carpeted with bluebells in spring; ablaze with colour in autumn - interspersed with beautiful swathes of open downland and farmland dotted with sheep. Although the bluebells will have finished by the time you read this article and we didn't see any deer the South Downs National Park is a vast area to be treasured.

The following is a selection of our walks in June - Saturday **6th June**, Selsey, 4 miles, 10.30 am.

Sunday **13th June**, Ditchling Common Country Park, 5 miles, 10 am.

Sunday **21st June**, Ardingly Reservoir, 9 miles, 10.30 am.

Sunday **28th June**, Staplefield, 5 + 4.5 miles 'Figure of eight' Walk morning, afternoon or both.

Full details of all walks can be seen on our interesting website

www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk

There is no need to book, just turn up and introduce yourself to the group's leader. *Diann*

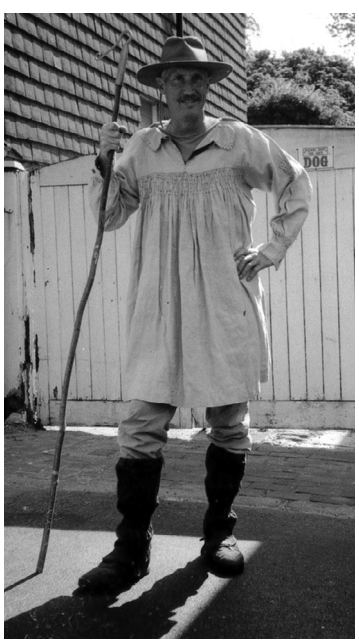
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We thank Martin Craven from Ditchling for this wonderful picture of the Undercover Policeman At Ditchling Fair June 1996. (PC Scully)



SPREADING KINDNESS AT DOWNLANDS Last term, students at Downlands Community School proudly supported a range of charitable causes, including fundraising for Comic Relief and other important initiatives.

A particular highlight was our annual Easter appeal, organised by Mr Matthews, in support of Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital. This year, our community donated an incredible 620 Easter eggs - a record-breaking total.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity shown by families and students, which truly reflects our values of kindness and community. Special thanks also go to the students who helped count and organise the donations.

The eggs were delivered just before Easter and will help bring a little extra joy to children at the hospital.

Jo Miles



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DITCHLING SCHOOL SET FOR A BLOOMIN' DISPLAY A village school will soon be bursting with colour after children visited a local nursery for a serious planting session.

Thirty youngsters from St Margaret's primary school in Ditchling enjoyed time at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks where they toured the Museum of Gardening and met founder, Clive Gravett.



"It was a pleasure to welcome the children to the museum and garden centre. The Budding Foundation and Tates of Sussex have been supporting the school for some years with their vegetable growing and forest school", he said.

The Year Four class were busy planting troughs, with all the materials supplied by the garden centre, to create a colourful display back at their school.

Tates' executive director, Benjamin Tate, said: "It's wonderful to support initiatives like this alongside The Budding Foundation led by Clive, helping children connect with gardening in a meaningful way. Seeing their enthusiasm and curiosity is exactly why we're proud to be involved."

After a break for fruit juice and biscuits, the children, aged eight and nine, joined Clive for a talk about the history of gardening, and saw some old implements used in days gone by.

"The children were captivated by the unusual vintage horticultural exhibits that were demonstrated, including a seed fiddle, Victorian flower picker, 18th century stirrup pump and much more. Many questions were asked and I am sure they gained some valuable knowledge", said Clive.

The school said how much the children enjoyed their visit and returned to class with wonderful recounts of what they did there. "Thank you for your generosity and kindness on the day, and for making it so much fun", said Forest School Leader, Louise Cole. *Trevor Butler*

Photo shows Children from Ditchling Primary School getting to grips with their new plant troughs

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BEFRIENDED will be continuing its popular programme of community activities throughout the summer months, offering a range of opportunities for people to connect, socialise and try something new. Full details of upcoming events can be found on our website **www.befriended.org/events/.**

One of the latest additions is Creative Crafts, a welcoming and friendly afternoon session held every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Befriended Hub in Ditchling. The group brings people together to enjoy a variety of creative activities including knitting, crochet, sewing and card-making. Whether you're experienced or just starting out, the sessions are designed to be relaxed and inclusive, with plenty of tea, cake and conversation to enjoy along the way.

Befriended will also be out and about in the community this summer, with a stall at the Ditchling Fair on **20th June** and a flower display at St Margaret's Church. Visitors are encouraged to stop by to learn more about Befriended and the wide range of activities available across Burgess Hill, Ditchling and Hurstpierpoint.

For those looking to meet new people, learn new skills or simply spend time in good company, Befriended's summer programme offers something for everyone. *Sally*

CLAYTON FESTIVAL, 27th - 28th June st St John the Baptist Church.

At this year's Clayton Festival, we're adding a family-friendly dog show into the mix on Sunday at 2.30 pm, with categories including 'Waggiest Tail', 'Best Trick', 'Dog Most Like its Owner', 'Cutest Puppy' and 'Golden Oldie'. We'll also seeing the return of our Pet Blessing service. And following the huge success of last year's plant sale, our local resident horticultural experts will be on hand to help you select the right plants for your garden.

