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We thank Brian Stevens for this photo of London, Road, Sayers Common, circa early 1930's. The West side lost out in the scheme of things, Holes Engineering works and Petrol Station can be seen while the original Post Office was further up the road before relocating to the East Side.



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THE LATE JOYCE BIGGS (FORMERLY BOOKER). Mum, Joyce died peacefully in her sleep on 17th January 2021 just 7 months short of her 100th birthday. She died in Villa Adastra where she had been cared for due to Alzheimer's for the last four years.

She had lived in Keymer since 1958 and was an active member of local Hassocks society. She was president of the Townswomen's Guild, took acting roles in the local drama group and sung in the choir. Joyce was also a regular at Age Concern helping out when she could.

For many years she was the Office Manager at the Ditchling Press in Ditchling before it moved to Burgess Hill.

Her funeral was on 5th February.

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She will be greatly missed by her daughter Elaine, son Stephen, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Elaine Corcut and Stephen Booker

A NOTE FROM THE HASSOCKS FIELD

SOCIETY In the last issue Suzanne Glossop wrote about her love of Tiptree jam and the visit she enjoyed with the Hassocks Field Society to the Tiptree tearoom and museum in 2019. We are so glad Suzanne enjoys our outings. The Field Society, in normal times, organises several trips during the summer as well as walks and rambles and also has a winter programme of talks, etc. Details of our activities are available by calling **01273 832351** (or on our website **www.hassocksfieldsociety.org.uk.**)

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PETER MARTIN A bench to commemorate Peter's life has been placed in the south field of Adastra Park, by the side of the Adastra Hall.

Peter loved living in Hassocks and for many years served on both the parish and district councils as well as several local organisations. Peter's family would like to thank all those friends, residents and organisations who contributed to the purchase of the bench and commemorative plaque.

Special thanks are also offered to Tracey at Hassocks parish council for all her help in getting the bench installed in an appropriate location.

Jilly Hamilton (Peter's sister)

LOCKDOWN LOUNGE - IDENTIFYING AND MONITORING WILDLIFE 5th

March. 7.30 pm to 9pm Local ecologist Laurie Jackson will talk about the importance of monitoring wildlife, and how you can contribute to recording schemes that provide vital information for nature con-

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servation. She will also highlight some of the resources available to help with identifying local wildlife vour **Details:** Join Access Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/98131237713?pwd=dFdI Y3I5UFhweFJRdVBOdHFvT2NwUT09 3123 Meeting ID: 981 7713 Passcode: 788693. Margaret Ford

THE BEACON PARISH At the time of writing, (end January), weekly services of Holy Communion filmed in different outside locations in the Parish are being live streamed at 11.00 am each Sunday.

Each service is also available to watch later via our website at https://www.beacon-parish.co.uk/ For details of future services and updated information should Government regulations have changed by the time you receive this magazine, please check the website or the Facebook page at https://www.face-book.com/thebeaconparish

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DB

<u>DITCHLING WI'S</u> next meeting will be held by Zoom on **2nd March** at 7.30 pm. We suggest that you join the meeting 10 minutes earlier so everyone can log in.

Dr. Jonathan Newman is an Associate Post-Doctoral who works as an Associate Tutor for Anthropology in the Department of Global Studies at University of Sussex his talk on the evening will be entitled Anthropological Holidays.

The committee looks forward to seeing you on the evening.

Mercedes Madden

YEW TREES IN THE CHURCHYARD In your February issue Mr Blencowe tells us all about churchyard yew trees. Very interesting

and all of it new 'knowledge' for me.

As a boy living in south London, my father dragged me round many churches mainly in Surrey, because he had a great interest in church history and architecture. He was a schoolmaster and Saturdays and Sundays were just an extension of his weekday work but with only his 3 sons to talk to. This he did in an embarrassingly loud booming voice which attracted the attention of other visitors to the church. Sometimes, to his surprise and our pleasure he received a tip and we converted it into ice cream cornets as soon as possible.

The churchyard yew tree was of interest to me because of its age and purpose. The only story I was ever told (and confirmed many years later when I became churchwarden at Westmeston Church of St Martin) does not seem to be known to Mr Blencowe.

In mediaeval times the village church and churchyard were very important and central to the life of the community. The churchyard was



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the only green open space where village people met and children played after the church services.

