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MARGARET LUCAS Many people will remember Margaret and her husband Ken owning the London Road grocery store next to the sweet shop. In the past she was a volunteer at age concern in the kitchen and dining room. When Ken died, she decided to close the shop and retired. Her health deteriorated and she was in and out of hospital for a while during Covid. I was then told she was in Woodlands Nursing Home so started to visit her as she had no family. She loved to reminisce about the shop and her customers. Sadly, she passed away in July age 96 years. Such a lovely kind lady. *Lin Dersley*

SHEILA HOOPER Our family is deeply saddened to announce that Mum passed away peacefully after a short illness at St Peter & St James Hospice. After moving to Hassocks in 1977, this community became the heart of our family's life, where her children went to school and where roots remain today. In keeping with Mum's wishes for no fuss, there will be no traditional funeral. Instead, we will gather for a memorial service at a later date to celebrate her life. Lovingly remembered by Francis, Julie, Simon, Becca, and Charlotte. *Julie Hooper*

WESTMESTON IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR Westmeston Parish Hall in partnership with Ditchling History Society offers another fascinating history talk on Friday **13th November** from 3 pm.

Our theme will be Westmeston in the Second World War. Our talk will last about an hour, followed by discussion, tea and cakes.

Entry will be by ticket only to avoid crowding or disappointment, and we will encourage car sharing to ease parking at the hall.

Please see the November issue of Talk About for fuller details. *Rod Pryde*

SUSSEX CHORUS **7th November** 7.30pm, presents a heart-warming Concert at St Andrew's Church, Cants Lane, Burgess Hill. Fauré 'Requiem' and Bernstein 'Chichester Psalms', with soloists and orchestra.

Tickets available from Burgess Hill Help Point; or on **01444 412579**; **Eventbright.co.uk** or on the door. *Jackie*

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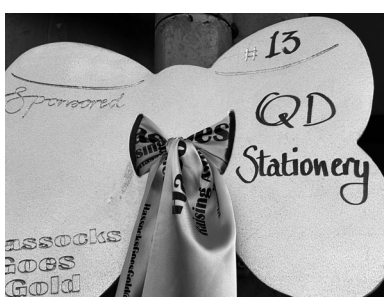
HASSOCKS GOES GOLD UPDATE



I'm writing this August Bank Holiday… it's raining – well of course it is! – though very welcome after such a dry summer (thank goodness for reliable Bank Holiday rain!).

So, I'm imagining looking back on Hassocks Goes Gold 2026 and without a shadow of a doubt I know what I need to say. It's a HUGE THANK YOU to this amazing village. Thank you to the shops and the residents and the boundless enthusiasm and encouragement from all of you in supporting this crazy GOLD venture that came from such a sad cause but has turned into a village wide celebration. A celebration of life however short and of the love and hope for better. It fuels me every day that things can be improved for the children facing a diagnosis of cancer. This village and the support you give to Hassocks Goes Gold every year has enabled a real and concrete difference to their chances. The money raised all goes directly to The Children and Young People's Cancer Association. They are the biggest and most effective children's cancer charity here in the UK and work tirelessly to support the children and their families affected by this terribly cruel disease. The #PearlPower fund that I set up with them in Pearl's name directs funds specifically to research more effective and kinder treatments because that's what was lacking when Pearl faced Ewing Sarcoma and it's what I would have given my life to have had available to save hers. Sadly, it wasn't to be but I'm confident that the research we fund is making a difference to future families.





THANK YOU SO MUCH for being a part of Hassocks Goes Gold this September 2026. The fund will remain open until New Year's Eve because I've learnt that the Gold never stops in this village! So, if you've still money to give, please use the link or QR Code. On the **1st January** 2027 I'll be starting it all up again for the ABSOLUTE BIGGEST HASSOCKS GOES GOLD EVER. Thank you for remembering my beautiful daughter, Pearl. She still lights my every day, and I know that she still touches many of you who were lucky enough to know her during her 10 years of life and those who only know of her as #PearlPower.

https://justgiving.com/page/hgg2026 *Rachel*

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BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026 As announced last month, Brighton Early Music Festival (BREMF) will be presenting its new autumn programme throughout most of October. The theme of "Bringers of Dreams" covers a huge range of concerts and other activities.

Weekend 1: The weekend begins on Friday **2nd October** with City of Dreams, a Florentine extravaganza with the Monteverdi String Band, BREMF Consort of Voices and The Royal Sackbut Collective. This is followed on Saturday **3rd October** with OAE Tots - morning concerts for small children, and in the evening by The Planets (pre-imagining Holst's masterpiece) - an orchestral journey through the 17th-century solar system with Spiritato. On Sunday **4th October** BREMF presents Dream Lab - an afternoon performance of three experimental projects with sessions for audience feedback.

Weekend 2: Friday **9th October** features Purcell's The Fairy Queen with the London Handel Players and BREMF Emerging Artists soloists; it's also the first day of the "One Song" exhibition at the Fabrica art space. On Saturday **10th October** the much-loved BREMF Emerging Artists showcase takes place in the afternoon, and this is followed by informal Clubnight performances in the evening. Sunday **11th October** presents Polia's Power, music from 15th and 16th-century Venice with the Artemis Consort.

Weekend 3: On Thursday **15th October** there is a workshop with The Fine Hand exploring visual scores and on Friday **16th October** this group presents a programme of European and North American Ballads entitled Send it by the Water. The whole of Saturday **17 October** is devoted to the music of John Dowland, who died exactly 400 years ago. There is a lunchtime concert with Kieran White and the Republic of Viols, an early evening concert with Dowland's Foundry, and a 9pm late night concert by Ruby Hughes and Jonas Nordberg. In contrast, Sunday **18th October** features an early evening medieval programme from Ymnus.

Weekend 4: The final weekend of BREMF begins on Friday **23rd October** with The BREMF Community Choir with Patrizia Bovi and Leah Stuttard performing a programme entitled Brother Sun. Then on Saturday **24th October** there is a morning family singing workshop, followed by a lunchtime concert by Nocturnalia. The evening concert that day includes Lassus' Lamentations with the Utopia Ensemble. Sunday **25th October** includes a Coffee Morning Discussion with philosopher Philipp Blom and, to round things off, an end of Festival community SongPath walk in Stanmer Park.

The website (**www.bremf.org.uk/whats-on/**) will tell you much more about all these events and what's happening throughout the Festival. You can also pick up a brochure locally (there should be a stock at Hassocks station). All the events take place in a variety of venues in and around Brighton. The section on the BREMF website titled "Your Visit" gives general hints about coming by train, bus or car, with addresses and travel info for all the 2026 venues (see **www.bremf.org.uk/gettingthere/**). Residents of Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint can use the weekend bus services to get easily to the daytime events.

You can book your tickets for everything online, via the BREMF website.

Mike Clemens

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A WORLD PREMIERE FOR HEBER OPERA We are thrilled to be staging the first performance of The King's New Clothes, a one act comic opera by Brighton composer Ian Gledhill. Ian is well known to local groups for his entertaining talks on a wide variety of topics, and this opera demonstrates yet another of his talents - not only has he written the opera and orchestration, but Ian is also artistic director of this production. Performances are **3rd and 11th October**, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, **4th October**, King Edward Hall, Lindfield and **10th October,** Church of the Good Shepherd, Dyke Road, Brighton.

Alongside The King's New Clothes, Heber Opera will be staging Cavalleria Rusticana, a familiar tragic one act opera with its beautiful intermezzo and Easter Hymn.

Tickets include a glass of wine from **www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera** or by calling **07867 975967** (9 am – 5 pm). *Jenny Hawkes*

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

As we head into October, we are planning a shopping trip to Horsham, Swan Walk (subject to the shopping centre being open). Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and noticeboard for more information and further outings.

