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We thank John Gargett for this photograph of the old blacksmiths in Albourne

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LOCAL ACTIVITIES

HASSOCKS AND HURSTPIERPOINT LABOUR BRANCH

Fri. 22nd Mar. 2 - 3 pm

SUSSEX CHORUS WITH KENT SINFONIA

Sat. 23rd Mar. 7.30 pm

HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET

Sat. 23rd Mar. 9 am - 1 pm

HEDGEHOG HEROS

Sun. 24th Mar. 10 am - 4 pm

HASSOCKS JAZZ LUNCH

Tues. 26th Mar. 11.30 am

HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

Tues. 26th Mar. 2.30 pm

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fri. 29th Mar. 8 pm

HURSTPIERPOINT GYM CLUB

Sat. 30th Mar. 9 am

HASSOCKS JAZZ BRUNCH

Sun. 31st Mar. 11.30 am Julie Roberts & Michael Hinton. Sunday lunch avail. Tkts www.julierobertsmusic.co.uk

AD~ASTRA BEACON OF LIGHT SPIRITUAL CENTRE

Sun. 31st Mar. 10 am doors open.

HASSOCKS CROQUET CLUB

Wed. 3rd Apr. 10.30 am

HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING FIRST RESPONDERS

Thurs. 4th Apr. 7.30 pm

Purple Carrot, Hassocks
Meet for a cuppa and a chat - A warm welcome to all

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National Tyres Forecourt

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South Down Nurseries, Brighton Road, Hassocks

Advise on how we can help hedgehogs and improve their numbers

Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

Age Concern, Hassocks

AGM

Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint

A Passion for Piers - Jackie Marsh

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre

20th Arts Competition

Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Meditation Group 10.10 to 10.30 am Divine Service at 11 am

The St. James Montefiore Cricket Club, Keymer Road, Hassocks

Coffee Morning and Open House

Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church Hall

Training Night - New members

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HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP

Thurs. 4th Apr. 2 pm

WOODLAND, FLORA & FAUNA GROUP

Thurs. 4th Apr. 7.30 pm

The Glorious Countryside of the Sussex Middle Weald - David Bangs

HEBER OPERA

Sat. 6th Apr. 10 am - 2 pm

FRIENDS OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

Sat. 6th Apr. 10 - 11.30 am

Annual Coffee Morning and Mini Market

ADASTRA BOWLING

Sat. 6th Apr. 10 am - 12.30 pm

Coffee Morning in the Club House, chat to members, look at our facilities

HASSOCKS EVENING JAZZ

Tues. 9th Apr. 8 pm

Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

Trad Jazz Evening. All welcome

HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Tues. 9th Apr. 7.45 pm

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre

Gardening for Pollinators - Amanda Millar

HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY

Mon. 25th Mar. 7.45 pm

The Greatest Treasure House in England (Petworth House) - Frances Farrer-Brown

Mon. 8th Apr. 7.45 pm

Shepherds of the South Downs - Ian Everest

HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A

Mon. 18th Mar. 2 pm

Sat. 23rd Mar. 10 am - 12 pm

HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

For films and showing times visit hurstfilms.com

HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS

2nd - 6th Apr. Various shows Rope - chilling & spine tingling gripping thriller - Patrick Hamilton. See article

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB

Mon. 18th Mar & 1st Apr. 7.30 - 9.30 pm

Mon. 15th Apr. 7.30 - 9.30 pm

Churchill's Secret Army - Gilly Halcrow

HHD Groups open morning all welcome

Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre

Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint

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SUSSEX VALE ROTARY
Mon. 18th, 25th Mar, 8th, 15th Apr 7.30 pm
Mon. 1st Apr. 7.30 pm
WOLSTONBURY WI
Tues. 19th. Mar. 7.45 pm
Tues. 16th Apr. 7.45 pm

Child Aid - Martin Wilcox
Coffee Morning at Age Concern, Hassocks
Email secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk
Meeting with guest speaker at Mid Sussex Golf Club
Business Meeting
Hurstpierpoint Village Centre
The cheers and tears in my life as a celebrant - Claire Bradford
Archibald McIndoe and his Guinea Pigs - Alex Sewell