Gravestones - so familiar today - were not invented until Victorian times. St Martins Fair, granted to Westmeston in 1312AD, was held in the graveyard to the north of the church where only poor people were buried. This caused the land to the south of the church to become raised as body after body was interned there. Most village churches had to have a charnel chamber as fresh burials revealed the bones of previously interred villagers. Westmeston church the charnel chamber was discovered a few years ago to be under the central aisle of the church.

Before the invention of barbed wire, farmers fences were of poor quality and thorn hedges

were relied upon to retain stock. As there were no motor cars a cow would be safe if it broke through the hedge and grazed on the verges of the tracks, as roads were before Mr MacAdam in the mid-19th century.

The Rector was certainly not having loose cows trampling the fresh graves in the churchyard. To prevent this a yew tree was planted and so it was clear to farmers with land close to the church that stock could not have any chance to break out. The Rector did not want to poison any animal and the yew tree was there as a warning to local farmers.

All this stuff was told to me in my young boyhood in the 1920s and remained firmly in my mind. I know that it was correct because after all, he was a schoolmaster.

Harold Rowling, Westmeston

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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.

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HASSOCKS WI We have not been idle during lockdown!

We have been learning about Zoom, and have conducted committee and members' meetings. We also set up a Phone Buddy Scheme, where committee members would each keep in contact with a small group of members, to combat isolation and loneliness.

Christmas was celebrated with surprise goody bags for each member (thank you Committee!) which were very well received – I loved my luxury hand cream and chocolate lolly! Chocolate also figured in one of our Zoom presentations by Jane Napper (from Simply Chocolate in Whitstable) who showed us how to make our own delectable chocolates. Yum! Other Zoom talks covered Hampton Court, Knepp Castle Rewilding, Cocktails for Christmas and the amazing photography of Jim Holmes' "Humanitarian Vision".

Thanks to President Hilary and Secretary Barbara for keeping us informed on Federation



courses.

February events comprise a talk from Beatrice von Preussen, a scientist and artist, on her adventure in the Antarctic, and a virtual tour of Ben Cross's flower nursery. In March our speaker Simon Gregor will be telling us about his interesting life as a tour guide.

If you are interested in joining us, please email wihassocks@gmail.com or phone Barbara O'Rourke on 01273 846811.

Kate Hastings

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DITCHLING PLAYERS Hello, I'm sure like me you were all glad to see the back of 2020 and, whilst 2021 seems to be equally unpredictable, there is a glimmer of hope with the vaccinations that are now being rolled out. so fingers crossed.

As you'll be aware the Performing Arts, both professional and amateur, have been hit very hard with the pandemic and it's been a struggle to come up with ideas as to what to do apart, of course, from the 'Zoom' meetings which seem to have popped up all over the place. Those of you with long memories may remember that we had hoped to put on 'Private Lives' at the end of 2019 but this was sadly not to be and so we set our sights on May 2020 (this was in November 2019), but fate had other ideas and so this has had to be pushed back a number of times. However, we've been very fortunate with a stalwart director, cast and backstage crew who have been prepared to adapt to everything and so we're

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tentatively looking to put this on October/November 2021 taking into account all of the restrictions etc and I hope to be able to keep you updated on this in the coming months especially as the situation becomes clearer for us all. We're also looking at an open-air review in the middle of the year at a local venue and again I hope to be able to provide you with more details on this in future articles, so watch this space.

Finally, it's recently been brought to my attention that in 2021 the Players will be celebrating 75th years of existence. We're very fortunate that our President, Ian Clayton, has an extensive archive of photographs; programmes etc of our productions but if you or someone you know has either memories of past productions or connections with the Players please do get in touch. Contact details can be found on our website. In the meantime, stay safe & well.

David Tettersell

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LAPTOPS FOR LOCKDOWN @ DOWN-LANDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL The national laptop shortage for students has been well documented recently and we at Downlands Community School want to do all we can to help our young people receive the support and equipment they need in order to continue their learning. These young people are our future and we pride ourselves on doing all we can to help them be the best they can be. Downlands Community School have been the



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grateful recipients of the generosity of our local community, we have received over £7400 to enable more of our students to have a school laptop at home. We would like to publicly thank those who have supported us already - Pet ID Microchips, Burgess Hill & District Lions Club, the Jupp Family, DMC Partnership & an anonymous donation of £1500.

Despite this generosity we are still in need of many more laptops and we are hoping that our colleagues in our local business community will want to link with us and support us with this initiative.

