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

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**is 27th January 2020**

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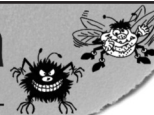
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### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

~~ Single Event Dates ~~

#### HASSOCKS WI

Mon 20th Jan 7.45 pm

#### STAR CINEMA

Fri 24th Jan 7 pm

#### HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET

Sat 25th Jan 9 am - 1 pm

#### HASSOCKS JAZZ LUNCH

Tues 28th Jan 11.30 am

#### HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN

Tues 28th Jan 9.45 - 11 am

#### HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fri 31st Jan 8 pm

#### HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP

Wed 5th Feb 1 pm

#### DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY

Thurs 6th Feb 7.30 pm

#### HENFIELD ARTS SOCIETY

Mon 10th Feb 2.30 pm

#### HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Tues 11th Feb 7.45 pm

#### HASSOCKS EVENING JAZZ

Tues 11th Feb 8 pm

#### Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Resolutions and a talk on 'Singing for Health'

#### Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Film - Downton Abbey. Tickets on the door

#### National Tyres Forecourt

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#### Ditchling Village Hall

The Making of the Suez Canal - Tony Turner

#### Guide HQ Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint

Art Nouveau - Ian Gledhill. Guests welcome

#### The Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint

Fish & Chips (pre-ordered) followed by AGM at 2 pm

#### Ditchling Village Hall

Film - Apostasy (PG)

#### Henfield Hall, Coopers Way, Henfield

The Romans who shaped Britain - David Stuttard. Guests welcome

#### Hurstpierpoint Village Centre

Leonardslee Gardens - Stephen Herrington

#### Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

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## HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Wed 12th Feb 8 pm

## MID SUSSEX ASSOCIATION NATIONAL TRUST

Thurs 13th Feb 2.30 pm

The Historic Building known as Preston Manor, Brighton

## HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A

Fri 14th Feb 2 pm

British Humour in the forgotten Art of the Picture Post Card - James Taylor

## HASSOCKS JAZZ BEFORE LUNCH

Sun 16th Feb 11.30 am Julie Roberts & Michael Hinton. Tks julieroberts@music.co.uk Lunch orders 01273 842113

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## HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY

Mon 27th Jan 7.45 pm

Mon 10th Feb 7.45 pm

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**HURST PLAYERS** [www.hurstplayers.org.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.org.uk)

17th - 26th Jan various performances

## KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB

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Fri 31st Jan 7.45 pm

Fri 7th Feb 7.45 pm

Fri 14th Feb 7.45 pm

## RBL CLAYTON & KEYMER WOMENS SECTION

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Sat 15th Feb 9.45 am



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## Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Gardening for Wildlife - Adrian Thomas

## Clair Hall, Haywards Heath

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## Adastra Hall, Hassocks

British Humour in the forgotten Art of the Picture Post Card - James Taylor

## Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks

## Adastra Hall, Hassocks

Tales of the River Bank - Ian Everest. Visitors welcome

The History of Morris - Melanie Gibson Barton. Visitors welcome

## Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre

## Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint

The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose

## United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks

Club Callers. All welcome

## Hurstpierpoint College

Update on Future Training

## Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill

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## Legion HQ, Woodland Road, Hassocks

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Coffee Morning at Age Concern

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**THE STEM CLUB AT DOWNLANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL** has been awarded Outstanding STEM Club at the STEM Inspiration Awards 2019. The winners were announced at a prestigious event held at the House of Lords on the 5th November.

The awards celebrate those extraordinary individuals and organisations who inspire young people to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Many of the winners are volunteers, passing on their own passion and expertise to students, encouraging them to pursue STEM careers. Awarded by STEM Learning and sponsored by UK Research and Innovation, the awards also recognise employers who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to STEM education and who have successfully embedded this within the culture of their organisation.

The judges praised Helen Colvert

"With STEM clubs currently running Downlands Community School has done an exceptional job raising the profile of STEM subjects. The Clubs are highly collaborative, working with others schools, STEM Ambassadors and with a range of industries. They also encourage a highly practical approach, with students developing business plans and working through real life design/build processes. It's no surprise that the clubs have grown in popularity and in number."

