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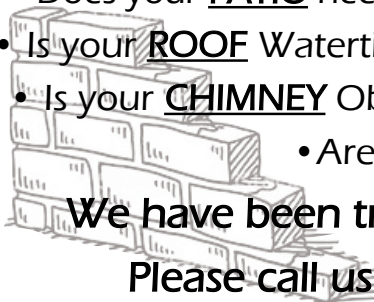
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*We thank Su Farrell for his photo of Hassocks Wednesday's (before the war)
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BETTER BIKING: LINKING DITCHLING HASOCKS & HURST

I wrote exactly a year ago to say that in addition to the improvements for cyclists at Stonepound crossroads further biking improvements were under consideration for the B2116 locally. And I did say, Don't hold your breath....

A year on and there is some further – good – news but once again you'll have to take a deep breath and hold it.

A scheme is now under consideration within West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to make it safer to bike from Hurstpierpoint to Downlands School. More precisely, WSCC designers have just completed a preliminary design for the initial phase of the scheme and the drawings are due to be shared with local stakeholders shortly. I'm trying to ascertain when 'shortly' is.

Detailed design is expected to follow next year (2021) and construction the year after (2022), subject to funding approvals.

One thing you can do now in order to ensure this scheme isn't lost in endless process is to drop a quick email to your local, mid-Sussex and County



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Councillors to thank them for their help in moving this project forward. It's they who are battling the bureaucracy to make these improvements happen. Meanwhile you can find out more about the background to the original HKD Transition proposal by going to <https://www.hkdtransition.org.uk/better-biking> and following the cycling link.

Chris Thomson

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Because of the Coronavirus our Society has had no meetings recently. I had prepared a new programme of monthly meetings starting in September but this has had to be postponed because of the continuing restrictions on meetings. We will keep the situation under review and we will inform all our members and arrange suitable publicity as soon as we know we can start again.

In the meantime if you have any interesting information or questions about local history or geography please contact me, and we at the Society will try to answer your questions. Telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail w.kent123@btinternet.com.

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THE LATE MARY PIPER On 20th July 2020 my mum Mary Piper passed away to join my dad Ralph who passed away 20th July 2007! Her funeral was held on 10th August but due to COVID19 restrictions we were allowed up to 30 people including the person taking the service and pall bearers etc. As mum had lived in Hassocks since 1967 she had made many friends and it was going to be difficult to send out 'invitations'! Also most of her friends will be of similar age to her and therefore classed as vulnerable. I know that the crematorium chapels are small so became concerned about social distancing as well as at the wake afterwards. So I made the decision to only have 7 people at mum's actual funeral which was myself and my husband and mum's siblings.

Mum had specific wishes for her funeral and I was not going to be able to fulfil these during this pandemic so I made the decision that I would have a memorial service for mum on April 19th 2021

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(Covid allowing) and everyone who wishes to can come. On this day I will have her ashes interred with dad as it is their wedding anniversary on that date.

I would also like to say that myself and mums family were very moved by the incredible show of support the residents of Kings and Queens Drive showed on the day of her funeral. There were so many people lining the roads in the heat it was really quite amazing, mum would have loved it! Thank you all so very much it meant so much to us.

Karen Puzio

HASSOCKS UNITED REFORMED

CHURCH has been open for Sunday morning worship for a few weeks now. We would be delighted to see you at either our 10.00 am or 11.15 am service. Our Traidcraft stall is also back on the fourth Saturday of every month. You'll find it either on the church forecourt or just inside the main church entrance.

Darryl

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BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ONLINE ZOOM TALK Wednesday 7th October. 'The Secret Life Of A Wood' - Roger Hance, Frps

About the talk - A woodland habitat is home to a vastly diverse range of wildlife. Roger's talk will take us on a stroll through a broadleaf woodland; highlighting the birds, mammals, insects, wild flowers and fungi which at first sight are not always visible - until we stop and take a closer look About the speaker - Roger has won numerous awards for his photographic skills. In 1990, he won the Amateur Photographer of the Year Award, (judged by Patrick Litchfield.) He is a Fellow of The Royal Photographic Society and has served on many judging/advisory panels. His photographic skills encompass many genres, including portraiture, landscape and sporting images.

About our Zoom lectures - There is a charge to view the talk, (no booking fee).

Unsure about 'Zooming'? We can provide you with IT support, including a rehearsal-style 'run through' before the event. The talk will be recorded live. The following day attendees will receive a link to the recording, allowing them to watch again; a useful facility if you experience an IT malfunction or the live talk is at an inconvenient time

- you can simply watch it later. To book, and view full information, visit our website:

burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com/whats-on

Flo Whitaker

BERYL MARY FITCH 03.07.1932 - 01.09.2020 Beryl of Holmwood Court, Hassocks, passed away suddenly and very unexpectedly on the 1st September. She was a very much loved mum to Sue, a fantastic Nanny to Simon, Lisa and Sarah and a wonderful Great Grandmother to her 5 Great Grand-Children Jasmin, Jake, Sienna, Harrison and Leo.