As you know, all students, apart from keyworker students are remote learning during this current lockdown. Each student needs to have access to a laptop so that they can access their lessons, be they via PowerPoint, Zoom or Teams. While most homes have at least one device, with the majority of parents working from home, there is often not enough technology to go around, to enable everyone to com-

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plete the work they need to, be that parents or children. Therefore, we want to enable as many of our students as we can to be given access to laptops that they don't have to share. To enable us to raise funds more easily, we have started a Crowdfunding page (link below) and we ask you to take a look at and



share with your friends and colleagues and ask them to share it with theirs. In return, we can offer you advertising space at future school events

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pages and website, advertising space in event brochures and we would be willing to discuss any other requirements you have in exchange for supporting 'Laptops for Lockdown'.

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We have also recently launched a School Lottery. The first draw took place on Saturday 13th February. The Lottery runs every Saturday from now on, so if you would like to take part then please click the link below and sign up. You can sign up for one draw or set up a direct debit for future draws. Tickets are £1 each per line of numbers that you select.

This is a fantastic way to help our school and a way that we can give back to the Community.

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/downlands-community-school

Thank you, in advance for your support, from the staff, students & parents at Downlands Community School. Gail Wickens

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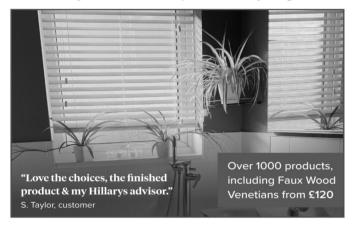
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THE WINDMILLS SCHOOL The children have been enjoying time outside continuing to develop the wellbeing area. The wind, rain and mud has not stopped the work or the fun! We received a donation of woodchip from James Wilson Tree Care and the children were delighted to help wheel this from the car park to their 'work-site' so they could create paths. We have been fortunate to have received two generous donations; The Burgess Hill District Lions donated £2,000 which will go towards much needed new ICT equipment and Roche Pharmaceuticals in Burgess Hill kindly donated 10 laptops, which at a time when so many children are accessing work online, is hugely appreciated.

As part of Children's Mental Health awareness week the school has provided children

with the opportunity to get involved in Hearts of Gold which is a creative project to raise awareness about mental health.

The children were asked to make and decorate Hearts of Gold and then display them in their home or school windows over Valentine's Day weekend. We want to encourage children to think about their mental health and how the people they love have supported them over the past year.

The Brighton and Sussex University Hospital Charity has launched a feel-good campaign to show support and lift the spirits of BSUH staff across their four hospitals. We have been talking to the children about making valentines cards and sending messages of support.

Year 4 recently had a wonderful themed day around the Titanic, the children were all asked

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to take part in a selection of activities from dressing up as a first, second or third class passenger, to creating a model or 2D picture and finding out facts to share with their classmates.

They had a fantastic day both in school and online and this really helped to bring the children together as they knew, no matter whether they were in school or at home, they were all participating in the same work.

Sarah Jacobs

DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE Ditchling Parish Council has launched an exciting new website at www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk. The site will keep residents up to date with latest news and information on council projects such as the new car park and extension to the burial ground.

It also lists all the councillors and how to contact them, along with meeting dates, agendas and minutes of meetings. There's information

Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha
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on the areas of village life the council manages such as the recreation ground and play area, as well as news that affects us all including the latest on coronavirus vaccinations and help and support for residents during the pandemic.

The site also has links to other useful local government sites and village organisations and societies through the Ditchling Village Association.

'The parish council works for and on behalf of all residents and communication is key to this', says chair Don McBeth. 'We encourage everyone to get involved and let us know if there are any issues that need addressing. All meetings set aside time for members of the public to speak about what concerns them, even now when we are meeting online.'

So keep up with all the latest news and developments, and get in touch, through www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk

Sarah Mamoany, Ditchling parish clerk



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If I could give a perfect gift, Greater than any other, It would be one that will never fade That's the love of a wonderful mother. Some loves to you may come and go, And with passing time may falter, But her love will always stay the same, It's depth will never alter, She will always see the best in you, Whatever your life may send, You will never lack for the support Of a true and faithful friend. No matter how rich and famous No matter how poor you may be, The little one she held in her arms That's who she will always see, So if she is still a part of your life, Or has gone to a place above, There is nothing sweeter on earth you will feel

Than the warmth of your mother's love. © *Mary White 2021*



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WANTED If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included please email us at **ed@villagemagazines.co.uk** or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR. Deadline for the April Issue is 1st March 2021.