Yvonne Baker, Chief Executive of STEM Learning



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said:

"I am delighted to celebrate some truly amazing people, all of whom work tirelessly to broaden the horizons of young people in the UK. In this year's winners we have seen fantastic examples of schools, colleges and STEM employers working together. This collaboration is vital as it helps inspire the next generation of STEM professionals, highlighting the skills needed by students and the opportunities available to them in tomorrow's STEM careers."

Vivienne Parry, UKRI Board member, said:

"a key part of UKRI's mission is to inspire the next generation. In 15 years' time I hope some of the UK's most promising and exciting scientists and engineers will say they owe their career to a STEM Ambassador."

Nicki Burston



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**TREVOR HUMBER** With sadness we announce the death of Trevor Humber, aged 87, following a short illness. He had enjoyed living in Hassocks for thirty years and had a great sense of service to this community in many ways. For example he was an active and significant member of the Rail Group, at one stage drove the Hurst & Hassocks community bus, and for years had ensured the entrance steps to the Cinder Path were kept free of debris, ice and graffiti. He is hugely missed.

*Lou Beckerman*

**A SAD 'GOODBYE'** We at Friends and Neighbours were all sorry to hear that a popular member of the group, Frank Oakley, has sadly passed away whilst living in France with his daughter, Sharon. Many of you reading this magazine will have known Frank personally and remember his late wife Doreen - they were our local Ann Ziegler and Webster Booth - entertaining our audiences at the Adastra Hall over many years. Together they sang songs such as 'People will say we're in love' and 'We'll gather lilacs' - lovely songs from the shows. Frank also enjoyed joining the other men in the cast in many humorous numbers with costumes to match!

His daughters Sharon and Carol chose some of Frank's favourite songs for his funeral service. Frank was in his 90's but still loved to sing and we will all remember that July afternoon, only 18 months ago in 2018, when they brought him to England for a short holiday. We all spent a most enjoyable afternoon with them in the lovely lounge at Shands in Windmill Avenue. After 'tea and buns' Frank just sang and sang - even at that age he remembered the words which is the amazing effect music can have on older persons. It was a joy to hear him.

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## **BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC OPERA PERFORMANCES**

Brighton Early Music is extending its programme of events beyond the autumn festival period this year by presenting an early opera at the Old Market in Hove. On **8th/9th February** there will be a rare opportunity to see Marco da Gagliano's *La Dafne*, in a new production by Thomas Guthrie. This highly entertaining and delightful work was premiered in 1608, one year after Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, and sets a classical story from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. The tale of Apollo and *Dafne* explores enduring themes of love, power and control as boastful Apollo pursues the beautiful nymph *Dafne* - with dramatic consequences - amidst the chaos of gods behaving badly. The performances will feature a stellar cast of talented young singers and instrumentalists, including some familiar names from previous BREMF productions.

All the information on performances, dates and times is available on the Brighton Early Music website **[www.bremf.org.uk](http://www.bremf.org.uk)**, where you can also buy tickets. Alternatively please ring the Old Market box office **01273 201801**.

*Mike Clemens*

**STAR CINEMA** Downton Abbey comes to Hassocks Adastra hall on **24th January**. Many of the original cast members have returned, including Dame Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville, Laura Carmichael, Jim Carter, Michelle Dockery and Elizabeth McGovern. Doors open at 7 pm, film starts 7.30 pm. Tickets on the door. Wine, tea, coffee, soft drinks, plus a raffle. Hope to see you there. *Liz Edmunds*

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Decorated in a warm deep crimson – complemented by new carpeting and seating – the auditorium is heated by a 21st century silent and eco-friendly system which can switch to air conditioning in our next hot summer! And the seats! If you’ve been a regular visitor to our productions and have become used to bringing along your own cushions to ease the discomfort from the seats installed over thirty years ago you will now sink into our new, specially designed and comfortable armchairs with a sigh of relief!