My mum was a very loyal and dear friend to many people in the village; she had made some special friends at the Royal British Legion, The United Reformed Church, Hassocks Townswomen Guild, The Villa Adastra and Cameo Club where she gave her time effortlessly, willingly and always with a smile on her face, and so much to look forward too. Mum had time for everyone, was a great listener and dearly loved by all who knew her.

Her passing has come as a terrible shock to us all, she will be missed beyond measure and it has left such a huge gap in the lives of all our family and friends, she will never be forgotten.

RIP my dearest mum.

Sue Catford

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ALL CHANGE: HOW THE MID SUSSEX HEALTH CARE WILL DEAL WITH THIS YEAR'S FLU SEASON

Patients of Mid Sussex Health Care doctors practice, will be familiar with our annual flu vaccination programme where we facilitate large numbers of patients on a walk-in basis at Saturday morning and evening clinics across all three of our sites.

Due to Covid-19, we are having to change how we approach and manage this year's flu season. There will be no walk-in clinics this year, ALL vaccinations will be arranged by invitation only, issued via SMS, email, phone or letter. This will allocate a time, day and location for the vaccination. We are therefore asking that patients do not turn-up without having received an invite or try to book their own appointment.

All patients in the 'at risk' groups, such as the over 65's and those in high risk clinical groups will be seen first. A full list of who this covers will be on our website.

The vaccination programme will run from the end of September, running through until November, there will be a mix of evening, weekday, morning and afternoon clinics as well as weekend clinics. There will also be separate clinics for children.

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Where possible patients will have appointments at the surgery they are registered with.

What about the 50-65 age group? The Government has advised that the flu vaccination will now cover patients aged 50 – 64 years due to Covid-19. Patients within this bracket and in at risk groups will be invited to our first run of clinics.

Once we have safely completed our at risk categories, subject to being able to acquire further vaccines – we will start inviting the new cohort of patients.

Further information at
www.midsussexhealthcare.co.uk.

Louise Evatt

TIME TO COME OUT AND ENJOY SOME

SUPER CRAFTS at the Heber Opera craft fair in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on Saturday **10th October**. The fair is open 10 am to 2 pm and we offer homemade refreshments throughout the day (subject to any rules that may be in place on the day). Put the date in your diaries, it's time to start Christmas shopping and get ahead of the game! More information email **jen.hawkes@btinternet.com** or call **01273 834703**.

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY In November, we will be showing our next film in the Ditchling Village Hall, in a highly controlled environment, involving full social distancing and the wearing of masks or face coverings for all (except for those people who have a copy of the medical exemption from mask wearing with them). We will not be having tea, coffee or wine, in order to ensure that social hygiene is fully maintained and avoiding removal of face coverings at any time during the showing.

Our film will be Pain & Glory and will be shown on Thursday, **5th November**.

2019 Cannes Best Actor Antonio Banderas. Pain & Glory recounts a version, part fictionalised, part fact based, of Almodóvar's troubled private life. It details a reunion with a lost love, after several decades.

Almodóvar said "I did experience a love that was aborted, that was broken. When you have to separate from someone that you still love, you have to set yourself free as if you were cutting off your arm. I have not had the reconciliation you see in the film."

Director Pedro Almodóvar Spain Spanish with

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Our next film will be Parasite and will be shown on Thursday, **3rd December**.

The films will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. The films start at 8 pm. Doors open at 7.30 pm. There is ample free parking behind the hall. Pre-booked Guests and temporary members are welcome for a small sum payable at the door.

John Jenkins

BABY LOSS AWARENESS WEEK is an international initiative which runs from **9th - 15th October**. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of an unspoken tragedy which affects many families. Babies die, even in the 21st century. In our culture many people find it very difficult to talk about death, and the death of a baby (before or after birth) is an experience which is rarely spoken of.

The circumstances of loss vary widely and include miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, compassionate induction (ending a pregnancy due to very complex medical issues), stillbirth or death after birth (expected or unexpected). Each of these little lives, sometimes described as a "missed beginning", impacts the life of the family in many ways. Profes-

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sionals involved can also be deeply affected. The aim of Baby Loss Week is to provide an opportunity for those affected to gain support, to provide (if they wish) an opportunity to speak of their child/children and their experience of loss, and to increase awareness in the community. More information is available at www.sands.org.uk/baby-loss-awareness-week

As part of this week, a global event takes place at 7pm on **15th October**, known as the Wave of Light. Taking place at 7pm local time everywhere, to create a wave of light around the globe, the idea is that you light a candle and leave it burning for at least 1 hour to remember all babies who have died too soon.

Last year for the first time a public Wave of Light event was held in Keymer. The feedback was that those who attended found it moving and supportive and so it is hoped that this can become an annual event.

