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20TH ARTS COMPETITION SUCCESS Looking for an excellent local sports club to join - look no further than Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club. The Club had another successful morning with their 20th Annual Arts Competition. The competition started in 2000 as part of Mid Sussex Arts Festival and has continued every year since, attracting nearly two thousand gymnasts and over a thousand entries. This year over a hundred gymnasts competed for trophies and medals in Rope Pairs, Beam Pairs, Ball Solos and Sports Acrobatic Sixes. Some of the competitors only joined the Club in the Spring term, while some of the Seniors have attended the Club for over ten years. Competitors come from all over the district. The children choose whether to enter, then choose which sections to do, their own music and then create and practise their own routines for performance.

The Beam Pair competition involves mounting the beam and performing six different skills before dismounting. This year's winners were:- Year 3 – Summer & Alexis Sargent, Year 4 -Sammy Nichols & Fergus Paterson, Year 5 & 6 - Grace Balcombe & Hettie Hodson, Year 7+ - Jasmine Cross & Milly

The rhythmic apparatus is rotated each year and this year the pairs choice was Rope. The winners were Year 3 & 4 – Hagar Paz & Isla Paterson, Year 5 & 6 - Rosie Nelson & Esther Tedman with the senior section won by Emily Holmes & continued after local activities Molly Harrild.



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West Sussex BN6 8AR. For more information call 01273 846978.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

AD~ASTRA BEACON OF LIGHT SPIRITUAL CENTRE

L CENTRE Adastra Hall, Hassocks Meditation Group 10.10 to 10.30 am Divine Service at 11 am

Sun. 26th May 10 am doors open.

Age Concern, Hassocks

HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

Growing Alstroemerias - Ben Crossland

Tues. 28th May 2.30 pm

Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

HASSOCKS JAZZ LUNCH Tues. 28th May 11.30 am

Trad Jazz and Lunch. Bookings only call 01273 842113. All welcome

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint

Fri. 31st May 8 pm

Sport & Scandal at Sheffield Park - Roger Packham www.theoaksfarm.co.uk. Common Lane, Ditchling

THE OAKS POULTRY FARM Sat. 1st Jun. 10 am - 3 pm Farm

Farm Open Day, chicks, donkeys, goats, pigs, cows, tractor rides, BBQ. Free entry

ST PETER AND ST JAMES HOSPICE www.hurstpierpointopengardens.org.uk. Various Venues

Sun 2nd Jun. 1 - 5.30 pm Around 8 Hurstpierpoint Gardens will be open. Beverages, cakes, plants & music HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP The Guide HO, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint

Wed. 5th Jun. 2 pm

Sussex Living Magazine - Tanis Faulks

HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING FIRST RESPONDERS

Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church Hall Training Night - New members welcome

Thurs. 6th Jun. 7.30 pm DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY

Ditchling Village Hall

Thurs. 6th Jun. 7.30 pm

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BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre Sat. 8th Jun. 2 - 5.30 pm An Introduction to Living Stones - Roy Earle. Refreshments, plants & seeds for sale www.burgesshillbikeride.co.uk. Queens Crescent Car Park, RH15 9DP HEADWAY EAST SUSSEX Sun. 9th Jun. Registration 8 am, Start 9 - 9.30 am Burgess Hill Bike Ride - 10, 20 & 40 mile routes

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME 13 Chancellors Park, 2 Ockley Lane & Parklands Road Allotments **Sun. 9th Jun.** 1 - 5 pm Hassocks Village Garden Trail. Refreshments at URC Hall. www.ngs.org.uk

HASSOCKS EVENING JAZZ

Tues. 11th Jun. 8 pm

MID SUSSEX ASSOCIATION NATIONAL TRUST

Thurs. 13th Jun. 2.30 pm

SUSSEX CHORUS www.sussexchorus.org. Hurst College Chapel, College Lane, Hurstpierpoint Will Todd - Mass in Blue plus more. Tickets 01444 412579 Sat. 15th Jun. 7.30 pm

ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks

Sat. 22nd Jun. 7 pm Music for a Summer's Evening with Hassocks' own community choir. Tkts on the door WOODLANDS MEED SCHOOL www.pta-events.co.uk. Chanctonbury Road, Burgess Hill

Sat. 22nd Jun. 12 - 6 pm

DOWNLANDS SCHOOL

Family Friendly Music Festival - see article Dale Avenue, Hassocks

Sat. 22nd Jun. 12 - 4 pm Summer Fair and Dog Show, Live Music, Beer Tent, Gin Bar