STEVES COMMENTS FEBRUARY 2021.

We have received a couple of letters about comments made by Steve on the back cover these comments are not necessarily our views but knowing Steve I'm sure it was not meant that way. People read things in all different ways. We the publishers have taken on board all your comments.

Our deadline date is now the 1st of the month until further notice



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Hello to everyone. My name is **Stephen Hamilton** and I run **Kitchen Carousel Ltd**. We make kitchens and bedrooms. We are a small local company. We have been making kitchens around Hassocks for nearly forty years! Last year, as you might imagine, making and fitting kitchens, was a bit tricky but in between the stops and starts we managed to complete about fifteen different kitchen projects in Hassocks, Hurst, Ditchling and a couple in Lewes. For those who don't know us, we specialise in completely **new** kitchens, designed and built from scratch and project managed; including minor building works, doors moved, new plastering, plumbing, new boilers, flooring, full electrical/lighting and all stone/granite or marble or laminate worktops. We also supply a comprehensive range of sinks/taps and other appliances. However, we also do **partial or complete** refurbishments. Sometimes we just change the doors, sometimes we might change doors and worktops. We are very flexible and inventive with our solutions. We are practical. We aim to make your kitchen function intelligently and then we make it beautiful! We are especially clever at really small, difficult kitchen spaces.

Whilst 2020 was occasionally a bit quiet we managed to bring on several of our young apprentices who are now on their way to becoming our new cabinet makers for the future. We train our apprentices in traditional dovetailed drawer making. We love good drawers.

We have been proactive with our Covid work habits. When it got really bad after Christmas [this year] we postponed some installations but we are now, starting off again, very carefully! We always ensure that we create a separate



isolated space where you can have a small but functioning temporary kitchen. My first visit to your home will also be very careful and thoughtful. I will always take your ideas on board, find out what you want then try to come up with some original solutions and designs. I produce quick scribble/sketches, plans and a *rough* budget and then I just leave you to mull it over. No rush and definitely no pressure.

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT THE ACORNS NURSERY AND FOREST **SCHOOL!** Snowdrops, followed by buds of daffodils and slowly returning greenery to the trees at our Westmeston setting brings a longawaited sigh of relief. Perhaps now more than ever, the arrival of spring has never felt more welcomed— perhaps even symbolic. The cyclical changing of seasons has long been of particular significance in the Forest School ethos, and also something that many have become increasingly conscious of throughout the course of the pandemic.

Connection to and curiosity for the natural world and changing seasons is nurtured at the Acorns Nursery and Forest School. Children are able to flourish in an outdoors environment in which the changing seasons can be readily observed and marvelled at; they examine returning fauna and notice the emergence of new animals and bugs that come with one of the



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THIS WORLD WE LIVE IN TODAY

Is hard for all of us Lets try to keep calm and not cause any fuss. The virus, lockdown everywhere closed, has stopped our liberty. Lets have faith, and things will change as time goes passing by. Springtime is in sight The flowers in bloom Their petals reaching high To show their colours to the sky. Birds will sing, new lambs born, and nature will fight back. To give us joy and put our lives on track

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We thank Jean Knapp nee Maskell for the following:- I was very interested in a recent article which a friend sent me from your issue no.530 –Jan 2021 – of the Hassocks and Keymer Talk about, where a Mr Dave Evans had written about the naming of Diplocks Mews.

Charley Diplock was my grandfather and I, too, spent some time in the forge with him pumping the bellows. I also rang the church bells with him for a short time so knew Harry Richardson. However the picture of Charley outside the house at 4, Western Road was not of him at his house. He lived in Manor Gardens and the photo was taken outside the house where I was born and was my parents home. I have a photo of me in my grammar school uniform in exactly the same



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place. My mother was Florrie Diplock, Charley's daughter, before her marriage to my father, Frederick Maskell, in 1935.

I hope you are interested in a few more details about Charley who died in 1960 just after I was married.

SCOUT CHRISTMAS POST: despite the slightly different posting method almost one thousand cards were posted and delivered this year, raising £317 pounds in funds for the group. This money will be put towards activities for the young people. Thank you to everyone who posted cards and to the five collection points: QD stationery, Hassocks Hardware, Hassocks pet shop, Hassocks eye-care centre and Eric Marchants.