A children's Treasure Hunt will run 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday in the churchyard, plus a concert during the evening. There will be refreshments and cakes served in Clayton Village Hall: 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday **27th June** and 12 pm to 4 pm on Sunday **28th June**. Money raised will go towards the upkeep of our ancient church - listed in The Domesday Book. *Jo Gottschalk*

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Julie

HASSOCKS WI - Meets at Adastra Hall on the 3rd Monday in the month. The doors open 7.30 pm and the evening starts at 7.45 pm.

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subs. The committee spends a long time organising the programme, taking onboard members suggestions, sourcing new ideas and we hope you find the evenings enjoyable, informative and fun in the coming months.

At our May meeting we heard from our local charity Hurst Hedgehog Haven and the valuable work they do with our small native nocturnal mammals.

Then in June we welcome Burgess Hill Musical Theatre showcasing their upcoming production, always great fun especially as they will be accompanied with strawberries and Pimms! Plus we have the opportunity to purchase tickets for the show.

So, lots to look forward to, and of course our choir meets every Tuesday and always welcomes new member.

The Walking group is being re-activated come along, help organise a walk or suggest a good coffee stop at the end of the stroll.

Our brilliant Craft Club meets in the afternoon 2pm 1st Monday in the month in the Committee Room . As ever visitors are always welcome (donation) so join us for a friendly time.

Enjoy the sunny weather. *Gerry*

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AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY WARNS OF FINANCIAL IMPACT ON LIFESAVING SERVICE AS AVIATION FUEL COST INCREASES BY 63% Since the beginning of the current Middle East conflict. The continued rise means the charity is now facing increased costs of £25k a month to operate its air ambulance helicopters which bring lifesaving pre-hospital emergency care to the most seriously injured and unwell people 24 hours a day across the South East of England.

KSS, one of the largest and busiest air ambulance charities in the UK, is concerned that the continued dramatic increase in aviation fuel cost will place even more pressure on its financial sustainability in an already very challenging fundraising environment.

The charity currently responds to around nine of the most serious medical emergencies a day across the South East, including to people critically injured in road traffic collisions or experiencing a sudden illness such as a cardiac arrest. Its highly skilled clinicians deliver specialist interventions at scene – once only available in hospital – including blood transfusions, general anaesthesia, and open-chest surgery, to give every patient the best possible chance of survival when every second counts.

KSS Chief Executive, David Welch, said: "As a charity, and the only air ambulance for the South East of England, we're growing increasingly concerned at the continued significant increase in the cost of aviation fuel which presents a huge challenge for us financially.

"While we have mitigation plans in place, the unprecedented 63% rise in the cost of aviation fuel means that we now need to raise even more funding from within our communities, where so many people are also facing an increasingly difficult financial climate, to help keep us flying.

"Our helicopters are a genuine lifeline for people within our communities and that's why we want to ensure we can be here for the millions of people living, working, visiting or travelling through the South East, ready to respond and ensure the best possible patient outcomes when the very worst happens."

"Every lifesaving mission we make is almost entirely funded by the kindness and generosity of our communities. That's why ongoing and increased public support for KSS during these



challenging times is more vital than ever in helping us to reach patients and save lives."

As well as encouraging crucial public support, KSS is also actively working with Air Ambulances UK, the national organisation representing air ambulance charities across the country. This work is aimed at ensuring Government and policy makers recognise the vital frontline emergency service provided by air ambulance charities and take action to protect them from further aviation fuel cost rises.

To support KSS with rising fuel costs, got to **aakss.org.uk/donate**. *Gavin Sherriff*

HEBER OPERA presents two abridged operas this summer: Carmen and Turandot. Shortening the operas means you get the story with the familiar tunes in half the time! First performance is in Steyning Centre on **6th June** at 7.30 pm, followed by a Glyndebourne style performance with a picnic interval (weather permitting) at 3.30 pm on **7th June** at Danny House, Hurstpierpoint. The final show will take place in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on **13th June** at 7.30 pm. The operas are sung in English and are semi-staged. Tickets are online from **www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera** or by calling **07867 975967** (9 am to 5 pm). *Jenny Hawkes*

BIN COLLECTIONS - MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL. Visit **www.midsussex.org.uk/waste-recycling/bin-collection** where you can register for an alert the day before as to which bins are being collected or download the MSDC app.



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DIABETES WEEK: RAISING AWARENESS OF THE LINK TO SIGHT LOSS

During Diabetes Week from **8th – 14th June**, 4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) will be raising awareness as to how diabetes may directly affect sight, and how regular eye health checks can also pick up early signs of the condition.

Diabetes Week is an annual UK-wide initiative devoted to raising awareness of diabetes and funding research into the condition. (4SVS) is a registered charity which provides advice and specialist information to those living with sight loss. It is keen to demonstrate the importance of managing the condition and any associated medication according to the advice of health professionals, along with the importance of regular eye health checks for all.

Richard Deadman is a Vision Support Advisor with 4SVS and knows very well about the link between diabetes and sight loss. Richard was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at the age of 4 and aged 27 woke up one morning completely blind. This was due to complications which caused both of his retinas to detach due to Diabetic Retinopathy caused by a high blood sugar level damaging the back of the eye. Doctors told Richard that this was due to mismanagement of the disease during his teenage years.

Thankfully after numerous operations, surgeons managed to save the sight in one eye, but he remains totally blind in the other.