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HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET

Sat. 25th May & 22nd Jun. 9 am – 1 pm

HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

Sun. 23rd Jun. 2.30 - 5.30 pm

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Tues. 21st May 7.45 pm

Tues. 18th Jun. 7.45 pm

Coffee Morning at Age Concern, Hassocks Ditchling Village Hall

Attic Club 80th Anniversary Exhibition. Refreshments available **Hurstpierpoint Village Centre**

Resolutions followed by Hurstpierpoint Hedgehog Haven - Ann Winney Garden Sage the growth of the nursery - Ed Nugent. Quiz follows

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East

First Thursday of every month. 12 pm. Lunch and talk. Fred Reynolds 01444 236661

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HURSTPIERPOINT SINGERS 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.csrf.org.uk

The King's Centre, 33-35 Victoria Road, Burgess Hill RH15 9LR THE HARMONY CORPORATION 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







continued: The Hoop Solo winners were:- Year 3 – Izabella Hunter, Year 4 – Lila Fowler, Year 5 – Hettie Hodson, Year 6 – Evelyn Stainton and Year 7+ Jasmine Cross.

The last two sections were Sports Acrobatic Sixes, where six gymnasts perform a sequence including agilities, balances and dance. The routines were well choreographed and drew applause during their execution. The Junior Six winning team was Freya Holmes, Charlotte Williams, Alice Henderson, Isabella Doyle, Daisy Clark and Maggie Goodman. The Senior Six competition was won by Emily Holmes, Molly Harrild, Chloe Wright, Jessica Bliss, Libby Turner & Charlotte Horning

Adding together the scores from their entries, the Overall Champions were calculated, the winners gaining their titles by just tenths of a mark. Isobel Faulkner won the Overall Junior Championship and the Senior title was won by Emily Holmes. This year a guest Six came from Brighton and tied first in the Senior section. The next opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 36th Annual Championships on the 6th July. Spectating is welcome throughout the morning. There are a vacancies to join the Club in all groups. For further details regarding the Club please visit www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk

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ANNUAL FARM OPEN DAY On Saturday 1st June, The Oaks Poultry Farm, Common Lane, Ditchling Common, BN6 8TN will open their gates for their annual Farm Open Day from 10 am to 3 pm.

It offers a fantastic chance for all ages to discover real farming at first hand and see for themselves how their food (and much more besides) is produced. There will be a chance to see and cuddle small chicks/goslings, visit our donkeys, goats, pigs, cows along with tractor rides, BBQ (sample our home produced sausages/burgers with home reared animals), cafe and many more fun activities for all ages. Please do come and join us. Free Entry. www.theoaksfarm.co.uk.

Ed Perret

AN INTRODUCTION TO "LIVING STONES Saturday 8th June. (2 – 5.30 pm) A free talk on an introduction to "Living Stones" by Roy Earle, with an opening talk on Caring for "Living Stones" by Suzanne Mace, will be held in the Club Suite at the Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, organised by the Brighton & Hove branch of the British Cactus & Succulent Society.

There will be free refreshments, as well as plants and seeds for sales. Plus find out more about the BCSS and the benefits of membership.

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As the great Arthur Conley asked "Do you like good music? Huh that sweet soul music..." Well, the Friends of Woodlands Meed certainly hope you do as we are putting on a Family Friendly Music Festival at the school site in Chanctonbury Road, Burgess Hill on 22nd June from 12 pm to 6 pm.

We have gathered some of the finest local musicians to come and play, the styles are all different so there is something for everyone, if you're into house and dance then DJ Emz is the woman for you, if soul and funk are more your style then check out Soulville or maybe you prefer a bit of indie in which case Octopuses have you covered. The Nixons will chill you out, Ben E and the Pets will have you rocking out, Crystal Clear will be banging out some well-known tunes and the Swing Street Band live up to their name and will have us all up and dancing!

Our thanks go to Burgess Hill Radio for helping us out with this event and we look forward to Daryn Buckley joining us to compere on the day.

Also helping us out on the afternoon will be the amazing Steve Duff of Trickswap, who will be demonstrating and teaching circus skills such as diablo, poi and tightrope walking (only a low rope!) and George Gotsinas from Yellow Brick Lab who will be running 2 sessions (limited availability and pre-booking required) with his fabulous Educational Lego which involves both building and coding. Lovely local author Helen Baugh will also be joining us in the chill out zone where she will be reading her fantastic children's books, including The Witch with an Itch, and creating magic with some of the spells from the books. Signed copies will be available on the day with profits going to the Friends of Woodlands Meed. Our wonderful College students will also be on hand to sell you their wonderful Enterprise creations.