The event will be jointly organised by Angie Bowles, a local independent midwife who has a special interest in supporting parents dealing with loss and Father Alex Baxter, Rector for our parish. It will be held at Keymer church (St Cosmas and



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St Damian). The event is free of charge and open to those of all faiths and none. We will welcome individuals and families who have been directly affected as well as their friends and those involved professionally in various capacities. The Wave of Light event will be an informal event at which those who wish to will have an opportunity to speak their child's name, but if you prefer you will be able to simply attend and sit quietly and privately. Candles will be provided and will be lit as part of the event.

Of course this event may be impacted by any change in national guidance about socially distanced gatherings. Currently we can welcome 30 people, and you will be asked to wear a mask. Subject to changing guidance, we hope to be able to invite you to stay for light refreshments and a time to talk.

If you would like to attend or have any questions, please feel welcome to contact Angie on **07974 729655** (angie@walkingwithyou.org.uk) or Father Alex alex Baxter66@yahoo.co.uk or via the event information on Facebook www.facebook.com/events/330361624667463/

Angie Bowles

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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 or telephone our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Sue Blandford, on **01403 255654**. *Jo Mitchell*

FAMILY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS CANCELLED It is with deep regret that for the safety and wellbeing of all concerned, we have decided that we have to cancel this year's Family Bonfire & Fireworks.

We have undertaken a Risk Assessment based on



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current regulation & guidelines and found the following:-

- Currently gatherings of more than 30 people are prohibited.
- Social distancing could not be enforced in either the entrance area, the parking zone, food area or spectator area.
- Recommendations to become ticket only would be very difficult to enforce at the entrances and would undoubtedly severely reduce our audience to the point of not being able to cover costs and to enable us to give donations to our charitable groups.
- The task of constructing the fire would be impossible in terms of social distancing or PPE.

We have taken into account that regulations are changing every day, but to proceed at this time and then find that we would need to cancel would cost about £3,000.

We know that everyone will appreciate the regrettable decision, which other Bonfire Societies and displays have already taken.

Let us hope that in a year's time we are able to proceed positively.

Keep safe. *Andrew and all from Gym Club*



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THE TALE OF AN ARTFUL DODGER Three weeks ago, as I was quietly taking tea in the garden, I heard someone urgently ringing the doorbell and thinking it must be another Amazon driver seeking directions in our confusing neck of the woods, found a young woman on the step, cradling a large cardboard box in her arms. Hannah, an ardent nature lover from just up the road, had been walking down East End lane with her dogs and infant son, when they came across a solitary duckling, running as fast as tiny, day-old legs would carry him and calling wildly for his mother. After depositing her son and dogs safely with her mother, Hannah joined a (by now) collective effort to corner the runaway and save him. After putting up a brave fight, the duckling submitted to capture and, since our ponds were the nearest and seemed therefore the most likely home of any vagrant family of ducks, Hannah brought the foundling to us. In Michael's boyhood, chicks which hatched out in the farmyard in late summer were known as 'blackberry chickens'. Free-range bantams are good at finding obscure nest-sites and emerging with a troop of freshly-hatched chicks, right under

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the noses of unsuspecting owners. Blackberry chicks, however, have uphill work to grow fast enough to meet the rigours of approaching winter. Blackberry ducklings face a similar challenge. The duckling in the box had been separated from his siblings in some local catastrophe. He was possibly the sole survivor for we have no others of that age on the Reserve and none have been located elsewhere in the village. His best hope for survival was a term of captivity with us till he had grown feathers and was strong enough to venture out alone. We rigged up a box in the kitchen with a wine fermenting heater as a foot-warmer underneath, a salad bowl to swim in and crumbled up duck food from the Visitor Centre. 'Quackers', as he was now called, plopped straight into the water and, like a little coracle, executed the neatest manoeuvres, while continuing to protest loudly at the curtailment of his freedom. Any outside sound reminded him that he was NOT where he belonged, so he would call for help from geese flying overhead, or siskins, hopping and cheeping in nearby birches. Even passing aeroplanes, seemed a worth an S.O.S. Within two days he was too big for the salad

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bowl and we rigged up a big puppy cage, with a plastic trug for swimming and rocks and miniature logs for balance practice. By now, having doubled in size, he could do arabesque stretches, perching on one leg on his miniature rock island; he could preen himself and flap his rudimentary wings as a sign that he was alert and ready for action. And then, as I learnt to my cost, he discovered the art of underwater swimming – a vital life-skill for ducklings to evade predators. This necessitated an impressive amount of splashing and was executed with a kind of mischievous enthusiasm as though he knew he was splattering all my cookery books and slopping large puddles on the floor. His panic and indignation at being approached or handled when his water was changed and his cage cleaned out grew ever stronger. Quackers was *never* going to be tame which seemed his best hope for survival. Eventually the mayhem in the kitchen became too much to bear and in the swelter of our August heat-wave I spent two days constructing him a run inside our chicken run, with a grand new paddling pool, a slate-tiled preening area, a miniature lawn of turfs and the original cage for shady feeding and safety at night. The whole was double