Richard is passionate about raising awareness: he comments "For people living with diabetes, especially youngsters, it is so important to make the right choices and listen to specialists to manage the condition correctly to reduce risks. And of course, I advise everyone to attend regular sight checks to ensure good eye health."

For more information about diabetes and sight loss call **01243 838001**, email **fundraising@4sight.org.uk** or visit **www.4sight.org.uk**. Information on Diabetes Week can be found here **www.diabetes.org.uk/diabetes-week**. *Cathy*

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DITCHLING MORRIS will be dancing at Ditchling Fair on Saturday **20th June**, hopefully with our friends Brighton Morris and the Knots of May from Lewes.
Our first session will be mid-morning, outside the White Horse, so come and watch us!
Later, along with many other groups and societies we will be joining in the procession around the village.
To celebrate the Summer Solstice, in the evening, we will lead a procession up Lodge Hill to watch the sun go down on a glorious Ditchling Fair Day. Come and join us! *Penny Worth*

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THE RINGED PLOVER PERFORMANCE



Big eyes, short legs, and frequently described as ‘rotund’; there’s no denying it. Ringed Plovers are adorable. Our UK residents are joined by over-wintering migrants and can be found all around our coastline and some estuaries, in shingle and wetland habitats.

These charismatic waders possess spectacular acting talents. Little orange feet stamp sandy ground to mimic falling raindrops, tempting out tasty subterranean crustacean snacks. Mates are wooed with marching high-kick dance routines. Shingle nest preparation involves an umbrella of wings and much flinging of shells in a dramatic ceremony.



Being masters of disguise, Ringed Plover nests are inconspicuous, with both dappled eggs and fluffball chicks seamlessly blending into their sand and stone surroundings. This is optimum for ground-nesting predator evasion, and chicks will freeze, Jurassic Park style, should a marauder enter their midst.

Hiding in plain sight, however, leaves the species incredibly vulnerable to disturbance, especially on our over-populated and well-trodden coastlines. Eggs can easily be crushed under the flimsiest of flip-flops, and chicks are hard to spot until very close by. And a bigger problem still; free-roaming dogs.

It doesn’t matter if your beloved pup is the best-behaved boy in town, with great recall and no prey drive. Domestic dogs replicate natural predators, and even if they aren’t likely to take a chick or investigate a nest, they can easily and unintentionally cause disturbance when off the lead.

Ringed Plover parents are fiercely committed to nest protection, even theatrically feigning a broken wing to lure predators away from their precious offspring. But feisty though they be, they weigh only 65 grams; no match for a snuffling hound.

An increase in these acts of disturbance, habitat loss and climate change have contributed to a significant decline in numbers of UK Ringed Plovers since the mid-1980s, and the species is now on the UK Red List.



To help, you can keep your dog on a lead whilst walking around our coastlines, especially during March to August, the breeding season for these, and many other bird species. You can keep your distance; good practice for all wildlife watching, but especially with ground-nesting birds. And you can tell other people, to help raise awareness of the otherwise unknown perils of simply letting your dog off the lead.

In highlighting these issues, we hope the Ringed Plover performance may long continue. They just need less audience interaction.

Kerry Williams



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HASSOCKS COMMUNITY RUNNERS KEEP ADVENTURING





Hassocks Community Runners continue to go from strength to strength, welcoming runners, joggers and walkers of all paces to their four regular weekly sessions: Mondays 6 pm, Wednesday 7 pm, Friday 9.15 am and Saturday 8.30 am.

The group prides itself on its inclusive, supportive approach with a clear no one is-ever-left-behind policy. Every session is designed so that all abilities feel comfortable and confident taking part. Many runs finish with post run coffees, giving everyone a chance to chat and connect. Alongside their weekly sessions, the club enjoys a lively calendar of social and community events, including the ever popular Vineyard Run on **14th June**, fun quizzes, the reflective Chattri Remembrance Sunday run, and seasonal favourites like the solstice run. Anyone interested in getting involved or finding out more can join the Hassocks Community Runners Facebook group, where all updates, events and run details are shared. *Jem Fleming*

SEVEN GIRLS, ONE BACKPACKING ADVENTURE
OUR EUROPEAN SCOUT EXPLORER BELT CHALLENGE

This summer, the seven of us are swapping our usual routines in Hassocks for something a little more adventurous: backpacks, trains, maps, and a challenge that will take us across Europe. We are all aged between 16 and 17 and members of Scouts, and in August we'll be taking part



in the Explorer Belt – one of the biggest and most exciting awards in Scouting. It's designed to push us out of our comfort zones, build confidence and independence, and encourage us to learn more about the world around us.

For ten days, we'll be travelling through different parts of Europe, navigating ourselves, managing our own budget, and completing a series of challenges along the way. But for us, one of

the most exciting parts of the trip is the chance to meet other Scouts and local people and learn about their culture through something everyone understands – food!

We're planning to discover the stories behind national dishes, visit local markets, try traditional recipes, and speak to people about what food means to them. Whether it's pastries from a family bakery, homemade pasta, street food from a market stall or dishes passed down through generations, we want to understand how food connects people to their heritage.

As teenagers, we know how easy it can be to stay in our own bubble, so this challenge is about stepping outside of that. We'll be relying on teamwork, resilience, problem-solving and probably a lot of laughter too. None of us have done anything quite like this before, which makes it both exciting and slightly nerve-racking.

