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**Your Editors: Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown, Natalie Dalley & Nicola Botting**

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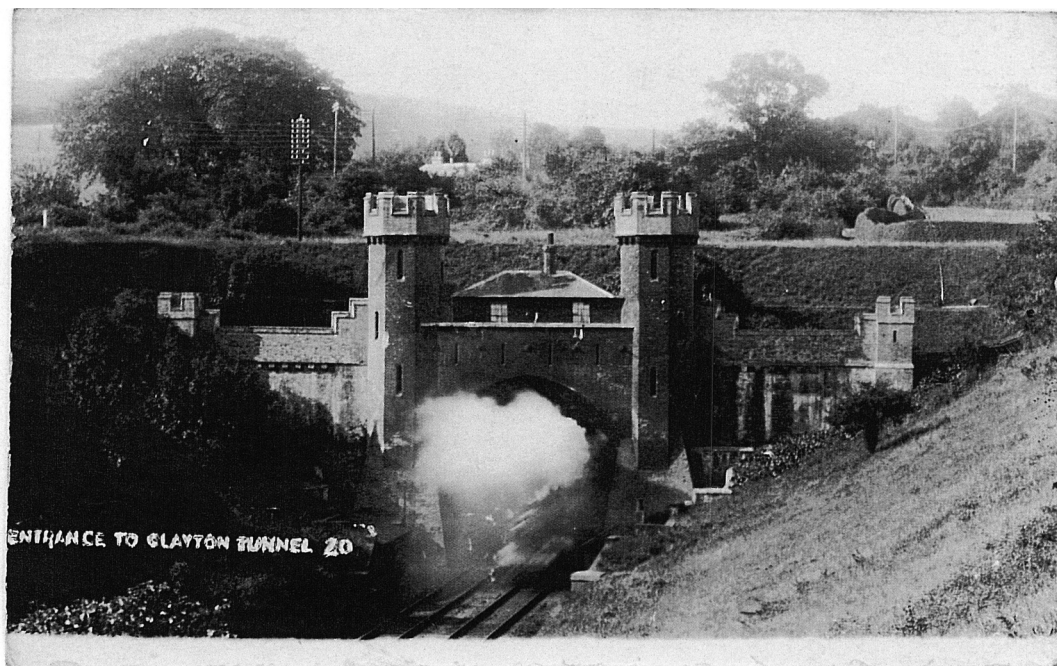
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### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

#### HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

Tues. 23rd Apr. 2.30 pm

#### DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY

Thurs. 25th Apr. 7.30 pm

#### HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fri. 26th Apr. 8 pm

#### HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A

Fri. 26th Apr. 2 pm

#### HASSOCKS AND HURSTPIERPOINT LABOUR BRANCH

Fri. 26th Apr. 2 - 3 pm

#### BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Fri. 26th Apr. 7.45 pm

#### CLAYTON WITH KEYMER CHURCHES

Sat. 27th Apr. 7.30 pm Roaring Twenties Evening, 3 course meal & entertainment. Tickets Hassocks Hardware

#### NEWTIMBER CHURCH

Sat. 27th Apr. 7 pm The Last Trip Home - celebration of the working horse and ox in song & verse. See article

#### HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET

Sat. 27th Apr. 9 am - 1 pm

#### SUSSEX VALE ROTARY

Mon. 29th Apr.

#### HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY

Mon. 29th Apr. 7.45 pm

#### Age Concern, Hassocks

Churchill's S.O.E Special Operations Executive - Gilly Halcrow

#### Ditchling Village Hall

Film - Cold War

#### Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint

Sussex in the Napoleonic Wars - Helen Poole

Adastra Hall, Hassocks

AGM followed by The Surprising Mr Sousa - Ian Gledhill

#### Purple Carrot, Hassocks

Meet for a cuppa and a chat - A warm welcome to all

#### Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill

A Passion for Piers - Jackie Marsh-Hobbs

#### Clayton Church Hall

Tickets Hassocks Hardware

#### Church Lane, Newtimber

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#### Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Plastic, Turning the Tide - Ray Hale. All welcome



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## KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB

Mon. 29th Apr. 7.30 - 9.30 pm

## HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP

Wed. 1st May 2 pm

## HURST, HASOCKS & DITCHLING FIRST RESPONDERS

Thurs. 2nd May 7.30 pm

## HASOCKS MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Mon. 6th May 12 - 4 pm

## FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

Mon. 6th May 2.30 - 4.30 pm

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLAYTON & KEYMER WOMENS SECTION

