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Magazine published by **Q.D. STATIONERY & SERVICES LTD**
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Your Editors: Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown & Natalie Dalley

LAST DATE FOR COPY for the December 2026 ISSUE is 1st November 2026

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We thank a reader for this photograph of the Donkeys at Danny House taken by Bert on a sunny Sunday in 1952.

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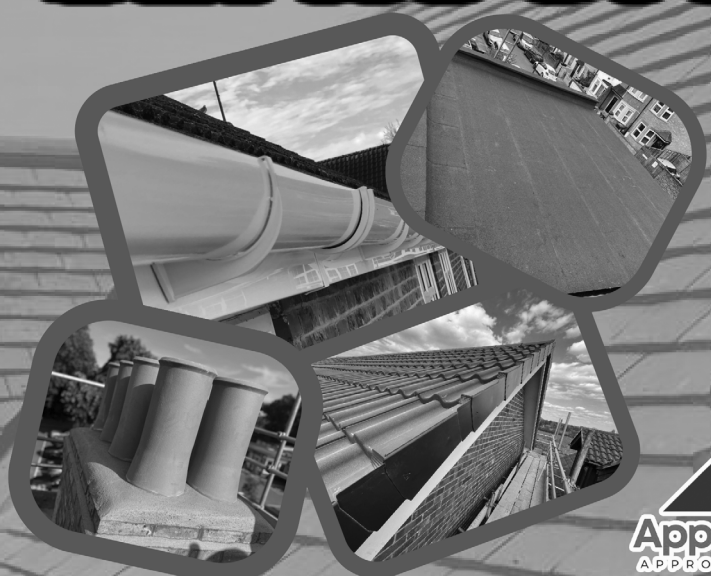
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PLAN YOUR CHRISTMAS WITH 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT Christmas is around the corner, and West Sussex charity 4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is asking for local support for its fundraising activities and events for the festive season. All funds go towards helping 4SVS support those living with sight loss, and their family and carers, across the county.

The highlight in the run-up to Christmas is the annual Christmas Concert with Seaford College Chapel Choir. This lovely event is not to be missed, it will be held on Monday **7th December** at 6.30 pm at St Mary de Haura Church, Shoreham, BN43 5DQ. Tickets are available on the door and payable by cash or card and include festive refreshments.

One of 4Sight Vision Support's clients, Philip, is a regular fundraiser! He's holding a Quiz Night on **12th December** at West Meads Community Centre, The Precinct, Bognor Regis, PO21 5SB. Teams can be up to a maximum of six people, and you can bring your own drinks and snacks.

4SVS have a range of Christmas cards for sale, with six designs including a festive choir, dogs, robins and donkeys: the designs can be found on the website. Cards are sold in packs of 10, with a large print message inside reading "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". Order deadline for postage is **11th December**, cards can also be collected from the Bognor Regis or Shoreham offices and purchased in Cards for Good Causes in North Street, Chichester.

Finally, the Christmas Prize Draw offers a first prize of £250 cash, and a second prize of a £50 Tesco voucher – just in time for Christmas! The draw will take place at midday on **16th December**. To reserve a place for the Concert, or to book a place for the Quiz night, and to purchase cards and Prize Draw tickets, please call **01243 838 001** or email **fundraising@4sight.org.uk** *Cathy Clark*

MID DOWNLAND PARISHES CHRISTMAS FAYRE at Adastra Hall, Hassocks on Saturday **28th November** from 10 am to 2.30 pm. Come and meet Father Christmas. Gifts, art and crafts, homemade lunches, cakes, refreshments and much more. Raffle with a £100 Grand Draw. Stalls available but book in advance.

For more information email **sallybrown004@gmail.com** or phone **07850 300603**.

All proceeds to the Parish Churches. *Sally Brown*

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ST PETER & ST JAMES DISTRIBUTION CENTRE IN HURSTPIERPOINT Many people know St Peter & St James Hospice and its charity shops, but fewer realise that the engine behind those shops is based in Hurstpierpoint.

Located on Albourne Road, the hospice Retail Distribution Centre receives and processes thousands of donated items every week, helping to generate the funds that support specialist hospice care for local people and their families.

The Distribution Centre is currently looking for new volunteers to join its welcoming team. There are opportunities to sort donations, prepare stock for the hospice's seven retail outlets, assist with house clearances, pack online sales, support warehouse operations and even help list clothing for sale on Vinted.

For many volunteers, it's about more than simply giving their time.

One volunteer explained: *"When I retired, I didn't want to just stay at home. I absolutely love it and what keeps me coming back are the people. It's a great team."*

Another said: *"I wanted to do something purposeful. What keeps me coming back is knowing that what we're doing helps the hospice."*

One volunteer described the role as a "treasure hunt", adding: *"You never know what you're going to find. Sometimes one donated item can raise a significant amount of money for the hospice."*

Volunteers come from all walks of life and all age groups. Some are looking to meet new people and become part of their local community, while others want to develop new skills, gain work experience or enhance their CV for their future career.

Just a few hours each week can make a real difference, helping transform unwanted donations into vital funds for hospice care.

Anyone interested in finding out more or arranging a visit to the Distribution Centre can contact Sarah Mead at **smead@stpjhospice.org** or **volunteering@stpjhospice.org** *Sarah Mead*



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

November is shaping up to be a very busy and exciting month at the Centre. As part of Remembrance month, we are organising a visit to the Wings Museum in Balcombe. On Wednesday **11th November,** we will observe the two-minute silence at 11 am, followed by a traditional roast lunch to mark the occasion. On Thursday **12th November,** we are delighted to welcome back the ever-popular Sundown Ukulele Band, who will be performing from 11.30 am. To help with your pre-Christmas shopping, we will be hosting JJ Fashions, Avon and Tropic, giving you the opportunity to browse a range of gifts and treats. For more information, please contact us on the number above or speak to a member of the team in the office.

If you haven't already, be sure to save the date Saturday **19th December!** Get into the festive spirit at our annual Christmas Fair, where you'll find a wonderful selection of homemade cakes, Christmas Cakes, mince pies, jams and chutneys. There will also be a rummage sale, along with a raffle, tombola, and a range of hot and cold drinks available to purchase. All of this will take place alongside the usual Hassocks Village Market, making it the perfect opportunity to pick up some last-minute Christmas treats and gifts.

Come along and support the Centre. We look forward to seeing you. *All at Age Concern.*

PHOTOGRAPHY TALKS As part of our normal programme, Mid Sussex Camera Club has several presentations by expert photographers in the next few weeks. On Wednesday **11th November** we have an extra talk on landscape photography from Melvin Nicholson. The theme is continued on Monday **30th November** when Edward Hyde presents on Making Sense of the Landscape – the Art of Seeing. It will be interesting to hear whether those three experienced men take different approaches in their photography.

All of these talks are free for members, small charge for non-members. We meet at the King's Centre, Burgess Hill, RH15 9LR beginning at 7.30 pm. Details of our varied activities, specialist groups, Programme and membership can be found at **www.midsussexcamera.club** – you can come along to a meeting without commitment, to see if you'd like to join our friendly club – we look forward to welcoming you! *David Waterhouse*

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NEIGHBOURLY CARE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS Neighbourly Care is a charitable organisation founded in 2008 by councillor Anne Jones MBE. It is run entirely by volunteers, and our aim is to make our community a better and more caring place. We do this by providing practical help to housebound or isolated older people, people who are sick or disabled, people who are lonely, parents with young children, or people in sudden crisis. We work within Burgess Hill, Hassocks, Keymer, Hurstpierpoint and district.

Our services include activities such as befriending (either through visiting or by phone), escorted shopping, shopping for the housebound, local transport, light help around the home, minor household repairs and small gardening jobs. All services are free though donations are appreciated. Over the last year we have carried out 1393 home visits and befriending phone calls and seen 112 different clients. We currently have 34 active volunteers.