So, if you fancy an afternoon of entertainment, grab your picnic blanket and come along to what will be an amazing family friendly all-inclusive afternoon of great music, food, drink and entertainment.

Tickets are on sale now (kids under 18 free) https://www.pta-events.co.uk/woodlands-meed

Kate Halls

We thank Brian G McAllister for the following letter:-With nesting season in full swing we would like to offer heartfelt thanks to those farmers and landowners who spared a thought for wildlife whilst hedge cutting last year, and left some height and habitat to give our feathered friends, hedgehogs, dormice and others a fighting chance. Hopefully others may be inspired and follow vour considerate work.







18 May 2019 - 7.30pm - King Edward Hall, Lindfield 19 May 2019 - 6pm - Uckfield Civic Centre 24 May 2019 - 7.30pm - Adastra Hall, Hassocks 25 May 2019 - 7.30pm - Steyning Centre 26 May 2019 - 6pm - Hurstpierpoint Village Centre

Tickets: £15 Reserved, £13 Unreserved. Box Office: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera or call 07503 783403

LAUNCH OF BURGESS HILL BIKE RIDE The 27th Burgess Hill Bike Ride is being held on Sunday **9th June** and the main beneficiary this year will be Headway East Sussex. The ride is organised by the Burgess Hill District Lions Club and Burgess Hill and District Rotary Club: other beneficiaries of the Bike Ride will be local charitable projects supported by the organisers.

Claire Benson, Director of Rehabilitation and Reablement at Headway East Sussex said, "The money raised from this year's Burgess Hill Bike Ride will go towards sponsoring the gym at Headway East Sussex for 2019. Our gym is a key part of our rehabilitation service and our Personal Trainers use some of the very latest Technogym equipment to help our clients improve their mobility."

There will be three Bike Ride routes - 10 miles, 20 miles and 40 miles - starting and finishing at Queens Crescent Car Park, Burgess Hill, RH15 9DP (a change from usual). As always, there will be water stops and comfort breaks available, including snack bars and bananas.

Sigma Partners have agreed to sponsor the T-shirts again this year and these are free to advance entrants, subject to availability. Sponsorship forms and on-line sponsorship facilities via 'My Donate' are available for entrants. Raffle tickets can also be purchased.

The ride only takes place thanks to the efforts of over sixty volunteers who marshal the Bike Ride, register entrants, man water stops and look after the whole event. Many local firms, as usual, kindly provide water, chocolate bars and bananas for the riders, and provide a Bike Doctor service.

Registration on **9th June** will be from 8 am to 9 am with the start at 9 am and up to 9.30 am. Further information and Application Forms can be found on the Bike Ride website: **www.burgesshillbikeride.co.uk**. This year, we have introduced on-line booking on the website to ease the entry process. *John Thomson*

MESSY CHURCH is a morning of activities for adults and children with refreshments and food for thought. Why not come along and try the activities or just pop in for coffee, tea, cake and a chat. Organised by Churches Together in Hassocks the next Messy Church will be on Saturday 25th May between 10 am and 12 noon at Hassocks United Reformed Church. There is no charge and all are welcome.

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HASSOCKS WI There was a good turnout, including several guests, at our March meeting, to hear a fascinating talk on the history of medicine in Sussex. Our speaker, Dr Hilary Morris, a medical historian attached to both Brighton and Sussex and London Medical Schools, concentrated on the many women who have contributed to the development of medical provision in Sussex. Traditionally, the sick were treated by 'wise women', who had a wealth of knowledge of medicinal herbs. At a time when a trained physician, if you could find one, would charge the equivalent of £600, these women were very important. However, in the 15th Century Archbishop Thomas Arundel made witchcraft illegal, resulting in many of these wise women being eliminated, often for ulterior motives. Women have traditionally been involved in nursing, but Sussex women such as Alethea Howard, wife of the Collector Earl of Arundel contributed greatly to scientific research in the early 17th century, Sarah Wardroper in the 1860s became Superintendent of the nursing school founded by Florence Nightingale, and in the early 1900s Octavia Wilberforce and Louisa Martindale became amongst the first women to train as doctors, and went

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on to found the New Sussex Hospital for Women. We have many women to be thankful for, not least in recent years Lady Sarah Clutton who gave land for Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.