Our Christmas Fair, combined with Hassocks Village Market and our Rummage Sale, will be on Saturday **19th December**, so please put this date in your diaries. There will be a raffle, tombola and a huge cake stall selling lots of treats including mince pies. We would love your help too. If you have any unwanted new gifts that would make great raffle or tombola prizes, please drop them into our office at Age Concern Hassocks.

If you are a D1 licence holder with spare time on your hands, we are looking for a volunteer minibus driver to provide occasional cover on our regular bus days and drive for our outings. If you are interested, please contact the office on the above number or come in and see us for a chat.

Don't forget, we provide home-cooked lunches Monday to Friday, as well as a range of activities including table tennis and art. We also provide a minibus service on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, for anyone who may find it difficult to get to the Centre.

Our charity shop is open 9 am to 4 pm every day and 9 am to 12 pm on Saturdays. Whilst you are visiting the charity shop why not stop by for a drink and cake in our coffee shop – we stop selling at 3.30 pm Monday to Friday.

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

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HASSOCKS WI Our monthly meetings are at Adastra Hall , 3rd Monday in the month . Doors open 7.30pm evening starts 7.45pm.

By the time you read this Jane Green FRAS will have given her thrilling presentation on astronomy with her amazing photos of Space. I hope we may see photos of the recent eclipse . For October we will discover the joy of Shuffleboard, a game popular from Tudor times and played by Henry VIII, enjoying a resurgence today. It will be fun; there will be expert help available on the night .

As usual we have extra smaller clubs for members which meet during the month, Craft club on 1st Monday afternoon of the month in the committee room at 2 pm. During the summer our Choir sang at various nursing homes whose residents greatly appreciated their visits. Our Book groups, Creative Writing and Arty Outings may have space for new members if you contact them directly via the details shown in the handbook, given out in July.

October is time for our popular Autumn Craft Fayre on Saturday **17th October** at Adastra Hall. It opens at 10 am and runs all day. We have a grand raffle for the charity 'Breast Cancer Now'. Your support will be welcome; you will be able to find early unique Christmas presents from our various stalls. Come along there will be bacon baps on sale in the morning.

In November we will have a Christmas Crafts evening. There will be an afternoon meeting on Wednesday **25th November** in respect of the WI nationwide campaign of 'No More Violence to Women and Girls' with Katy Bourne as our lead speaker. Visitors are welcome (donation). *Gerry*

BURGESS HILL FLOWER CLUB Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill Wednesday **7th October** from 2 pm to 4 pm.

The talk will be about Plant Heritage, the charity which conserves the diversity of garden plants, supports National Plant Collections and undertakes research to protect plants at risk of disappearing.

Plants will be on sale. Refreshments. Raffle. For more information email **BurgessHillFlowerClub@gmail.com** or call **01444 871886.**

Laura King

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OCTOBER: DON'T PUT THE GARDEN TO BED JUST YET… IT JUST NEEDS US TO SLOW DOWN WITH IT The October garden is still very much alive. There are still late flowers feeding insects, seed ripening, soil warm enough for planting, and plenty of time for gardening before winter. The old idea of an autumn 'putting the garden to bed' can encourage people to cut everything down, clear every border and essentially remove much of what makes the garden useful and interesting through winter. October isn't the end of the gardening year. It's a change of pace.

You can keep flowering plants going for a little longer yet. Don't automatically cut back plants that are still flowering; late nectar is a valuable thing for our pollinators. You can go ahead and deadhead things where that genuinely prolongs flowering.

If you've been wanting to change your borders, now is a great time. You can still plant while the soil is warm. Autumn planting gives perennials, shrubs and trees time to establish roots while evaporation is lower, which can mean far less watering next summer. And given the summer that we have had this year, this is often a much easier route than spring planting.

This is also the time to start planting spring bulbs. Daffodils, crocus and alliums can go in now, although hold your tulips back until November. It might feel a long way off, but a little time spent planting now can give you weeks of colour from the first days of spring.

Leave structure where it's doing something useful. Not everything needs cutting back. Leave stems and seed heads standing unless they're diseased, collapsed or genuinely in the way. They'll give the garden shape and frosted beauty on those bare winter days, provide shelter for insects, and might even bring you birds to watch.

Do selective tidying rather than 'the big autumn clear-up', and when the leaves start coming down in earnest, don't be too quick to throw those away either… *Helen Codd, Local Garden Designer (helencoddstudio.co.uk)*

Deadline for the November issue is 1st October 2026

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The national launch of Poppy Appeal will be on Thursday **22nd October**. Our unmanned Poppy boxes will be in many of the shops and businesses in Keymer and Hassocks from that date onwards. All our Poppy Boxes take cash, but they will also have a QR Code that can be scanned with a smart phone from which you will be able to give a card donation.

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

Margaret Bovill

DDWI contribution below Our August meeting took the form of a trip to Chichester Festival Theatre to see their annual summer musical– this year it was 'My Fair Lady'. It was a lovely day out – many of us had lunch in the city first and then joined the full house at the theatre to enjoy another great CFT production.

Our October speaker will be Elaine Bowdery who will talk to us about the 'Maritime Volunteer Service ' and their work to support maritime organisations and to educate us all about the marine environment.

As always - 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

We thank Sally Waterman for sending in this poem from a Dunkirk survivor who gave his family strong values, work ethic and love of the outdoor outdoors.

Your life was like a garden
Most set on stoney soil.
To get a decent harvest
You really had to toil.
You never shirked the spadework.
Nor moaned about your plot.
You weeded out the needless
so the best is what you got.
With care you planted seedlings,
Never ignored their needs.
Your actual help and good advice
Was the best of garden feeds.
You watered them with kindness
And your humour made them warm.
Your friendship was the strongest prop
When living through the storm.
Your paths were always straight and true.
We all knew the line you trod
With, at the end, a well oiled gate
That Leads, at last, to God.
So let us be your harvest home –
A really solid crowd.
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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH The Stoneywish Stone Circle seemed a good place for watching this year's solar eclipse. Accordingly, we trooped out across the fields a few minutes before the change in light was due.

The day had been a scorcher and the grass out there, bleached and winnowed by the recent drought had taken on a tawny, velvet quality, like a lion's flank. Sheep in the meadow grazed the sparse shoots they could find with stolid concentration, while above them, swallows and martins, gathering for early migration, wheeled, hunting on the wing. There were dragonflies too and a buzz of insects which must have been their prey. In the distance, the sombre green of trees waiting for rain - then the line of the Beacon. A burnished sky, metallic blue, bore down like the roof of a kiln.

Then, as we watched the scene before us, gradually, gradually, the golden light on the stones and grasses began to fade and the heat went out of the sun.

The swallows and martins vanished. Birdsong ceased. Confused by the apparent onset of dusk, flocks of jackdaws and rooks came winging out of the east, hurrying home to roost. The tiny dot on my brother-in-law's cardboard 'pinhole camera' showed the crescent of the eclipse steadily filling out once more, while the greyness drained out of the grass and light and warmth returned.

Immune to it all, the sheep kept their heads down and grazed without pause. We on Earth are uniquely privileged to experience this celestial wonder. Just at this juncture, our sun and moon appear to be the same size in the sky, for though the moon is in reality 400 times smaller than the sun, the sun is 400 times further away than the moon. Such a coincidence is unique to our epoch on Earth, so ours is the only planet, as far as we know, whose sun can die and come back to life again in broad daylight.

Astronomers tell us that the moon is slowly pulling away from Earth's orbit due to the action of the tides, and that therefore, life here, millions of years, hence, will be unable to witness an eclipse as we can. The magnitude of this is hard to take in, but perhaps it is only at this scale that we can appreciate what is actually true for every moment in time: that it is utterly unique - a configuration of elements which will never fall the same way again.