The Players are now working hard to refresh the remainder of the Theatre - if you’ve had major build-

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ing work done at home you’ll know how much clearing up is needed once the main job is finished – and this means that the first production in the refurbished auditorium will not be until the annual traditional pantomime.

Hurstpierpoint Players would like to thank all the organisations and individuals who have supported “The Big Push” in recent years. And by the way, that ‘Big Push’ continues into the future, as the coffers, now depleted after an expenditure of over £100,000, will need to sustain the Theatre in future years.

Our programme for 2020 has now been published and can be found at the Theatre and in many shops and retail outlets throughout Hurstpierpoint. It may have been delayed until January but now it’s all hands to the theoretical pump as the Hurstpierpoint Players plan for a spectacular opening show in their ‘new’ theatre.

Panto - “The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose” is a truly traditional pantomime with all the essential elements and, of course, full audience participation led by Billy, Mother Goose’s irascible son. The wicked Squire’s bailiffs, Sage and Onions, cause the usual chaos – there are good and naughty fairies and the wonderful Mother Goose on hand to ensure that your experience of this first production in The Players Theatre will be a magical one.

Tickets are on sale now online at [www.hurstplayers.org.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.org.uk) or in person from the Theatre Box Office in the High Street between 10 am and 1 pm on Saturday mornings.

Performances are from **17th – 19th January** and **24th – 26th January** with a choice of matinee or evening performances.

*Anne Hopper*



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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY HURSTPIERPOINT GYM

**CLUB** The Club is celebrating its 40th birthday this January, having been started in 1980 and having seen nearly 5,000 children attend.





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Some children only have a trial and find it not to their liking, but the vast majority find it a friendly welcoming atmosphere where they can gain in physical skills, independence and creativity. Pictured is Jasmine Cross who has set a new record for Awards. Jasmine joined Pre-school gym when she was just three years old and has now progressed through the Award scheme to be the first gymnast in its history to have gained all of the awards. From Award 8 when she was four, through to Award 1 while a junior, then on to achieve Bronzes, Silvers and Golds in all three areas of Floor, Vault and Sports Acrobatic Pairs, taking in countless competition wins she is currently the reigning Champion. Jasmine is now learning to coach and pass on her skills to a new generation.

Over 180 gymnasts gained British Gymnastics Awards at the term's presentations. All awards are given free as part of the Club's affordability policy.

The Club currently has vacancies in many of its groups, so please apply if you are interested. ([www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk))

The Club thanks everyone who came to either the Danny Family Bonfire or the Hurstpierpoint Christmas Fair - these events are valuable fund-raisers for the Club. Congratulations to Evie West and Chloe Watkins who won ChiChi the Panda and Poppy Puppy at the Fair.

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The next opportunity to see the gymnasts in Competition will be on Saturday **28th March** when a hundred gymnasts are expected to compete in the 21st Annual Arts Competition, featuring Sports Acrobatic group sixes, ribbon pairs, beam pairs and hoop solo routines.

In January some of the top regional coaches will be coming to the Club to give competition tuition to the gymnasts. Pictured are the gymnasts from the 2019 competition.

*Andrew Hair*

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**LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD** Robert Burns memorably compared his situation to that of a mouse whose nest he had accidentally destroyed, condemning it to death. He felt his own plight was far worse. The mouse was concerned only about the present, whilst Burns could recall his past troubles, and as for the future, 'tho' I canna see, I guess and fear'. As we enter 2020, many of us, including HKD Transition, cannot help sometimes feeling that we have much in common with Burns.

That enigmatical title describes the coming together of Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Keymer and Ditchling residents who are concerned with climate change, and, although at times deeply depressed when confronted with more and more scientific evidence of global warming, cling to the belief that there is much that can still be done by individuals. We can move (transit) towards a zero carbon society, away from our profligate use of the world's resources. Formed in 2009, HKD has grown steadily and now over 450 people subscribe to our monthly on line newsletter whilst a whole range of initiatives is paving the way towards reducing the carbon imprint of our villages.