We're proud to be representing our Scout group and our local community in Hassocks. Scouting has already given us so many opportunities, and this feels like the next big adventure.

We hope that by the time we return, we'll have not only completed the Explorer Belt, but also made new friendships, learned about different ways of life, and come home with plenty of stories (and favourite recipes) to share.

So, if you see seven girls around Hassocks over the next few months fundraising, planning routes, or practising reading maps in the park, that's probably us getting ready for the trip of a lifetime.

Wish us luck – Europe, here we come!

Holly Pattenden Greensands Leader writes: These 7 girls, from Hassocks Explorer unit are 7 of 45 young people who applied to get on this Explorer Belt expedition. They will form 1 of 5 groups in total, all heading to Europe this summer. We also have 1 male member of the unit who also got onto a team.

Participating in this award is not just about the expedition itself, they have spent months planning and budgeting, fundraising, and building relationships with unknown scout leaders and other members of Explorer units across the county. The award takes up a lot of their time, leading up to the actual event. These 7 girls have been heavily invested in local scouting from a young age and have taken full advantage of the opportunities scouting can offer to young people. Not only are they getting to travel the world with scouting, but they are also achieving Duke of Edinburgh and Chief Scout awards, which are not easy to achieve and require a huge amount of effort, time and determination. On top of all that they are also giving back to the local community by volunteering at Hassocks Scout group.

In a time when young people often get bad press for being lazy and lack determination to push their boundaries and achieve great things it makes me extremely proud to shout about the 8 members of Greensands who are off on this trip, doing exactly that. Pushing the boundaries, showing strength and determination. They will walk away from this trip not just with fantastic memories and having achieved a high scouting award, but they will also walk away with stronger relationship and a bond that no other organisation can give you than Scouting can.

If anyone wants to donate towards their trip (as it is all self-funded) then please visit their go fund me page.

www.gofund.me/c75beec3c

We wish the girls the best of luck with their expedition, it will be no easy task.

They will also be more than happy to update you all upon their return. *Greensands Explorer Scouts*

PLANNING FOR HASSOCKS GOES GOLD is well underway with the deadline of Pineapple drawings for the Poster Competition nearing on the **3rd July** – entries to QD Stationery!

Sunflowers are growing fast and the judging for the three categories of Tallest, Prettiest and Biggest-Headed(!) will be on the **14th August** enter on the Facebook page or email **hgg@pearlpower.co.uk**

I recently received an update on one of the six projects that #PearlPower has helped to fund. Professor Adam Mead at the University of Oxford describes how his team were able to find specific cells that causes a nasty type of childhood cancer called JMML to return and their work could lead to the first immunotherapy to treat this aggressive form of leukaemia. It's fantastic news and very close to home as one of the other groups funding this are dear local friends of mine who's little boy Carey was successfully treated for JMML a few years ago. The Oxford team's research will continue and so will our fundraising to support this and other projects to find effective treatments.

If you haven't drawn or coloured in your Pineapple yet you can pick up an entry form from QD Stationery or download one from the Facebook.com/groups/HassocksGoesGold

Prizes for the best in each age group, and ALL entries are featured in the wonderful Parklands Road Art Exhibition! *Rachel*



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We then kiss and race to reach the sun
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Out of breath, so good to be alive
I buy you diamonds and a solitaire ring
Bracelets, necklaces and everything bling
Gold flaked shoes complete with buckle and bow
Fancy clothes, bespoke, that glisten and flow
All my riches I share with you
Statuesque and chic and coo coo ka choo
We then wed at the Taj Mahal
Honeymoon in the general locale
Drink champagne, confetti still in our hair
Smiling broadly as we haven't a care
Then I awake with a sense of shock
Eyes now focused on the bedroom clock
No more picture of the perfect life
Back to single with no perfect wife
So, I close my eyes
And see a picture of you
Statuesque and chic and coo coo ka choo

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HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Do you know we run a loyalty card scheme? To thank our regular shoppers we run a loyalty prize draw every three months and the lucky winner collects a box of goodies donated by our wonderful stall holders. Just pick up a card from either a stall or the market manager and for every £2.50 you spend a box will be initialled. Once the card is full fill in your name and contact details and drop it into our collection box to be included in the next draw. David and Kathy Green of Hurstpierpoint were the lucky winners of the last box and were delighted with their prize.
Hassocks Village Market is held on the fourth Saturday of each month in Age Concern car park, Dale Avenue, from 09.00 am to 12.30pm. The market brings the community together and also boosts footfall into the village shops so please come along and support us.

Amanda Felix

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Our next film, Marching Band will show on the **4th June**.

The Marching Band. 2024. (15). Run time: 1 hour 43 minutes. French with English subtitles.

By common assent, the French have a way of infiltrating charm into their films that allows them to handle difficult and challenging issues with a deftness of touch that instantly characterises a film as "French". In *The Marching Band,* the matters at hand are terminal illness, impending factory closure, questions of kinship and identity, the high brow and the low brow, celebrity versus nonentity status, All of these become a bag full of treats in the hands of Director Emmanuel Courcol as the story of two brothers, (played by Benjamin Lavernhe and Pierre Lotin) each with perfect musical pitch, is played out against the back drop of an impending double demise: demise of the factory band and demise of the internationally renowned orchestral conductor. The Marching Band promises Ditchling Film Society Members and guests an evening to delight both eye and ear, especially when served up with a glass of fine French wine or a soft drink if preferred

Meet friends, enjoy fine wine or soft drinks before the show at Ditchling Village Hall (plenty of parking in the village hall car park). 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.