REGULAR GROUPS

1ST HURSTPIERPOINT GIRLS' BRIGADE Methodist Church Hall, Cuckfield Road, BN6 9SA
Ages 4 to 18 Every Wednesday in Term Time. Contact 01273 832286
BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY United Reformed Church Hall, Junction Road, Burgess Hill
Every Monday 8 - 10 pm new members welcome. See www.burgesshillchoralsociety.org.uk
BURGESS HILL & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB Mid Sussex Golf Club, Ditchling
First Thursday of every month. 12 pm. Lunch and talk. Fred Reynolds 01444 236661
HASSOCKS DANCING FOR THE OVER 50S Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East
Every Monday 10 - 11.30 pm. Brenda Kelly 07496 666046
HURSTPIERPOINT SINGERS Methodist Church, Cuckfield Road
Every Monday 7.30 - 9.30 pm
MID SUSSEX CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP King Centre, Victoria Rd, Burgess Hill
Fourth Wednesday each month 2 - 4 pm. www.csr.org.uk
JOY OF LIVING MEDITATION GROUP URC Rear Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks
Mondays 7.30 - 8.30 pm. We are a non-profit community group open to all. tergar.org/hassocks
THE HARMONY CORPORATION The King's Centre, 33-35 Victoria Road, Burgess Hill RH15 9LR
Monday Evening 7.15 pm. Mid Sussex's new ladies a cappella chorus.
THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE SUSSEX VALE Mid Sussex Golf Club, Spatham Lane, Ditchling
Every Monday 7.30 - 9.30 pm. www.rotary-sxvale.org.uk Secretary 07546 111996
VIVACE! Old Meeting House, Ditchling
Every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Mark Lambert 01273 842994



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HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Association members have been invited by the Twinning Committee in S Martin De Boscherville for the weekend of **14th to 17th June** to watch the Tall ships that visit Rouen every four years. Members will have the opportunity to visit the ships in dock in Rouen and then later in the weekend to view the ships from the banks of the Seine as they sail down river to their next destination. They will also be able to meet members of the Twinning Association in France and enjoy their hospitality.

Please contact Mike for more details and to book a place.

There will also be a golf competition again this year. Any golfers out there please get in touch for more details.

I am looking for suggestions for events in Hurstpierpoint and Sussex that we could invite our French counterparts to as part of our programme for this year.

What we do - The Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Twinning Association is twinned with St Martin-de-Boscherville, a delightful village on the banks of the Seine just north of Rouen. St Martin is famous for its historic Abbey which has recently cel-

ebrated its 900th anniversary. Travel is normally on the Newhaven to Dieppe ferry followed by a pleasant 50 minutes drive to St Martin. Accommodation is with our hosts and we reciprocate by inviting our French friends to stay in our homes. The Association organizes a variety of events for all ages. These events could have a sporting theme (golf, tennis, cycling, walking etc.) a cultural theme (art, concerts, visiting historical buildings, gardens etc.) or an educational theme (student exchanges, pen friends). They all involve much socialising and meeting new friends.

Get involved - We are always looking for new members and ideas. If you are interested in joining or finding out more please contact me the Chairman on **01273 833195**.

Mike Shute

STAR CINEMA There are 6 film nights a year - Jan/Feb/Mar and Sept/Oct/Nov. Thank you for your support for the first 3 months of the year, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September, hopefully with Stan and Ollie.

For your diaries, the next dates are **20th September, 18th October and 15th November**. See you then.

Liz Edmunds

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH A great cacophony rises from the ponds these mornings, as the geese prepare for mating. Especially vocal are the Canada geese, which take off and circle the farm, honking all the way with their distinctive hiccupping calls. The jackdaws are pairing too and within their gathered flocks, at dawn and dusk, you can see that the birds are actually flying two-by-two. Our winter redwings and phalaropes are gone, but the blackbirds have found their voices and wagtails, robins, woodpeckers, (green and lesser spotted), tits of all kinds, wrens, thrushes and mistle thrushes have all been making a cheerful din together. The spring weather has hastened the end of the snowdrops here but the Reserve is brightening with warm patches of colour as primroses and daffodils emerge in their place.

Having managed to break my wrist at Christmas I have had a lazy winter, Michael taking over my job of feeding the geese till I can lift the buckets again. Two days ago the fox broke into the hen-run and took our chickens, so we have been feeling sorely aggrieved and mindful that it is the beginning of Lent next week and we shall soon be needing good eggs for pancakes! An old friend has fortuitously offered us some bantams, so we are now busy preparing an impenetrable run for them and hope for better luck.

Michael's new exhibition of vintage photos goes on display when we re-open on 1st March and runs until the end of April at the Visitor Centre in Spatham Lane.

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This time the villages of Hassocks, Keymer and Clayton are in the spotlight. The room is occasionally let out for private functions so please do ring before you come to make sure you have chosen a day when access is available. (Telephone **01273 843498** Friday - Monday).

Our season of History Talks begins again on the last Friday in April and the brochure, listing all speakers, will be available soon as a pdf on our website (www.stoneywish.com). Meanwhile, we hope spring will stay with us and bring us more birdsong. When our migrants return we now understand that the changing seasons bring them, but our ancestors thought of it was the other way around. We all know that 'one swallow doesn't make a summer', but it was a common thought, amongst country people years ago that birds, especially the first cuckoo 'brought' the warm weather with them. Recently I read that in Russia, countrywomen would traditionally bake little pastry birds and give them to their children to set round their yards and houses as decoys to encourage real birds to come, singing: "Larks, larks, Give us Summer! We'll give you winter - There's no food left for us!" As Lent approached, with the ghastly prospect of a month of gruel and no sausages, the birds, and especially those precious egg-laying hens, held all the hopes for future prosperity. To see how well our birds are doing, come and share the delights of spring with us at Stoneywish.