Perhaps the most significant is our pressure for improving the B2116 for cyclists between Ditchling and Hurst. HKD chairs the Mid Sussex Cycle Forum and works closely with our local Councillors. The vibes are



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good. We now have a 'bike box' at Stonepound cross-roads and, at long last, plans are being made to make the route between the centre of Hurst and Downlands School more bike-friendly. A safe cycle route to school, making the 'school car run' obsolete and thus reducing the pollution level at Stonepound, is no longer just a pipe dream.

Again, on the larger scale, our sister organisation, HKD Energy, aims to increase the amount of renewable energy generated in our area. The 2015 80kW Downlands School Solar Project continues to operate very successfully with over 300 solar panels reducing the school's energy costs and yielding a financial return to local investors. The group is now working with other community energy groups and Network Rail to examine the feasibility of solar panels providing power to the railways.

Fortunate as we are in living in a spring line village at the foot of the South Downs, it means that we are also at risk from flooding, increased in recent years by the changes in rainfall patterns. Short, sharp but very heavy rainfalls are becoming more frequent, and our streams and drainage systems cannot always cope. Working closely with our helpful local councillors, Mid Sussex District Council and WSCC staff, plus funding Operation Watershed and Hassocks Community Organisation, has enabled us to introduce



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Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to our area. This is a proven means of reducing flood risk by mimicking nature and 'slowing the flow' of water entering drains and streams. Such 'systems' can be as simple as an extra rain butt or a rain box planter attached to a roof downpipe or more sophisticated such as the rain garden in Adastra Park where an interpretation board shows all our SuDS interventions.

More interventions are planned in the countryside between the Downs and Hassocks. In 2020 we hope to start intensive tree planting, working with Downlands School Eco Group and the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust. Trees lessen flooding by absorbing and holding water in the soil, whilst it is claimed that 48 lb of carbon dioxide is absorbed yearly for every tree planted. Cash and volunteers will be needed, but our waterlogged fields and footpaths will benefit.

Throughout the year, HKD groups are involved in occasional stream clearing, maintaining the debris dams on the Lagg and Herring streams, stream biodiversity surveys, bird walks, moth walks and, recently a very successful guided stream walk. Ditchling youth groups have been involved since 2013 in planting and caring for the Village Orchard and revelling in the annual Apple Day with its welly wanging, apple fritters and apple juicing. The Giant's Garden is a new HKD venture – a magic pop up garden for children of all ages



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which focuses on storytelling, foraging, magic gardening and wild crafting.

Working together in small groups strengthens our community and is a powerful antidote to depression. 'Having fun' is part of HKD's philosophy. Robert Burns thought the same. He dismissed gloom by welcoming those 'whose hearts the tide of kindness warms' and invited them to 'Come to my bowl, come to my arms, My friends, my brothers'. HKD aims to continue the tradition.

More information: [info@hkdtransition.org.uk](mailto:info@hkdtransition.org.uk) and [www.hkdtransition.org.uk](http://www.hkdtransition.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Margaret Ford

### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY COMMUNITY EVENT

I am planning a 75th Anniversary of VE Day community event on Friday **8th May** (date of bank holiday instead of May Day) in Adastra Park. It'll be along the similar structure as Hassocks May Day but with a 1940's theme. With this in mind, I'm asking if anyone has any contacts or would like to help with regards to military vehicles and/or personnel, 1940 style choir/live music, 1940's dress hire, hair and make up artists, local photos or stories of the era. Or do you have any ideas? There will be a 1940's style café. Please contact me by email on

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Michelle Binks

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

We meet at 3pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> February we welcome our first speaker of 2020, Chris Wooldridge from Child Help. The competition is an item beginning with 'C'. So plenty of scope for the imagination with this one.

On the Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February we will hold our first Fund raising event of the year, a Coffee Morning at Age Concern Hassocks, between 9.45 and 11.45 am. Donations for stalls are always very welcome; raffle prizes, bric-a-brac, toiletries etc. Our cake stall is very happy to receive tasty treats, if any of you fancy doing a bit of home baking your efforts will be really appreciated.