We are currently keen to recruit more volunteers. The skills that volunteers require are friendliness, kindness, patience, enjoyment of other people's company, willingness to give some time and, ideally, the ability to drive, though this isn't essential. Some volunteers offer an hour a week; others volunteer several times a week. Some volunteers do driving only e.g. taking clients to hospital and doctors' appointments; other volunteers just shop for clients. Some volunteers wish only to do befriending, either through meeting for a cup of tea or via the phone.

We ask anyone interested in becoming a volunteer to contact us by phoning **07876 066 368** or by emailing **neighbourlycare@outlook.com.** A committee member will then make contact to discuss the role. Anyone wishing to become a volunteer with Neighbourly Care will be asked to complete a DBS check, complete some paperwork and undertake a brief induction into how we help the community.

Our website is **www.neighbourlycare.co.uk**.

Chris Newton

HASSOCKS AND CLAYTON VISUALLY IMPAIRED WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB are after new members. Are you or do you know any person who is visually impaired.

We are also seeking drivers - have you got time on your hands to be a driver for us. Or could you be a volunteer and helper for our club contact me on **01444 450947**. *Dorothy Lazenby*

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NEWS FROM HASSOCKS GOES GOLD

I've thought long and hard about this and never say never, but after next year it seems like the right time to stop.

Pearl was diagnosed in November 2016 just 9 years old. In many ways her life ended there, certainly the life you would want for a child. So, 9 years of Hassocks Goes Gold feels appropriate.

She had her 10th birthday in hospital, but it was very different from the celebration we had been planning. The remainder of her life was mostly spent in one hospital or another, with just brief stolen moments of near normality and snatches of joy as she tried to live despite the terrifying odds.

I will forever be grateful for all the family and friends and the wider community I didn't yet know supporting us through the worst of times. Hassocks really is a remarkable place, and I have been very lucky to live here.

Running Hassocks Goes Gold has been an absolute pleasure and an honour. It started small but has grown bigger and in ways I could not have imagined and that's down to the enthusiasm and generosity of everyone on this group and the wider community.

But it's also exhausting and I'd rather stop before anyone starts getting bored of it!

But I'm not stopping yet! September 2027 needs to be the biggest and the best, the most fun and of course the most GOLD year of all time!

And to do that, I will really need your help!

Big or small please get involved even if you've never considered it before. There are plans in the pipeline for everyone to be able to offer a skill or hold a stall, and there are some fantastic gold ideas floating about but we will need help to make them a reality.

Biggest of all I'm appealing to EVERY Hassocks club, organisation, business, band and resident to consider holding a fundraiser of some kind for Hassocks Goes Gold..... no idea is too gold or too fantastical, especially if it can involve our 2027 Gold Theme of Horses & Unicorns, which Pearl would absolutely have approved of.

Bring on 2027 the ULTIMATE YEAR OF GOLD, let's do this!

Rachel x

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DITCHLING DOWNS WI Jackie Lucas, our speaker on 'Lasting Power of Attorney' was unable to come to our September meeting and Ann Whinney – who runs the Hurst Hedgehog Sanctury - stepped in at the last moment. Ann and her team give hours of their time and expertise to rescue and nurse endangered hedgehogs in the local area. We all learned much from Ann on how to support hedgehogs in our gardens. Hopefully everything we've learned will help us to increase the population of these lovely creatures in our area.

Our November speaker – Andy Thomas - will start to put us in the mood for Christmas by talking about 'A Festive History'

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

SUSSEX CHORUS HAVE TWO EVENTS

Sunday **1st November** Faure's Requiem at Arundel Cathedral, BN18 9AY, 5.30 pm.

If you know this music there is a 'Come and Sing' session from 2 to 5pm at this rehearsal.

Details are on the website regarding registration and there is a charge if the music needs to be hired.

On Saturday **7th November** Faure's Requiem and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG at 7.30 pm. Details on website **www.sussexchorus.org**.

Angela Holroyd



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LIGHT UP HASSOCKS: COME AND BE PART OF THE MAGIC Every December, something special happens in Hassocks. The lights go up, the band strikes up, and the whole village pours out into the streets to celebrate the start of Christmas together. Light Up Hassocks is our community's very own festive celebration, and it really is great fun.

There's something for everyone. The funfair brings squeals of delight from young and old alike, while the marching band leads the way with a procession that fills the village with music and cheer. Live music sets the mood throughout the event, and, of course, Father Christmas himself makes an appearance, much to the excitement of the children.

Wander round the stalls and you'll find plenty to tempt you: delicious food and warming drinks to keep the chill at bay, handmade crafts perfect for gift ideas, and games for children to enjoy. It's a wonderful chance to catch up with neighbours, meet new faces and soak up the festive atmosphere. Behind all this sparkle, however, is a very small team of dedicated volunteers. And that's where you come in.

This year it will be on **4th December**. We need your help on the day - Making Light Up Hassocks happen takes many hands, and we're looking for volunteers to help us run the event on the day, between 2 pm and 8.30 pm. Whether you can spare a few hours or the whole afternoon and evening, every bit of help makes a real difference. It's a fun, friendly way to be at the heart of the celebration, and you'll have the best seat in the house.

Could you be our new Lead Event Coordinator? We also have some important news. After almost five years at the helm, our current event coordinator will be stepping down after this year's event. It has been a joy and a privilege, but the time has come to pass the baton, and we're looking for someone to take it up.

This is a wonderful opportunity to lead something that truly brings the community together. You won't be left to figure it all out alone, either. The current coordinator will work alongside you for the next year or two, making sure you fully understand how everything comes together and feel confident in the role.

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Ideally, we're looking for someone who can commit for several years rather than just one or two, so that you can really make the event your own and help it grow. If you enjoy organising, love a challenge and want to make a lasting difference to village life, this could be the perfect role for you.

Get in touch - Light Up Hassocks only shines because of the people who care about it. If you'd like to volunteer on the day or want to hear more about becoming our next Lead Event Coordinator, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with the team and help us keep the lights shining for years to come. **Lightuphassocks@gmail.com.**

Erika Woodhurst-Trueman

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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WE ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE OUTCOME OF OUR RECENT OFSTED INSPECTION The report recognises the many strengths of our school, Downlands Community School, while also affirming our commitment to continual improvement, in adapting to meet the needs of our pupils. Most importantly, it reflects the exceptional efforts of our staff, pupils, governors and families in creating a school community where people are safe, supported and successful.

Inspectors recognised that pupils "achieve well" and that their examination performance is "well above the national average".

We were particularly pleased that inspectors recognised the inclusive culture that sits at the heart of Downlands, stating:

"Leaders at all levels promote high expectations, inclusion and equal opportunities."

The report highlights the quality of teaching and the commitment of staff, noting that:

"Leaders' clear oversight and expectations help to ensure consistently high-quality teaching across the school."

Inspectors also recognised the positive safe and supportive culture we have built together, describing Downlands as:

"a calm place that many pupils describe as a community."

They saw our values in action and recognised that:

"The school's values promote resilience, optimism, community, kindness and self-awareness."

One of the most pleasing messages within the report is the recognition of the care and support that pupils receive. Inspectors found that pupils feel safe, supported and valued, benefit from strong pastoral care, and enjoy a wide range of opportunities that prepare them exceptionally well for life beyond school.

We are incredibly proud of what this report says about our school. It reflects the dedication of our staff, the support and challenge provided by governors, the trust and partnership of our families, and, above all, the character, ambition and kindness of our pupils. *Jo Miles*

HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Hard to believe that we are already into the month of November! Hassocks Field Society have two interesting talks this month

On Monday **9th November**, Mathew Homewood will be talking about A Sporting History of Sussex from the amazing to the bizarre. This talk will take a lighthearted look at the history of sporting events in Sussex throughout the centuries,Cricket, football and horse racing being common events as well as the Sussex game of stoolball. Local villages hosted lesser known sporting events such as jingling matches, menagerie races and piano bashing. Sounds interesting and different!