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To keep up to date with our film showings and special events please go to our website, **ditchlingfilm.org.uk**.

We are on Instagram @ditchlingfimsoc and X @Ditchlingfilm.

Nick for The Ditchling Film Society

CENTRAL SUSSEX PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP will be at the Triangle Leisure Centre, Burgess Hill on **18th June** from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

If you are going through diagnostic investigations or treatment for prostate cancer, or have had treatment in the past, this is a great opportunity to meet others who are living with prostate cancer and can understand what you are going through.

Future sessions will be on the 3rd Thursday of the month. *Alf*

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AGE CONCERN Dale Avenue, Hassocks, **01273 844461 www.achassocks.co.uk**
Facebook – Age Concern Hassocks. This month we will be visiting Wakehurst Gardens again, but this time to take part in 'Bees & Trees', where a local expert will impart their expertise and knowledge. This is free entry (saving you a lot of money!) and if enough notice is given, mobility scooters can be reserved. Spaces are limited, so book early.

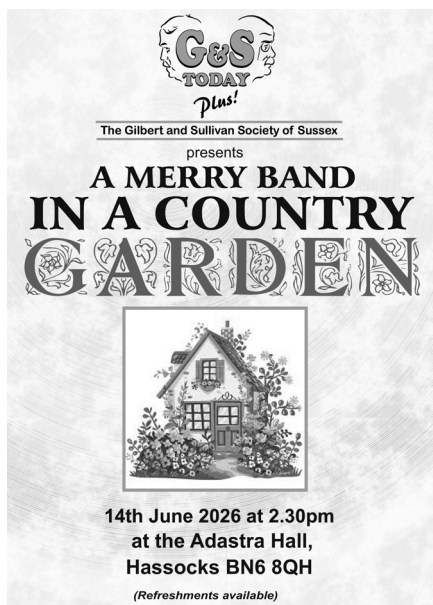
We're excited to share that our annual Summer Fair is on the way — and this year it's going to be a little different. Join us on Saturday **25th July** from 9 am to 12.30 pm for a packed morning. You'll find the usual Hassocks Village Market Day stalls in the car park, the Repair Café, and the ever-popular Rummage Sale. There will be tea, coffee on sale, a cakes stall, a plant sale, a tombola, homemade jams and chutneys, and of course a fantastic raffle! Harmony Trio, Consilience will be entertaining us at 11 am.

We would love your help too. If you have any unwanted gifts that would make great raffle prizes, please drop them into our office at Age Concern Hassocks (not the Charity Shop). We're also looking for plant donations for our plant stall.

We're excited to announce that we're now running our own lottery to help raise funds for the centre, with a cash prize drawn every month. The lottery is open to everyone—not just Age Concern members. For just £12 a year (only £1 a month), you can take part and support a great cause. To join, simply pop into the centre. Tickets are available from the charity shop or the office.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

All at Age Concern Hassocks



THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX present A Merry Band concert: In A Country Garden on Sunday **14th June** at 2.30 pm. (Note the earlier start time) at Adastra Hall, Hassocks.

Tickets include refreshments. To book email **gandstodaysussex@gmail.com**.

Pennie Ingram

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HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW at 2.15 pm on Saturday **20th June** in Hurst village centre.
Summer flowers, vegetables, fruit, cookery, handicraft, photography, children and novice sections. Exhibiting is free. Schedules from Rhubarb in the High Street or email **hhs1886@btinternet.com**.
Tea and homemade cake and raffle. Auction at end of show. *Kathy Green*

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH: Just to remind you all that on Saturday **20th June** it will be Ditchling Fair Day. This year the theme is Larks, Laughter and Legends. Lots happening in the morning and in the afternoon the Fair will move to Ditchling Village Green. Our Branch will have a stall with our well known '*Find the Poppy Game'* with a great first prize and something for the runners up.
There is also a flower festival in St Margaret's Church and RBL will have display close to the War Memorial in the South Chapel.

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This weekend also is the start of Armed Forces weeks and we will have some special pins available for you to show your support for our Armed Forces.
We look forward to seeing you on Saturday **20th June** from 2 pm onwards. *Margaret Bovill*

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB There are three meetings of the Keymer Folk Dance Club in June. On **1st June** we have our yearly trip to dance on Ditchling Village Green, Sean Goddard will be calling with music supplied by Sally Course's Band. On **15th June**, we will meet at the URC Church Hall with Club Callers, and music supplied by Sean Goddard and Michael Curry. The last meeting on **29th June** will be a standard club meeting with recorded music. All meetings start at 7.30 pm.
The Club does not meet in July or August and will return on **7th September**.
More details can be found at **www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk** or email **keymerfdc@gmail.com.**

Sean Goddard

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FAMILY BUSINESS KICK-STARTS SCOUTS' PLANTING PROJECT Cub and Beaver Scouts in Hassocks have embarked on a horticultural project thanks to support from a nearby garden centre.

Junior members of First Hassocks Scouts, aged between six and ten, are creating mini 'greenhouses' using old fizzy drink bottles and disposable drink kegs.