This was a teaching of the Ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus, with his axiom that 'All is flux'. The same teaching is to be found in Buddhist thought, where every breath symbolises a miniature death and re-birth and where the ability to live moment-by-moment brings one to the realisation that 'All is one'.

Our materialist obsession with gaining control over everything stems from the fear of submitting to flux and being swept away down the river. Such a fear is in everybody's mind after the recent catastrophe in Nepal, but according to the 'wisdom' of Heraclitus, we are more than mere flotsam – we are the river too. Without flowing, the river ceases to be a river.

We are told you cannot dip a toe into the same river twice, yet by the same token, *we too* are continually reconfigured, and it is only by responding in a dynamic and spontaneous way to every change that we can be said to be truly alive.

Living moment-by-moment, as the swallows and rooks did during the eclipse, is the mark of 'wildness' and the more we insulate ourselves with stable and second-hand images of reality, rather than facing life in the raw, the more stupid and the less vitally connected to our world we become. We delude ourselves when we believe that we can make everything straight and tidy, and the insistence that we must conquer chaos; beat the clock; live forever; subdue the wind and the waves – conceals a hidden fear of reality it-

self. In the wisdom tradition of the Kalahari Bushmen, reality has a fluidity which comes from closeness to the wild. Among trackless grasses, a path is not so much a line to follow, as a track one leaves behind. The hunter or warrior does not *follow* a path, he *becomes* the path, step by step. Paradoxically, the precariousness of life in the desert, fraught with its dangers and difficulties, once turned every day for the tribesmen and women into what the visiting anthropologist, Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, called a continuous 'beach party'. Every meal became a feast, every sunrise or sunset, each camp-fire, a cause for dancing and celebration.

For the San, as for Heraclitus, the world- or life-principle was, like the sun: 'an ever-living fire,kindling in measures and going out in measures'.

If only we could live like this – easy come, easy go! How much more space might there be for the rest of life on our planet! How much more space there might be in our own lives.

The swallows have set off for Africa with no map, no life-jacket, passport, or travel insurance - no luggage or survival guide. They simply threw themselves into the air. I feel so encumbered, so hampered by expectation. I too want to travel light.

After the media build-up to the solar eclipse, it felt as though the whole thing had already happened ad nauseam. But then, when the moment came, it made its own magic. Time slowed down to the beat of an insect's wing. The shadows of the sarsen stones, crawled an inch across the grass. "Was that all?" said Michael. "Is it finished?" Well, yes. Time is like that. No looking back. But the freshness and the beauty linger on. And now there is a new moment. Can you find it - cut away the jabber of experts and pundits and information boards, get to the core of it? This bird's voice high in the pine tree; this pine tree dreaming in its own dimension; this white cloud piling up behind the branches... all meet together by chance as they travel on their own 'ecliptic', and suddenly, out of nowhere, comes the upwelling of an inner sense of goodness, rightness, wellness, wholeness - what the Tibetans call '*Windhorse*'. Then that moment is gone and the lady at the checkout smiles and it happens all over again... Flying without a map. Try it! *Rosemary*

IS THERE A PIANIST OUT THERE who might be willing to volunteer to accompany either or both of our sing-songs, Mellow'd Ease (every Thursday 11 am to 12.30pm) and VoiceM'Ale (second Friday of every month except October), both in the Greyhound Inn, Keymer.

All very relaxed and informal, and, above all, we hope, great fun!

Perhaps, if anyone would like to help out (which would be tremendous) they could get in touch with me please email **jezdale59@gmail.com.**

Jerry

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FAMILY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS - DANNY PARK, HURSTPIERPOINT Sunday **1st November** Danny Family Bonfire & Fireworks returns for its 29th evening.

It will be celebrated with a spectacular display of fireworks from our firework maestros – Aurora. Please note the times below.

Families are again welcome to share the event to be held in Danny Park, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. The event is organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club with assistance from Oldland Mill Trust and Friends of Hassocks Infant School.

They and Albourne, Birchwood Grove, London Meed, St. Lawrence, St. Wilfrid's and Southway Schools will benefit from your support.

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

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

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

For safety reasons - No private fireworks or sparklers etc.

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

4.30 pm Gates open, 5.10 pm Best Guy Competition, Judging approx 5.30 pm, Fireworks Display approx 5.50 pm Bonfire lit with all the Guys and the Best Guy on top.

Tickets: Best value is a family ticket which will admit two adults and up to three children. Single tickets available too, under threes are free. 20% of ticket income bought online will be donated to the group you choose to support.

Tickets will be available from **dannybonfire.co.uk** where you can choose which organisation to support and also from QD Stationery in Hassocks mid October (Cash Only).

Andrew Hair

PEOPLE WHO NEED PEOPLE ARE THE LUCKIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. ESPECIALLY IF THEY LIVE IN HASSOCKS On Friday, 17th July I sustained a fall on the pavement at the junction of Grand Avenue and Mackie Avenue. This necessitated an Ambulance and a visit to A&E at The Princess Royal Hospital. I would like to thank all those kind people who came to my assistance, particularly, Andy, Roz, and Ann. I understand that several other people stopped to offer to do the same.

I will never know who these people were but my sincere thanks and appreciation go out to them. The Ambulance crew and the A&E Staff were also exemplary in their care. I was fitted with a wrist support which enabled the two hairline wrist fractures to get better. I am one of the luckiest people in Hassocks.

Ann Skinner

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY **1st October** will be our next film, Battleship Potemkin (Pet Shop Boys musical accompaniment.) With a short introduction and post film discussion by film historian Dr Frank Grey

Battleship Potemkin. (15). Dir Sergei Eisenstein, 1925. 72 minutes. Subtitles.

Astounding, breathtaking, extraordinary. To celebrate its 80th birthday in 2005, Sergei Eisenstein's revolutionary cinematic masterpiece was given a Pet Shop Boys synth pop musical work over and presented publicly (and to acclaim) at the Barbican Theatre and in Trafalgar Square in London. In the 2025 remastered version we are screening at Ditchling Village Hall for our October showing, The Pet Shop Boys score is performed by the Dresden Sinfoniker and orchestrated by Torsten Rasch. Eisenstein always said his original silent film should be accompanied by contemporary music. To keep it relevant for new audiences he suggested the musical accompaniment should be revised and updated every decade or so. The Edmund Meisel score was the first update and later, the Kryukov adaptation of Shostakovich's 5th Symphony took up the challenge. Now with the Pet Shop Boys score, twenty years on, the music is uncompromisingly "club", not at all symphonic, but it is contemporary. It certainly is not Russian. But somehow, perhaps because it is "club" with its relentlessly driving beat, it manages to work across the mass crowd scenes, the giant machine cut aways and the individual expressions of suffering and horror that were so brilliantly captured by Eisenstein and that are emblematic of his masterpiece. Welcome to our showing of one of the most acclaimed films in cinematic history. We present our film with a short introduction by film historian Dr Frank Grey followed by question time. Craft beer and fine wine at the bar.

A note for your diary - On November 5th the warm and melancholic Ballad of Wallis Island awaits your delight. A once nearly famous folk duo reunite after years of separation for a one time very special gig.

General Doors open at 7.30 pm, film starts at 8 pm at Ditchling Village Hall (car parking on site).

A year's membership includes free entry, and Guests are welcome too for a small fee and half price for under 25s (Cards accepted). Members get 20% off pre-booked meals and drinks at The Bull Pub on film night!

To keep up to date visit **www.ditchlingfilm.org.uk**. We are on Instagram @ditchlingfilmsoc and X @Ditchlingfilm.