On Monday **23rd November** Helen Poole is giving a talk on Charles the second and his escape through Sussex. After the battle of Worcester on September 3rd 1651, Charles the second had to flee Cromwellian forces eventually making his way to Bramber. He gave his own version of events to Samuel Pepys in 1660. Come and hear his intriguing story.

Meetings are held in Adastra Hall and begin at 7.45 pm. A reminder that there is a small entrance charge that includes refreshments served during the break. As always, a warm welcome is extended to all ages and it is a way of meeting friendly local people and having a pleasant evening,

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

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HASSOCKS FC After a hectic couple of months with multiple midweek cup and league matches, the games start to settle, and we'll get ready to build as high as possible in the league to have a chance of promotion come the end of the season. We've had a few injuries and suspensions, but the team are getting back to their strongest. Captain Harvey Blake recently surpassed 250 appearances, and Joe Bull is closing in on 300. We have a lot of players who have represented the club for years, and players like Dan Turner and Charlie Bonwick-Adams, even myself, came through our youth team so it shows there's a real pathway for local kids looking to break into Hassocks senior football. Ground news covers 3 different areas; there's a new company providing storage solutions with the container spaces, the bank end business idea is awaiting South Down National Park permission, and the back field training pitch is very close to actually becoming a useful facility. Once the green light is given, you'll start to see the area form with drainage work beginning. There will still be additional parking there, but you should see a structure of a playing pitch within the next few months. At the time of writing, we only have one home 1st team fixture at the end of the month vs Roffey, where an old Hassocks FC team are visiting for a reunion get together. Upcoming home fixtures: Sunday **8th November** Ladies vs Eastbourne Town 2 pm. Sunday **15th November** Ladies vs Crowborough 2 pm. Sunday **22nd November** U18's vs ASC Brighton 11 am. Saturday **28th November** 1st vs Roffey 3 pm. Sunday **29th November** U18's vs Varndeanians 11 am. And finally, Sunday **29th November** Ladies vs Horsham 2 pm. *Pat Harding*

BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY ASSOCIATION Will be meeting on Friday **13th November** - doors open 7 pm at The Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill for our AGM which will be followed by an illustrated talk, at 8 pm, on the History of Burgess Hill. It will be delivered by our group Members Gilly Davis & myself. All welcome, small fee. Further information visit **burgesshillheritagehistory.org.uk**.

Peter Freer-Ash

Deadline for the December issue is 1st November

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ALMOST 100 WALKERS RAISE £18,000 FOR DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY DURING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR. Nearly 100 people came together in Haywards Heath on Saturday 5 September for Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity's annual sponsored walk, Walk Together, raising almost £18,000 for children under 5 with cerebral palsy and other motor learning impairments.

Starting and finishing in Victoria Park, walkers enjoyed glorious sunshine as they took on one of three options: a fully accessible 5k route, a 15k mixed-terrain trek or a shorter sensory Bear Hunt around the park for younger children and families.

The event was particularly special this year as the charity celebrates its 25th anniversary. For a quarter of a century, Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity has helped young children develop vital physical, communication and social skills, while providing invaluable support to their families.

Participants included families and friends of children who attend the charity, alongside teams from local businesses and organisations including Haywards Heath Spinal Health Clinic and Kingsley Napley.

The charity would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Irwin Mitchell, whose generous sponsorship helped make the event possible. Members of the Irwin Mitchell team also joined the charity in Victoria Park and took part in the walk.

Walkers returned to a delicious free barbecue generously provided by Rapid Relief UK, creating a wonderful opportunity for everyone to relax, celebrate their achievements and welcome participants back across the finish line.

Thanks also go to Folkingtons Authentic Juices and Mixers for generously providing a selection of delicious juices and pressés, helping to keep everyone refreshed and fuelled throughout the day.

The routes were supported by a dedicated team of volunteer marshals, who helped guide walkers safely and offered plenty of encouragement along the way. The charity would also like to thank everyone who volunteered before, during and after the event, from setting up Victoria Park and welcoming walkers to marshalling the routes and helping with the Bear Hunt.

Every pound raised through Walk Together will help Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity continue providing specialist, life-changing support to children under five, helping them work towards milestones such as sitting independently, communicating with their families and taking their first steps.

Anyone wishing to support the charity and help the total grow can make a donation by getting in touch at **01444 473274** or **fundraising@dvlcc.org.uk** or by visiting their website **www.dvlcc.org.uk/donate/.** *Anya Irvine*

CHRISTMAS FAIR IN ADASTRA HALL Saturday **21st November** 10 am to 12 noon. Clayton with Keymer Parish are holding a Christmas Fair. Stalls, raffle, cakes, bottle tombola, Craft stalls, good as new, children's activities teas and coffees. *Juliet Strange*

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THE LAZY GARDENER Plant a hedge, not a fence November marks the start of bare-root season, when hedging plants are lifted and sold without pots or compost while they are dormant. They may not look terribly exciting (often little more than a bundle of sticks), but they are usually cheaper than pot-grown plants and, while the soil is still workable and not yet too cold, this is an excellent time to plant them.

If a fence is reaching the end of its life, consider replacing some or all of it with a hedge. It won't provide instant screening, it will take a few years for it to fully establish and fill out, but the eventual reward is a living boundary that can provide privacy without the hard visual barrier of a fence.

Choose your plants well and it needn't become a row of bare twigs every winter either. Beech and hornbeam can retain their brown leaves through winter when clipped as hedges, while evergreens provide year-round screening. A mixed native hedge can offer spring blossom, autumn colour and berries, while holly gives evergreen structure, prickly security and foliage for Christmas decorations.

For wildlife, a hedge can be considerably more useful than a fence. Flowers provide food for pollinators, berries feed birds, and dense growth offers shelter and nesting opportunities. Planting several species increases the range of food and habitat available throughout the year.

And despite appearances, a wildlife-friendly hedge does not require constant attention. Once established, sensible pruning at the right time of year, avoiding nesting birds, may be all it needs, and leaving the base a little less manicured provides even more habitat.

Finally, don't forget the bottom benefits, leaving small gaps between gardens or beneath adjoining fences so hedgehogs and other wildlife can move through.

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One afternoon planting sticks now could give you decades of privacy, flowers, berries and wildlife… with surprisingly little work. *Helen Codd (helencoddstudio.co.uk)*

FROM FIRE TO FOUNDRY: NEW SPORTS CLUB OPENS IN BURGESS HILL Foundry Padel Club opened to the public on Sunday **11th October**, bringing four indoor padel courts, Reformer Pilates, indoor golf and a licensed café/bar to Consort Way, Victoria Business Park in Burgess Hill.

The new club occupies the site of the warehouse destroyed by fire in 2023, before being rebuilt and repurposed for sport and leisure.

Foundry will be the first fully indoor, year-round padel centre in Burgess Hill. The club will operate on a pay-and-play basis with no membership required.

Padel is a racket sport played in doubles on an enclosed court, combining elements of tennis and squash. Foundry's four indoor courts will allow play throughout the year, regardless of the weather. The club also includes a five-bed Reformer Pilates studio, an interactive indoor golf simulator and a licensed café/bar, reflecting the ambition to create somewhere that serves people beyond padel alone. The history of the site helped shape both the Foundry name and its 'Forged by Community' philosophy.

Sally Vans Agnew, whose family is behind Foundry Padel Club, said: "After everything that has happened on this site over the past few years, it is incredibly exciting to see the building coming back to life in such a different way. We had the opportunity to create something genuinely new for Burgess Hill, not simply a place to play padel, but somewhere people can exercise, make new friends, have a coffee and spend time together.

"We would like Foundry Padel Club to become a place that people in Burgess Hill feel is theirs. 'Forged by Community' captures that idea: a club shaped by the people who use it and the wider community around it."