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BIG SWIM At 70 I learnt to swim, at 72 I took on swimming challenges in the 25 metres pool at the Triangle Burgess Hill. On the 24th January I completed my 5th swim - 7080 lengths (110miles) equal to, Cuba to Florida.

If you would like to donate to congratulate me please Google - My Donate, and then find Headway East Sussex in memory of my hubby Roy and Son Mathew or pop donations at my home 34, Farnham Avenue, Hassocks BN6 8NS. Thank you.

Judy Tilbury

BETTER BIKING: LINKING DITCHLING HAS SOCKS & HURST

As you may recall HKD Transition are plugging away at trying to make the main road (B2116) from the centre of Ditchling to the centre of Hurst friendlier to cyclists for getting to the station, to school and to the shops.

The feasibility study of how this could be done has been completed and has been with officers of Mid Sussex District Council since October 2018.

Meantime a further project to improve the B2116 for cyclists is progressing within West Sussex County Council. This would begin at Sayers Common and finish at Downlands School.

Officers and Councillors of the District and County Councils are now engaged in seeing whether the two plans can be brought together. We should have further news about this in May.

Meanwhile you can find out more about the HKD

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Transition proposal by going to <https://www.hkd-transition.org.uk/better-biking> and following the cycling link.
Chris Thomson

HASSOCKS WI January is a time for New Year resolutions, as we were reminded in an amusing poem written by a WI member, but is also the time, in every WI in the country, when all members vote on national resolutions to choose which campaigns will be promoted over the next year. This business was quickly completed, and it was time for some entertainment. In a new experience for us, we were joined by a Ukelele band, and we all joined in for a rousing sing-along of all the old favourites.

Our March meeting promises to be stimulating, when we have a talk and discussion on historical aspects of medicine and surgery. The meeting will be as usual, 7.45 pm on the 3rd Monday of the month, (**18th March**). All welcome. Further details can be found on wihassocks.org.uk.

Maureen Dodd

GARDENING FOR POLLINATORS an illustrated talk by Amanda Millar on how to attract those most important but increasingly endangered of creatures into your garden.

Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society meets at 7.45 pm on Tuesday **9th April** in the Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Hall.

Kathy Green

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Lunches served daily –please call us to book, we can also help you get here on our bus! Refreshments for sale each morning and there is always cake to go with your cuppa.

Room Hire – We have a really nice big main hall which is available to hire for any club or activity on a Wednesday or Friday afternoon, please do ask in our office or come and have a look. Would be ideal for a Pilates or exercise class!

Hearing Aid Maintenance checks are held here by Action for Deafness on the first Tuesday of each month 9.30 am – NHS Only – just turn up and a waiting system is in place.

Do you need your hair cut, coloured or a wash and blow dry? We have a Hairdressing Salon here at the centre with appointments here Monday to Friday. Please do call us to book your appointment.

We have Scrabble, Art, Canasta, Mahjong, Knit and Natter and Craft sessions held here – new members always welcome - please do come in and ask us in the

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office or take a look at our website. We regularly arrange in house entertainment and outings too.

Our Canasta group is looking for new players on a Friday afternoon 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm, they will help you and teach you if you are not sure how to play! Do come along one afternoon and see for yourself!

Our Charity Shop is open every day and also Saturday mornings, we now take credit, debit and contactless cards for payment!

Kirsty Hunnisett

HASSOCKS CROQUET CLUB Croquet is a sport for everyone. New members welcome. If you would like to learn how to play Croquet or are already an experienced player why not consider joining 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) at The St. James's Montefiore Cricket Club, Keymer Road, Hassocks (The road from Hassocks to Ditchling). Free parking in large car park. New players are able to borrow the club's mallets.

For further details please contact Jeanette Grant **01273 844836** or email hassockscroquetclub@gmail.com or visit our Website www.hassockscroquetclub.net.

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Imagine if we had to do it. Imagine that first thing every morning we had to stake a claim to our property by pulling on our dressing gowns, marching out onto our front lawns, taking a deep breath and singing a song. Sussex would awaken to an acappella cacophony of show tunes, power ballads and rock anthems pouring from porches and patios, backyards and balconies. And if you weren't out there, patrolling your property with a raspy rendition of 'Hey Jude', your neighbours would assume you'd gone and they'd muscle in. If you overslept you'd wake to find Jeanette from two doors down screeching 'I Dreamed a Dream' on your doorstep and you'd have to see her off with your version of 'River Deep, Mountain High'.