Thurs. 9th May 3 pm

## reMember

Sat. 11th May 2.30 pm ME/CFS Awareness Conference - Dr Charles Shepherd/Nina Muirhead Tkts 01273 831733

## ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE

Sun. 12th May 2 - 5.30 pm

## HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Tues. 14th May 7.45 pm

## HASOCKS EVENING JAZZ

Tues. 14th May 8 pm

## ADAstra BOWLING

27th Apr. 4th, 6th, 11th, 18th May 10 am - 12.30 pm Open morning, come and try bowling, equip. provided

## HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB

Wed. 24th Apr. 6 pm Taster Sessions - sign up for free six week membership, coaching and use of equipment

Sat 27th Apr. 11 am Taster Sessions - sign up for free six week membership, coaching and use of equipment

## HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

For films and showing times visit [hurstfilms.com](http://hurstfilms.com)

## ST PETER AND ST JAMES HOSPICE

27th/28th Apr. 11 am - 4 pm Open Gardens - Raffle, Tea/Coffee, Cake, Jams, BBQ & short bluebell walk



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## United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks

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## The Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint

My Career in Ballet - Alfreda Thorogood

## Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church Hall

Training Night - New members welcome

## Adastra Park, Hassocks

Flower Festival, Dog Show, Maypole Dancing, Stalls etc

## Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Cream Tea afternoon. Tickets Pavilion Electrics

## Legion HQ, Woodland Road

Women's Royal Voluntary Service - Helen

## Clair Hall, Haywards Heath

## Birchanger Gardens, Handcross RH17 6JY

7 Acre Open Garden, refreshments and home made cakes

## Hurstpierpoint Village Centre

Wakehurst - Kew's Wild Botanic Garden - Iain Parkinson

## Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

Trad Jazz Evening. All welcome;

## Adastra Park, Hassocks

South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint

## Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre

## The Old Coach House, Sayers Common

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**HASSOCKS COMMUNITY RUNNERS** Since our launch in June 2018 we have grown from a team of five enthusiastic team members to a Facebook membership of over 260. We meet every Monday evening at 7.30 pm and Friday morning at 9.15 am at Proper Coffee Shop, Hassocks High Street. We continue to offer runs of 3, 5, 7 and 10km which enables all abilities to join in. We are a free running group and love meeting new members and exploring the wonderful countryside around the area where we live.

We have a stand at the May Day event at Adastra Park on the **6th May**. Come and meet the team and join in with one of the fun runs that we will be organising for all the family. We would also love to see you at one of the regular runs, all you need is a pair of trainers! Hope to see you soon. *Hassocks Community Runners Team*

**HURSTPIERPOINT OPEN GARDENS** on Sunday **2nd June**. The buzzing Hurstpierpoint Open Gardens event will be held on Sunday **2nd June** this year from 1pm to 5.30 pm. - please put the date in your diaries as the event promises to have lots of variety and something to please everyone - from lawns, to beds to veg. galore.

Around 8 gardens will open for charity – and, as before, we'll be raising money for our local St Peter and St James Hospice - we can't think of a better cause

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which has touched most of our lives at some time and which so depends on our support.

Would you be willing to open your garden this year? We are still looking for two or three gardeners who would be willing to open – especially those in the College Lane, Hurst Road to Langton Lane areas. It doesn't have to be perfect or weed free – it just has to offer something interesting for people to look at!

We would also very much welcome donations of plants to sell on our plant stall and, of course, cakes galore. There will be some gardens selling teas, coffees, cakes and plants, also one with live music and items to buy made my local artisans.

You can contact the organisers by email – **prue.heron@btopenworld.com** or phone **01273 835064**. And please take a look at our website - **hurstpierpointopengardens.org.uk**

*Prue Peters*

**STAR CINEMA** Our March film, Bohemian Rhapsody, was so popular that some people had to be turned away - to those few, our sincere apologies! After a break for the next few months, film night will be back in September. Dates for your diary **20th September, 18th October, and 15th November** - all Friday nights. Hope to see you there.

*Liz Edmunds*

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## NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL GARDEN CENTRE

A Hassocks garden centre has come to the rescue for a community bus in desperate need of a parking space. The Bluebird Community Partnership, who operate the Hurst and Hassocks Community Bus, hit a logistical crisis when their arrangement to park their bus at Hassocks Golf Club came to an end because of building work. They contacted South Downs Nurseries, on Brighton Road, who came to the rescue and offered a parking spot for the minibus in their car park.