Despite the difficult times we are continuing to deliver scouting activities. We are doing this remotely via zoom undertaking activities such as making mug cakes, scavenger hunts and planting seeds ready for the spring. Whilst not ideal the young people and leaders are certainly benefiting from some social interactions and fun. Unfortunately due to losing some of our leaders we have been forced to reduce the size of our sections.

If anyone would like to get involved in scouting in Hassocks please contact Paul Thwaites at gsl@lsthassocksscouts.org.uk.

Bill Whitehead

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ORIGINS OF PIERCE P L A C E

Pierce Place named was after Florence Pierce who was born in Parkfields Cottage, Danny, Hurstpierpoint. She later moved to the Manor Road area.

She is pictured with her best friend Alice Agate who lived in Rose Cottages, Cuckfield Road. They worked together as Laundry Maids at St George's Hand Laundry, Hurst-pierpoint most of their working lives.

I am not sure which is Florence and Alice in



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the picture can anyone confirm who is who. Please email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or write to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR.

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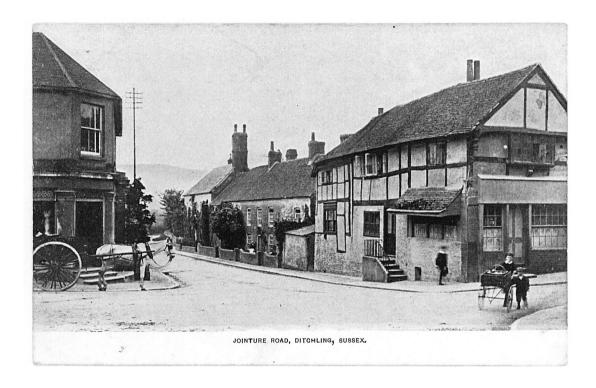
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Savers Common Village Church Hall - ring Judy Miller on 01273 834640. Space available for regular clubs/bookings.

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

Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church and Hall in Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint bookings can be made through Margaret Taylor on 01273 832286.

Hurst Scout H.Q. - has a hall and kitchen as well as a smaller meeting room. Ideal for parties, classes or meetings. Ring Heather Hush on

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THE HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day, or Mothering Sunday in the UK and Ireland, is a day to show love, gratitude and appreciation to all wonderful mums everywhere, through acts of kindness and the giving of Mothers Day gifts and flowers. Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day both have different origins; although they represent the same meaning, they originated very differently. We all celebrate the day but very few people actually know its origin. The original meaning of Mothering Sunday and Mother's

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Day has been somewhat lost but it's still a day to solely appreciate mum.

Mother's Day celebrations date back as far as the ancient Greeks where they would celebrate Rhea, the Mother of the Gods and Goddesses, every spring with festivals of worship. The Romans also celebrated a mother Goddess, Cybele, every March as far back as 250BC. Mothering Sunday has been celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent, in the UK and Ireland, since the 16th century. The date varies in other parts of the world. Many countries follow the US and celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May, whilst other countries enjoy the day on March 8th which is International Women's Day.

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CHURCHES TOGETHER It was good to see those who came to our stall at the December Village market – we hope those who took an activity pack enjoyed them. We are planning to produce an Easter activity pack and hope we might be able to have a stall at the Village market on March 27th where you can come and collect one. If that is not possible you will find us at the United Reformed Church.

We are also hoping that it will be possible to put on the Stations of the Cross. It will obviously be different this year but the plan at the moment is to hold one at St Edward's on 17th March, one at the United Reformed Church on 24th March and one at St Cosmas & St Damian on 31st March, each one will start at 8 pm. Look out for more information on posters nearer the time or visit church websites.

However we manage to celebrate it this year we pray that you will know God's blessing this Easter.

Darryl Sinclair

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BURGESS HILL DISTRICT LIONS have decided to help pupils unable to afford laptops, IPads or apps whilst working at home. With advice from the Town Council we decided to help three schools in Burgess Hill Town. We selected on their advice Manor Fields Primary School, Burgess Hill Academy and London Meed Primary School. We donated £2000.00 to each school.

We then decided to help three more schools in Burgess Hill District Lions Club area but outside of the town itself. We then approached several schools and selected Windmills Junior School, Downlands Community School and Albourne School and donated £2000.00 to each of these Schools. The laptops etc. will remain the property of the schools and loaned out to the pupils requiring them. I am sorry to say that owing to covid restrictions we have not received any photographs from these donations.