Foundry Padel Club will be open seven days a week, from 7 am until 11 pm. More info visit **foundrypadel.co.uk.** *Allan Curtis*

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MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL "AMERICAN AQUARIUM"

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CHRISTMAS MENU 2026

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MAINS

all served with seasonal fresh vegetables & roast potatoes

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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to follow **Coffee & Mince Pies**

£35 Per Person
(2 course main & dessert £30)

Available 1st Nov - 22nd Dec. All dinners must be ordered in advance.
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A £10 non-refundable deposit per person is required with booking.
Menu choice needed 7 days before the event.

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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 (Cash Only). *Andrew Hair*





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REMEMBRANCE 2026 – LEST WE FORGET. POPPY APPEAL

Firstly, thank you to everyone who is supporting Poppy Appeal 2026. The Royal British Legion offers the Armed Forces community support for life. Whatever the need, whenever it is needed and the Poppy Appeal helps RBL to support those in need.
Field Of Remembrance 2026 at Ditchling War Memorial. Further information about this can be found in Ditchling Post Office.
Parade will gather at St Margaret's School and everyone taking part should be outside the school ready to step off no later than 10.20 am. Everyone is most welcome to come and join the parade.
Remembrance Sunday 8th November. The Act of Remembrance will take place at Ditchling War Memorial beginning at 10.50 am. Once the ceremonies at the War Memorial have ended, we will move into St Margaret's Church for the Remembrance service.
Remembrance Sunday at Streat Church - please gather at the War Memorial by 10.50 am
Armstice Day – Wednesday 11th November - there will be a brief service of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial starting at 11 am
If I can be of further help, please contact me 01273 845319. Margaret Bovill

KEYMER AND HASSOCKS POPPY APPEAL POPPY APPEAL
(organised by RBL Ditchling & District Branch)

Remembrance Sunday 8th November Organised by Hassocks Parish Council.
The Parade will gather at the Hassocks Parish Council car park (opposite the Adastra Park Memorial Gardens) for 1.30 pm to march to St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer. Everyone is most welcome to come and join the Parade, which will be led by Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band.

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DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MARKET



on Saturday **28th November** 11 am to 2 pm.
Festive food and drink, Christmas stalls and games, arts and crafts market, X Factor final and Downlands choir and orchestra. Everyone is welcome. Would you like a stall at our Christmas market? E-mail **dsa@downlands.org**.

Jo Miles

CHARITY 10000 STEPS fundraiser on Sunday **22nd November** meet at Hamlyn Smith, Hassocks at 10 am. Scan QR code. to join
www.suicideandco.org
Suicide & Co a charity for people bereaved by suicide

SCAN TO PARTICIPATE

WE ARE ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED THAT BEFRIENDED HAS WON THE BBC MAKE A DIFFERENCE COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD 2026.

This award belongs to our whole Befriended family – our incredible volunteers, staff, trustees, church and community partners, supporters and funders, and, most importantly, the wonderful older people who trust us to be part of their lives.

Befriended began with a simple belief: no one should have to face loneliness, loss or isolation alone. Since then, thousands of friendships have been made. People who had stopped going out have found somewhere to belong, those who are grieving have found others who understand, and many have rediscovered hope, friendship and a renewed sense of purpose.

None of this happens without our extraordinary volunteers. They make the tea, bake the cakes, welcome new faces, sing, listen, laugh and, week after week, simply show up with kindness and compassion.

This award shines a light on something we have always believed: together we can help end loneliness and isolation.

As we look ahead to our 10th anniversary in 2027, we are incredibly proud, deeply grateful, and excited for the next chapter. Thank you to everyone who has been part of the Befriended story – this award truly belongs to you all.

Sally Allison

HOUSING GROWTH MUST BE FAIR FEW ISSUES MATTER MORE TO US THAN THE FUTURE OF THE PLACES THEY CALL HOME. Decisions about housing affect our countryside, our infrastructure, our schools and our sense of community for generations. It is therefore no surprise that the Government's intervention in the Mid Sussex District Plan, and the subsequent consultation on the Main Modifications, which has generated such strong feeling across our villages.

At the heart of this debate is a simple question of fairness. It is not right that towns and villages across Mid Sussex are being forced to compete with one another over where thousands of additional homes should be built. Yet that is the situation we are now facing.

Mid Sussex District Council spent years preparing its District Plan. Sites were carefully assessed, residents were consulted, infrastructure requirements were considered, and a balanced approach to growth was developed. The resulting plan reflected extensive local engagement and evidence and secured support from councillors in all political parties.

However, late in the examination process, the Planning Inspectorate informed the Council that it would need to accommodate significantly more housing than originally planned. This left the Council with an impossible choice: identify additional sites at short notice, including revisiting locations that had not been selected through the original assessment process, or risk having the District Plan rejected altogether. Without a plan in place, developers would have far greater freedom to pursue development wherever they fancied, in locations beyond local control.

As a result, the Council has been forced to find space for these additional homes. The impact is particularly significant in the south of the district, where more than half of the extra housing proposed through the Main Modifications is concentrated. It is entirely understandable that many residents feel their communities are being asked to shoulder a disproportionate burden.

I truly believe that the answer is not to pit one village against another. Rather than debating which site is least harmful, we should be asking whether the scale of additional housing being imposed is genuinely sustainable. Mid Sussex has a strong record of delivering new homes, but growth must be matched by proper infrastructure, sound evidence and meaningful local involvement. Communities should not be expected to accept major additional development without the careful planning that underpinned the District Plan from the outset. *Alison Bennett MP.*

QUIZ NIGHT with fish and chips supper at Hurstpierpoint Bowls Club, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint in aid of the NSPCC on Saturday **21st November** 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Teams of four to six people, tickets are available from Charlotte Grace Casuals in Hurstpierpoint telephone (cash only) **07507 277689**. There will be a raffle and licenced bar. *Jonet Mar-*

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KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB The Keymer Folk Dance Club is now settled into its 77th season of dances. In November there will be three club meetings. On the **2nd November** there will be a normal meeting with recorded music, and on the **16th November** we welcome Sally Course's Band back to play for the dancing. While on **30th November**, we have Lorna Shepherd to call for us. Lorna is a well-known folk dance caller from Littlehampton.

All meetings start at 7.30 pm at the URC Church Hall, Keymer Road, BN6 8AB, and further details can be found at **www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk** or email **keymerfdc@gmail.com.** *Sean Goddard*

A MATCH FOR ST GEORGE! On a sunny Tuesday afternoon in September six members of Adastra Bowling Club gallantly responded to the gauntlet thrown down by the bowlers at St George's Ditchling.

We arrived promptly in our motorised chargers, and the drawbridge gate was raised by Keeper Mike Harries, a resident and also a member of Adastra Club. A Double Agent, no less!

Mike took us on a tour of the site with its amazing facilities and comprehensive entertainment schedule. Unwittingly we were part of this entertainment that afternoon!

The Bowling Green at St Georges is an all weather pitch, so that residents can play throughout the winter. It comprises three rinks, so 24 people could play at any one time. It is well used with regular sessions organised twice a week.

St. George's team had practised on this surface,



Adastra had not! We came from recovering grass, with bare patches and lots of bumps to this smooth carpet. The bowls rolled so fast and turned so quickly. Some of us began to get the hang of game by the last few ends. We did however provide a lot of entertainment for the 30+ residents who came out to watch and support their teams!

Afterwards we were invited into the Café for refreshments. What an experience to play in such glorious surroundings with extensive views of the South Downs. We will be back for a rematch at the end of the winter season, when we have practised indoors. Beware St. George's! *Diana Webley Ward*

BURGESS HILL FLOWER CLUB On **6th December** will be Xmas Wreath-Making or Seasonal Table Decoration Workshop.

10.30 am to 12.30 pm at Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill. No experience necessary – guidance will be given. More info email **BurgessHillFlowerClub@gmail.com** or telephone **01444 871886** *Laura King*

David would like to apologise.