Throughout March male birds are aggressively establishing their breeding territories. In the absence of bricks and barbed wire, their songs build the boundaries around their little bits of Sussex. It's vital they sing every morning. After a day dodging cats, cars, windowpanes and sparrowhawks their defiant songs (think 'I will survive' meets 'My way') inform their neighbours that they're still alive and they're still king of the hill. Top of the heap. To our ears this warzone of warbles and whistles is a stirring celebration of the

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passing of winter and the arrival of spring, which fills our hearts with the promise of the summer to come. Bernstein, Britten, Beethoven and Brian Wilson rolled into one.

At the first hint of dawn, in the still, silent air, this free music festival begins. And what a line-up! Local duo Robin and Blackbird open the show with their laid-back, soulful crooning. Then that little bird with the big attitude, The Wren, cranks it up with his rockin', rollin' rattle. The symphony builds as the sun rises. We're joined by a supergroup; CSD&G (Chaffinch, Song Thrush, Dunnock & Great Tit). For our headliners, international singing sensations The Warblers (ft. Blackcap & Chiff-chaff) will be flying in from Africa to add their voices to this avian opera.

There's another reason for this performance. Because if you've got enough spare time to stand around and sing then you must be good at finding food. So females flock to the lead singer – a familiar phenomenon (let's face it, Jagger wouldn't have charmed all those women if he'd been a dentist). So take a morning stroll in your local woodlands in March and enjoy this free performance. www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

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THE ROTARY CLUB OF THE SUSSEX VALE

FRIDAY 26th April. - a date for your diary. On that evening, Sussex Vale Rotary is pleased to present a special live musical event at 7.30 pm in St Cosmos and St Damian Church, Keymer.

Special performances by Marcus Martin and Vocal Fusion in a fundraising concert on behalf of the Sussex based charity 'Know Dementia'. There is no charge for admission to the concert, although it is hoped a retiring collection will raise a sizeable donation to the charity.

Know Dementia is run by volunteers to build links with the local community to enable a better understanding of the disease. This is achieved through Dementia Friends Training, Dementia Action Alliances and their 'Moments' events, which include 12 Memory Moments Cafés, Sporting Moments, Green Moments and Musical Moments. You can learn more on their website.

Vocal Fusion Acapella, will be performing and is an unaccompanied Male Voice Chorus of around 20 singers, based in Steyning, West Sussex, with a reper-



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toire embracing the styles of American song, swing, jazz, well-known ballads, spirituals, easy beat and up-tempo songs arranged for men's voice and barbershop style.

They will be joined by Marcus Martin who is well known to local audiences in various professional musical roles such as the director of the HHD U3A choir, organist at St Cosmos and St Damian and also for his 17 years of presenting 'Morning Melodies' raising almost £60,000 to date for local and national charities. Don't miss what will be an excellent evening of live music, make sure it goes in your calendar today!

The Sussex Vale Rotary Club draws its members from Burgess Hill, Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and surrounding areas. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary International and how you can help or join us, please contact our club secretary on **secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk**, who will be pleased to hear from you. Alternatively, you can follow us on our Facebook site.

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HASSOCKS COMMUNITY CYCLE HIRE (HCCH)

www.hassockscommunitycyclehire.com opened in 2010 as a community bike hire and service centre. For the past four years it has been based in a purpose built shop on Platform 2 of Hassocks Station.

HCCH exists to encourage green tourism to the South Downs by offering bike hire. In the process we help the village economy by bringing visitors to the area. We also service bikes and provide employment and training for young people.

Customers come from far and wide, the majority from London and Brighton, but also from many places abroad, such as Brazil, the US and several European countries.

We have had workplace groups, stag parties, reunions of friends, Air Training Corps cadets, scouts, families who are camping nearby as well as local people who

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We are well rated on Trip Advisor. A recent review (November 2018) said: "Can't speak highly enough about Hassocks Community Cycle. Right next to the station and 10 mins cycle to Jack and Jill windmills for a beautiful ride along the South Downs towards Lewes. Wonderful views. Great service....."

This really is a great service but for it to continue we need new volunteers to assist with running and marketing the business. Please contact hassocksvolunteers@gmail.com if you are interested. HCCH is part of Hassocks Community Organisation, formed from Hassocks Amenity Association and Hassocks Community Partnership.

Colin Wilsdon

ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING AND MINI-MARKET

Please do come along and join us at the above event which will take place from 10 am until 11.30 am on Saturday **6th April** in the Guide HQ in Trinity Road Car Park, Hurstpierpoint.

Entrance fee remains the same to include coffee or tea and biscuits and there is a wide range of stalls including cakes and savouries, books, plants, raffle, tombola and gifts. If you have any small items you would like to donate for sale please get in touch with me on **01273 834200**. We are happy to arrange collection. We always welcome gifts of home-made cakes, buns scones, savouries etc. to sell. Gluten-free items welcome.

Friends of St Christopher's Home For The Elderly is a small residential home for elderly people and the Friends group works to raise funds to arrange benefits and social outings for all of the residents.