We now have a second, afternoon, book group. Regular groups have continued to meet, walking, singing, creative writing and baby station. The craft group have made many more heart-shaped cushions for ladies following breast surgery - we are told they are very much appreciated, and sadly there is always a need. We had a most informative talk on Powers of Attorney from Fiona Dodd, and by the time you read this, a visit will have taken place to Farley Farmhouse. In May we are looking forward to participating in the Hassocks May Day celebrations and some members are going to an Abba Concert at the Albert Hall followed by the Sky Garden. Preparations are also well under way for the South of England Show WI Craft entries in June. Best of all, this month we are 10 years old, and in true WI tradition we will be celebrating with a party. So much happening. Don't you want to be a part of it? We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7.45 pm at Adastra Hall. Maureen Dodd

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THE RADAR STATION THAT NEVER WAS DITCHLING'S WORLD WAR II SECRET INSTALLATION Ditchling History Project are pleased to announce that Rob Thornton will be giving his fascinating talk on the deception surrounding the secret wartime post situated in the fields behind North End. Villagers at the time knew of the installation which was heavily guarded but could only suppose it was a secret radar station.

Rob Thornton was in a unique position to unravel the truth. The son of local butcher, Guy Thornton, grew up playing in the fields around the village and was into everything. Later his working life was spent as a telephone engineer and he developed a deep interest in the links between the telephone service and Bletchley Park's work on breaking the Enigma code.

Rob tells the intriguing story of how he discovered what was going on behind the guards in the Second World War. The truth is far from a radar station and concerns matters of national importance!

Come along and hear his amazing story on **31st May** at 7.30 pm in the Old Meeting House, The Twitten in Ditchling.

Pre-booking is essential to avoid disappointment. Tickets include a glass of wine are available from Ditchling Post Office and online at

ditchlinghistoryproject.org.

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY On Thursday 6th **June** our film will be Let The Sunshine In – a sophisticated, romantic comedy/drama about the beguiling Isabelle (Juliette Binoche), a middle-aged, divorced artist living and working in a now gentrified part of Paris. Whilst looking for The One, the film charts the various wryly observed but failed relationships she has with amongst others, a conceited banker, a handsome but muddled actor, a sensitive, gentle fellow artist and a stranger whom she meets in a bar. These liaisons are dangerous in that they do not seem to provide her with the satisfaction she seeks and there is more talking than sex in this stylish treat of a film. The film is accompanied by a score of laid-back jazz and the strong cast includes Gerard Depardieu, and Xavier Beauvois with Juliette Binoche giving a powerful performance as Isabelle.

Director: Clare Denis French 2016 94 minutes 15 Cert.

On Thursday 4th July, we shall be screening The Big Sick

The films will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. and 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 payable at the door.

Rowena Cager and Melanie Samuel

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AGE CONCERN - Dale Avenue, Hassocks. 01273 844461. Office hours between 9 am and 3.45 pm www.achassocks.co.uk email: enquiries@achassocks.co.uk Follow us on Facebook Age Concern Hassocks. We have our own Charity Shop – Do pop in and take a look.

Lunches served daily – please call us to book, we can also help you get here on our bus! Do you know anyone who is lonely at home and could do with a nice lunch and some company? Refreshments for sale each morning and there is always cake to go with your cuppa.

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 regularly arrange in house entertainment and outings too.

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Do you need help with your ipad, phone or laptop? We are now holding drop in sessions on a Thursday morning from 9.30 am.

Our Charity Shop is open every day and also Saturday mornings too, do pop in and have a look, refreshments and cake available to buy! We are looking for more Volunteer Escorts to help assist our members on and off our mini bus safely, this could be just to help with our rotas to cover holidays or a regular weekly or fortnightly slot when available – do contact Kirsty for more information.

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 e mail to hassockscroquetclub@gmail.com or visit our Website www.hassockscroquetclub.net Tony Bright



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THE WORLD IS THEIR OYSTER! The students at Downlands are incredibly lucky! Last term two coach loads of students journeyed to Obertauen in Austria for the annual ski trip. The weather was stunning and reports from the students were of an unforgettable trip. Just before Easter, three more trips set off – one to Paris (Art), one to Berlin (History and German) and one to Iceland (Geography). These are the reports written by the teachers who led the trips:

07791 785 611

Mr Smith – Geography Teacher - "Velkomin til Íslands! 2019 Trip to Iceland. On 10th April forty Year 9 and 10 students embarked on the annual Geography trip to Iceland, the land of fire and ice.