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or triple fenced to keep the duckling in and chickens out. At last we were ready for the move. Quackers made a tour of his new environment, chirping the lyrical under-song which usually meant he had found his food and was momentarily content. I checked him ten minutes later and he was afloat in his paddling pool. Ten minutes after that he was pecking at dried leaves on his lawn. A little while later it began to rain and I checked again, as he had never seen rain before. Quackers had gone. It had taken him about half an hour to make his escape and though I hunted and listened for him, I knew that once he was in the wild, there would be no chance of catching him again. On every side of the hen-run stretched dry ditches and brambly scrub, fences, wild terrain which might harbour cats, foxes and innumerable other duck foes. I explored as far as I thought he might reasonably have gone and then gave up. How would I explain to Hannah that I had lost her orphan? I wanted to be grown-up and philosophical. A duck is a duck and most ducklings are no more than juicy snacks for other creatures. Quackers' plump little body would certainly make a succulent lunch for a carnivore! What struck me most was the reckless hunger for



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freedom, which had made him reject all help. In that bundle of fluff was an iron determination to be what he was born to be and to hell with precaution. At four o'clock that afternoon, Michael came back to the house shouting: "Come quick! Your duckling is on the Big Pond!" Sure enough there he was, very pleased with himself, dodging the spiteful dabs of other ducks and scuttling right under the feet of the geese when they came ashore for corn. Had he followed the voices he had studied during his imprisonment? Now I felt at peace. If he copped it that night, he had at least achieved his ambition. He had known what it was to be a wild duck and perhaps all that preparatory splashing and jumping in the kitchen cage would stand him in some kind of stead. Next morning he was back again. This time the geese even seemed to offer him some protection, keeping bigger ducks at bay. The next day, independent of any help, he had taken himself off to the Black Swan Pond, to explore a wider territory. It is now a week since the 'great escape'. Almost the size of a pigeon, and not yet feathered, he still sports baby yellow spots on his back. But he is now faster and cockier than any of the other birds which come at feeding time.

Once replete, he sails off to his own private business on the hidden side of the pond and no, he doesn't want to come any closer than that to human two-leggeds...ever again! According to Buddhist belief, all encounters provide us with teachers on life's journey, so as one who is always looking for metaphors, I cannot help finding great consolation in this story. When all around are propounding a reduction in our *joie de vivre* as a trade-off for health and safety, Quackers' insane trust in the call of Mother Nature has a heroic do-or-die ring to it! Could he hear, loud and clear, in the voices of the geese and other far-off, invisible creatures, a celebration of the Life he knew was his by right? And by a similar fine-tuning of our hearing, during these times of social estrangement and confinement could we also hear messages from that same Mother Nature, the mother so easily separated from us by accidents of life, urging us to hold onto our inner vitality and natural spontaneity? And can we, hearing that call, recover trust in our 'wildness', which is, after all, the ability to embrace life and rejoice in our innate blueprint for freedom! Here endeth etc. etc.

May you have the taste of blackberries and the

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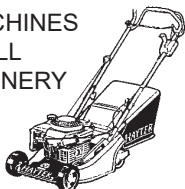
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scent of fallen leaves for delight this month. Oh, and the quacking of ducks, of course! *Rosemary*

UPDATE FROM OLDLAND MILL With great regret it has been decided that Oldland Windmill will remain closed to the public for the remainder of the year. We are planning to reopen in 2021 with our usual list of Open Afternoons and Event Days. Further details will follow in due course.

Despite the news that the Mill cannot feasibly reopen, milling and maintenance have continued where social distancing allows. Lightning protection was installed in July, and the final draft of our new visitor guide has been agreed and will shortly go to print. Our stoneground whole meal flour is available from the usual outlets.

2020 was due to be a celebratory year at the Mill, 40 years since restoration officially started. Maybe 2021 will allow us to celebrate the 41st anniversary and our reopening. *Rebecca Street*

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DITCHLING AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION: The Branch is delighted to announce that Mrs Virginia Lewis-Jones has graciously agreed to become our new Branch President.

A huge thank you to all of you who attended the VJ Day 75 Commemoration service on Saturday 15th August at Ditchling War Memorial. We were delighted that the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Mr Peter Field, and his wife, Mrs Margaret Field, were also able to join us for this event. Revd David Wallis conducted the service, wreaths were laid and Christopher Ulph played the Last Post on his Saxophone.

In next month's issue we will have more information on how our Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday will be commemorated. *Margaret Bovill*

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reMEMber – THE CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME SOCIETY reMEMber the Hurst/ Hassocks- based charity for people who have ME usually holds its Annual Conference in Mid Sussex in May.