Nick

NSPCC Hurstpierpoint District Chicago Bridge at Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint on Wednesday **21st October.** Doors open 1.30 pm for 2 pm start. Tables include afternoon tea available online **https://giving.givestar.com/event/NSPCC/bridge-at-tea-at-danny-2026**. Please bring your own cloths/table and cards.

Let us know if you would like us to supply a card table by emailing Belinda on **b.toop@yahoo.co.uk**.

Every child is worth fighting for.

Jonet Marshall

HURSTPIERPOINT CHRISTMAS FAIR is happening from 6 pm to 9 pm on Friday **27th November** and from 9.30 am – 1 pm on Saturday **28th November**. Entry is free and there will be a wide range of stalls selling a variety of Christmas gift ideas. Please come along and support local stall holders. Cards, advent calendars, craft kits, pottery, knitted crafts, jewellery and much more will be available. If you would like to have a stall, please contact **hurstchristmasfair@yahoo.com**.

Rebecca

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH POPPY APPEAL & REMEMBRANCE Lest we Forget.

The national launch of Poppy Appeal will be on Thursday **22nd October**. Our unmanned Poppy boxes will be in many of the shops and businesses in Ditchling from that date onwards. All our Poppy Boxes take cash, but they will also have a QR Code that can be scanned with a smart phone from which you will be able to give a card donation.

Ditchling Field of Remembrance: Once again we will create our own Field of Remembrance in the designated space within the Ditchling War Memorial enclosure. This will give everyone an opportunity to personalise a poppy cross with the name of a family member or friend who has at any time served with the Armed Forces. All of us will have a family member who will have served in WW1, WW2 or perhaps in a more recent theatre of war or in peacetime. Remembrance crosses will be available in all our Poppy Boxes but with a larger amount in Ditchling Post Office. We will also have Branch Committee Members with crosses over the two weekends before Remembrance Sunday outside Ditchling Post Office. Once crosses have been personalised, they should be returned to Ditchling Post Office by the weekend of **1st/2nd November** so that they can be co-ordinated and set out in our formal Field of Remembrance at the War Memorial. The Field of Remembrance will remain in place for one month before crosses will be collected then burnt and the ashes scattered on the War Memorial ground. Last year over 150 crosses were laid out and would be very special if we could make it 200 this year.

Remembrance Day Parade. Sunday - 8th November 2026

The Act of Remembrance Service will take place at Ditchling War Memorial, on Sunday **8th November** starting at 10.50 am. The Parade, led by Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band, and Branch Standard, carried by Colin Marshall. We start from St Margaret's School and everyone taking part in the Parade should be outside the school entrance in Lewes Road, ready to step off no later than 10.20 am. St Margaret's School will be open from 10.00 am.

Every year we have a fantastic attendance from the Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, their Section Leaders, plus our RBL Legion Members. However, we would also really like to invite more adults and families to parade with us as well. The more adults that we have on parade, the greater significance and importance the event has for all our young people also marching. In an age when we have less veterans to attend the parade, it falls to us to ensure that we honour and remember those that went before. If you have a relative's medals you are entitled to wear these and should be fixed to the right hand side of clothing. It is genuinely such a privilege on this one day of the year to take time out to attend and remember them during the two minutes silence.

The service at the War Memorial will start at 10.50 am, and everyone is very welcome to attend. Once the ceremonials at the War Memorial have ended the main Service of Remembrance will continue in St Margaret's Church and again everyone is invited to attend.

There will also be a service at Streat War Memorial starting 10.50 am when names will be read out and wreaths laid. Once these ceremonials have ended the Service of Remembrance will continue in Streat Church.

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

Margaret Bovill

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EAT A CREAM TEA FOR CHARITY!

On Sunday 2nd August fifty-three members of Adastra Bowling Club sat down to a Cream Tea in aid of St Peter and St James Hospice. This followed an afternoon of fun games of bowls, a giant Raffle, Table Top Sale and an auction of special bottles of whisky. The magnificent sum of £1030 was raised in memory of a former member of the Club, Pam Willcox. The cheque was formally presented by the President, Bryan Booth and the Chairman, Clive Everest, to a representative of the Hospice at the Bowling Green in Adastra Park. *Diana Webley Ward*





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DAVID HOLMES RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE RUNNING THE DITCHLING POST OFFICE

At a very informal gathering on the path outside the post office, Catharine Robinson (Chair of the Village Association) said a few words to acknowledge how grateful we all are of David's decades of dedication, kindness and helpfulness in all the extra tasks we asked of him. Along with a card, Catharine presented David with a gift of £250 on behalf of the whole village.
Thank you, David – enjoy every moment of your retirement! *Lucie Broadbent Smith*

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Roast Turkey Breast with pigs in blankets & gravy
Roast Top Side of Beef with yorkshire pudding & gravy
Slow Cooked Lamb Hind with minted gravy £4 supplement
Salmon Fillet in a béarnaise sauce
Chestnut Seed Nut Roast with yorkshire pudding & gravy

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding with custard
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Lemon Sorbet
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Please advise us of any dietary requirements.
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Menu choice needed 7 days before the event.



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CHUCKABURGER POP UP

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FRI. 23RD OCT. - 5PM

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RECENT WORK ACROSS MID SUSSEX

Although Parliament was in recess over the summer, it was still a busy couple of months in my constituency office. I thought it would be useful to share an update on some of the issues and projects we have been working on across Mid Sussex.

At a residents' surgery hosted with Sussex Police, concerns about speeding, antisocial driving and dangerous driving were once again raised with me. This is an issue that residents regularly bring to my attention, particularly in areas such as Ockley Lane and London Road.

Since becoming your MP, I have repeatedly raised these concerns with Sussex Police and pressed for action. Following my most recent police surgery, where a constituent highlighted dangerous driving along Ockley Lane, I raised this with officers who carried out targeted patrols on the road. During this, they identified a significant number of speeding motorists. As a result, Ockley Lane has now been added to the police's regular patrol routes.

The police continue to encourage residents to report incidents through Operation Crackdown, and I strongly support people doing so wherever possible. Without these reports, the authorities are often unaware of the true scale and frequency of the problem.

However, I appreciate that it is not always possible to provide the level of detail required for an Operation Crackdown report. That is why I have been collecting information from constituents who have witnessed or experienced this behaviour, helping to build a clearer picture of the issues affecting our communities. By sharing this broader evidence with Sussex Police alongside reports submitted through Operation Crackdown, I hope we can strengthen the case for targeted enforcement and further action where it is needed most.

Another issue that has been a focus for me in recent months is the future of Hassocks Post Office. Since the announcement of the Morrisons closure, I have remained in close contact with Post Office Ltd regarding the restoration of this important local service. It is vital that over-the-counter services continue to be available so that residents can manage their finances, access cash and receive face-to-face support when needed.



At the time of writing, I have been informed that a number of applications have now been received from businesses interested in hosting a counter, and Post Office Ltd is currently assessing them. This is encouraging news. While the current gap in provision is not good for Hassocks residents, I am hopeful that a suitable location will be identified so that the village can once again have its own Post Office counter.

As part of my 2026 summer tour, I also held a series of pop-up surgeries across Mid Sussex, giving residents the opportunity to speak with me about the issues that matter most to them. I did this at Hassocks village market in the spring and this summer.

I "popped up" in Tescos, High Streets and in cafés and even Rushfields Plant Centre. Most importantly, I had the opportunity to meet a wide range of residents and business owners and chat about the issues they care about.