The Bluebird Community Partnership is a community transport charity, covering administrative district of Mid Sussex, and the area around Henfield in the Horsham District, providing dial-a-ride-style, accessible transport within the local community to those who need it.

Pupils from Hassocks Infants School visited a local garden centre to learn how to look after plants.

Creative Sussex residents have teamed up with local business 'Made and Making' to create the perfect gift for The Duke & Duchess of Sussex's baby, which is due next month.

Sarah Brangwyn from Made and Making, who run craft and sewing workshops from their studio in Hassocks, said: "We thought it would be a lovely idea for the Sussex community to make something for the new arrival. A patchwork quilt seemed the perfect project as everyone could work on a square and all we asked that it was bright and colourful."

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In all, 56 blocks were received including eight which were made by a girls attending the after-school sewing club. Four volunteers, Vanessa, Andrea, Louise and Tanya, then helped assemble the quilt before taking it to The Quilt Room in Dorking where it was professionally quilted using their long arm machines.

"Everyone has really enjoyed taking part in the project" said one volunteer who added: "It has been so lovely to make a small part of such beautiful quilt which will hopefully become much loved".



Sarah Brangwyn, the organiser of the project, said: "I have been so pleased with the response that we have had and the quality of the work submitted has been amazing. Every block received has been included in the quilt and it's a wonderful reflection of the sewing community we have at Made and Making".

For further information on how you can get involved with Made and Making's charity and community projects, please visit [www.madeandmaking.co.uk](http://www.madeandmaking.co.uk).

*Trevor Butler*

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## HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Association members have been invited by the Twinning Committee in S Martin De Boscherville to a weekend **14th/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 me 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.

The proposed date for the AGM has been set as Friday **17th May** in the Conference Centre Hurstpierpoint Village Centre starting at 7.30 pm.

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 celebrated 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

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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*

## NEWTIMBER VILLAGE COUNTRY AND VINTAGE FAYRE Sunday 23rd June

We are hosting a traditional Country and Vintage Fayre in the picturesque village of Newtimber on Sunday **23rd June** at the Church Field, Church Lane, Newtimber, BN6 9BT, off the A281 near Poyning's, A23 Tates turnoff from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.

A wide range of stalls ranging from hog roast, crepes, delicious street food, vintage ice cream van, flowers, blacksmith, target shooting with Plumpton College, vintage brocante, afternoon tea, plants, tombola, lots of children's stalls, local arts and crafts and so much more. Dogs are welcome on leads. Fun for all the family and children under 16 free of charge.

We are raising money for The Martlets Hospice and Newtimber Church.

For more information call me on **01273 831877**.

*Lucy Dalrymple*

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A thoughtful and considerate refurbishment may be the answer. There are many ways we can make your kitchen look new and work like new without changing everything. It is more cost effective and much less messy!

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.

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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.

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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.

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

Thanks for taking the time to read this.



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**TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON?** - and the audio version of Talk About has come to the end of its season. This April edition will be the last one to be recorded for visually impaired readers. Sixteen years ago, a blind man suggested that an audio version of such a useful source of local information should be included in the Village Action Plan. As a result, a group of volunteers without funds, but rich in enthusiasm and ingenuity, launched 'Talk About on Tape' in time for the Queen's Jubilee. Dennis Walmsley fitted up a studio mainly from equipment salvaged from skips, and he and Simon Brown became responsible for the monthly recording sessions. Friends and Neighbours provided the cassettes, the Yews Talking News in Haywards Heath gave Simon access to their expensive copying machine, and a rota of volunteer readers was quickly formed. At its zenith, Talk about on Tape reached the great majority of registered blind and partially sighted people in Hassocks and Ditchling and later, Hurstpierpoint.

Why then, are we closing down? The reason is simple: we have been overtaken by technology. All talking newspapers are having the same experience. Although we now record on memory sticks as cassettes are obsolete, there is little demand for the service. The range of audio services is vast compared with 16 years ago. Happily there have also been significant medical advances. More people are retaining useful vision so



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all the enlarging facilities on tablets and PC's are open to them as well as audio. Talk About itself went on line at the beginning of this year so our listeners can access it direct.

Sixteen years is a long time, and not a single deadline has been missed. Our thanks go out to so many people, not least to Talk About staff who provided copy in good time for it to be recorded and delivered by the 1st of the month, and the Parish Council for acting as a postal receiving centre. Our readers and editors have never failed us, though there have been many occasions when their laughter has caused our sound engineer to throw all his switches. Recording sessions seem to be therapeutic. The Talk About on Tape or, more recently, Talk About on Memory Stick, teams will miss them.