Eight bags of much-needed compost and four bags of gardening grit were donated by family-run South Downs Nurseries to kick-start the youngsters' project.

With seeds planted, the children will nurture the young plants at home until they are ready to be planted out back at the village Scout hut.

"It is wonderful to be able to give a boost to this venture and encourage the Cubs to become involved in gardening at an early age", said Benjamin Tate, executive director of his family's Sussex garden centre group.

Beaver/Cub leader Michael Gray visited the Brighton Road store to collect the gift.

"Supporting community projects is so important to a family company such as ours", adds Benjamin. "I grew up in Hassocks and know how important groups such as the Scouts are to village life." *Trevor Butler*

SUSSEX CHORUS Saturday **20th June** at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill. RH15 0LG

Elgar 'The Music Makers' and Coleridge Taylor 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast'. the Kent Sinfonia and Conductor Stephen Anthony Brown. Tickets available from: Sussex Chorus **01444 412579** or Burgess Hill Help Point, Eventbrite.co.uk or on the door. **www.sussexchorus.org.** *Angela Holroyd*

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Poynings Country Fete

MID DOWNLAND PARISH

Saturday June 20th 2 - 4.30pm



Image courtesy of www.zen-photographic.co.uk and Rebecca Jenkinson .

The Rectory Garden, Poynings

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Lots more fun for all the family!

ANNUAL POYNINGS FETE on **20th June** 2 to 4.30 pm. The Fete is an annual event which takes place in the Rectory Gardens and funds raised go towards the upkeep of The Holy Trinity Church in Poynings.

Fun for all the family is guaranteed with Music, Games, Plants, Cream Teas, Pimms and delicious cakes.

A lovely way to spend a typical Summers Day.

Linda Warburton

BEACON DISTRICT TREFOIL GUILD At our April meeting some beautiful flower arrangements were created! The spring and country quiz themed on flowers and trees, was good fun!

A talk given by a Guide on her Europe Rail trip, (Train Blazers) was very interesting at our May meeting!

The evening finished with a Raffle.

On **17th June** we plan an informative, exciting walk around Lindfield.

We would like to encourage some new faces. Come along and enjoy an evening with us. Plans are in place for walks, talks, visits and outings!

We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 8 pm to 9.30 pm.

A friendly welcome awaits you! *Pam Strong*

BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – meet on Wednesday **3rd June,** for an illustrated talk entitled 'Parks & Gardens of Flanders – The distinctive style of Flemish gardening' by Speaker, Melanie Gibson-Barton. At Cyprus Hall, commences 7.45 pm, (doors open 7.15pm). Admission for BHHS members is free for visitors a small charge.

On Saturday **27th June** is our Summer Flower & Produce Show at Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill from 1.30 to 4.15 pm. There will be plant and produce stalls, tombola, homemade cakes and refreshments. Small Admission charge. **www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com**. *Flo*

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SUMMER FAIR The Parish of Keymer with Clayton are having a fantastic traditional Summer Fair at St Francis Church, Hassocks on Saturday **11th July** from 2 pm to 4 pm.
Entry is free. There will be cream teas, cake stall, bouncy castle, games, raffle and a prize for the best Summer Hat. *Emma Turnbull*

DDWI At our April meeting we learned about 'Tapping and Hypnotherapy' from Kathy Johnson.
We are now planning for our Summer Party which will take place on **7th July**, and for our annual visit to Chichester Festival Theatre to see 'My Fair Lady' in August.
Our June speaker will be Jacqui Horton whose talk is entitled 'On the Trail of Jane Austen'.
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

WANTED If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included please email us at **ed@villagemagazines.co.uk** or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR.

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CRYSTAL CLEAR will be performing *o*n Sunday, **14th June** at Danny House, Off New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. Doors open at 2.30 pm for a 3 pm start. In aid of the NSPCC.
An eclectic mix of popular music performed by local band Crystal Clear.
Sparkling Wine or Soft Drinks with Light Refreshments served during the Interval.
Tickets Available (Cash only) from Charlotte Grace Casuals, 40 High Street, Hurstpierpoint. Telephone **07507 277689**.
Every childhood is worth fighting for. *Jonet*

BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY ONE-DAY CHORAL WORKSHOP If you enjoy choral singing and want to learn more about some beautiful music in a relaxed atmosphere, join us for this workshop when we shall be focusing on Mozart's *Requiem* under the expert guidance of Michael Stefan Wood BEM.
The workshop is taking place on Saturday **13th June** from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm at St John the Evangelist Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AA. Under 21s free. Further information is available at: **www.burgesshillchoral.org** or ring **07522 493966**. *Jane Leng*

BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY GROUP meet on Friday **12th June** at Cyprus Hall Burgess Hill, doors open 7.30 pm for a talk entitled 'The way we were'**.**
Paul Green will give a talk, and show a film of old Sussex, from the birth of the Royal Pavilion, through 2 World Wars, up to the 1950s.
All are welcome. Small charge for Members and non members.
Further info can be found **www.burgesshillheritagehistory.org.uk.** *Peter*

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Bank Holidays Please see chemist doors.
Urgent prescriptions call Sussex Police
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LIBRARIES
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Hassocks - 01273 842779
Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9am - 1pm
& Thurs., Fri. 1 - 5pm