Please bring them along on the morning. Non-perishable items can be brought to the monthly meeting or if needed please ring Jenny to arrange collection. All funds raised will go towards our benevolent funds. Thank you so much for your support - we hope to see you there.

*Liz Thomas*

**HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** At the November meeting Liz Gibson told us about the AAKSS - the Air Ambulance Kent Surrey & Sussex.

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What a wonderful speaker. The important information to pass on about this organisation is: they are an independent charity, they need to raise £14 million a year & they make a difference and save lives. The AAKSS is not just a flying ambulance but are HEMS. - there is a doctor on board. A wonderful service.

At the December meeting the Handbell Ringers came to entertain us. What a beautiful sound. We were invited to sing along to the carols & it was most interesting to hear their origins. This was followed by a Christmas Quiz & mince pies with a cup of tea.

We have started 3 sub-groups: Handicraft, Walking & Lunch - do contact either of the numbers below for more details.

There is no meeting in January and on the 5<sup>th</sup> February there is a Fish & Chip Lunch (must be pre-ordered) followed by our AGM.

Contact Dianne 01273 835284 or myself 07806 670359

*Ann Tranter*

**HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL 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 31<sup>st</sup> January starting 8 pm when our speaker will be Ian Gledhill whose presentation will be about Art Nouveau.

Come along and join us. New members are always welcome.

*Bill Kent*

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Our new shop will soon be ready! We are extending it to have a lot more selling space, a changing room and a large store room. We need you! Volunteers needed! We are looking for more volunteers to help serve and sort items in the new shop. If you are interested please do come and have a chat with us!

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.

Hair Salon / Chiropody – We have a hair stylist and a chiropodist here each day. Please do call us and we will put you through to them to make your appointment. Are you bored and lonely? Or do you know someone that is? How about coming along to our centre where you can have a nice hot chocolate, selection of coffees and tea and cake and meet some new friends. We also serve lunch at 12.15 pm, two or three courses at a very reasonable rate. We put our menu on our website every

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I Pad and Phone lessons held on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 am until 11 am (Not school holidays).

Knit and Natter – do come along on a Wednesday morning for a chat with fellow knitters, we are again knitting squares for the Salvation Army so please do come along. If anyone does have some double knitting wool to donate to us we would be very grateful.

Well Balanced Community Falls Prevention Service, in partnership with Mid Sussex Wellbeing and Active House Solutions are holding Balance classes here every Wednesday afternoon. Please call **01444 477191** to book your place.

We have Scrabble, German Scrabble, Art, Canasta, Mahjong, Knit and Natter, Table Tennis Table 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.

*Age Concern*

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

Any questions you like, big or small, from turning on your device, to using Skype or looking things up. Bring your laptop, iPad or any other devices you have questions about. The college also has PCs to use if needed. Please just go to the College Lane reception and you will be shown where to go.

No need to book, just turn up. For any questions, please leave a message on our answerphone **01444 242760**.

*Nicola Brotherton*

## **DOMINIC FERRIS LIVE AT HURST PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS IN A CHARITY CONCERT**

on Saturday **29th February** at The New Bury Theatre, Hurstpierpoint College, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 9JT at 7.30 pm doors at 6.45 pm.

Dominic returns to his Alma Mater for one night only.

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Dominic grew up in Brighton and Hove and attended Hurstpierpoint College between 1999 and 2004. On 29th February Dominic will return to the college performing a special 'one night only' concert presented by the Lewes Barbican Rotary Club. The evening will feature a wide variety of genres including music from Dominic's recent London concert series 'Me And My Piano'.

Dominic will joined by special guests including Martin Milnes. Together, 'Ferris & Milnes' are a musical theatre double act who have performed their own productions in the West End and in New York.

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All profits from the event will be donated to St Peter & St James Hospice and Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

*Donald Faulds*

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## **EARTHWORMS: WITHOUT WHOM NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE.**

We can spend all day planting and pruning, weeding and seeding, grunting and groaning in our gardens but it's time to face the facts folks. Us gardeners aren't the ones who are doing the hard work. The real toil is in the soil – the engine room of the garden. Because down there, beneath our wellies, earthworms are wriggling, recycling and reincarnating our gardens.