*Margaret Ford*

**ANNUAL QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP.** On Friday 24th May we will be holding a Quiz and Curry Night at the Hassocks Hotel at 7.30 pm.

Jack and Jill Playgroup is the only charity run playgroup in Hassocks. Judy will return as the quiz mistress. Quiz teams of up to 8 people (please arrange your teams before the night). There will be a pudding auction after the curry. To book a table please contact me on **07799 383481** or by emailing [helenpalmer@live.com](mailto:helenpalmer@live.com).

*Helen Palmer*



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**HURSTPIERPOINT SINGERS (1950 – 2019)** It is with a sense of sadness that we report the demise of this once-thriving village choral society. Founded in 1950 by a small group of like-minded friends, by the mid 1960's it had a membership of 36, employing a paid conductor and accompanist. Rehearsals took place in the Parish Room. The Singers were a contributory choir of the Lewes Music Festival, coming together with others each year, to sing a major choral work under the baton of nationally known Guest Conductors. Financial considerations led to the choir becoming part of the local Adult Education Programme, with termly fees going to the District Council and rehearsals re-locating to St. Lawrence School. However, continuing growth in numbers allowed the choir to become independent and self-sufficient again and acquire charitable status with the objective of "educating the public in the art and science of music".

Rehearsals then moved to the Music School at Hurst College and in the mid 1980 / 90's, membership reached its peak at just under 80. Thereafter numbers began to decline, in spite of becoming part of the West Sussex Festival Chorus, several recruitment drives and a move to a more central rehearsal venue at Hurst Methodist Church. From 52 in 2004 the membership has dropped to just over 20 – an unsustainable critical mass for the type of music performed, resulting in the

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decision to disband.

Over the years the choir has sung from a wide repertoire; from "Jingle Bells" to Handel's "Messiah"; from Hurd's "Hip Hip Horatio" to Haydn's "Creation"; from Bach's "Peasant Cantata" to Britten's "Ceremony of Carols"; from opera choruses to Janacek's "Otcenas"; from Stanford's "Bluebird" to Coleridge Taylor's "Hiawatha" etc. etc. The choir has performed in village halls and the Albert Hall, in local churches and in Arundel Cathedral and abroad. In general, concerts have been well received and in this respect, the Singers would like to record their thanks to the loyal audiences for their support over the years.

It is hoped to hold a wake later this year, when the weather improves, when former Singers can re-unite in a party atmosphere to celebrate the 69 years of Hurstpierpoint Singers' music making.

(For any queries regarding a future gathering of the Singers, contact David Redd, Secretary on **01273 831801**)

*Pam Graham*

## **WAKEHURST – KEW'S WILD BOTANIC GARDEN**

Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society will be hosting this illustrated talk by Iain Parkinson. 7.45 pm on Tuesday **14th May** at the Club Suite Hurstpierpoint Village Hall.

*Kath Green*



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**BE AFRAID, BE VERY AFRAID** This horror film warning means a dreadful disaster is imminent. The only reason that it was not heard at a crowded meeting of environmental groups in Horsham in February was that it was too close to the truth for comfort. They had met because of grim reality: time was running out for the human race. Climate change was rapidly becoming climate breakdown. Only by reducing carbon emissions could we prevent 'runaway and irreversible climate change'. We had only eleven years left to achieve this. Scientists predicted that 2030 would be crunch year.

The meeting was called by Sussex Green Living. The audience was packed with people responsible for an astonishing range of 'green' activities across Sussex and Surrey, ranging from Kinder Living Home Shows, community green space projects, kinder tech events (repairing lap tops and PC's) and a community fridge scheme to reduce food waste. Our Mid-Sussex villages, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Keymer and Ditchling, were represented by HKD Transition. Alistair Whitby listed our solar energy projects with Network Rail and at Downlands School, our rain gardens, our food directory – there wasn't time for everything! All good and useful ways of reducing our carbon footprint, and replicated across Sussex, but rather resembling David and Goliath – though we all know

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who won in the end.

In break out groups members tried to identify how else we could press the urgency of the situation. – 'create action' was the buzz word. There was complete agreement that pressure must come from us – the 'ordinary people'. We dare not rely on central government. We must tell the truth about climate change clearly, calmly and frequently. There was a place for active, non-violent action. An increasing number of towns and councils were marking their determination to 'create action' by declaring a climate emergency. Surely this could happen in Sussex?