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, this year's conference will be a Zoom event on Saturday 14th November at 2.30 pm.

Speakers invited are Dr Amolak Bansal, consultant immunologist, Dr Nina Muirhead surgeon and ME sufferer, Dr Charles Shepherd, medical adviser to the national ME Association, Dr Willy Weir, consultant physician of Harley Street and Dr Paul Worthley, GP.

There is still time to register for the conference; please e-mail me_cfs@hotmail.com giving your name and phone number. We will then contact you with joining instructions.

A donation to help cover costs would be gratefully received.

Bill Kent

BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY We're up and running for our new term this Autumn! After successful trials of virtual rehearsals over the

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summer, we will be holding weekly choir rehearsals using the Zoom platform.

We shall be preparing a range of music including Vivaldi's 'Gloria', part songs, madrigals, and choruses from major works as well as (in the second part of the season) Christmas carols. Subject to prevailing regulations, as we will probably be unable to hold a live event in December, we will be working towards a virtual recording.

Our musical director, Mike Wood BEM, offers inspirational leadership and makes rehearsals fun as well as instructive. Burgess Hill Choral Society has an enviable record of musical achievement and we also place a high value on providing a friendly, supportive environment for people to share their love of singing and develop their skills. You'll find further information and contact details at www.burgesshillchoralsociety.org.uk and on our Facebook page. New members are most welcome to come along and try rehearsals through September and early October. Technical support is available for anyone not familiar with Zoom. We very much look forward to seeing you.

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REPAIR CAFE HASSOCKS HKD Transition is planning to establish a repair cafe in Hassocks later this year, to coincide with market day each month, taking place at the United Reformed Church. Repair cafés are pop up events located on regular dates where the local community can get their broken household items repaired for free by volunteers. The types of things to fix include clothes, household electrics, technology, woodwork, children's toys and furniture.

The idea is not to compete with local businesses or professionals, but to fill the gaps where these don't exist, or where the cost of repairs is more than replacing the item. Repair cafes are a way for our communities to help each other move away from our throwaway culture.

To get the repair cafe going we need a team of volunteers who would be interested in participating and lending their repair skills, as well as helpers with the café and with organising and greeting. Do you have any skills to share and would you be willing to volunteer? If so please email us at repaircafe@hkdtransition.org.uk.

Juliet Merrifield

HURSTPIERPOINT BOWLS CLUB It is very encouraging that bowlers are now playing on the green following the very tight regulations due to Covid 19.

The club secretary Noel McAuliffe (pictured) has organised a pairs competition involving 44 members which will be concluded by the first week in September.

The players have been selected into four groups with quarter-finals and semi-finals taking place leaving a final. A separate plate competition to be run side by side to enable members to play as much competitive bowls as possible.

With a couple of reduced friendly matches being arranged with local club things are looking a little brighter towards the end of a very different season.

Keith Jackson



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Hello again. We trust all our old clients have weathered the Covid crisis in good health and good spirits. Now doors are open for new clients! Be assured our Covid precautions are exceptional. We were lucky to still work through most of the crisis. We have kept to ourselves and followed all the guidelines.

We are your local kitchen specialists. You can follow our progress month by month in this magazine. We do thoughtful kitchen makeovers but we also start from scratch and do complete kitchen projects. We are brilliant at small kitchens but we have also done stunning bespoke kitchens in the finest country houses. Recently we have worked for people with some physical issues. We are clever at making everything much more accessible. Our cabinets and worktops are bespoke. Which means we can make them any shape or size to suit your space. Our most ingenious designs come from the way we utilise dead corner space. We are master drawer makers...made with traditional dovetails and fitted on superbly engineered self-closing runners. We love making funky /clever larder units. Our average larder with racks will store 300 average tins. The cost of our bespoke cabinets is about the same as the high street shops which only make standard sizes. I have been designing kitchens for some years. I have some clever solutions you might not have thought of. In 1988 I was made European kitchen designer of the year for designing the same kitchen fifteen different ways. I started on boats so I know how to utilise space.

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AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS had to close the Day Centre on Dale Avenue rather abruptly on medical advice at the end of March but slowly we are starting to reintroduce some of our services. Our Chiropodist/Podiatrist, Paul, is now taking appointments at the Centre call **01273 855760**. A receptionist is in place and all appointments are carefully spaced, with social distancing being enforced. Equipment is being sanitised in between each appointment and the building is cleaned and sanitised each evening.

We do not expect to be able to restart our lunch service and minibus transport until there is a vaccine. However, our new charity shop extension has almost been completed and we expect to be opening in the autumn. When that happens we will also open our coffee shop to all customers. Dates and opening times will be advertised as soon as we know them.

We would also be interested in allowing back the clubs that use our facilities during the day and in the evenings if they are comfortable about keeping their members safe.