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WESTMESTON PARISH HALL in partnership with Ditchling History Project invites you to another fascinating à talk on Friday **13th November** from 2 pm to 4.30 pm, entitled "Sheep Bells to Spitfires - our downland parishes in two world wars".

At the time of the First World War sheep bells were a common sound on the Downs, but just twenty years after that war ended there came the roar of the Spitfire. In both wars young men employed on local farms, village shops and the potteries on the Common left their homes to go to war; sons of wealthier families became serving officers soon after leaving school. On the home front local communities set up Red Cross hospitals and Civil Defence Units, land girls and prisoners of war helped out on the farms. Personal recollections and diaries, newspaper accounts and official records show the sacrifice and contributions made by our downland communities with stories of individual courage, family sadness and collective endeavour.

Advance booking is required, as places are limited. Please email me - **rspryde@icloud.com** - and I'll send you the Eventbrite booking link to secure a place.

Tickets can then be bought on arrival, in cash or by card and include tea/coffee and cake. Proceeds will be shared between the parish hall and DHP.

Please car share wherever possible, as parking will be limited.

For any queries, please contact, me by email **rspryde@icloud.com** or **07771 715048.**

We look forward to seeing you then. *Rod Pryde*

BEACON DISTRICT TREFOIL GUILD For our September meeting we met at The Pantry in Burgess Hill. Clare, the manager gave a very informative talk on how it all works! It is similar to a Food Bank but the next stage on or some members use both. The stock they carry is huge. Many volunteers collect food from shops in and around the area. Donations of toiletries, washing powder and everything you will find in a supermarket are displayed. Large freezers stock all the frozen foods and there was plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables.

The Pantry send people to the Drop - in — point where they can access other help.

The Pantry in Burgess Hill is the only one in Sussex but there are others all over the country.

We thanked Clare for her amazing work.

We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. 8 pm to 9.30 pm. Visitors will be made welcome. *Mary and Pam*

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SPARROW HOUSE I've just moved house, and there are some significant upgrades for me to marvel at. Dishwasher. Stairs. Letterbox. Some novelties may wear off, but I can't imagine I'll ever get over the little gang in the garden – this house comes with sparrows.

They wait in nearby bushes en masse, heads cocked, peering into the windows of my living room and my soul, until I give in and top up the mealworms. They descend in a flurry, teasing treats from above and cleaning up on the ground. They perch on the wobbly bird bath, perennially tilted by a clumsy Woodpigeon, to take dainty sips, at odds with their otherwise boisterous behaviour.

In sparrow fashion they lord it over this tiny territory of brick and Buddleia, a group of males, females and juveniles, the size of the males' black bib denoting their status in the apparent rabble. Despite best efforts, my eyes are dragged from my screen, hands stationary on the keyboard, transfixed.

This may be recognised by those who have a similar squad to window watch. House Sparrows have historically been associated with humans and our homes, the last part of their Latin name, *'domesticus'*, translating to 'belonging to the house'.

Sparrows have learned that we grow, and drop, delicious snacks. Their varied diet of seeds, berries and insects is supplemented by offers in the crumb department. One once landed on my mate's pub garden plate and crammed in a stodgy beak full of cauliflower cheese.

Sparrows appear ubiquitous, found in rural and urban areas, farmland, gardens, parks, hedgerows, train stations – you name it. But despite their apparent abundance, they've suffered a whopping 70% decline since the 1970s and have been on the UK Conservation Red List since 2002. The usual suspects of overdevelopment, agricultural intensification, climate change, habitat and food loss, historical persecution, and predation by pet cats all feature in their population plummet.

You can help your own charismatic crew. Grow native plants for a buffet of seeds and insects or provide hanging feeders of mealworms or fat balls from May to October, including seeds and nuts from November to April (cleaning feeders regularly, and no flat feeders, to prevent the spread of disease). Water is a lifeline for wildlife all year round. And if you are lucky enough, as I now find myself, to have even a little outdoor space – keep it wild. Your neighbours will thank you.

Kerry Williams

AUDITION CALL Ditchling Players will be holding a read-through for their Spring 2027 production on Tuesday **24th November** in Ditchling Village Hall, starting at 8pm. If you are interested, please see their website **www.DitchlingPlayers.org.uk** where more information will be available in due course.

Mark Lambert

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BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY On Wednesday **4th November** an illustrated talk in the Cyprus Hall by Sarah Oldridge 'From Palace to Pagoda - The Diverse Buildings of Kew Gardens'. At 7.45 pm, (doors open 7.15 pm.) Admission: BHHS members free. Visitors are charged a modest admission fee, refunded if they join the Society on the night.
www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com. *Flo*

TO THE NORTH POLE AND BACK Rehearsals are now well under way for this month's production of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by the Ditchling Players. Written by Tony, Olivier and Drama Desk Award winning playwright Ken Ludwig, this is a fast-moving family-friendly comedy for adults and children alike.
Young Ditchling residents Emily and her mouse friend Amos try to prevent Santa's "Naughty-and-Nice List" from falling into the hands of the dastardly Sir Guy of Gisbourne. Sir Guy has locked up Santa's elves at the North Pole till they give it to him. But will he succeed? There are "goodies" (hooray!) and "baddies" (boo!), so come along and join in the fun.
Performances are at Ditchling Village Hall on Wednesday **18th November to** Friday **20th November** (all at 7.30 pm) and Saturday **21st November** (2.30 pm only).
Tickets from **www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk** and **ticketsource.org.uk/ditchlingplayers**. Also, in person (cash only) from The White Horse, Ditchling (after 11 am) on Thursdays and Fridays. Be quick! Seats are selling like hot mince pies!
Mark Lambert

HASSOCKS WI - Our monthly meetings are at Adastra Hall 3rd Monday in the month. Doors open at 7.30 pm evening starts 7.45 pm.
By the time you read this our Autumn Craft Fayre with big charity raffle for 'Breast Cancer Now' will have taken place. Many thanks to Hassocks Hardware, The Bluebell Railway, A. Twine Butchers, South Down Nurseries Tates, Nicky for their donations.
Special thanks to Shirley, Nicky, Christine, Leonie and Barbara for all their help and others on the day.
Our November meeting is Christmas Crafts, wreath making, decorating cards and chat. As usual Hassocks WI will display the Remembrance Poppy Cross in the Memorial Garden. And on Wednesday **25th November** 2 to 4 pm we welcome Katy Bourne PCC as speaker for the nationwide WI campaign 'No More Violence to Women and Girls'
So, as the evenings draw in don't stay in alone, come along as a visitor (donation) for a warm welcome and a sociable time. *Gerry*

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THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX presents for Christmas, A Concert of Gilbert & Sullivan favourites (plus others).
Featuring two firm favourites, international soloists James Cleverton and Stephen Anthony Brown, who is one of our Vice Presidents.
Sunday **29th November**, 2.45 pm. Adastra Hall, Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8QH.
Tickets include refreshments.
Please book via **gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.**
Pennie Ingram

MILES FOR KANGAROOS: WALK IT, WHEEL IT - YOUR WAY. This November, Kangaroos is inviting people across the local community to get moving and make every mile count with Miles for Kangaroos; an inclusive fundraising challenge for everyone, where you can take part in your own way.
There's no set distance, no required pace and no one-size-fits-all challenge. Whether you walk, wheel, stroll with the family, head out with friends, take the dog for an extra-long walk or set yourself a personal mileage goal, every mile counts.
Participants can take part individually, as a family, with friends or as a workplace team. It's a great opportunity to get active, spend time together and raise vital funds for Kangaroos, a Sussex charity supporting children, young people and adults with learning disabilities and complex needs.
The challenge is designed to be accessible to as many people as possible, with participants encouraged to choose a goal that works for them. You can challenge yourself, encourage others or simply get involved at your own pace.
And there's a chance to come together at the end of the month, with Kangaroos joining the Haywards Heath Lantern Parade on **28th November** for a special festive finale.
So, whether you're aiming for a few miles or a much bigger personal challenge, grab your trainers, wheelchair or walking shoes and get involved.
Find out more and sign up at **www.justgiving.com/campaign/milesforkangaroos**
Georgie

STAR CINEMA The film at the Adastra hall on Friday **20th November** is a 2005 British crime dark comedy called Keeping Mum. It stars some familiar faces - Maggie Smith, Kristen Scott Thomas, Rowan Atkinson, Liz Smith and Patrick Swayze among others. 7 pm for 7.30 pm. Tickets available on the door. Tea, coffee, wine, raffle. The Star Team look forward to welcoming you. *Liz Edmunds*

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NEW DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE We are pleased to announce the recent launch of our new refreshed DVA website: Ditchling.com (**www.ditchling.com**)

The key improvements are Mobile friendly and easier to navigate. Easy for anyone to submit listings for village events and news announcements. Easy to browse calendar of upcoming events and recent news. Directory of village clubs and societies. Easier to subscribe to our (occasional) newsletter. Directory and links to local resources, help, shops and businesses.