We began our trip with an incredible Whale Watching boat trip in the bay of Reykjavik. We were happily greeted by four humpback whales who put on quite the display for us during their feeding time. Students were treated with visits to some amazing physical landmarks such as Seljalandsfoss, Skogafoss and Urridafoss waterfalls and were soaked by the ever-erupting Skogar Geysir.

A highlight of the trip was the Lava Show where students were given the opportunity to witness real life lava in a contained environment. During the show, the room increased from 16°C to 53°C, all clad in our winter gear, it was a clammy affair! We finished our trip with an evening at Reykjavik Escape Rooms where the



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students (and teachers!) were split into six groups and locked in various rooms with a range of clues and codes needed to escape.

All students were an absolute credit to Downlands and their enthusiasm and excitement was completely tangible."

Ms Cavanagh – Head of Teaching & Learning/ History "Willkommen in Berlin! History & Modern Languages Trip to Berlin 2019. At the start of the Easter break twenty-nine year 10 students travelled to Berlin, for an immersive History and German experience.

We started with a treasure hunt in the hotel, testing students' German skills, finding everyday objects in teams. Students visited the main sites of the city, including the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Holocaust Memorial, Bernauer Strasse and East Side Gallery as well as Checkpoint Charlie. Sunday was a more sombre day, when students went to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp just outside the city. In the evening we saw Berlin by night by travelling 203 meters above Berlin in the TV Tower.

On our final day, we went to the Olympic Stadium, built by the Nazis for the Berlin Olympics in 1936.

The weather was very kind to us, the students walked and walked (35 miles in 3.5 days), we travelled on many trains (how many stops?) and we ate many pretzels. Looking forward to Berlin in 2020."



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Ms Moss – Head of Teaching & Learning/Creative Arts – Paris in the springtime! – Art & Textiles Trip to Paris 2019. "Thirty-one Downlands students visited Paris at the start of the Easter holidays. We had a fantastic trip. Our students were a credit to the school. Some of the highlights were a morning cruise on the River Seine, visiting the Montparnasse Tower for amazing views of the city and a trip to the artist quarters Montmartre. Students spent time in the world famous Musee D'Orsay and the Pompidou recording their experiences in visual diaries."

Students are looking forward to trips to Italy (English – visiting Verona) and China (International Schools) later in 2019.

Nicki Burston

YET ANOTHER SAD END... we are so sorry to hear that 'Village Voice on tape' (as we know it) is closing down. Friends and Neighbours provided cassettes at



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the start of the venture and have given other donations as and when needed over the 16 years of recording as Margaret Ford and her team conveyed the monthly news and 'goings-on' in our local Communities to those registered blind and partially sighted - obviously a very welcome and enjoyable service to those less fortunate people.

Technology, as clever and useful as it now is, has a lot to answer for but Margaret and her team are to be congratulated and thanked for their dedicated hard work each month. Of course there were other people involved in helping the dead-line be reached for each issue no less than Jo and her staff at Q.D. A sad end to a very important part of our village life. Well done to all. From us all at Friends and Neighbours

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEO-GRAPHICAL SOCIETY Meets on the last Friday of each month in the Guides' HQ, Trinity Road Car Park. At each meeting we have a presentation, by an expert speaker on a subject with a historical or geographical flavour. Our next meeting will be on 31st May starting 7.45 pm with our Annual General Meeting, followed with an illustrated talk by Roger Packham entitled "Sport and Scandal at Sheffield Park"

Come along and join us. New members are always

On **20th July** we will be given a guided tour of Danny House by the owner, Richard Burrows. Further information from the Chairman, Bill Kent, telephone **01273 832280**. *Bill Kent*

DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL SUM- MER FAIR is on Saturday **22nd June** from 12 - 4 pm.
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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH Easter is over and the year is hurtling on. The great lime tree which hangs over our house has put out leaves which will soon expand to fill the sky. Goodbye sunshine, we grumble. But we do not grumble for long for this tree is a whole world on our doorstep. The inner bark of its smaller branches, (the same bast that Russian peasants used for centuries to make their woven shoes), provides our local squirrels with weaving material for their nests. Lime bark has been harvested and soaked and the fine fibres used to make cordage since Mesolithic times. Man's first fishnets, harnesses, and construction ropes were made from filaments such as these. Britain's rare native lime, of which we are lucky enough to have two on the Reserve, is actually called Tilia Cordata - cord lime – string tree. After the leaves, come the aphids. Anyone who has parked a car beneath a lime tree in summer, will be dismayed to find it covered in the thick honeydew that drips from thousands of aphids feasting in the canopy above. These aphids are a vital food source for brood-rearing birds. The honevdew is also food for ants, bees and certain butterflies. Next comes the blossom. The self-pollinating flowers of lime trees appear in June and July - five creamy petals per bloom, suspended in delicate clusters from pale green bracts. The flowers smell of honey, and provide a medicinal

tea for humans, but for bees their nectar is quite literally the drink of the gods. Irresistible! I have known this tree hum aloud with bees on a sunny day, its green vault resonating like a bell. In autumn, the sugar-rich leaves turn golden and the first week of November they fall, filling the house, briefly, with reflected light. Nests which have been hidden by foliage all summer, are finally exposed to view. The nursery stands bare once more till spring. To live with this tree is to share in its mysterious energy. The moon rises behind its branches and the wind groans through them. It breathes. It is a tireless giver and teacher. Owls roost in it. Bats hunt round it. Imagine what secrets must be hidden from the casual observer. Is a tree ever just a tree? Even when it is dead it goes on being home and larder to innumerable creatures. Trees offer the continuity which holds whole ecosystems together. Their time is slow, though they are bound to the sun in a dance of perpetual change. Now scientists tell us what our myth-making ancestors suspected all along: that trees can talk to one another, feel pain, support companion trees... Isn't it time we stopped thinking of them as furniture in a passive landscape, inert and expendable? It might be, for humans, a small but vital step towards a new understanding of our planet home: seeing the complexity and the wholeness, without which, extinctions are simply a



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matter of course.

For the baby pigs at Stoneywish, May is one glorious outdoor romp. The new season's geese and ducks are hatching. The rush is relentless! Summer's hedgerows are already heady with honeysuckle and roses. Bluebells give way to campions. Campers dream of frost-free nights...

Our next History Talk takes place on Friday 31st May. Dick Morley is our speaker in Adolescence, Evacuees and War Hit Ditchling, Keymer and Hassocks. Having grown up in Ditchling, Dick boasts a long memory of the village. Here he draws on personal experience to depict the world he knew during the war years. As an impressionable youngster and a junior member of the Home Guard, Dick was ideally placed to witness the impact of events upon village life. His later research has yielded new and intriguing details. For instance, did you know that there was an army hospital train semi-permanently parked in the sidings at Hassocks Station? And why did the Canadians enjoy Bert's Hairdressing Saloon? For oral history in action, come and find out more. Talks start at 10.30 am at the Visitor Centre in Spatham Lane and the ticket price includes free coffee and fresh-made cake, an accompanying exhibition from the Stoneywish archive and relaxing chat in the garden, weather permitting! For the full programme of talks please go to www.stoneywish.com. To reserve a seat please phone 01273 843498.

One last thing: the Russian lime-bast shoes lasted approx. 12 days before they wore out and had to be replaced, so plaiting new lapti was a peasant's constant task. However the old ones must never be thrown away. They were hung outside the cottage as protection against evil. In his old age, the novelist and aristocrat, Leo Tolstoy, taught himself to make lapti, 'demeaning' himself to engage in the tradition which had bound man and forest together as long as anyone could remember. The lapti disappeared, together with the peasants who wore them, in the early 20th century. The story of Tolstoy's 'stunt' however, returns with a richer message. On which note... Michael has just come home with news that he has heard the cuckoo. Hurrah!

Rosemary Pavey

30 DAYS WILD This June, join hundreds of thousands of people taking part in 30 Days Wild, the UK's month-long nature campaign run by The Wildlife Trusts. We're challenging you to do something a little bit wild every day in June – sign up now to receive your free pack of goodies to help plan your wild month www.wildlifetrusts.org/30DaysWild

Charlotte

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NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME is delighted to announce The Hassocks Village Garden Trail Sunday 9th June 1 pm to 5 pm at 13 Chancellors Park, 2 Ockley Lane and Parklands Road Allotments.