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WINDMILL PAINTING TIME APPROACHES! Have you ever painted a real windmill? Now is your chance!

For newcomers to the village, Oldland Windmill is one of the oldest regularly working windmills in the country being built around 1700. We now produce stone ground flour which may be purchased on site or through our growing number of retail outlets including local garden centres, farm shops and the Ditchling Museum. Thursdays remain our regular volunteers working day throughout the year but we've now returned to our previous practice of adding Tuesdays as well due to popular demand! Do call in if you're taking a stroll past the mill.

The sweeps (the Sussex term for sails) are taken down for a thorough refurbishment every seven years. Two were refurbished last year and the remaining pair will be addressed this year. As in previous years we invite our members, friends and neighbours to help with the repainting; you'll be surprised what a large area there is to paint when you see the sweeps close up on the ground! They are over 30 ft long and 7 ft wide (or 9.3 m by 2.1 m for all those younger readers) and each contain 51 cedarwood shutters. The whole process will run from mid-April until Mid-July and we will be organising small working parties at the mill on every week day. We will also run some sessions on Saturdays to enable supporters working during the week to take part. There is no need to be an expert as guidance will be given and every group will be led by an experienced mill volunteer. All tools and materials will, of

course, be provided. We have already contacted our 'regulars' from previous years, but should you wish to join our team this year, please contact John Pryse: Telephone **01444 871734** (or email: j.pryse@btinternet.com) letting him know on which day or days of the week you can attend. Thank you.

Notwithstanding the sweep refurbishment this year, we will continue to run our popular traditional open days on the first Sunday of each month from April to October inclusive. However, we will focus on two rather than three major 'Event Days' this year, the two being 'Music and Morris' on Sunday **5th May** and 'History and Heritage' on Sunday **1st September**. Mark them in your diary now. For more information on all aspects of Oldland Mill activity, just keep an eye on our website: www.oldlandwindmill.co.uk. *Fred Maillardet*

ILLUSTRATED TALK Brighton historian and tour guide, Jackie Marsh-Hobbs, will be giving a talk, 'A Passion for Piers!' on Friday **26th April** at 7.45 pm in the Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill. Almost 100 pleasure piers have been built around the British Isles. Jackie's talk will take a nostalgic look at these incredible feats of engineering and our love of seaside entertainments. Tickets include tea/coffee refreshments. Contact me on **01444 245509**.

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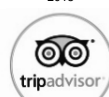


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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY On Thursday, 4th April, our film will be Blackkklansman – the incredible true story of an American hero who sets out on a dangerous mission to infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. Set in the early 70's, Ron Stallworth is the first black American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a name for himself, he poses as a white bigot over the phone whilst sending in white officers for face to face work. Together with a more seasoned colleague, Flip Zimmerman, they proceed to take down the extremist hate group as the organisation aims to sanitise its violent appeal to the mainstream. This stranger-than-fiction story lights up like a bar room pinball machine and slips seamlessly from borderline absurdist humour to all-too-real horror.

Director: Spike Lee English 2018 128 minutes 15 Cert

The film will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. The film starts at 8 pm. Doors open at 7.30 pm. Free coffee, tea and biscuits are available and wine can be purchased by the glass beforehand. There is ample free parking behind the hall. Guests and temporary members are welcome payable at the door.

Rowena Cager and Melanie Samuel

ROPE Hurstpierpoint Players are presenting this chilling and spine-tinglingly gripping thriller by one-

time Hassocks resident Patrick Hamilton from 2nd April until 6th April.

The average murder mystery compels you to piece together the clues, then leaves you with a sense of emptiness the moment the detective solves the puzzle. The answer to the riddle is as meaningless as a completed sudoku puzzle. This is a whodunit in reverse, Hamilton's play has the distinction of revealing the murderers from the start.

Two well-bred young men murder a fellow Oxford student just for the fun of it. Audaciously, they have invited friends and relatives of the victim to a party around the chest containing his corpse.

Will this daring pair get away with their cat and mouse games?

Inspired by the real-life Leopold and Loeb, who in 1924 attempted to commit the perfect murder, Rope gives us the real pleasure of rediscovering a play with more substance than you might expect.

Alfred Hitchcock's 1948 film made several changes to the play for an American audience but the original stage play remains to this day one of the most tightly coiled of thrillers.

Tickets are available from the Hurst Players Box Office, 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint on Saturday Mornings from 10 am until 1 pm or online from www.hurstplayers.org.uk.

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Twenty years ago Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club organised an Arts competition in which over fifty gymnasts performed. This year sees the 20th Arts Competition which has grown in popularity and will now showcase over a hundred gymnasts performing routine with Ropes, Balls, on the beam and in Sports Acrobatic Sixes. The competition will be held in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre in the morning of the **30th March**. The gymnasts will be competing for the twelve silver trophies and scores of medals. Spectating for parents & friends is free.