We hope our site will continue to offer village residents and visitors a useful resource.

If you have any events or news that you wish to publicise you can submit them directly by using the online form easily accessed via the link on the home page.

We are still developing and refining the website so if you have any ideas, feedback or corrections please let us know via the Contact / Get in Touch page, or by email to **johnw@ditchling.com**.

The news and events calendar relies on people, clubs, groups and societies submitting the information to keep us up to date. *John Willis*

HHDU3A This month's HHDu3a Monthly Meeting heard Gilly Halcrow on the SOE: Churchill's Secret. She held the packed meeting spellbound as she described the SOE response to Hitler's victories across Europe. It consisted of people of all backgrounds and nationalities, including 3,000 women, who trained and backed up the agents dropped behind enemy lines. There they risked their lives in acts of sabotage, spying on Nazi troop movements and supporting resistance groups. Gilly filled out what we remembered from films like The Heroes of Telemark' and she ended by displaying the photos of the assassins of Nazi chief Reinhard Heydrich and heroines Nancy Wake and Odette/Lise.

The talk was especially moving for Pru who spoke from the floor about her father, described in the SOE papers as 'intelligent, alert and of an independent nature.'.Just 27 he joined the SOE in 1941. Sent to Greece he lost an eye while dismantling a radio, was later involved in secret testing of war equipment and was recommended for an MBE. Gilly has generously offered Pru help in researching further her father's previously hidden story.

For more information about HHD u3a visit **hhd.u3asite.uk.** *Jeremy Weinstein*

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BURGESS HILL DISTRICT FRIENDSHIP GROUP FOR THE BEREAVED. New Members Welcome.

This friendly group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 11am at Cyprus Hall in Burgess Hill for a social get together with tea and coffee, occasional guest speakers on all sorts of subjects, group outings, quizzes, walks and lunches.

Our aim is to provide support and friendship at a difficult time and going forward.

For further details please contact Tony **01444 246170** or Maureen **01444 232002.** *Peter Lynn*

SING WITH THE SUSSEX HARMONISERS!

Our free, mixed-voice Sing with Us for Christmas rehearsals begin on **3rd November** at Woodlands Meed College, Birchwood Grove Road, RH15 0DP, starting at 7.30 pm. Those Tuesday rehearsals will end with a free, open-to-all Concert at St John's in Burgess Hill on Tuesday **8th December** at 7.30 pm. Interval refreshments will be available and there will be a retiring collection in aid of the church and the club itself, which is a charity. Do come along, either to rehearse and sing with the chorus or just to enjoy the concert.

Meanwhile, our female-voice chorus Sussex A Cappella will continue normal rehearsals on Monday evenings at the King's Centre, Burgess Hill RH15 9LR, also from 7.30 pm. Both male and female-voice choruses will be together for several Christmas-oriented events over the coming weeks. We sing unaccompanied four-part harmony and details of all our activities can be found at our website www.sussexharmonisers.org.uk or via an email to **visitors@sussexharmonisers.org.uk** – we look forward to hearing from you, and to singing with you. Pitch up and give it a go! *David Waterhouse*

CRAFT FAIR, HURSTPIERPOINT Heber Opera is holding its Christmas craft fair in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on Saturday **21st November**. The fair is open from 10 am to 2 pm and there will be a lots of stalls selling a wide variety of things ready to solve your Christmas present lists! As always, we offer homemade refreshments throughout the day so you can relax and enjoy a cuppa and something savoury or delicious cake. Small entry fee (cash please) but the tea/coffee is free! *Jenny Hawkes*

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BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT Don't miss Burgess Hill Choral Society's forthcoming concert when we shall be performing Haydn's triumphant *Nelson Mass* and *O Magnum Mysterium* by Morten Lauridsen, a hauntingly beautiful piece. The event also features professional soloists, and the choir will be accompanied by Sussex Classical Players. In addition, there will be our ever popular carols for choir and audience,

The concert takes place on Saturday **12th December** at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG. Tickets available from **www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshillchoral**, from Burgess Hill Help Point, on the door, by phone **07522 493966**, or visit our website at **www.burgesshillchoral.org**. *Jane*

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. Tuesday **17th November** 7.30 pm "Transport on the Isle of Man" This talk will be about the many varied vintage transport systems on the island including steam trains, electric mountain railway, and the world's last surviving horse tramway. The speaker is Ian Gledhill. Location is The Players Theatre Hurstpierpoint. Small charge for Non Members. All welcome. For further details please email **hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com.** *J Simmons*



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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH With the first smattering of rain, there has been a sudden renaissance of leaves and flowers in our garden. The bee man tells us that his bees are busily bringing in fresh stores of nectar and pollen. Waves of birdsong have returned. The blackbird coyly whistles a catch or two under his breath, but the robins sing out at the tops of their voices, answering one another in turn. One calls from the big spruce tree to another hidden on the Black Swan pond and then this one calls to another far away in Lattenbells field. To be bathed in this sound is extraordinarily therapeutic, and perhaps not just for us humans.

We have been debating why it is that certain trees have fared better than others during the summer drought. In some places the damage has been severe. The ash trees on the approach to Ditchling Common were hit hard and nearly all now appear to be smitten with die-back. Roadside hedgerows and trees, even deep-rooted oaks and broad-canopied beeches began to show distress as one heat-wave followed another. Some hawthorns had shed their leaves by the beginning of September and ripened scant crops of berries on naked boughs. Yet, though all our ponds save the Big Pond dried up at Stoneywish, our trees survived pretty well and the lawn in our garden remained green beneath a fretwork of leafy branches.

Two large ash trees which had showed symptoms of die-back in previous years, actually staged a recovery this summer and now look robust and well. Why the difference? One possibility, we think, might be that the trunks of these trees were sheltered from the sun, shaded by leaves and protected by creeping mantles of ivy. According to the 20th century Austrian scientist, Viktor Schauberger, when shade-loving trees become distressed through over-exposure to the heat of the sun, their leaves transpire at an accelerated rate and the sap vessels in their trunks expand, drawing in ever increasing amounts of moisture from the soil. As more water is sucked in at the roots, the pressure in the dilated vessels is no longer sufficient to enable it to reach the crown. The topmost leaves begin to wilt, further exposing the tree to damaging heat. At this point the flow of sap within the trunk can actually rupture with a snapping sound audible to neighbouring

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trees and triggering in them a cascade of anxious responses. By contrast, when protected by a luxuriant woodland canopy, a tree "becomes a water donor," (Schauberger's words); it actually generates more water than it consumes. "As a result," he says, "the more water that is produced, the more luxuriantly a healthy forest thrives."