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THE ACORNS exciting new term is busy with children settling well and enjoying our programme. However, we still have room for more children! We are spending as much time as we can outdoors, exploring, discovering and learning through outdoor play and forest school adventures.

It is what we do and what we like best and now we all know that it is best for us all!

We believe that learning is fun and that learning and laughter go hand in hand.

All Acorns children love walks, playing in the woods, big hunts and muddy puddles!

Children at Westmeston bring their bikes and scooters.

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At Holiday Fun! this year, our annual playscheme for children aged 2-11 in July/August, the children found a lime hawk-moth caterpillar which fascinated us all and a frog which made us all jump!

In term time, The Acorns caters for children aged 2-8, offering a wonderful nursery and a bespoke programme for children deferring entry to school and those being homeeducated.

'Stay and Play' sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays at Westmeston for parents and toddlers will be reinstated as soon as possible. Telephone **01444 455081** janetirwin@janetirwin.com, www.theacornsnurseryandforestschoo.com.

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HURST, HASSOCKS AND DITCHLIING U3A

Announcement from Committee Like many organisations, we have had to curtail our activities over the last six months. However, plans are afoot to restart some U3A activities in September. We are exploring the possibilities for Zoom monthly meetings and, tentatively, for small live meetings in COVID-19 Secure Venues such as Adastra Hall and Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Planning trips for 2021 is not yet possible. Some groups have already started to meet outdoors and others, such as Italian, are starting indoors soon, within Covid secure settings.

Penny Beeby

HURST COVID 19 VOLUNTEER GROUP –

THANK YOU At the beginning of March 2020 Prue Heron a resident of Hurst put a post onto Hurstpierpoint Hub (Facebook) questioning what the elderly, vulnerable and shielding were going to do for provisions/prescriptions and general help if the COVID 19 crisis worsened..... little did she know we were in for a “lockdown” that would last many months. The response to this one simple post will go down in village history as one of the most recognised examples of Hurst pulling to-



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gether and a true sense of community.

As a result of this initial post and even before the UK Government declared “lockdown” an infrastructure was in place with three tier systems of Area Co-ordinators, Road Group Representatives and Volunteers which altogether involved in excess of 200 villagers. That group of people ensured that every single household in the village was leaflet dropped giving details of where they could get help, a poster was designed and distributed, local businesses made aware and social media campaigns instigated – even including Hurst's own Covid 19 Website. From the very first days of the “lockdown” yellow Hurst Volunteer badges (you needed a badge to indicate you weren't bulk buying!), could be seen around the village waiting in queues for the butchers, the greengrocers, the Co-op and most popular, the pharmacy. As the pandemic worsened the remit of the group extended to volunteers making calls to the lonely, craft packs being made up for the isolated, cakes being made, taxi arrangements for hospital visits, liaison with the medical services to name just a few of the kind deeds undertaken. As a village we have not only got through this unprecedented time we have

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smashed it. At the end of August the Hurst COVID 19 Volunteer group will disband and we hope for the very best of reasons not to regroup apart from to celebrate together (when large gatherings are allowed) the wonderful achievements and the new friendships formed.

Hurst is a special village and the people in it make it so. Prue and the Area Co-ordinators would like to pass on a very very big thank you to each and every person who volunteered, without you it wouldn't have happened and so many people would have not been helped and we undoubtedly wouldn't have managed nearly as well as we did. Individual anecdotes/stories from the groups that maybe of interest

Cards were made for Freddie, who had fallen and hurt his knee and was in hospital and Tuck, who was feeling a bit lonely in Seniors housing in Brighton. After a call out on the Covid Group, lots of families made get well cards for them both and sent Easter eggs. The local postwoman Kelly Tullet kindly volunteered to drop the cards and Easter eggs off to Freddie in her own time after her shift finished. She said: "Freddie was very pleased when I dropped his cards and gifts off - it's nice to put a

Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha CHIROPODY - PODIATRY

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smile on someone's face!"

Little creative activity packs were put together that were sent to Mid Sussex healthcare and local Ladymead Nursing Home. Lots of local Hurst residents donated art supplies and wrote articles for the activity pack including Yoga Teacher Jane Grogan (also an RGR) who created a chair yoga sequence especially. Cat Wage (RGR) donated Mary kay cosmetics for the hard-working care staff at Mid Sussex healthcare. Volunteer Georgie Payne wrote a mindfulness article.

Sally Jane Dalton, who is Director at Sussex Homecare - Mid Sussex Ltd and distributed packs to her clients said: "I cannot thank you enough it really has brightened the days for our clients, and a big thank you on behalf of the girls for the pamper packs they really loved them."