HASSOCKS FOOD BANK
Open to anyone in need of support. Held in Powell House (next to United Reformed Church), Hassocks, 10am to 12noon, every Friday.
Or drop donations to Mansell McTaggart and The Sussex Grocer in Hassocks

DOCTORS
Mid Sussex Health Care
01273 834388
www.midsussexhealthcare.co.uk
Hassocks Surgery
Windmill Avenue BN6 8LY
Hurstpierpoint Surgery
The Health Centre, Trinity Road BN6 9UO
Ditchling Surgery
Lewes Road, BN6 8TT

TENNIS COURT HIRE
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PARISH COUNCILS
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www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 2pm, Fri 10am - 12pm.
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common
01273 833264
www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Mon.- Fri. 9.30am - 1pm.
Ditchling
01273 844733
www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk

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Surgery appointments available by contacting the Constituency Office **01444 224458**

DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

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 June

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

1st KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB Ditchling Village Green 7.30 pm. Music from Sally and Co. No partner needed just come along. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

2nd DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'On the Trail of Jane Austin' Jacqui Horton.

3rd BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. 'Parks and Gardens of Flanders - The distinctive style of Flemish gardening' Melanie Gibson-Barton. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.

3rd HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'The Mothers Union' Christine Ostler. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

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

3rd AGE UK MEMORY CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.

4th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - 'Marching Band' (15) . Tickets on the door - see article.

5th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Proper Coffee, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Monthly meet up. All welcome.

5th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall Carpark, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. Direction Finding Evening. All welcome.

5th DUSTY SHELF Proper Coffee & Cycling, Hassocks 7-10 pm. DJ Night, amazing music by amazing DJs.Free Entry.

6th COELIAC GROUP South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road, Hassocks 9 am - 11am. 'Brunch and Chat'. All welcome.

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

7th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 - 5 pm. Open Afternoon.

7th HEBER OPERA Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint 3.30 pm. Abridged Operas Carmen and Turandot. Tickets ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera. See artical.

8th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached for more info www.thegroup.org.uk.

9th AGE UK MEMORY CAFE Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.

10th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Monthly meet drop in all welcome.

10th POYNINGS POLICE BEAT SURGERY Rushfields Plant Centre, Poynings 11.30 am - 12.30 pm. Come along to get crime prevention & advice on neighbourhood issues.

11th 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.

11th 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.

11th 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 BURGESS HILL HISTORY GROUP Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. 'The way we were - Film of old Sussex, from the birth of the Royal Pavilion, through 2 world wars, up to the 1950s' Paul Green.. All welcome. www.burgesshillheritagehistory.org.uk.

12th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Jack and Jill Windmills Carpark. 7pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Birthday Bash on top of the Downs. what 3 words 'height.fanfare.roost. All welcome.

13th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

13th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book sussexsewingclub@gmail.com.

12th VOICEM'ALE The Greyhound Keymer 7.30 pm. Ladies and Gentlemen 'Singing for fun'. Everybody is very welcome its all very informal, friendly and relaxing - and great fun.

13th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.30 pm. Abridged Operas Carmen and Turandot. Tickets ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera. See artical for more info.

Village Lost Property

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

13th BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY St John the Evangelist Church, Burgess Hill. 10.30 am - 4.30 pm. Mozart's Requiem Workshop with Michael Stefan Wood BEM. More info www.burgesshillchoral.org. See article.

13th SUSSEX PATHFINDERS Ditchling Common Country Park 10 am. 5 mile walk. Visit www.sussex-pathfinders.org.uk for more info or see article.

14th GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.30 pm. A Merry Band in a Country Garden. Refreshments available. See article for more info. To book email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

14th NSPCC Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint 2.30 pm. Crystal Clear an eclectic mix of popular music. Refreshments available. Tickets Charlotte Grace or 07507 277689. See article.

14th DITCHLING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall, 2 - 4 pm. Summer Show featuring Summer flowers and plants grown by local gardners. Refreshments available. Visitors welcome. More info www.ditchlinghortsoc.co.uk.

15th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Music from Sean Goddard and Michael Curry with Club Callers. No partner needed just come along. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

15th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Burgess Hill Musical Theatre showcasing their upcoming production. Visitors welcome.

17th AGE UK MEMORY CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info 01444 450248.

17th TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks 7.45 pm. Walk Around Lindfield. Visitors welcome.

18th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning run by Friends of St Margarets. All welcome.

18th 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.

18th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email mo.delaine@btinternet.com.

18th CENTRAL SUSSEX PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP Triangle Leisure Centre, Burgess Hill 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Monthly meeting all welcome to come for a chat and advise.

19th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall Carpark, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. www.mid-sussexars.org.uk. Direction Finding Evening. All welcome.

20th HOLY TRINITY CHURCH Rectory Gardens, Poynings 2 - 4.30 pm. Annual Fete - Fun for all the family., Games, Pimms, plants, Cream Teas. All welcome.

20th DITCHLING VILLAGE FAIR Starts in West Street at 9.30 am then to Village Green from 12 - 11 pm. Theme: 'Larks, Laughter and Legends!' Dance, laugh, dress up, eat and drink. See article.