The next opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 35th Annual Championships on the **6th July**.

Waiting list for the Club has now disappeared – except for pre-school boys, so if you have any preschool girls or school age children interested in trying gymnastics next term, please contact the Club through its website hurstpierpointgym.co.uk.

Photo shows a typical 'Six' balance from the competition.

Andrew

ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB Thinking of warm summer days? Why not think of joining us for some enjoyable lawn bowling? It's a fun and friendly way of getting light aerobic exercise in the fresh air. Age is no

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limitation, young or old. If you've seen the bowls on the TV recently you will know this is by no means just a sport for retired people. We play both friendly and competitive league matches to suit all standards. We offer an optional trial membership for those new to bowling and this includes four coaching sessions which will take you to a level where you should be confident to compete in friendly matches.

Dates for your diary - **6th April**, 10 am to 12:30 pm – Coffee morning at the clubhouse in Adastra Park – entrance at the south end of the carpark in Orchard Lane. Come and enjoy coffee/tea and biscuits, have a chat to members, look at our facilities and maybe pick up an application form. **27th April, 4th, 6th, 11th and 18th May**, 10 am to 12:30 pm Open mornings at the club. Come and try bowling for yourself. All equipment provided and coaches will be there to give you all the help you need. All we ask is that you come with light, flattish footwear. www.adastrabowling.club

Frank Titford

HASSOCKS OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE SPACE

You may have read in the local press that Downlands Community School were finally granted planning permission for our amphitheatre at the beginning of February. We were of course delighted and hope to move the plan forward very soon.



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We have had several large donations but wondered if you would like to help us to raise the rest.

Through West Sussex County Council we have set up a crowd fund raising site on SpaceHive. The idea is that, if you would like to, you can pledge a sum of money (as much or as little as you like - we are grateful for any contribution) which you do not actually pay until we have all the funding in place. It will involve you putting your bank account details into the site but, as I said, you will only notice your pledge disappear from your account once we have raised all the money. The link to the crowd fund raising site is www.spacehive.com/hassocks-outdoor-performance-space Please pass the link on to anyone else you feel may want to help.

The Wind in the Willows - If only they had stuck to messing about in boats but they didn't! Mole, Rat, Badger and the hapless Toad embark on lots of adventures on stage at Downlands in this year's fabulous drama production 'The Wind in the Willows'.

The wonderful thing about our drama productions is that they allow so many students to take part - from make-up and stage crew through to the actors and the sound engineers. Rehearsals have been taking place since October and the performance is amazing. From the stage backdrops to the diction of the actors, Mrs Robertson and her team have produced a play to be remembered.

Year 11 student Henry Godwin is a terrific Toad - completely believable as a rich, jovial, friendly and kind-hearted, but aimless and conceited soul. His latest craze is motor cars which lands him in lots of trouble - even ending up in jail.

In the end all is well as Toad comes to his senses and

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makes up for his earlier excesses by seeking out and compensating those he has wronged, and Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad live out their lives happily ever after. Every student who took part was outstanding - their commitment is admirable and the result is a joy to behold - can't wait for the 2020 production!

Photo by Matt Freestone



If you follow us on Twitter you will have noticed an unprecedented number of tweets yesterday - 30 January. The cause? The Year 11 Football Team were in action. Out of 568 team nationally - and only the really good teams enter - our lads made it to the last 16 of the ESFA Boys Under 16 Premier League Schools Cup. This meant a long trip down to Somerset to face Churchill Academy. It was a cold, sunny day and our boys were definitely up for a battle.

It was a hard match that went to extra time which finished at 2-2. And so we faced the dreaded penalty shoot out. Having dominated play and battled so convincingly it was a cruel way to finish the match. As Franz Beckenbauer said "Penalty shooting is always an uncertain affair because there is a lot of luck involved."

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It wasn't our lucky day. The Churchill goalie made another terrific save and broke Downlands hearts on the pitch in Somerset and back here at school in Hassocks.

But what an achievement - we are so very proud of our lads. They are still in local competitions so we look forward to cheering them on.

The Downlands Year 11 Football Team is : Angus Hill, Luke Goff, Ollie Charlesworth, Josh Hickingbotham, Ed Turns, Oli Munt, Shay Leahy, Charlie Jones, Sam Wright, Adam Lindo, Tom Roberts, Cam West, Ollie Appaya, Dexter Webb and Logan Lee. *Nicki Burston*

THE CLAYTON & KEYMER BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

We meet at 3 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at our headquarters in Woodland Road, Hassocks. We are a friendly group and visitors are very welcome.

For further information about our activities, please contact our Chairman, Jenny Budd on **07719 922326**.

On **11th April** our speaker will be Martin Wilcox, his topic "Child Aid". The competition: Child's Photograph.