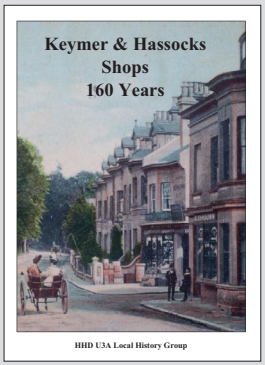
These conversations have been invaluable in helping to inform my work representing Mid Sussex in Parliament, and I look forward to continuing to hear from residents in the months ahead. If there is an issue you would like to raise or you would like a surgery appointment, please contact my office at

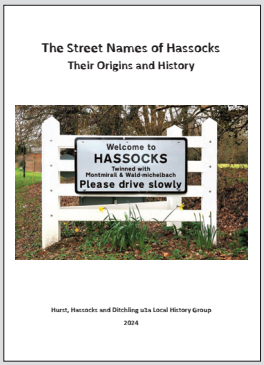
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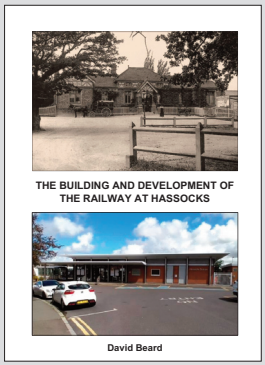
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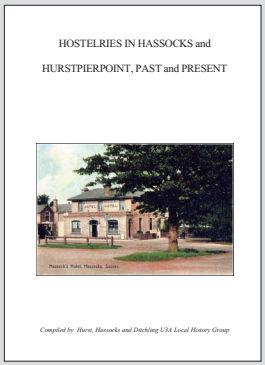
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE U3A LOCAL HISTORY GROUP HAS PUBLISHED FOUR BOOKS IN RECENT YEARS?

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Hostelries in Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint Past and Present.
The Street Names of Hassocks, their Origins and History.
Keymer and Hassocks Shops 160 years.
The Building and Development of the Railway at Hassocks

They are available at QD STATIONERY in Hassocks.
52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR

We thank Margaret Taylor of Hurstpierpoint for this letter:- I just have to let you know how much I have enjoyed reading the four publications the U3A has produced.

Hostelries in Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint, Past and Present, The Building and Development of the Railway at Hassocks, The Street Names of Hassocks, their Origins and History and Keymer and Hassocks Shops 160 Years.

There must have been hours and hours of research undertaken by the group to produce these publications. I thoroughly recommend anyone who has not yet seen these to purchase all four books, sit back and enjoy their contents.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ADASTRA HALL? Once more we've taken the opportunity during August and early September, our quieter periods to complete some less than exciting jobs at Adastra Hall, including a new fuseboard, a new cupboard in the Green Room, and we are trialling a new wall protection material there too to help save the paintwork. We were very pleased to receive confirmation of a National Lottery Community fund grant of just over £10,000 to fund new stage and hall lighting in the main hall which is extremely impressive and is available for hirers to use. Bookings, at nearly 1400 per year remain extremely buoyant and we are pleased to continue to provide Hassocks with a great, flexible community space. You can see more on our website, **www.adastrahall.com.**

Chris Hobbs

BEFRIENDED are delighted to be celebrating our 10th Anniversary this year and to mark this very special milestone, we are holding a series of ten special fundraising events over the next year. Our celebrations begin on Saturday **24th October**, from 3 pm to 5 pm, at St Andrew's Church, Cants Lane, Burgess Hill, with Vicki Lee and Susan Fleet presenting 'Together in Harmony' – an afternoon of music, friendship and fun, featuring a special musical tribute to the much-loved Dame Vera Lynn. This promises to be a wonderful afternoon celebrating music, memories and togetherness, while raising funds to support Befriended's work in the local community. To book your place (donation required), please email **office@befriended.org**. We would love you to join us and help us celebrate ten wonderful years of Befriended! *Sally Allison*

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HASSOCKS FC Coming into autumn and the team have played in many cup competitions getting through the initial rounds of the FA cup and Vase which helped generate the club some much needed revenue. The league games now start to build up and it's important we aim to get somewhere amongst the front runners in the division. We do hope to be within the top third of the league and maybe there's a chance of promotion come the end of the season. Crowds have been very good so thank you all for turning up and supporting. On Sat **3rd October** we're involved in a very special nationwide Ground-Hop day where visitors from all over England visit new grounds for the first time with various fixture times in Sussex spread over the weekend. It'll be even more unique as it's an unusual 11am kick off! We hope to see you at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground where we'll plan to do special breakfast options and have a new coffee van visiting. Ground news is quickly summed up by saying we're updating our Wi-Fi infrastructure to help smooth connection issues with the tannoy music and scoreboard, and we'll look to get new dugouts on site at the end of the season. A potential business project on the bank end is looking into planning permission, and the south field training pitch plans are still predicted as soon as the planning hurries along. It has been incredibly slow for a humble grass pitch for the community to use. Upcoming home fixtures: Saturday **3rd October**: Mens 1st vs Pagham at 11 am. Tuesday **6th October**: Mens 1st vs Eastbourne Utd at 7.45 pm Sunday **18th October:** Ladies v The View at 2 pm and Saturday **31st October**: Mens 1st vs Wick at 3 pm.

Pat Harding

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. Tuesday **20th October** at 7.30 pm. Talk on "The Brunel Family, the Father, Son & Grandson"
This talk is about the story of revolutionary engineering in 19th Century Britan as told through three generations of one famous family. The speaker is Bill McNaught. Location is The Players Theatre Hurstpierpoint. Small fee Non Members. All welcome. For further details please email **hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com**.

Mrs J Simmons

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SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB I think our website is brilliant and the first time I clicked onto it I was pleasantly surprised at the wealth of information it contained. All of my queries about joining a walking group were answered.

However, once I had walked with the group several times, I was hooked and then decided to join.

Members are welcome to provide their favourite walks, and this gives tremendous variety every weekend throughout the year.

Alison's lovely walk around Hurstpierpoint in August took us through several interesting old corn mills and just as we were heading back into town, we found ourselves walking by an intriguing field of green and yellow millet. Highly nutritious and deliciously nutty in flavour millet is very high in iron and minerals – it makes a nice change from rice or pasta. lovely to see it growing as a finale to this lovely walk.

The following week we returned to Hurstpierpoint for a very different walk.

The mission statement for the walk as delivered by Michelle our leader for the day was short and to the point. 'Head out of town along Policeman's Lane to climb the hill' – (the hill being Wolstonbury that was lurking a mile or two to the south of the town).

So, we left the car park in the strengthening heat of another sunny day and walked along the main street of the town passing the spire of the church pointing skyward to the sun.

Reaching the woodland fringing the lower slopes of Wolstonbury a brief pause ensued to rehydrate and refuel before tackling the steeper, then merely steep, two part climb to the 206m (675ft) trig point – part of today's official walk route.

A few of us played hookey, preferring instead the gently undulating stroll through the leafy shadows of the wooded Ashen plantation below the hill which, despite its name, also had beech and oak trees to admire and some interesting little pit depressions and a well engineered wide winding trackway which eventually took us out of the welcome shade onto the open hillside where we could hail the conquering heroes of the rest of the group descending triumphantly from their trig bagging exploits.

Our present programme runs until the end of 2026, and you can read our walks up to that date. See our website – **www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk** for full details.

Diann

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SOMETHING NEW OR IS IT SOMETHING OLD? DITCHLING TALENT SHOW Talent shows have been big on our small screens for years now, but they have a long, rich and varied history. They probably existed in the days of the Music Halls and certainly were a staple of Vaudeville before breaking first into Radio and then onto TV in the 1940s. Many stars past and present found future fame by entering a talent show.

So just for fun, Ditchling Village Association is harking back to the origins and is holding their first Talent Show on stage on Friday **16th October** in Ditchling Village Hall at 7 pm.

There will be an Entry fee for contestants, but it will be free (ticketed) for the Audience, so please come along. You may see a star in the making.