The two gardens on this trail are quite different but each have a wide range of unusual plants and shrubs. One is well established; the other looks established, but is relatively new. Each are excellent examples of use of space to include seating places, winding paths and a wonderful selections of plants. The 55 allotments are not to be missed either. Although early in the season the plots will be being prepared for a wide range of vegetables to be grown. The allotmenteers will show you their plots and answer questions. Here there are spectacular views across the Downs and up to Jack and Jill Windmills and an ancient woodland lies along the north side of the allotments.

Everybody is welcome (No dogs) and children are free. The garden proceeds will go to the NGS charities which range from Mind to Hospices UK. Maps can be obtained at any of the three venues.

There will be home-made teas at United Reformed Church (1.15 pm to 5 pm). Refreshments are in aid of Family Support Work. Family support services are a community-based service that assists and supports parents in their role as caregivers; a vital help to families across the area.

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For further details: www.ngs.org.uk/find-agarden/garden/36547. Jane Baker

reMEmber, THE CHRONIC FATIGUE SYN-DROME SOCIETY

reMEmber's annual sponsored walk will take place on Sunday 30th June. The walk will start at 10.30 am and will be from Clayton Windmills to Ditchling Beacon and back. We would like as many as possible to join us, and help people who suffer from this debilitating longterm illness. You can get lunch in the Jack and Jill pub afterwards.

Sponsorship forms are available from reMEmber at PO Box 1647, Hassocks, BN6 9GQ, 01273 831733, e-mail me cfs@hotmail.com. If you wish you can sponsor me, the secretary, through Just Giving by going to our website www.remembercfs.org.uk. Bill is in the picture wearing the T-shirt presented to us by Usain Bolt.

Bill Kent

RNLI TEA PARTY Come and join us at 'Blue Haze' 50 Hurst Road, Hurstpierpoint on the 23rd June from 2.30 to 5.30 pm for a delicious cream tea. Buy your tickets at the gate on the day and, if you fancy, a glass of Prosecco (for a donation) to complete your afternoon in Jo's wonderful garden. For more information call me 01273 832819. Gill Johnson





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THE STUCKNESS OF LIFE Do you feel stuck? An odd question, perhaps, or, maybe you get it. What do I mean by stuck? If you look at your life and ask if you are happy, fulfilled, content and enjoying the everyday things of which life is made, what is your answer? Is life working for you? Or are you stuck in the same patterns of doing and being which bring the same results, again and again, and which don't bring fulfilment or are simply not the results you want or dream of? Perhaps they bring very little that brings happiness or maybe they are patterns that bring real negative consequences.

The key phrase for me is, 'patterns of doing and being'. Do relationships 'always' turn out the same way and have you ever wondered why and have you ever wondered if they could be different? Or maybe there is something that you've always wanted to say, or to be, but somehow the moment never arrives for you to grasp the initiative or fear gets in the way of making that decisive move and speaking up. Or maybe there are things that you'd like to do, or be, or have, but somehow you don't think you deserve them or that so many other people need a piece of you that there is

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Jon Henderson is a Psychotherapeutic Counsellor specialising in Transactional Analysis Psychotherpay. He trained at Wealden College of Psychotherpay in Crowborough and he works in private practice in Hassocks and at the Heeler Centre Hassocks and for the mental health charity Mind in Sevenoaks. To find out more go to

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John Henderson

JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP As the Spring Term comes to an end, and the sun begins to shine, Jack and Jill Playgroup wanted to let you know what the children have been doing - Celebrating Burns Night - tartan pattern pictures, making and tasting shortbread - Australia Day - creating flags using different textured craft bits Chinese New Year - paper plate pigs (Year of) and food tasting - Pancake Day - tasting pancakes and pancake races - World Book Day - children dressing up as favourite book characters - Holi Day Festival of colour - lots of art & craft activities using bright colours- Mothering Sunday - making cards and a surprise - Egg decorating competition - prize for best as voted by local resident.

We are now looking forward to an exciting sunny and fun packed Summer Term.

Looking for a local playgroup for September 2019 - for information and to arrange a visit please contact us on janet.jandj@gmail.com or 07729 431473.

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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 Woodsland 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**.

Our **13th June** meeting will be a social afternoon with a Beetle Drive. The competition is the 'Prettiest Rose'. A recent speaker was Martin Wilcox who provided an interesting yet in some ways shocking insight into the work of "Child Aid". I say shocking because of the almost unimaginable hardships suffered by children and their parents in Eastern Europe; namely Belarus, Moldova, Siberia & Ukraine. Here disability is seen as a stigma to be hidden out of sight. State aid is unavailable.