A Date For Your Diary: Our Coffee Morning is on Saturday **13th April** at Age Concern Hassocks between 9.45 am and 11.45 am. We hope to see you there. Contributions for the Cake, Toiletries, and Bric-a-brac stalls are greatly appreciated. Items can always be

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brought along beforehand to our meetings, or on the day. If you need to arrange for collection please contact Jenny. Proceeds go towards our benevolent funds; thank you for your generous support. *Liz Thomas*

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In collaboration with Mid Sussex Older People's Council. The friendly students at the college will be on hand to help you with any technology related questions you may have, every Tuesday during term time from 2.30 pm until 3.30 pm with time for a coffee and chat afterwards.

Any questions you like, big or small, from turning on your device, to using Skype or looking things up. Bring your laptop, iPad or any other devices you have questions about. The college also has PCs to use if needed. There will be a minibus available to pick people up from Trinity Road car park at 2.15 pm before every session, and drop back around 4 pm. For everyone else, please just go to the college reception and you will be shown where to go. There are a few steps up in both the minibus and the college.

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HEDGEHOGS' UNIQUE APPEARANCE AND PROXIMITY IN GARDENS AND SUBURBAN GREEN SPACES PLACE THEM FIRMLY IN THE PUBLIC'S AFFECTIONS.

They're a wild mammal we can observe close-up and are a beloved symbol of our natural heritage.

In a local push to encourage locals to look out for these animals, Ann Winney from local hedgehog rescue Hurst Hedgehog Haven will be at in Hassocks next month.

The area's new 'Hedgehog Hero' will be visiting South Downs Nurseries from 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday **24th March**, giving advice on what we can do to help hedgehogs and improve their numbers in our local area.

The Hedgehog Heroes initiative is run by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, and encourages businesses to remind visitors of the importance of looking out for Hedgehogs in the area. This includes checking areas of the garden before using any gardening equipment such as strimmers and mowers.

In 2007, hedgehogs were made a priority conservation species in Britain under the then UK Biodiversity Action

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Plan (BAP). In 2015, The State of Britain's Hedgehogs, by People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), outlined the findings of four surveys recording hedgehogs in urban and rural areas, and showed a worrying decline in hedgehog numbers. Hedgehogs continue to face pressures in the rural landscape and from urban development, but monitoring numbers, and initiatives such as 'Hedgehog Street' and 'Hedgehog Heroes', plus public efforts to improve garden habitats and connectivity, might just give them a fighting chance.

For more information, www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk.

Trevor Butler

HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB We are looking forward to spring & summer & another enjoyable season of bowling so why not come & join us. Your local Bowls club is in South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint & we are holding "Taster Sessions" on the following dates; Wednesday **24th April** at 6 pm & Saturday **27th April** at 11 am. We are offering free six week membership, free coaching & free use of equipment & Bowls. Please wear flat soled shoes (trainers are fine).

If you are interested in learning to bowl at a friendly & socially active club, then we would like to meet you.

Contact me on **01273 842770** or just turn up.

Anne Clifford

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP It was lovely to see so many people at our first meeting, in February, to hear Mak Norman's interesting & informative presentation on the Anglo Saxons.

Our next meeting is on the **6th April** when Jo Kaddish will speak on the work of the RNLI.

We meet at the Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint from 2 pm to 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

For more information please contact Dianne **01273 835284** or myself **07806 670359**.

Ann Tranter

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Now! We could talk about the amazing range of replacement doors that we have on display at our Ditchling showrooms or the wonderful solid oak dovetailed drawers that we make but we are going to start by describing something more mundane.

Let's start at the beginning. Perhaps you need new doors or a tall oven or an eye level fridge or new worktops. Perhaps some things need repositioning and some appliances need replacing. There are many different reasons people want to re-arrange their kitchens.

The first thing we do is come and give you some sensible intelligent design ideas. How can we change/sort/move around or replace the minimum elements of your kitchen to give you a refurbished kitchen that really works?

We do not try to sell you lots of new cabinets. We come and discuss how we can transform your existing kitchen with the minimum of fuss and expense.

Yes, we have a fantastic range of doors and worktops and sinks and taps and appliances and that is important but we are building our reputation on service and attention to detail.

So firstly, we simply come and discuss what you want or need. You will have your own thoughts. You may have lived with some real irritations but can't see a way to sort them out. We can add a professional designers eye. You might well be pleasantly surprised how inventive we can be at resolving difficult kitchen problems. We will do some sketches and scribble some plans and discuss costings and budgets. Then we will leave you with these ideas and let you mull them over at your leisure. There is absolutely no pressure. We are not sales people; we are kitchen designers, cabinet makers and kitchen installers offering an exceptional service to the local community at a sensible price.

If you like the ideas then we invite you over to the showrooms at Ditchling [just off the beacon road] to discuss your plans a bit further.

Then we come back on site and have another chat...then we will do a neat intelligible plan and a proper quote. Everything is done in a quiet and leisurely manner. We will never pester you. We will try to work within your budget.