We will have a panel of three local judges with performance experience who will no doubt have constructive comments about the acts. Prize money of £100 for each of the winners in the three categories which will be Juniors (7-11 age group), youth (under 18s) and Adult. There will be five slots in each category on a first come first serve basis, so sign up as soon as you can. Entry forms available online at **www.ditchling.com**. See posters locally for information or contact **DVA@glottalstop.co.uk**.

Acts can be solo, duo or group. All we ask is that at least one member from each act either lives or works in Ditchling (and does not currently earn a living from their performance).

We welcome musicians, comedians, singers, bands, dancers, magicians, jugglers, orators, poets… literally anything you like as long your act will fit on the Village Hall stage and does not involve animals, fire or liquids! There will be technical sound support to make you sound your best.

Any funds raised on the evening will go to the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you then. *Lucie Broadbent Smith*

DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUPILS ARE CELEBRATING RECORD BREAKING RESULTS THIS YEAR WITH THE SCHOOL RECEIVING ITS BEST EVER GCSE RESULTS. The school achieved an Attainment 8 score of 58.16 which means pupils reached an average grade of close to 6 across all their subjects. This is significantly above national and regional averages.

Across the year group, 85% of pupils achieved a grade 4 and 69% a grade 5 in both English and maths, ensuring they can look forward to a smooth transition into their post-16 options.

Several students showed outstanding attainment with 26 students averaging above a grade 8 across all subjects and one student averaging the top grade 9 across all subjects.

Alongside this were a number of students who made exceptional progress during their five years at Downlands, surpassing all expectations.

Headteacher Matthew Ashdown said: "I am exceptionally proud of our students and staff who have once again outdone themselves in achieving such fantastic GCSE results. I would also like to acknowledge the support of our parents, carers and governors that have contributed to this remarkable success.

Our community truly exemplifies our values of resilience, optimism, community, kindness and self-awareness. It is our commitment to living these values every day that ensures our pupils are safe, supported and ultimately successful in their GCSE examinations." *Jo Miles*

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STAR CINEMA The Star Cinema film on Friday **16th October** at the Adastra hall is 'Hamnet', starring Paul Mascal and Jessie Buckley. Doors open at 7 pm for a 7 30 pm start. Tickets available on the door. Tea. coffee, wine, and the usual popular raffle.
The Star team look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Edmunds

STRANGE GOINGS-ON IN DITCHLING

There have been rumours of flying mice and sword-fighting elves in and around Ditchling village lately. These reports have been thoroughly investigated and now found to be true.
Ditchling Players are rehearsing their Autumn production of Ken Ludwig's "Twas The Night Before Christmas" – a family-friendly comedy for children both young and of a more "mature" age.
This fast-moving, funny play has lots of audience participation and sees young Emily and her friend Amos the mouse trying to prevent Santa's "Naughty-and-Nice List" from falling into the hands of the dastardly Sir Guy of Gisbourne, who has locked up all Santa's elves till they give it to him. But will he get his come-uppance? There are "goodies" and "baddies", so come along and prepare to cheer and boo!
Performances are at Ditchling Village Hall on Wednesday **18th November to Friday 20th November** (all at 7.30 pm) and Saturday **21st November** (at 2.30 pm only).
Tickets available now from The White Horse, Ditchling (in person after 11 am on Thursdays and Fridays only. Cash only, please) or online (booking fees apply) from **ticketsource.org.uk/ditchlingplayers** or from **ditchlingplayers.org.uk**.
Santa's starting to compile his Naughty-and-Nice List for this year, so make sure you're on his side by buying your tickets now!

Mark Lambert

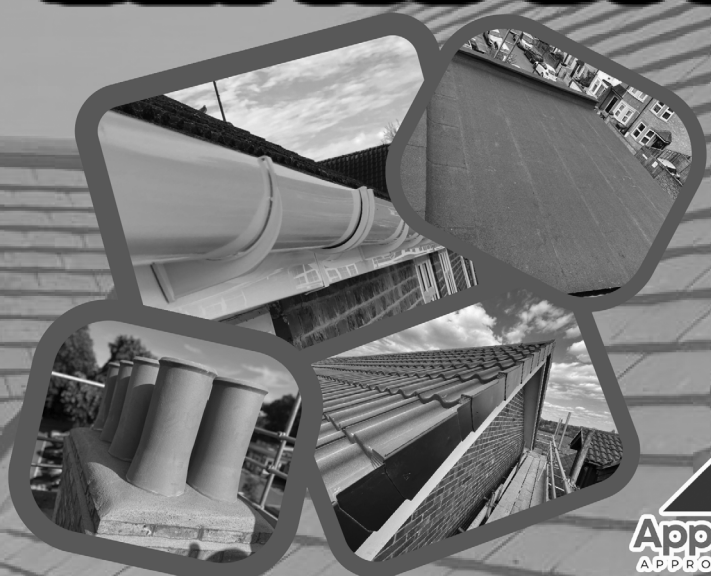
JESSICA BARNES

As I lay in your arms
Sweet Jessica Barnes
I gaze into your eyes
That sparkle and smile
You're pretty of face
With lips suited to kiss chase
And dimples to die for
Such magical style
I'm in love with your looks
So totally hooked
And with a heart of gold
You've got me sold
I like the way you dress
So chic and with finesse
You're my Greta Garbo girl
In a movie studded world
Sweet Jessica Barnes
The queen of charm
I love you so
I just want you to know
I can't disguise
And it's no surprise
I love you ten out of ten
You're my perfect gem
My perfect gem
And ten out of ten

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BEACON DISTRICT TREFOIL GUILD. A good time was had by all at our August meeting. The Sausage Sizzle proved to be very popular, with other Guilds being invited. The puddings, made by our members were delicious!

On Wednesday 16th September we met at The Pantry in Burgess Hill.

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

Visitors are always welcome. *Pam Strong.*

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Guide HQ, Trinity Road Car Park, Hurstpierpoint from 2 pm to 4 pm. Our meetings are an opportunity both to meet up with old and to make new friends, learn and share knowledge in a social setting. There is usually a speaker followed by tea & biscuits, a raffle & social time with a chance to browse the book and jigsaw table. Future presentations include: 1960's Children's TV, The Lewes Workhouse & Local Policing & Safety for the Elderly. January is usually a Tasting afternoon; this one will be Charcuterie. June is the AGM with Fish & Chips and a Quiz. The Garden Party in August held (weather permitting) in our Chairs beautiful garden is always an event to remember. The December meeting is always Christmas themed. This year Trish Symon, a former performer with the Royal Opera, will be leading us in carols from various countries.

Members may join our 3 sub groups - monthly Textile, weekly Walking, and monthly Book. We will, willingly, help members to start new groups that may be of interest.

Annual Membership is available and visitors can pay on the day which is deducted from membership on joining.

The meeting on **7th October** is the Social Prescribing Team from the Doctor's Surgery.

Do, please, come along to a meeting - you will be made most welcome. For more information contact Dianne **01273 835284** or Ann **07806 670359**. *Ann Tranter*

HASSOCKS CROQUET CLUB Croquet is a sport for everyone. New members are welcome to join us. If you would like to learn how to play Croquet or are already an experienced player, why not join The Hassocks Croquet Club. We are a friendly local club who play Croquet most weekdays in the daytime during the season (from April to October) We play at The St. James's Montefiore Cricket Club, Keymer Road, Hassocks (On the right hand side of the Road from Hassocks to Ditchling - Look out for our Green Croquet Sign) - Free Parking is available

All equipment is provided by the Club. New players are able to borrow the Club's mallets (without charge). Basic training will be provided. We operate a series of separate weekly Free Training Sessions on Thursday Mornings @ 10.30 am for anybody who wants to learn to play Croquet (or at an alternative time to be mutually arranged) - so you can learn to play "in the privacy of your own separate space" ! - Please wear flat soled shoes - no heels

For further details please send an e mail to **tony.m.bright@gmail.com**. *Tony Bright*

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DANCE INTO CHRISTMAS AT DISCO BANGERS! Start the festive season with a night of fun and dancing in the heart of Hassocks. On Friday **27th November**, Adastra Hall will come alive for DISCO BANGERS—a pre-Christmas event raising funds for Guy's Hospital Cancer Charity.