If this is all true, it has profound implications for our understanding of climate change. Trees do not have to be victims of drought; they can be water guardians and weather-makers when they are happy and secure. They must be our best hope. And yes! Trees *can* hear. Though they do not have 'ears', like us, they apparently have acoustic receptors in the walls of their cells, distributed throughout their entire structure, which can pick up and interpret sound vibrations.

Biologists now recognise that trees and plants can distinguish a whole spectrum of auditory signals, from the buzzing of insects, to the roar of the wind, and from the rumbling of thunder, or the munching of a predatory herbivore, to the infinitesimal murmur of water percolating through the earth. In response, they adapt both their behaviour and their physiology. The new science of bioacoustics thus places plants firmly within the realm of sentient beings. And although, inevitably, the knowledge is seized on by some as a means merely of exploiting and programming crops for higher yields and profits, for others it brings a new respect and sense of responsibility. Research confirms that natural sounds form a web of supportive and intelligent communication between plants and their environment, stimulating growth and vitality and even prompting the germination of seeds. By contrast, the barrage of manmade, machine-generated noise, which fills our skies, our cities, our roads, farms and construction sites, even our gardens, has the effect of overwhelming the delicate sensors of the vegetable world. Trees on busy roads can no longer

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hear one another. They cannot locate water sources. They do not know if predators or gales are on the way. They become deafened and stupified. One could almost say that they can die of isolation and despair. This is the message of the Turkish biologist Erhan Erdik in his book '*Can Plants Hear*?' Though we humans cannot 'hear' what plants are saying with our ears, (it takes some sophisticated sonic equipment to do that for us) I think we *can* detect at heart level, the amount of bliss or stress in any natural setting. Old-growth woodland and undisturbed habitats exude a palpable calm and a sense of well-being, stability, timelessness. Is this the sound of earthworms burrowing? Of leaf-pores opening and closing? To quiet our own inner and outer noisiness and entrain with plants is to discover the extraordinary healing power they possess. Perhaps we are so deafened and traumatised by the racket of human expectations, we have lost access to our own equivalent sensitive and life-enhancing ways of being?

Now, it is official: plants like to be spoken too. Even better, they like to be sung to. And we? We can also benefit from listening to hidden music. As the Indian mystic poet Kabir advised, we can become still enough to hear: "the ringing of the anklets on the feet of an insect when it walks.' Only then can we approach the world and ourselves with the reverence and patience both deserve. Only then can we reconnect with our fractured earthly family: the plant beings, the weather beings, two-leggeds and four-footeds, creepers, crawlers, swimmers and fliers. Instead of trying to *be* them all, invade their space, let's allow them to live in harmony with us. Then, when we hear the cries of things which are suffering, we can understand that their ills are our ills too. We need one another at the deepest level if we are to survive the challenges which face us all.

Erdik ends his book with an invitation to do just this. Once you have understood that plants are intelligent, sentient beings, he says, it changes your perception of everything. "When you step into your garden with this new understanding, you are participating in a grand, silent symphony...The plants have been listening to the universe since long before humanity walked the surface of the planet. They are listening to the water, they are listening to the insects, and they are listening to you. The only question that remains for the forward-thinking gardener is a simple one: now that you know plants can hear, what beautiful, resonant symphony will you choose to play for them?" The robin's song today is like rain in the garden of the heart. Can *we* find a song that will bring the desert back to life? *Rosemary*

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Our next film, showing **5th November** will be the Ballad of Wallis Island, Cert 12A. Run time 1 hour 40 minutes. A note for your diary. On **3rd December** our film presentation will be The Tundra Within Me.

Meet friends, enjoy a beer or fine wine or a soft drink before the show**.** Doors open at 7.30 pm the film starts at 8 pm at Ditchling Village Hall. There's plenty of parking in the village hall car park.

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

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 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**.

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Whats On in November

1st DANNY FIREWORKS Danny House, New Way Lane, gates open 4.30 pm. Fireworks, Bonfire & BBQ. Tickets QD Stationery or www.dannybonfire.co.uk. Restricted parking see article for more details.

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

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

2nd DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Old Meeting House, The Twitten 7.30 am. AGM All welcome to hear about our activities inc the Fair.

3rd GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING HASSOCKS Proper Coffee, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Monthly meet up. All welcome.

3rd DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'Christmas - A Festive History' Andy Thomas. Visitors welcome.

4th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm '1960's Children TV' Neil Mach. Visitors welcome call 07806 670359.

4th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. 'From Palace to Pagoda - The Diverse Buildings of Kew Gardens' Sarah Oldridge. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com. All welcome.

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

4th 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.

5th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - 'The Ballad of Wallis Island'. Tickets on the door - see article.

5th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 6.30 pm. National Theatre Live - 'Golden Boy (TBC)'. More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.

6th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 7 pm. 'The Last Viking' (15) More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.

7th SUSSEX CHORUS St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm 'Faure's Requiem and Berstein's Chichester Psalms'. Tickets www.sussexchorus.org 01444 412579.

7th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book sussexsewingclub@gmail.com.

8th DITCHLING REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY St Margarets Church, Ditchling. 10.20 am Parade leaves St Margarets School. 10.50 am The Act of Remembrance followed by Service of Remembrance. - See article

8th STREAT CHURCH REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10.50 am The Act of Remembrance - See article for more info.

8th PARISH OF KEYMER WITH CLAYTON Remembrance Sunday Parade leaves Adastra Park at 1.30 pm heading to St Cosmas and St Damian Church for the The Act of Remembrance - see article.

8th CHRIST CHURCH REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Sayers Common 10 am Remembrance Service

8th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Eastbourne Town. Bar & Food available. Free entry.

9th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached for more info www.thegroup.org.uk.

9th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'A sporting History of Sussex from the amazing to the bizarre' Mathew Homewood. See article for more details.

10th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. AGM and 'Gardens of the South Downs and Surrey Hills' Richard Shenton. All welcome, email hhs1886@btinternet.com.

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

10th 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.

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

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

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

11th MID SUSSEX CAMERA CLUB Kings Centre, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. 'Landscape Photography' Melvin Nicholson. See article.

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

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

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

12th BURGESS HILL DISTRICT FRIENDSHIP GROUP FOR THE BEREAVED Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 11 am Providing support and friendship at a difficult time and going forward. Call 01444 246170 for more info.
12th BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. Christmas Concert 'Nelson Mass and O Magnum Mysterium' Morten Lauridsen. More info www.burgesshillchoral.org.
13th 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 WESTMESTON PARISH HALL 2 pm 'Sheep Bells to Spitfires - our downland parishes in two World Wars' Ditchling History Project. See article on how to book.
13th BURGESS HILL HISTORY GROUP Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7 pm. AGM followed an illustrated talk on the History of Burgess Hill. All welcome. www.burgesshillheritagehistory.org.uk.
13th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Bring & Buy Table Top Sale' Visitors from other clubs welcome. Refreshments available. All welcome.
14th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.
14th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexbaxter66@yahoo.co.uk.
15th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Crowborough. Bar & Food available. Free entry.
15th BEFRIENDED Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 3 - 5 pm. Afternoon Tea Party with quizzes, celebrations, making friends, information, advice and great entertainment. More info www.befriended.org.
16th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. With Sally Course's Band. No partner needed just come along. More info www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.
17th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'Transport on the Isle of Man' Ian Gledhill. See article for more info.
18th 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.
18th TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road 7.45 pm. Monthly meet up. Visitors welcome.
18th - 21st DITCHLING PLAYERS Ditchling Village Hall Various performances. 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' visit www.ditchlingplayers.
19th 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 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.
19th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 10 - 11.30 am. Coffee Morning run by Beacon Parish. All welcome.
19th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 7 pm. 'DJ Ahmet' (PG). More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.
20th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Fish & Chip Evening'. Refreshments available. All welcome.
20th DUSTY SHELF Proper Coffee & Cycling, Hassocks 7-10 pm. DJ Night, amazing music by amazing DJs. Free Entry.
20th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - Keeping Mum. Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door all welcome.
21st CLAYTON WITH KEYMER PARISH Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Christmas Fair, refreshments available.
21st HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. 10 am - 2 pm. Craft Fair refreshments available.
21st HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB, South Avenue 7 pm. Quiz night and Fish and Chip supper in aid of NSPCC. Tickets Charlotte Grace Casuals.
22nd HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road KO 11 am. The U18 Robins take on ASC Brighton. Bar & Food available. Free entry.
22nd HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint doors 2.30 pm. 'The Friend' (15). More info and tickets from www.hurstfilms.com or Charlotte Grace.
23rd DITCHLING SCOUT GROUP White Horse, Ditchling. Yearly fundraiser quiz. Tickets and more info from www.ditchling.com.
23rd CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.
23rd HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Charles II and his escape through Sussex after the battle of Worcester on September 3rd 1651' Helen Poole. All welcome. See article for more infomation.
24th CITIZENS ADVICE LEWES DISTRICT Quaker Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling 10.30 am - 1.30 pm. Drop-in for a chat, free, confidential and impartial advice. Email info@lewesdistrictca.org.uk.