Child Aid is a Christian charity that raises funds through donations and sponsorship. It supports children with disabilities and their parents, by providing therapies, education, healthcare, and importantly social inclusion.

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. Contributions for the stalls are always very welcome; raffle prizes, bric-a-brac, toiletries and cakes. You can bring them along on the day, to the branch meeting, or ring Jenny to arrange collection. We look forward to seeing you there. *Liz Thomas*



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SOUTH DOWNS NURSERIES COMPETITION

WINNERS Wendy Cox from Burgess Hill was the winner of a giant raffle at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks, winning an enormous chocolate hamper.

Staff at The Barn Coffee Shop & Restaurant wanted to run the raffle after Brighton based homeless charity, Off the Fence, reached out on social media asking for help to buy a shed so they could store much needed supplies at their Hove headquarters.

The raffle raised more than £400 to cover the cost of the shed, and garden centre staff member Andi Gennery, kindly spent his day off erecting the shed for the charity. Restaurant Manager Karin Reinger said: "Thank you to all our customers who entered, we are always blown away by the support we receive for all our fundraising throughout the year. People are so generous and we know it's making a real difference to people's lives".

A brother and sister team from Hassocks has won our Easter Bunny Hunt.

Joshua and Mia Patel-Zich (seven and four, respectively) were picked from hundreds of entries received for the free competition over the Easter fortnight.

Children were invited to take a form and follow clues around the site to collect all the bunny names for the chance to win. Joshua and Mia were thrilled to receive their prize.

Trevor Butler





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BRIGHTON CONSORT WITH THE NEW SUSSEX SINGERS For their next concerts Brighton Consort (director James Dixon) will be collaborating with the mid-Sussex based New Sussex Singers (director Sebastian Charlesworth). The choirs will be presenting "As Shadows Fall", a programme of music for dusk, evening and the night – perfect for a beautiful summer's evening! Among the choral masterpieces on offer will be works by Parsons, Mundy, Shepherd, Tallis, Wood, Elgar, Schumann, Holst, Whitacre and Coates – music that spans six centuries.

The first concert will take place on Sunday 16th June in St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath at 6 pm. If you can't get to that one there will be another chance on Saturday 29th June in St John-sub-Castro, Lewes at 7.30 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at www.brightonconsort.org.uk, or by ringing 01273 833746, or on the door.

Mike Clemens

THE LADIES OF THE HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD met on the 26th March for their AGM at the Pauline Thaw Centre, preceded by a very interesting talk given by Barbara Wilson who provided an insight into the principles and ethics of the FairTrade Organisation which helps to empower farmers and producers to market their products leading to a better future for otherwise unenfranchised people throughout the world. Barbara also brought along merchandise from the local Fair Trade Shop, including beautiful handloomed scarves, jewellery and many other lovely products. The shop can be found in Brighton Marina Village and is well worth a visit.

The AGM followed, the current committee being reelected unopposed. Our next meeting will be held on the **28th May** at the Pauline Thaw Centre commencing at 2.30 pm when our speaker for the afternoon will be Ben Crossland on 'Growing Alstroemerias'. We look forward to seeing you there. Any further information can be obtained from Mrs Sheila Southwell on **01273 841106**. Avril Williams

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Established in Ditchling for over thirty years

We are Kitchen Refurbishment specialists

Have you thought that perhaps you don't need to rip out the whole kitchen?

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 show-rooms 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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HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Jo Kaddish gave us a most interesting & informative presentation on the R.N.L.I. They certainly undertake such wonderful work and are nearly all volunteers. Many thanks to them all.

At our next meeting on **5th June** Tannis Faulks, from Sussex Living Magazine, will be telling us about the work of the magazine. We were most grateful for the full page they gave us to advertise when we were starting the Group.

We now have 35 members but would love to see some more of you - do come & join us.

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

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

Ann Tranter

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING Hassocks' own community choir, All the Right Notes, presents their annual summer concert on Saturday 22nd June at 7.30 pm at the United Reformed Church in Keymer Road. There will be music by Elton John, Billy Joel, John Legend, the Mamas and the Papas, and Charlie Chaplin as well as songs from Rent, The Greatest Showman and 007's big screen adventures – and, as always, there'll be a few for the audience to join in as well. Tickets include a glass of wine/soft drink in the interval, and can be bought on the door, from members choir. by emailing alltherightnoteschoir@gmail.com. Accompanied school-age children free. Paul Simpson

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