They're so easily taken for granted. An earthworm isn't much to look at. A tube made of muscles with a mouth at one end and a bum at the other but he and she (they're hermaphrodites) is responsible for making your garden grow. These burrowing beauties really mix it up in the mud. Some drag dead leaves deep underground while their wormcasts return essential minerals back to the surface. This improves soil structure and their tiny tunnels help with drainage and allow aeration.

Cleopatra declared them to be sacred and Aristotle called earthworms 'the intestines of the soil'. Indeed, at some point every bit of your garden would have passed through a worm's belly. They munch their way through dead organic matter and make it available to even smaller decomposers - fungi and bacteria - who break it down even further. The nutrients released are

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reabsorbed by our plants. What once was dead is returned to the living. It's one of those 'circle of life' things.


There's about 3000 different earthworm species worldwide with around 27 native species in Britain. There's lots under your lawn and brandlings in your compost bin. Some species live in leaf litter others dig deep in the soil. There could be up to 2 million worms working underground in an area the size of a football pitch. Earthworms are part of a wildlife workforce that lives in your garden and provides an essential service for free. Birds, bees, beetles, fungi, hoverflies, woodlice and many others volunteer for us as pollinators, pest controllers, decomposers and recyclers. All we need to do is give them a home and leave them to it and they'll get on with the dirty work.

But it's the earthworm who is seen as the kingpin of the whole operation. "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world as these lowly organised creatures". Charles Darwin said that – and I'm not going to argue with him. We just can't live without them. So it's about time we start paying earthworms some respect and attention. Because when we're all dead and buried they'll be paying a whole lot of attention to us.

*Michael Blencowe*



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**POSTPONEMENT OF PRIVATE LIVES** On behalf of the Ditchling Players I would like to apologise for the fact that we had to postpone our autumn production due to the indisposition of a member of the cast, who we wish well.

We were disappointed about this but, unfortunately, unlike the professional theatre we don't have understudies waiting in the wings to take over at short notice. So, after much deliberation, we reluctantly decided that the best thing would be to postpone the production. However, you'll notice that I've used the word postpone, because, thanks to the goodwill and hard work of the cast's; backstage crew etc., everything is in place for this to now be our Spring 2020 production with curtain up on the **20th to 23rd May**.

So please put these dates in your new diaries now. Further information about ticket sales etc. will be in this magazine and on our website: **www.ditchling-players.org.uk** nearer the time so do keep checking for this.

Finally, the Players would like to thank everyone for their support in the past and look forward to seeing you in the audiences for our future productions. A Happy New Year to you all.

*David Tettersell*

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**WELL DONE ELLA STAPLEHURST**, aged 10, from Hassocks was the chosen winner for South Downs Nurseries Ghost Hunt competition. She is pictured here with staff member Ella Charlton who presented her with her prize.

*Trevor Butler*

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We are very excited to announce that the Friends Of Twineham School have been selected as one of this year's Co-op local causes, to raise funds for a new outdoor classroom which will benefit both the children and the local community.

An outdoor eco-friendly learning space will help us become an eco-school with more environmental awareness in our curriculum. We will invite local families and members of the community to eco events and bushcraft or forest school experiences, as well as sharing the space with other schools, pre-school children and friends of the school, which will bring the community together.

The Co-op will donate money to this cause every time a Co-op member buys own brand goods, which can include products in the food stores, Funeralcare, and products such as insurance and legal care.

All you need to do is sign up for a Co-op membership card using this link [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership).

Once signed in, you just need to choose Friends Of Twineham School as your local cause using this link <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/39953> (it would greatly help if you could also please share this link with your friends and family so that they can sign up too, and if possible share the link as widely as possible on social media).

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Then once you receive your membership card, all you need to do is make sure you swipe it every time you buy own brand products in the Co-op. You will earn yourself 5% of the total to spend in store, and 1% will go towards Friends of Twineham School.

Obviously the nearest store is in Hurstpierpoint, but members can use their card in any Co-op around the country to raise funds, as long as they have chosen Friends Of Twineham School as their cause.