With the May local government elections in the offing, there was opportunity to raise these issues with Councillors and candidates. It was agreed that we should demand that our councils should declare a state of climate emergency and undertake to review their activities with the aim of reducing carbon emissions. It was further agreed that the many groups represented should unite to achieve this and a steering committee was appointed to take this forward.

Swift action has followed. The South East Climate Alliance (<https://seclimatealliance.uk/>) has been formed representing 'green' groups across Sussex. We already have five Climate Reality Leaders in West Sussex, people trained under the Al Gore leadership

*continued overleaf*

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scheme, qualified to speak on climate change and look at solutions, so we are off to a flying start. West Sussex County Council has been approached and a Motion laid which will be debated in April. In preparation, Councillor Kirsty Lord, our Hassocks representative on West Sussex County Council, is meeting with a group of HKD members in March.

High on the agenda will be ways in which we 'ordinary people' can influence the decision-makers. Should we be pressing for 'citizen's assemblies' where politicians, the public and experts meet on equal terms to assess evidence and agree targets? How can local authorities support local groups wishing to set up a repair café or to appoint 'Ditch wardens' to advise and help solve local flooding issues? We hope that our meeting in March will be the beginning, not the end, of the debate. Your ideas are welcome.

Mail us on  
[info@hkddtransition.org.uk](mailto:info@hkddtransition.org.uk) Margaret Ford

**CABARET COMES TO WIVELSFIELD** Talented local Jazz singer and community musician Lou Beckerman will be joined by friends Sarah Carpenter and Carol Sloman for an intimate cabaret performance as glamorous trio FoxiVox at Wivelsfield Village Hall on Saturday **27th July**. These three talented female musicians will provide a performance of song, story, musical mischief and jazz with a theatrical twist.

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FoxiVox is an innovative group with their stylish, eclectic and entertaining interpretations of well-loved standards, lesser-known classics and original compositions.

This event has been organised by the Mid Sussex Branch of Parkinson's UK to raise funds for the planned improvements to Wivelsfield Village Hall. Branch Chairman Sue Blunden said "Our group are delighted to host this evening to support the Hall where we hold our meetings and to welcome Lou Beckerman who has become a good friend to our members through leading our group choir. So why not put dress to impress and join us!"

Tickets available from myself on **01444 483504** or Barb **01444 470024**. Doors open at 7 pm.

*Sue Blunden*

### **A CONCERT BY COTILLION - THE LAST TRIP HOME**

A celebration of the working horse and ox in folk song and verse at St John the Evangelist Church, Church Lane, Newtimber BN6 9BT on Saturday **27th April** at 7 pm

Tickets include interval refreshments, [lucy.newtimber@icloud.com](mailto:lucy.newtimber@icloud.com) **01273 831877** or [gillian.bedlam@googlemail.com](mailto:gillian.bedlam@googlemail.com) **01273 835013**.

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*Lucy Dalrymple*



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*Fran Rabin*

**HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** Firstly I would like to apologise for the confusion re dates in the previous issue of this magazine and hope it did not cause any problems.

The meeting in March was most enjoyable. It was great to see some more 'new' people. Ian Gledhill gave a most informative presentation on Art Deco which has made me look up at buildings a lot more when I am out & about.

At our next meeting, on Wednesday 1st May, Alfreda Thorogood will be telling us about her varied career with the ballet.

We meet at The Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint from 2pm - 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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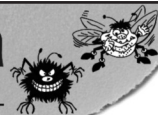
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Hearing Aid Maintenance checks/batteries are held here by Action for Deafness on the first Tuesday of each month 9.30 am, but only that day per month – NHS Only – just turn up and a waiting system is in place. On other days we do not hold batteries here, you do need to contact your supplier for these.

We have a Chiropodist and a Hairdresser here at the centre with appointments here Monday to Friday. Please do call us to book your appointment.

We have Scrabble, German 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 office or take a look at our website. We reg-



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ularly arrange in house entertainment and outings too. At our Knit and Natter mornings we knit squares to make into blankets to send to Syria, and we have been asked can anyone knit premature baby bonnets? These need to be almost doll size with white, pink, blue or yellow soft baby wool. If you would like to help please just drop them into us and we will distribute to the hospital. I Pad training - From April we have I pad training on the first and third Thursday afternoons of the month, please do call us to book your place.

Our Charity Shop is open every day and also Saturday mornings, we now take credit, debit and contactless cards for payment! Are you an avid reader and like a puzzle or two? We have a very good selection of second hand books and jigsaw puzzles in our main hall for sale – do pop in and take a look.