20th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk

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20th DITCHLING MORRIS Various performances including a Summer Solstice procession in the evening. Dancing with friends from Brighton Morris and The Knots of May from Lewes. See article for more info.
20th SUSSEX CHORUS St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm Elgar 'The Music Makers' and Coleridge Taylor 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast'. Kent Sinfonia and Conductor Stephen Anthony Brown. Tickets www.sussexchorus.org 01444 412579.
20th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 2.15 pm. 'Summer Show. Exhibiting is free. Schedules from Rhubarb. Refreshments, raffle and auction at the end. All welcome, email hhs1886@btinternet.com.
21st SUSSEX PATHFINDERS Ardingly Reservoir 10.30 am 9 mile walk. Visit www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk - see article.
21st BEFRIENDED Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 3 - 5 pm. Afternoon Tea Party with quizzes, celebrations, making friends, information, advice and great entertainment. More info www.befriended.org.
22nd CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.
23rd 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.
24th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm Demo or hands on practical evening. Competition Spinning Tops. Visitors welcome. www.southdownswoodturners.com
25th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Office Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Parish Councillor and District Councillors for Hassocks. No appointment necessary.
25th BEREAVEMENT WELL-BEING GROUP Clayton Wood, Natural Burial Ground, Brighton Road, Clayton 10 am - 12 noon. Come and meet others who understand what you are going through. www.bereavementcare.uk.
26th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall Carpark, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. Direction Finding Evening. All welcome.
26th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. 'Journalism: My part in its Survival' Stuart Flitton. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.
27th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.
27th REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransition.org.uk.
27th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Age Concern Veg Patch, Dale Avenue 9 am - 1 pm. Meet the team. All welcome.

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.

PYECOMBE CHURCH 18th May 5 pm. Songs of Praise.

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 Community in Flowers - 19th to 21st June local organisations will be decorating St Margaret's Church, come and visit us 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.
Organ Concert with Revd Michael Maine Sunday 21st June in St Margaret's Church 5 pm with Pimms. Raising money for the churches in the Beacon Parish.
More details will be advertised on our website and around the villages – www.beaconparish.co.uk.
Regular Services - Sunday 7th, 14th and 28th June Services of Morning Worship with Holy Communion in Ditchling 10 am and on Sunday 21st June will be in Streat 10 am. Little Beacons is on the first two Sundays in Ditchling. Our weekly Wednesday@10 Holy Communion continues, and SING is on the first Wednesday (3rd June) 5 pm 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.clayton-withkeymer.org.uk -** Fr Alex

27th DOWNLANDS SCHOOL Dale Avenue, Hassocks 12 - 3 pm. School Summer Fair.
27th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 1.30 - 4.15pm. 'Summer Flower and produce show. Stalls, tombola, refreshments etc. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.
27th/28th CLAYTON FESTIVAL Clayton Village Hall Sat 10 - 4 pm, Sun 12 - 4 pm. Dog show, treasure hunt, stalls, refreshments, evening concert, horticultural experts etc. See article for more info.
29th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Club meeting with recorded music. No partner needed just come along. www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I have heard through the grapevine, and you couldn't make it up if it's true. Having knocked down those two beautiful houses opposite the park on Keymer Road in order to build a small retirement home village, well it's now not going to happen. The plans have been shelved, when if ever it will happen is anybody's guess. It is all to do with what is going on in the world today, I think you'll find that the property market is a bit of a ticking bomb at the moment. So, the decision to pull out of such a massive project wasn't a great surprise to those in the know, but we do now have yet another eyesore in the village. Alright it's not quite in the same class as the one opposite me but a derelict piece of land does come with another problem, although I've never seen any myself. I understand that rats are regularly seen moving around quite openly up and around Orchard Lane, the food source for them in that area must be massive. The Parish Council is apparently aware of them and taking the appropriate action, I've only mentioned it because I'm regularly being asked if I know of any safe methods of getting rid of them because of poisons in such a public area would be incredibly dangerous. My advice is leave it to the experts.

I know driving anywhere in and around Ditchling can be incredibly challenging, not just at the moment, but anytime but for those of you that do, have you seen what they've done to Dame Vera's old house? It is totally unrecognisable, now someone has thrown an awful lot of money at it and in opinion it's looks a little out of place, maybe in time I will get used to it.

Over the years I can remember so many school age kids who came to work for us at the weekends. Some that did work experience who went on to become vets or set up their own businesses involving animals and others who would come in after school to help out. That was in the good old days when footfall in the local shops was really high, but now with online shopping footfall is at an all-time low. So, to all those young people who still want a Saturday or part time job after school and who seem really keen to get on in life, it truly breaks my heart to turn them away, I can see the disappointment on their faces. Bottom line is there are not the jobs out there for them to do anymore and for that reason I feel very concerned for the young people of today. Talking of young people, I've just had a little note asking if I could wish good luck to father and son team Henry and Charlie Cobb who are doing the London to Brighton bike ride this year - well good luck both of you. I'm sure you will have a great time and raise lots of money for the British Heart Foundation.

It's funny how some people's names stick in your mind, there was a lovely gentleman in the village I used to talk to about what was going on with buildings and planning, he was very knowledgeable about it so was obviously an architect or something - whatever happened to Mr Brabazon?

If you ever felt like throwing Donald Trump to the dogs then your dream can come true, we now sell Trump squeaky dog toys which are proving very popular, we also do a fabulous range of new dog toys as well.

I'm frequently asked what the difference is between suet balls and fat balls for wild birds are. Suet balls are softer so more suitable for the smaller beaked wild birds. Fat balls are harder but cheaper but still loved by all.

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