A prescription was needed by a gentleman in Albourne with breathing difficulties and other problems diagnosed that morning, volunteer Anna went to the pharmacy but there was a mix up and no medication ready, not to be deterred she went to the doctors surgery to sort it out which was difficult as they said they did not know of the patient, eventually she returned to the pharmacy to collect the



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correct medication only to arrive at the gentleman's house to find him being taken away in an ambulance, she was fortunate to have caught them with the medication. He has since made a full recovery. Anna again spent 9 hours one day battling with to find the right person to be able to take a lady to a doctors appointment, eventually not succeeding with anyone from the medical services responsible to do this she put a shout out to the community and was contacted by Mike from backtotheairport.com a local taxi company who agreed to take her. He waited whilst she had her appointment and took her home again and let Anna know it was all okay, all free of charge. Patient and Anna super pleased. A lady in the village how broke her hip just as lockdown started and has said how very grateful, she was for the help she received and how confident she felt knowing that help was available at a moment's notice.

Hazel Constantine

TAWNY OWL - NOT WHAT THEY SEEM

Once upon a time, we were terrified of Tawny Owls. They were a portent of evil in fairy tales, folklore and just about every scary story, film or poem that needed a creepy cliché. But in today's

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crowded marketplace of international terrorism, climate change and saturated fats the owl's powers to scare us are fading. Recently, it appears this spokesman of the supernatural has got itself a new publicist. Its modern image is one of a cuddly pin-up, more Harry Potter than Hammer Horror. But stand in the woods on a moonlit night and listen for an unseen owl's ethereal call. It's an ancient, unnerving sound that still speaks to something buried deep within us and ignites a primeval fear. The Tawny Owl is the largest and commonest of our island's five owl species, typically nesting in holes in old trees in our remaining woodlands. But what is it about this bird that has given us the willies throughout history? Let's start with those huge, lifeless black eyes that seem to stare into your very soul. An owl's eyes are not spherical but tubular like two telescopes and give amazing vision at low light levels. However, the eye's stretched shape and position on the owl's face presents a narrow field of vision. To compensate, a Tawny Owl has special bones and blood vessels in its neck so it can perform that freaky, Exorcist-like head twist. This gives the bird the ability to scan all around without having to move their bod-

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ies and arouse detection by prey.

And in the world of a nocturnal hunter, silence and stealth are everything. Special serrated feathers slice the air, allowing it to fly as silently as a phantom and aerially ambush its victims. Incredible hearing achieved by asymmetrical ears allows them to accurately pinpoint the rustle of a nervous vole below. They can hear fear.

And then there's that disembodied voice arising from the darkness. The male's far-carrying baritone 'hooo-huhuhuhooo' and the female's squawky 'kerr-wik' response are like a mis-matched duet between Johnny Cash and Janet Street-Porter. These calls help establish, maintain and defend a breeding territory and from October the birds are at their most vocal. Of course, Tawny Owls really couldn't give two hoots about scaring us but throughout history these spectral calls have provided a soundtrack to our deepest fears. In a society which is becoming increasingly detached from nature, it's time to get out into the woods this Halloween and allow ourselves to be unsettled once again by these mystical birds.

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ple for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

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We also run teams at under - 11, under - 12 and under - 13 levels which play games on Sunday mornings during the season and in tournaments through the summer while there are growing under - 9 and under - 7 sections.

Henfield Girls is also an accredited FA Wildcats Centre which means it offers a great way for girls from the age of five to try football for the first time in a fun and safe environment. Wildcat sessions are from 4.45 pm to 5.45 pm on Wednesdays.

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Sayers Common Village Church Hall - ring Judy Miller on **01273 834640**. Space available for regular clubs/bookings.

Sayers Common Village Hall - call Agatha Winters on **01273 833377** for bookings.

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Hurstpierpoint Village Centre - has three spaces for hire, a hall that seats up to 200, a conference room for up to 20 and the Club Suite for up to 40. The Club Suite is ideal for children's parties, offering its own kitchen and toilet facilities. The kitchen serving both the hall and conference room is also free of charge. Email **hurstpierpoint.pc@btinternet.com** or **www.hurstvillagecentre.org**

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THANK YOU to Doris Stenning who has been delivering the Hassocks Talk About in East End Lane, Ditchling for many years. *Editors*

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*We thank Brian Stevens for this photo of
Hurstpiepoint Melody Makers taken (we think) around 1970' - 80's*

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We thank Mark Dudeney for sending in the following article back in August 1996.

LOCAL CHARACTERS

I wonder if anyone can recall two eccentric ladies who before the last year lived at 'Little Washbrooks', Hurstpierpoint? Known to the 'locals' as Sister Mary Anselm and Sister Johanna, they were devout Catholics and at one time had intended to take holy vows, but finding the training too demanding, decided to serve God in some other way.