Do you sing in a choir or play a musical instrument? Our members here would love to hear you! If you or you know anyone that would be happy to come in and play to our members just after lunch for half an hour (or any other time!) please do contact our office. We do have an electric organ if anyone would like to come and play it for us!

*Kirsty Hunnisett*

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### WE WILL, WE WILL ROCK YOU! SPRING CONCERT WAS A HIT!

Every year we look forward to our Spring Concert and the range of musical talent we have at the school. This year was no exception. With over 80 students taking part from Years 7 to 11 we enjoyed a fantastic showcase of music – from the Downlands orchestra to Doods & Toots to Queen rock to Double Bass to cajon to fantastic singing.

The first act was a variety of music with the Downlands School Orchestra opening proceedings with a great performance of Star Wars. We enjoyed original pieces as well as old favourites. The second half was dedicated to the music of Queen – finishing up with We Will Rock You and Radio GaGa.

The best thing about the Spring Concert is that everyone gets to play or sing – all you need is a love and an enthusiasm for music – it was a joy! *Nicki Burston*



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**DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL** Are you interested in the education of children in our local community? Have you ever thought of being involved in supporting one of our local schools?

The Governing Board of Downlands Community School in Hassocks is looking to recruit co-opted governors at the beginning of June 2019. All governors are volunteers and no formal qualifications are required. However as a co-opted governor you may be able to use your professional skills in the role. At present, we are particularly looking to recruit those with building and financial expertise but we would also be glad to hear from those who have other skills to offer.

Coming from a range of different backgrounds, our governors have a wide variety of skills and experience but all share a common interest in their commitment to the education of children in our community.

To become a school governor you must be over 18 years of age. Those in employment are entitled to "reasonable" time off work to carry out their governorship duties.

The governing board exercises its authority collectively rather than as individuals.

If you are interested in joining us, and would like further information regarding the roles and responsibilities of a school governor, please contact the Clerk to the Governors, by emailing him at

[mhill@downlands.org](mailto:mhill@downlands.org).

*Di Hunt*

**CLAYTON WITH KEYMER CHURCHES** are having a Roaring Twenties Evening with a three course meal and entertainment on Saturday **27th April** at Clayton Church Hall at 7.30 pm.

Tickets available from Hassocks Hardware. Dressing Up encouraged but not compulsory! Prize for the best outfit!

*Juliet Strange*

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**CHAILEY TRACTOR CLUB** Lots and lots of good things happening, so please take a few moments to digest the following....

Events diary - not necessarily in date order.

Our Spring 'River' Tractor run will be meeting at 10 am at Tinkers Park, Hadlow Down for a 10.15 am departure sharp. First comfort stop at Pig and Butcher 11 am. Thereafter 12.15 pm at the Laughing Fish and then onto Lewes where we will be led into Harveys Yard by steam courtesy Ben Flloyd of Tinkers. Arrival Harveys Lewes 2 pm.

Tinkers Park Events: We have teamed up for several event with Tinkers. Their own primary events are their steam rally weekend **1st/2nd June**, model railway and bus rally weekend **3rd/4th August** and Tinkers open day Saturday **28th September**.

Chigley's Summer tractor run is on Saturday **29th June**, route and timings to be advised shortly.

Pig and Butcher, Saturday **24th August**, Chigley's summer barbeque comprising an early short run arriving Five Ash Down 1 pm until 4 pm. Basically a gathering of tractors and steam, static with bar, barbeque, live folk music and Morris dancing. Bring kids, friends and family.

Oakwood Vintage & Classic Car Festival is on Sunday **26th May** at Oakwood Farm, Wivelsfield 10 am onwards.

*Howard*

**OPEN GARDEN** Sunday **12th May** Birchanger Gardens, Handcross RH17 6JY. 2 pm to 5.30 pm.

The Worrall family are again kindly opening their garden for charity, and on Sunday 12th May it will be in aid of St Catherine's Hospice. This is a beautiful 7-acre garden with magnificent displays of azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias. There is a grassy avenue, lake, lily pond, pergola, Etruscan-style temple and much more. This lovely garden is only open to the public for a few weekends each year, so make sure you don't miss it.

Children free, dogs on leads, Free car parking, Refreshments with home made cakes (closes 5.00 pm), 2 miles east of A23 at Handcross on the B2110, 2 miles north of Balcombe, Signposted on the day. Further details from Marian Erritt on **01444 413391**.

Check St Catherine Hospice's website [www.stch.org.uk](http://www.stch.org.uk) for details of other gardens that will be opening this year to raise much needed funds.