Thank you!

*Nicola Brotherton*

**MID SUSSEX RAMBLERS** As the Ramblers' group for the Mid Sussex area we offer a varied programme of walks throughout the year to suit all ages and abilities. Our walks programme is available on our website: [www.midsussexramblers.co.uk](http://www.midsussexramblers.co.uk) along with information about the group.

Walks are arranged on Tuesdays and weekends throughout the year and vary in length from 4-12 miles. During the summer there are short walks on Wednesday evenings, trial walks and leisurely nature walks.

New and experienced walkers are both very welcome and if you would like to try one of our walks please get in touch via the Contact Form on our website, email [msrpublicity@gmail.com](mailto:msrpublicity@gmail.com) or telephone our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Sue Blandford, on **01403 255654**.

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**BBC CHILDREN IN NEED APPEAL** Let's Dance! (Hassocks) held their 31st Sponsored Tap Sessions for the BBC Children in Need Appeal in November.

In the afternoon pupils from 3 years old tapped along with Sally-Ann and her older girls in Fancy Dress for 1 hour and an evening Session for 1 ½ hours was attended by older pupils and adults with great music organised by David Leaver.

We were pledged £1,668!....a huge thank you to everyone involved.

*Robin x*



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My name is **Stephen Hamilton**. I have been designing kitchens for over thirty years. If you are thinking of a new kitchen or just a possible refurbishment, please do give me a call. On my first visit I simply scribble some ideas and plans and give you some rough idea of costs and budgets. I'll leave this with you to mull over. No pressure! Just take your time and have a good think about it. I have been told I create original and ingenious ideas you may not have considered. Then, if you are still interested, I'll come back and discuss it in more detail. Still no commitment. Or you can visit our showrooms or...if you like, you can pop along to one of our very satisfied clients who will proudly spin you round their new kitchen for a few minutes.

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**Call me Stephen Hamilton for a chat about your kitchen:**

**Mobile: 07565 722055**

**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** We are showing two films in February with the first on Thursday, **6th February** called **Apostasy**. Set among a community of Jehovah's Witnesses, two sisters, Alex and Luisa and their mother are united in their devotion but as Luisa starts to question the advice of her elders, she makes a transgression that leaves the whole family in fear of God's wrath. This startling and bold debut film is a thoughtful exploration of faith and, more particularly, fundamentalism – the hope of God and the potential prison of religion.

Director: Daniel Kokotajlo, UK Urdu Engl. 2017, 95 minutes, PG Cert.

Our second film in February on Thursday, **20th February** is entitled Capernaum. After running away from his negligent parents, committing a serious crime and being sentenced to five years in jail, a hardened, streetwise twelve-year-old Lebanese boy sues his parents in protest of the life they have given him. Set in Beirut, this is a heartbreaking and emotional film with flashes of humour and two astonishing child performances – a gripping sympathetic cry for the dispossessed.

Director: Nadine Labaki, Lebanon, Arabic 2018, 126 mins, 15 Cert.

The films 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 payable at the door.

On Thursday, **5th March** we shall be showing Can You Ever Forgive Me. A biographical and funny crime drama about author, Lee Israel who is a hard-drinking, die-hard loner. The film follows her as she tries to revitalize her failing writing career by successfully forging letters from deceased authors and playwrights such as Dorothy Parker, Louise Brooks and Ernest Hemingway. Lee is ably assisted by Jack, a friend who is enlisted to hawk the letters round bookshops. A beautiful and funny tale about forgery, friendship and redemption.

Director: Marielle Heller. US English 2017, 106 minutes, 15 Cert.

The films 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 payable at the door.

*Rowena Cager & Melanie Samuel*

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## DOWNLANDS STUDENTS VISIT CHINA

In October, 23 Downlands students set off to Shanghai for our first ever China Exchange. After a mammoth 16 hour journey, we arrived in Hangzhou, often known as the business and commerce capital of China. During the week, students were partnered with a Chinese student at our partner school, Sijiqing Middle School, and spent the week fully immersed in Chinese home life. Students were staying in typical Chinese flats with a Chinese family, eating Chinese food and playing Chinese games! The experience was once-in-a-lifetime, they were brimming with excitement and stories each morning when the group reconvened for a day of activities.