The Disco Bangers event is being organised by Hassocks resident Richard Miller and friends, inspired by Richard's family's personal experience of the exceptional care and treatment provided by Guy's Hospital. Money raised will support the charity's work developing new treatments for cancer and improving the lives of patients and their families.

There will be a professional DJ playing disco classics, funk and Northern Soul. So, round up your friends, enjoy a drink from the bar and celebrate the start of the festive season while supporting a great cause.

Doors open at 7.30 pm, with dancing until 11pm. To find tickets online, search for "Disco Bangers Hassocks". *Richard Miller*



THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX welcomes Simon Gray on a return visit when his group presents An Afternoon of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Featuring Colin Morris, Matthew Scott Clark, Karen Orchin and Hilary Andrews, with a varied concert in the first half whilst the second half will consist of one of our now famous "sing-along" events when the audience will become the chorus, this time it will be *Trial By Jury*… and Paul Waite, who played the Usher with the D'Oyly Carte for a couple of years, will be reviving that role for us.

Sunday **4th October**, 2.45 pm at Adastra Hall, Keymer, Hassocks.

Tickets include refreshments.

To book **gandstodaysussex@gmail.com**.

Pennie Ingram

DITCHLING'S ANNUAL 'APPLE DAY' CELEBRATION IS HERE, Sunday **4th October**, 11 am to 4 pm.

Lots of fun, food, cakes, bar, stalls, music, smoothie bike, and of course the famous welly wanging competition.

As ever, bring your own or foraged apples and we will juice them using our scruncher and juices (please remember to bring your containers to take your juice away!) If you can bring a cake or help on the day please email **ditchlingorchard@hkdtransition.org.uk.**

Jane

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THE GROWING NETWORK We are a freely-giving community network that supports local people to grow and share food, with no one left out.
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.
Do call in and join us for a cup of tea, pick up some free produce and maybe even stay for a free hand massage...
Saturday **17th October,** 10.30 am to 12 pm at Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST.
This is the Quaker Meeting House (not to be confused with the Old Meeting House in the Twitten) Feel free to bring any produce from the garden that you have in abundance. Or just bring yourself! Warm wishes. *Catherine, Imke & Julie*

HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY I hope that you were able to make it to the September Field Society meetings and enjoyed the talks. A warm welcome is extended to you to attend the AGM on the **12th October** followed by a presentation.
On the **26th October** there is a talk from James Gardner on The Balcombe Tunnel Murder of 1881. This should prove an interesting evening telling us about Percy Lefroy Mapleton, the British railway murderer of 1881. He is important in the history of forensics and policing as he was the first person to have a police composite picture of him on a wanted poster and a newspaper.
A reminder that the meetings are held in Adastra Hall and commence at 7.45 pm. There is a small entrance charge for members and visitors which includes refreshments served during the break. These meetings are a way of meeting local people plus having an enjoyable evening. As always, all ages are very welcome.
For further information, please contact the secretary Beryl Varley on **01273 832551**. *Cathy*

Articles for the November issue can be emailed to info@villagemagazines.co.uk

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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 (not Bank Holidays). Balance Exercise Class 2 pm (term time only). Tuesdays - Community Choir 2 pm (term time only). Wednesdays - Befriended bITs & PCs 10 am - 12 pm helping you with your tech problems. Thursdays Bereavement Support Day. First Thursday of the month Bereavement Cafe 10 am - 11.30 am. Board Games are first & third Thursday and Craft and Chat are second and fourth Thursday at 2 pm. Compassionate Conversations Course every Thursday except the first. When the flag 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 CROQUET CLUB We play most weekdays in the daytime from April to October. All levels of experience welcome. More info email tony.m.bright@gmail.com

HASSOCKS TABLE TENNIS CLUB - Mondays & Thursdays 2 - 4 pm at Adastra Hall, Hassocks. 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 BABIES & TODDLERS- 9 - 10.15 am every Monday (Term-time), 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 Hassocks Hotel Mondays 8 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 - A friendly ladies club which meet Thursdays at 7 pm at Keymer Church Hall. Info call Denise 01273 967774.

MELLOW-DEE For anybody who simply likes to sing and just wants to come along and join in - all very welcome and free. Every Thursday 11 am to 1.30 pm at The Greyhound Inn , Keymer.

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 MICRO RC We race on road (flat track fast cars) and off road buggies (with jumps) at Ditchling Village Hall, (most) Monday nights 6.30 -9.30 pm. Super friendly group, ages 6-60+. All abilities welcome, hire cars available. 07818 033356 or via Facebook

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 October

Clubs, Societies & Groups please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section. Email **ed@villagemagazines.co.uk** or send to **QD Stationery 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR.** For more information call **01273 846978.**

1st DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - 'Battleship Potemkin' (15) . Tickets on the door - see article.

3rd HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre . The King's New Clothes. Tickets ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera. See article.

3rd HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 11 am. (Mens) The Robins take on Pagham. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

3rd MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East, doors 7.30 pm. Mary Coughlan Tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk

3rd COELIAC GROUP South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road, Hassocks 9 am - 11am. 'Brunch and Chat'. All welcome.**4th** OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 - 5 pm. Open Afternoon.

4th DITCHLING ORCHARD Ditchling Village Green 11 am - 4 pm. Apple Day - see article. All ages welcome.

4th GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. 'An afternoon of Gilbert & Sullivan' Simon Gray. Refreshments available. See article for more info. To book email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

4th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 - 5 pm. Open afternoon.

5th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

5th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. No partner needed just come along. More info www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

6th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING HASSOCKS Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East 7.30 pm. Monthly meet up. The Future Electric Home Talk. All welcome.

6th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 7.45 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Eastbourne. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

6th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'Maritime Volunteer Service' Elaine Bowdery. Visitors welcome.

7th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'Social Prescribing Team' Amelia Drake. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

7th UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

7th MID SUSSEX 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.

7th BURGESS HILL FLOWER CLUB Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 2 pm. Monthly meet see article. Raffle and refreshments available. More information call 01444 871886.

7th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. 'Soil Matters; All About Your Soil - and how to look after it' Steve Millam. All welcome visitors a small fee. www.burgesshill-horticulturalsociety.com.

8th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 6.30 pm. National Theatre Live - 'The Misanthrope'. More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.

8th 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.