*Joan Moon*

**DOWNSFEST 2019** – Saturday **7th September** from 4 pm to 10 pm. A date for your diary. Our very own Hassocks Music Festival raising money for St Peter and St James Hospice. Our headline Queen tribute band is booked. More information to come. In the meantime, if you would like a stall or join the line-up on stage with your performance send your details and video clip to [michellebinks5@outlook.com](mailto:michellebinks5@outlook.com).

*Michelle Binks*



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**FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS** It's delicious! - it's delightful! — it's delovely!! Come and join us at our Cream Tea afternoon on Bank Holiday Monday **6th May** at the Adastral Hall Hassocks from 2.30 pm until approx 4.30 pm. Doors will open at 2.15 pm for an 'early cuppa' before the first Cream tea at 2.30 pm. Last tea will be served at 4.15 pm. Tickets are on sale at Pavilion Electrics in Keymer Road, Hassocks at the usual very reasonable cost and there will be a raffle to add to the excitement of the occasion.

Four weeks later, on 6th June sees the 75th anniversary of 'D.Day' and, in true Friends and Neighbours style we shall be wearing red, white and blue to commemorate that famous date during World War Two. Why not sport any of those colours that you may have in your wardrobe to join us!

A donation from the proceeds of the afternoon will be given to the Crohn's in Childhood Research Association so please come along for a friendly and enjoyable afternoon to support us. Don't be alone on Bank Holiday - we look forward to your company!

*Friends and Neighbours*

**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 we support biomedical research into the illness. We are delighted to announce that we have just received a

grant through the Sussex Community Foundation to help healthcare professionals learn more about this long-term illness and to help establish a service for children who have ME/CFS.

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](http://www.remembercfs.org.uk) or contact the Director, Janice Kent, on **01273 831733**, e-mail [me\\_cfs@hotmail.com](mailto:me_cfs@hotmail.com).  
*Bill Kent*

**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 to [hassockscroquetclub@gmail.com](mailto:hassockscroquetclub@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.hassockscroquetclub.net](http://www.hassockscroquetclub.net).

*Tony Bright*

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**ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB** We have now finalised our entry into two new leagues. The first is the Brighton, Hove and District Men's League played on Tuesday evenings and the second is the Hove Mixed League played on Thursday afternoons. Both these leagues will set us new challenges and give opportunities for experienced and improving bowlers.

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 limitation, young or old. 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 - **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**, **adastrabowling.club@gmail.com**, Facebook **@adastrabowling**

*Frank Titford*

**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** We do apologise but our May film is now being on **25th April**. Cold War, our film is based on the Director's own parents' relationship and highlights the hardships experienced by people living in exile. Set against the backdrop of the late 1940's Cold War in Poland, two people from differing backgrounds and temperaments Wiktor and Zula, embark on an almost impossible and destructive romance. As performing musicians, they are forced to play into the communist propaganda machine but dream of escaping to the creative freedom of the west. Shot in shimmering black and white, it is an artfully crafted and flawlessly acted film which is visually stunning, passionate, wistful and thoughtful in equal measure.

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski Polish 2018 84 minutes. 15 Cert.

The film will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. The films start 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 for a small sum payable at the door.

*Rowena and Melanie*

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## 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 May 9th our speaker is Helen from 'The Women's Royal Voluntary Service'. The competition is for 'Something Wooden'. Talking of Voluntary Services, recently Val Upton, a very busy lady who wears various voluntary hats in the local community, came along to tell us about the work of the 'Mid Sussex Older People's Council'. Val thoroughly recommends volunteering as the personal returns are great. Satisfaction from a job well done, or just knowing you've helped to brighten someone's day, plus the added bonus of lasting friendships and plenty of fun along the way.

The MSOPC have compiled a comprehensive directory of resources available to help older people with problems that may be troubling them. Advice and support can be found for issues such as health, money, safety, transport, etc., etc., even bewildering modern technology!

A Date For Your Diary: Our next Coffee Morning is on Saturday **15th June** at Age Concern Hassocks between 9.45 am and 11.45 am. Your support is always welcomed.

*Liz Thomas*

**HASSOCKS MAY DAY** – Monday **6th May** 12 pm to 4 pm at Adastra Park.

We have two very exciting new activities to offer you this year: a Flower Festival, application forms from Bella June to raise money for Sussex Cancer and Hassocks Community Fun Run, entry on the day, organised by Hassocks Community Runners. Our very popular Dog Show will be returning, along with Owls Out & About and a football challenge from Hassocks Junior Football Club. Have a go at whittling with the National Trust or signing challenges by Talking Hands? Much more to see and do too!