During our visit, students had the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting workshops and trips. We spent an exciting afternoon visiting the West Lake, a UNESCO world heritage, made famous for hosting the G20 summit in 2016. After a short boat ride to the central island (known as The Three Ponds Mirroring the Moon), we spent some time exploring the stunning pagodas, giant lily-pads and ancient monuments. We also spent an exciting day visiting Nanjing via bullet train! During our time in school, pupils took part in an art workshop, music workshop, badminton session with members of the Chinese national team and a martial arts class. Importantly, we also spent time exploring the similarities and differences between our two schools. Downlands students (and Ms Chalmers!) took

part in a Year 7 Maths class and found the standard to be similar of an Undergraduate Maths course!

After bidding farewell to our host families, we spent the last 24 hours in Shanghai. We took an ascent up the Oriental Pearl Observation deck and gazed down from 350m on the mighty Shanghai. Pupils then ate dinner at the famous Nanjing Food Market, where some brave pupils tasted scorpions and crickets. We finished our night viewing the incredible Shanghai sky-line all lit up from The Bund waterfront area.

The trip was incredible and the pupils showed a huge amount of respect and humility towards a completely new culture. We look forward to continuing this partnership with Sijiqing Middle School in the future, with plans to run our next exchange in 2021. *Nicki Burston*



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**HURST VILLAGE CINEMA** Hello Film Lovers - On Friday **31st January** we have the must see drama *The Kindergarten Teacher*. Maggie Gyllenhaal is utterly brilliant as Lisa Spinelli, a kindergarten teacher by day, who takes poetry classes by night. Her two worlds collide when a five-year-old pupil reveals himself to be a poetic prodigy. Anxious to protect his gift from a world she believes doesn't understand, her fascination with the boy spills over into obsession. This smart, sharp film entrances with the deceptive simplicity of the complex matters it deals with and is a showcase for the brilliance of Maggie Gyllenhaal and a reminder she is among the best actors working today.

On Thursday **13th February**, is a film like no other you will have seen, *The Chambermaid*. Lila Avilés's terrifically assured first feature finds magic in the routines of a young hotel worker. Gabriela Cartol plays Eve, a maid in a luxurious Mexico city hotel working on the 21st floor, who dreams of promotion to the glamour and additional pay and perks of the VIP floor, the 42nd. Diligent and conscientious, she amuses herself by sifting through guests' possessions to get insights into their lives. When she has interactions with guests, some are weird, some funny, some infuriating. Cartol gives a wonderful performance, filled with humour and poignancy in this superbly atmospheric film.

**20th February** sees our first NT Live screening after

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moving back into the refurbished theatre, *Cyrano de Bergerac* starring James McAvoy in the title role. Fierce with a pen and notorious in combat, Cyrano almost has it all - if only he could win the heart of his true love Roxane. There's just one big problem: he has a nose as huge as his heart. Will a society engulfed by narcissism get the better of Cyrano or can his mastery of language set Roxane's world alight?

The Sunday Cinema returns on **23rd February** with the heart-warming comedy *Fighting with my Family*, based on the incredible true story of British born WWE Superstar Paige. Born into a tight-knit wrestling mad family, Paige earns a spot in the WWE training program and she must leave her family and face this new, world alone. Florence Pugh shows there's no role and no genre she can't handle with aplomb, effortlessly taking on this nuanced comedic role.

Finally, on Friday **28th February**, we have the gorgeous, powerful, and stunningly crafted, *If Beale Street Could Talk*. A visually stunning and emotionally intense meditation on young love, family and social injustice in America, based on the novel by James Baldwin. The book was written 20 years ago, but it is utterly relevant today and this film is a masterpiece.

Visit our website **www.hurstfilms.com** for more information and to buy tickets.

Hope to see you at the Village Cinema soon.

*David Saitch*

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