We organise everything like the plumbing, gas fitting, moving a radiator or a new power point or making good an old wall right down to the painting and decorating.

When we arrive on the specified day we carefully remove all the contents of each cupboard and place the contents in a plastic storage box which we label. Then we complete the work. At the end of the refurbishment we put everything back in the cupboards...under your supervision. We clean and tidy as we go along. Our kitchen installers wear outside shoes outside and inside work slippers in your house. We try as best as we can to minimise the disruption, dust and the mess. All old doors and worktops are immediately removed. The kitchen doorway is sealed off by a new plastic doorway to keep the dust from the rest of the house.

When we're finished we clean everything from top to bottom and make it sparkle.

We leave you with a bunch of flowers and a brand new looking kitchen with a twenty year guarantee.

If that sounds like the sort of service you are looking for then please give us a ring.

TO VIEW OUR WEBSITE PLEASE ENTER - kitchencarousel.co.uk - in your address bar
(If you just Google our website you will only end up with loads of internet rubbish and other adverts.)

But the best thing to do is call our chief designer and arrange a free design visit.

His name is Stephen Hamilton. His tel no is: 07565 722055

Please note our extensive showrooms in Ditchling are only open by appointment!

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

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A COUNTRYSIDE TALK BY DAVID BANGS The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, a volunteer organisation dedicated to protecting local countryside and wildlife, invites you to a talk by the countryside expert and author David Bangs.

It will take place on Thursday, **4th April** at 7.30 pm in the Club Suite at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY.

The talk entitled 'The glorious countryside of the Sussex Middle Weald' provides a fascinating insight into the richness of the land surrounding us from the Sussex Middle Weald to southeast Surrey. It will immediately follow a brief introduction by The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group.

David is a strident campaigner for the protection of our countryside and wildlife and has written 3 books about their value, beauty and the threats facing them. Come and hear his immense knowledge and passion for the natural environment that surrounds us.

He is a very busy person so we are privileged that he has found time to speak to us. If you want to learn more about our local countryside and wildlife and his research into them, this opportunity should not be missed.

Entry is free and all are welcome. There is a car park opposite the building.

Michael Nailard.

NEW FREE TECHNOLOGY HELP SESSIONS FOR THE OVER 60'S at Hurstpierpoint College, in collaboration with Mid Sussex Older People's Council. The friendly students at the college will be on hand to help you with any technology related questions you may have, every Tuesday during term time from 2.30 pm until 3.30 pm with time for a coffee and chat afterwards.

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OPEN GARDENS The Old Coach House, Sayers Common **27th/28th April** 11 am to 4 pm in aid of St Peter and St James Hospice. Small entrance fee, raffle, tea, coffee, cakes, jams, BBQ sausages and short bluebell walk. *Mr Lower*



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HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY meets on the last Friday of each month at the Guide HQ, Trinity Road Car Park at 8 pm. Our next meeting will be on **29th March** when Jackie Marsh Hobbs, Brighton Historian and Royal Pavilion Guide, will give an illustrated talk called "A Passion for Piers" - a history of our famous seaside piers.

On Friday **26th April**, Helen Poole, Curator at Crawley Museum, will give an illustrated talk on Sussex in the Napoleonic Wars.

Everyone is welcome. For more information contact me Chairman on **01273 832280**.

Bill Kent

HURSTPIERPOINT SINGERS It is with great regret that we announce the closure of Hurstpierpoint Singers, after 68 years of music-making in Sussex. Dwindling numbers and illness led to the decision, which means that the very successful Christmas Concert held at Holy Trinity, Hurstpierpoint in December - at which over £250 was raised for Alzheimer's research - will in retrospect be their final performance. There will therefore not be a concert in April, although members of the Singers have joined other local choirs, including Burgess Hill Choral Society, Chanctonbury Chorus, All the Right Notes and Sussex Chorus, all of whom have concerts between

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April and June. The Singers would like to thank all those who have supported them over the past decades, both as singers, and as audience members.

David Redd

reMEMber, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society is based in Hurstpierpoint / Hassocks. We provide information and help to patients and carers throughout Sussex and beyond. We also campaign for better services for people who have ME/CFS and support biomedical research into the illness. This year reMEMber is hoping to work with the NHS and healthcare professionals to set up clinical networks to look into what is being provided for patients and determine what more is needed. We have applied for funding to help us in this task.

Our annual ME/CFS Awareness Conference will be held this year at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath on Saturday **11th May** starting at 2.30 pm. Our key speakers will be Dr Charles Shepherd, medical advisor to the ME Association and Nina Muirhead, a surgeon, both of whom have ME. Light refreshments will be provided and admission is by ticket only. For more information go to our website, www.remembercfs.org.uk or contact the Director on **01273 831733**, e-mail me_cfs@hotmail.com

Janice Kent

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