With this in mind they established their own exclusive Sisterhood, and designed and tailored costumes that closely resembled a nuns habit. To the best of my memory the apparel consisted of a grey worsted garment trimmed with a white sash, collar and headband, the severity of which was offset by a chunky rosary that hung nearly to the waist. When dressed in this outfit they really looked quite splendid and in due course became very well known figures in Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding area, especially at the nearby Catholic church where they involved themselves with flower arranging, charitable activities and general parish business. But as busy as they were, the Sisters still felt unfulfilled, and believing that more could be done for the community, founded a private day school for boys and girls at "Oak Lodge", a large Victorian house in Woodland Road, Hassocks. Although run on Catholic

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principles, the establishment welcomed all denominations and a fair number of pupils were enrolled, some of whom lived a considerable distance away, and many of these would be collected early each morning by Sister Mary in her little "Austin Seven", transported to school, and returned home again in the afternoon.

The accompanying photograph was taken in the front garden of Oak Lodge in 1938, and I can identify some of the children in the group. For instance, the little boy on the extreme left in the front row is Gerald Towner who used to live in one of the cottages in Station Approach East, while the two lads with "pudding basin" haircuts are Miles and Austen Pruden, sons of Dunstan Pruden, the Silversmith from Ditchling Common. My brother Pip is there to, standing behind the little girl with a handkerchief tucked up her sleeve, and many other faces are tantalisingly familiar, but their names escape me now. For some reason the school closed at the outbreak of the second world war, and later on, the Sisters who had been such good companions, suddenly parted company. What caused the separation and what became of Sister Johanna I never knew. But Sister Mary had been a closer acquaintance and continued to visit us from time to time, although it was never quite the same. Then one day in mid 1945, a strange and pale looking lady with cropped grey hair knocked on our front door and said she had come to say goodbye! She looked so different that it took

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a moment to realise that it was our old friend dressed in everyday clothes. She said that she had renounced her title and was just plain Mary Anselm again. She also informed us that she had been appointed as Matron to St. Johns College, Northcourt, and would shortly be leaving with the school when it returned to Southsea.

So that was the end of the friendship, for Sadly we never saw or heard of her again, and together with Sister Johanna's earlier departure, the district lost two - admittedly odd - yet nevertheless kindly, interesting and genuine characters.



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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

My old Dad always used to say to me Son never apologise for anything once you've made a decision, stand by it and never change your mind but, definitely never apologise, good advice or not I could never be sure especially, as I seem to be apologising all though my life for something or the other. Mind you I clearly remember the day when he walked out of the front door and said see you later, that was the last time I saw or heard from him for over 30 years and then when he did eventually turn up he never apologised for what he'd done or explain where he'd been. Then a few years later he upped and died with supposedly not a penny to his name and I had to pay for his funeral. Not Happy but you do what you have to do so now I've told you that little story I'm going to apologise to all the St Catherine's Hospice Charity Shop for saying in the last months edition that they were closed when they clearly are not, the shop is open all day with the usual restrictions to protect the staff and it's packed with some very nice goodies, as is the charity shop just up from me Childhelp, the stuff people turn up with is amazing, mind you they get their fair share of rubbish as well a lot of which can only be chucked away, but what is donated now has to go into quarantine for several days but for bargains you can't beat them. Naughtily I occasionally look in their rubbish bin for old soft toys for my fox, he plays with them for 5 minutes then tears them to shreds, but one day when I arrived for work early to the shop I glanced at their bin and noticed a paw sticking out the top of the bin like something was trying to get out when I opened the bin the most beautiful Teddy Bear was lying on the top, it seemed to have tears in its eyes with a look that said please save me. I couldn't resist it, I picked it out and cuddled it like it was a baby, it was so soft and I got all emotional this was some unwanted child's teddy not wanting to go to the tip and be incinerated, I said to myself come on Steve you've seen Toy Story too much but it was beautiful so I held on to it. As soon as I went into the flat the Fox came rushing down the stairs and grabbed it - by the way that's his name, people are always asking me how's your Fox so I call him Fox, he's fine but when a fox wants something just let it go, anyway instead of running into his playroom and tearing it's head off and ripping it to shreds he took it up to his bed and pushed it into the corner where it remains intact with a big smile on its face to this very day. Why does it appear to be smiling, because once again it's saved and cherished even if it is by a fox. Sad that we've lost our celebrity resident in Ditchling Zoe Ball, but she hasn't gone far, just up the road near Newick, and being the genuine person she is, her love affair with Ditchling will never end - she'll be back for visits especially to her favourite shops and cafes, but as she secretly told me the one thing she'd longed for was a potting shed and her new place has a very beautiful one which she's over the moon about, strange the things we long for as we get older. Age UK seems to be taking its time clearing out, and is it just me or do all those black bins bags piled against the window under the spot lights seem like a fire hazard. Another year has whizzed past and that now makes it 47 years we've been in the village. It was also our 47th wedding anniversary, couldn't do a lot so celebrated with a Take Away - Thank you Tim Fai. For those of you who have trouble with masks we have a large area out the back of the shop where you can remove your mask and social distance if you want to talk to me about anything, particularly to do with pets - I'm always here. Please take care hopefully see you all next month.

Steve and all the furry creatures

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