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

25th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall. Monthly meet. Visitors welcome. www.southdownswoodturners.com

25th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'No More Violence to Women and Girls' Katy Bourne PCC. Visitors welcome.

26th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Office, Hassocks 11 am - 12 pm. Meet Erika Woodhurst Truman WSCC, Chris Hobbs District Cllr and Cabinet Member MSDC, Sue Hatton & Kristian Berggreen District Cllrs for Hassocks & Hassocks Parish Cllrs. No appointment necessary - pop in.

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

26th BURGESS HILL DISTRICT FRIENDSHIP GROUP FOR THE BEREAVED Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 11 am Friendly group providing support and friendship at a difficult time and going forward. Call 01444 246170 for more info.

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

27th/28th HURSTPIERPOINT GYM CLUB Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 27th 6 - 9 pm & 28th 9.30 am - 1 pm. Christmas Fair.

27th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. 'The Diary of a Sussex Naturalist' Michael Blencowe. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

28th MID DOWNLAND PARISHES Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10 am - 2.30 pm. Christmas Fayre raffle and refreshments. See article.

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

28th REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransition.org.uk.

28th GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Age Concern Veg Patch, Dale Avenue 9 am - 1 pm. Meet the ream. All welcome.

28th DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL Hassocks 11 am - 2 pm. Christmas Market - all welcome.

28th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Roffey. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under. Please check socials for any changes.

29th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road KO 11 am. The U18 Robins take on Varndean. Bar & Food available. Free entry.

29th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road KO 2 pm. (Womens) The Robins take on Horsham. Bar & Food available. Free entry.

29th GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. A concert of Gilbert and Sullivan favourites (plus others). Refreshments available. See article for more info. To book email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

30th KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. With caller Lorna Shepherd. No partner needed just come along. More info www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

30th MID SUSSEX CAMERA CLUB Kings Centre, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. 'Making Sense of the Landscape - the Art of Seeing' Edward Hyde. See article.

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. 2nd Sunday of the month 10.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion. 3rd Sunday at 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, 7-7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month. Everyone welcome to join us, seeking connectedness and communion with the divine. Refreshments and discussion afterwards. Details from ditchlingquakerclerk@gmail.com.

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 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 8th 9.30 am Holy Communion in St Margaret's. Parade starts at St Margarets School 10.20 am. Services at both St Margaret's and Streat Church 10.50 am followed by Morning Prayer. (No Little Beacons)

Regular Services Sunday 1st (inc little beacons), 22nd and 29th Morning Worship with Holy Communion in Ditchling and Sunday 15th in Westmeston at 10 am. In Ditchling Weekly Wednesday@10 Holy Communion and SING on Wednesday 4th at 5 pm. All welcome to all our services but check our website www.beaconparish.co.uk for changes or email admin@beaconparish.co.uk.

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

GILES TURNER
FINANCIAL PLANNING

Reading the Weather, Whichever Way You're Heading

Last month I wrote about why you wouldn't send your guide home at the summit, and how the descent is where a little extra care matters most. Let's stay on the mountain a moment longer, because there's something else a good guide never ignores: the weather.

An experienced guide checks the forecast before setting off. But they don't abandon the route the moment a cloud appears, and they certainly don't change course on the strength of a rumour passed along the trail. They pack for changing conditions, keep watching the sky, and wait to see what actually arrives.

Financial planning has its own weather. The Chancellor is due to deliver the Autumn Budget on 28 October, and as I write, nobody knows what it will contain. As usual there is already no shortage of speculation about pensions, allowances and inheritance tax.

That's why hurried decisions rarely help. Whether you're still climbing, building your savings, or already on the descent drawing an income, a well-built plan should allow for the rules changing. As I mentioned last month, that means keeping your options flexible and holding reserves, so you're never forced to act at the wrong moment.

Once the announcements are out, the useful question isn't "what did the headlines say?" but "what does this mean for me?" Often the answer is "very little". Occasionally, it's worth adjusting course. Either way, it's far better to decide calmly, with the facts in front of you, than to react in the fog.

If you'd like to talk through what the Budget means for your own plans, 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
giles@gilesturnerfinancialplanning.co.uk
gilesturnerfinancialplanning.co.uk

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I love it when a 'To Let' sign goes up over a shop, which has just happened at the solicitors on the corner of Downsview Road. Now we know a solicitor isn't closing because of lack of business or funds these days, it's because they need more space to see even more clients. They are moving in November to Haywards Heath, a bit of a trek for its local clients but I'm sure they won't mind?

However, that leaves us with an empty building to fill and as I understand it several businesses have been after it. It's quite a well-maintained property and with a rent of only £12,000 per annum it makes it a quite attractive proposition. I think the original plan was to convert it back into a residential property, probably flats, but that idea was obviously shelved. It's a great shame that there must be this web of secrecy, all we want to know it is what it's going to be when the legal beavers move out. I tried to explain to them that if they tell me, then I can give them free publicity when they finally open, they can then hit the ground running, but oh no, we can't say anything - it's a secret. Well let's just hope it's worth the wait.

I'm sure the owners of our favourite eyesore won't mind me telling you that they have been approached by a garage chain, who if given a new lease would consider opening a new garage on the site. I got the impression that it wasn't really what they wanted, their mind is more settled on residential, but that could be really dead in the water. We'll see but something is better than nothing, and its less hard work on their part.

Leaflets for the new Churchill development are being distributed. I'm sure you've had one, it's called Hamilton Lodge. There are a variety of different size apartments which look quite small to me. The service charge for a typical two bed apartment is £4500 a year, about £85 a week. It seems to be a very stop start development, maybe our economy is not helping them with all the rising costs these days. It wouldn't be for me, but I can see it being popular with older people who no longer want the responsibility of a bricks and mortar home with all the maintenance and upkeep costs, that get bigger every year.

I feel I must apologise to the new owners of Dame Veras totally rebuilt house. It's the new house next door, a granny annex perhaps, that is called Citadel House. The main house is still called Hampers Croft which incidentally does at the moment seem to be missing the blue plaque, stating this was once the home of Dame Vera.

Thank you for all the love you've showed Gemma with her new venture of dog walking. It can't be easy when you're a special-needs person to get some kind of employment that gives you responsibility and trust, so once again thank you to those people who have taken her services.

New people have just taken over the Greyhound Inn. Stephen and Alex two very nice gentlemen who have some great plans. They had a pub in the Lanes in Brighton so are well experienced in food and hospitality, so expect a few changes but all for the good. They would love you to pop in and say hello so they can explain their plans for the future.

My plan for the future is to stay in Business so don't forget our horse bedding prices -

Shavings £9.99 ~ Bedmax £8.95 ~ Aubiose £12.50 ~ Burleybed £9.95.

Here's hoping we'll see you soon. *Steve*

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392