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8th 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.
9th BURGESS HILL HISTORY GROUP Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. 'The Bayeux Tapestry - Why it's not all Saxon Violence' Simon Stevens. All welcome. www.burgesshillheritagehistory.org.uk.
9th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 7 pm. 'It Was Just An Accident' (12) More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.
9th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. 'Back to Basics: Factual Propagation for Beginners'. On Zoom too (check for updates www.midsussexars.org.uk). Refreshments available. All welcome.
10th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email mo.delaine@btinternet.com.
10th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.
10th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book sussexsewingclub@gmail.com.
11th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. The King's New Clothes. See article. Tickets ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera.
12th 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.
12th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. AGM followed by presentation. All welcome. See article for more details
13th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. ' Fungi & Mushrooms - Identification and many uses' Iona Fraser. All welcome, email hhs1886@btinternet.com.
13th MID SUSSEX 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 POYNINGS POLICE BEAT SURGERY Rushfields Plant Centre, Poynings 11.30 am - 12.30 pm. Come along to get crime prevention & advice on neighbourhood issues.
14th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Monthly meet drop in all welcome.
15th 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.
15th 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.
15th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning run by Ditchling Horticultural Society. All welcome.
16th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. Ditchling's Got Talent. Please see article on how to register. All welcome on the night.
16th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - Hamnet. Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door all welcome.
17th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk.
17th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10 am - 4 pm. Autumn Craft Fayre. All welcome.
17th 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.
18th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on The View. Bar & Food available. Free entry.
18th 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.
19th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'The Joy of Shuffleboard'. Visitors welcome.
19th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Music by Sean Goddard & Michael Curry. No partner needed just come along. More info www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.
20th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'The Brunel Family, the Father, Son & Grandson' Bill McNaught. See article for more info.
21st HURSTPIERPOINT DISTRICT CHICAGO BRIDGE Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint 1.30 pm. Bridge Afternoon Fundraiser for the NSPCC. For more details on how to book see article.
21st MID SUSSEX 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.
21st TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road 7.45 pm. Monthly meet up. Visitors welcome.
22nd LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Office Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Meet Erika Woodhurst Truman, Chris Hobbs, Sue Hatton & Kristian Berggreen. No appointment necessary.

Village Lost Property

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

22nd HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 7 pm. 'Rebuilding' (PG). More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.
23rd MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag & Natter Evening'. Refreshments available. All welcome.
24th BEFRIENDED St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill 3 to 5 pm. Celebrating our 10th Anniversary 'Together in Harmony' Lee & Susan Fleet. See article on how to book. More info www.befriended.org.
24th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.
24th 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.
24th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Age Concern Veg Patch, Dale Avenue 9 am - 1 pm. Meet the ream. All welcome.
25th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 2.30 pm. 'The Christophers' (15). More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.
26th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.
26th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'The Balcombe Tunnel Murder of 1881' James Gardner. All welcome. See article for more details
27th MSDC PLAY DAYS Kings Centre, Burgess Hill 2 - 4 pm. Free event aimed at the under 10's but all ages welcome. Info www.midsussex.gov.uk/playdays
28th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall. Monthly meet. Visitors welcome. www.southdownswoodturners.com
29th 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, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall 2 pm. 'The Bayeux Tapestry' James Dickinson. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.
31st HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Wick. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

CHURCH SERVICES

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

HASSOCKS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH All welcome to our services.
Sundays 10.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion on 2nd Sunday of the month.
3rd Sunday in the month 6 pm Worship & Praise service
Thursdays 10.30 am (not August) A shorter midweek service.

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

QUAKER MID-WEEK EVENING MEETING FOR WORSHIP IN HASSOCKS, has moved to 7-7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month, to allow more people to come along after work. Everyone welcome to join us, seeking connectedness and communion with the divine. Refreshments and discussion afterwards. Details from ditchlingquakerclerk@gmail.com. Janet Shimmin

ST EDWARD'S RC CHURCH Lodge Lane, Keymer. Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 5 pm and Tuesday Mass at 9.30 am weekly.

ST GEORGES CHURCH Ditchling Common. Sunday Mass at 11 am and Monday, Thursday, Friday Mass at 10 am weekly.

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON Sunday 4th, 11th, 25th October Morning Worship with Holy Communion in Ditchling at 10 am with Little Beacons on the first two Sundays. Sunday 18th October it will be in Streat at 10 am. Our weekly Wednesday@10 Holy Communion continues and SING is 7th October, 5 pm in Ditchling. 4th October Apple Day on the Green in Ditchling. Come and visit our Stall. 23rd October LUMOS perform Coldplay by candlelight in St Margaret's. Tickets www.lumos-experiences.com/events/ditchling/
Everyone is welcome to all our services 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

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Would You Send Your Guide Home at the Summit?

Imagine you've set out to climb a mountain. The ascent is long and demanding, but with a good guide alongside you — someone who's made the climb many times before — you reach the summit. A wonderful achievement.

Now, would you shake hands with your guide at the top and send them home, ready to make the descent entirely on your own?

Most people wouldn't. And yet it's often surprising to learn that in mountaineering, the majority of accidents happen not on the way up, but on the way down. The descent is where tiredness sets in, concentration wavers, and the ground beneath your feet feels less certain.

Planning for retirement is remarkably similar. The years spent building your savings are the ascent — steady, purposeful, working towards the summit. Retirement itself is the descent: the point at which you stop adding to your wealth and begin drawing on it.

And just as on the mountain, the descent carries its own particular risks. One of the most important is something called "sequence of returns risk." In simple terms, a run of poor market years early in retirement — when you're taking an income rather than adding to your pot — can do lasting damage, because you may be forced to sell investments after they've fallen. The same poor years later on would matter far less.

It's not about predicting the markets. It's about having someone alongside you who understands the terrain — helping you structure your income and hold reserves, so you're not forced to sell at the wrong moment.

You wouldn't tackle the descent alone. Your retirement deserves the same care.

If you'd like a guide for the journey ahead, I'd be glad to hear from you.

“The path to the financial future you desire starts with the plans that you make today.”



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

01273 044951 or 07502 360517
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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

How are you getting on with the hosepipe ban? Nola the wife loves her garden so much and was determined that her precious plants, which she looks after passionately, weren't going to become victims of the drought. So, emergency measures were introduced. I was given a bucket with a plastic scoop. I'm not really one for taking baths, they don't fit into my lifestyle. I usually wash using the bathroom sink, which after using I'd scoop the water out into the bucket. During the very hot weather I'd use the shower which was a bit of a phaf because I'd have to run around in it to get wet, but it keeps me fit and once again I'd have the bucket which caught a fair bit of the water. Very cunningly Nola rigged the washing machine exit hose not to go down the drain but into storage containers, which she used on the required plants in her garden. Her garden does look fabulous all done without using a hose. Mind you the lawn looks pretty awful, but who cares? It'll soon go green and probably has by now with the recent rain we've just had.

Running a business these days can be a bit sole destroying but looking after her garden really makes her very happy. She was very excited when her garden was visited by lots of Hummingbird Hawk Moths. I was shown lots of pictures and film of them enjoying her plants. If you've never seen them, they are incredible little insects.

Her pride and joy is her hedgehog who is looked after better than me. Housed, fed, watered and the other day she lifted the lid on its house just to check on it and to her great delight it had, had babies. I thought she was going to do cartwheels round the garden. I'm glad she didn't. We may have ended up going to A&E.

I've got a poster on my window which is advertising Gemma's Dog Walking at £5 an hour which is incredibly cheap. However, Gemma describes herself as special needs. She's written two books about her condition and I'm sure a lot of you will know her anyway. I've spoken at length with her about the service she wants to provide in Hassocks only and I think providing she sticks to one dog at a time, she'll be fine. The decision rests firmly with you, her phone number is on the poster or you can always phone me, and I will give it to you.

I had a very long conversation with the owners of the National Tyres building about what their plans are now that they can't develop the site as per the original plan of shops and flats. Well, they are obviously very disappointed as this was going to be their first big development of this kind so, for the time being they will concentrate on other smaller projects. The building will remain as it is for at least another year.

People keep telling me that the Post Office is going to be at Hassocks Food and Wine, I'm sure they're right, but I'll believe it when the Post Office sign appears outside the shop. In the meantime, Ditchling Post Office is enjoying the extra business. Staying in Ditchling I'm still amazed at the change to Dame Vera's old house. It's now called Citadel House. I wonder if the new owners have got something to do with the series on television called 'Citadel', probably not but it's fun to imagine.

Horse bedding prices are still pretty good Bedmax £8.95, Wood and Slumber shavings £9.99 Aubiose and Aubichick £12.50, Burly Miscantheus £9.95 - try buying them cheaper online. Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392