Or if you prefer to sit and watch, enjoy a cuppa and a cake at the Community Café raising funds for Children's Cancer and PearlPower, or have a pint and burger at the beer festival hosted by Hassocks Keymer Sports and Social Club. Join in a traditional dance round the Maypole. Lots to see and do. Look forward to seeing you there! Room for more; if you would like a stall please email [michellebinks5@outlook.com](mailto:michellebinks5@outlook.com) *Michelle Binks*

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**THE LADIES OF THE TOWNWOMEN'S GUILD** met on the 26th February for their monthly meeting at the Pauline Thaw centre, on this occasion to welcome our speaker for the afternoon, Mr John Withall who gave a most interesting account on the history of Wakehurst Manor and all the people who had lived there.

Edward Culpepper, a distant relative of Thomas Culpepper the famous herbalist commissioned the mansion in 1590 on land previously purchased by William de Wakehurst which evidence has been discovered of Stone Age and Iron Age activities (charcoal burning) and Roman (iron smelting). The mansion was then sold on to Dennys Lydell, Commissioner for the Navy in the reign of Charles II for a purchase price of £9,000. The sale being necessary to cover a Culpepper family member's gambling debts. Over the years the mansion was taken over by other incumbents, each putting their own individual mark on the property, the last being Sir Henry Price (the 'Fifty Shilling Taylor') and his wife Lady Eve, who in 1965 bequeathed the manor to the National Trust.

The manor played it's part in WWII, having been taken over by the War Office in 1939. It then became the HQ for the Canadian Army and HQ for the planning of the D Day landings. Recently an underground radio station and several relics from WWI have been located in the gardens.

Wakehurst is now managed by Royal British Gardens with the Millennium Seed Bank opening in 2000, now holding approximately 25% of the world's species and by contrast a yew tree is still standing in the garden which has been dated to the year 1391!

Very many thanks to Mr Withall for this insight - in addition to being a lovely place to visit, what a fascinating history Wakehurst Place has to offer.

Our next meeting is on the **23rd April** commencing 2.30 pm at the Pauline Thaw Centre when our speaker for the afternoon will be Gilly Halcrow whose talk is entitled 'Churchill's S.O.E. Special Operations Executive'. For further information please contact Mrs Sheila Southwell

**01273 841106.** *Avril Williams*

## OUR OFFICE IS MOVING!

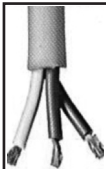
We are please to announce that effective April 29 our offices will be located:

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**BUSY, BUSY, BUSY** The past few months have certainly kept Sussex Vale Rotarians on their toes. Since the beginning of the year we have been delighted to welcome Rev Alex Baxter, Don Ingram and Pamela Bovill as new members of the club. In February, we had a very successful Pie Night For Polio at the New Inn which raised £380 on the night and will be topped up to £1140 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to continue the fight against this dreadful disease. Downlands School made their way to the District Final of the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition held at St Theresa's School, Dorking and a number of us went along to support the team. They were competing against 5 other teams and did very well in a tight contest, but couldn't get any further, but had the consolation of winning the Best Chairperson award. Our next club meeting was a live music evening, when the members and their guests were entertained by Marcus Martin and Alan Leith. 16th March saw us at the Ditchling Newcomers event, when we joined other local groups to greet new residents of Ditchling and talk about our club activities and what we offer. Further to that we made a donation to The Park Centre for Breast Cancer for materials to be used to make post-operative cushions for women following surgery. Acting in conjunction with us, members of Hassocks WI then set to work sewing and stuffing the cushions. During all this we are still working towards organizing the Live Concert on **26th April 7.30 pm** at St Cosmos and St Damian Church in Keymer. Entry is free, but a collection will be taken on behalf of the local charity 'Know Dementia'. Sussex Vale Rotary has members from Burgess Hill, Ditchling, 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](mailto:secretary@rotary-sxvale.org.uk) or call **07546 111996**, he will be pleased to hear from you. Alternatively, you can follow us on Facebook or check our website, [www.rotary-sxvale.org.uk](http://www.rotary-sxvale.org.uk)

*Duncan Honeyman*



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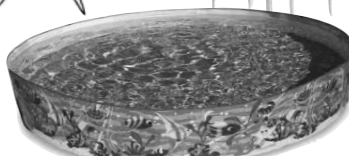
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