Please call if you require any further information.

John Carter

DEADLINE DATES

Deadline date for the April issue is 1st March

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This May 2021, our new small scale orvegetable ganic farm, Old Tree Market Garden, will be opening its' gates in Ditchling Village. We believe that changing our food

systems can be a catalyst to start rectifying a huge array of problems we face in the world today and we want to help that change with this little patch of land.

The market garden will be no-dig, which means not disturbing the myriad of soil life underground, and will also practise regenerative principles, which entails giving back more to the land than we take - feeding the life that feeds us.

Over the Summer there will be workshops covering food growing, soil health, nutrition and crafts. We want to inspire people to think about and question where their food comes from, how it affects their health and the health of the planet. As a child I believed food came from Sainsbury's and I know this isn't unusual for other kids nowadays!

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Alongside, we will be hosting volunteers to ensure food growing knowledge and the community space is as accessible as possible to all who wish to get involved.

As a not for profit organisation, our proceeds will go to donating food to local charities, subsidising workshops and to planting hedgerows and trees for wildlife.

The vegetables will be sold to local businesses and through a small veg box scheme for a few households (which will increase in 2022) - if you would like to register your interest in getting a box and buying our veg please do message us using the email below. Similarly if you would like to come and get your hands in the soil please send an email and we will be in touch.

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BRIMSTONE BUTTERFLY This lock-down has certainly felt harder because of the winter. Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed the bleak beauty of the season: bare trees, frosted landscapes. But now I need something to get my heart racing. I need a sign – some hope in these challenging times, a promise of those dynamic spring months ahead, a flash of colour. In March my light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming butterfly.

On sculpted, vibrant yellow wings the brimstone butterfly makes his elegant entrance into the New Year on those bright March days when you feel the warmth of the sun on your face. Its distinctive yellow wings have given birth to a legend – that this 'butter-coloured fly' was the inspiration for the word butterfly. This claim may be a myth and it's also untrue that these March brimstones are the first signs of the year's new life. By the time brimstones appear in March they are already on their last (six) legs. Fresh brimstone butterflies emerged



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from their chrysalises in late summer, so by now they could be seven months old – and in butterfly years that's ancient. Admittedly, almost all of that time they've been asleep in a hedge, sheltered from the storms under holly and ivy. Yet despite the worst winter weather they always emerge immaculate in the spring. They must be made of Teflon. When they awake the (bright yellow) males search for a mate, they mate, the (pale yellow) females lay eggs and then both die. Still, an adult life of over ten months earns them the title of our longest-lived butterfly. An insect OAP.



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The brimstone's caterpillars feed on the leaves of buckthorn and alder buckthorn, unobtrusive shrubs which. like the butterfly, widespread are Sussex. across When I first became the proud owner of a garden it was only a matter of days be-

fore I evicted the gnomes and planted an alder buckthorn. The following spring I was excited to watch a brimstone laying her tiny skittle shaped eggs and I studied the caterpillars as they hungrily defoliated my tree, content in the knowledge that I was doing my bit to raise the following year's brimstone brigade.

My first brimstone sighting each year doesn't exactly mean that spring is starting but it's certainly a sign that winter is starting to end. And, after the tough winter that we've all just suffered, that's good enough for me. Either way, this beautiful yellow butterfly is a welcome messenger of what's to come – the first sulphurous spark to ignite the blaze of spring. Let's hope that with the spring comes hope for



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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Well that was an interesting month just gone; we'll talk about that later.

So what do you think about the new look Budgens, most of the feedback I'm getting is that you're just grateful their open again, but think it looks very smart although all you want to do is get in and out as quickly as you can. I hear Ripples the old Bathroom shop is going to be a Dentist, all the Dentists I've visited over the years have always involved climbing stairs, I've never known a Dentist take over a high street shop and just to be on one floor. I'm not sure, how that's going to work, it's not a massive shop, when you've put in the reception area and waiting room. I suppose you could get in two cubicles for the Dentists and will they be sound proofed or will you be able to hear what's going on while seated, waiting to go in. If I was sitting there and I could hear the drill going, I wouldn't be sitting there for long I'd be gone. We'll itst have to wait and see.

Sadly we're about to lose Nationwide Building Society both here and in Hurstpierpoint, I don't know how many people use Building Societies any more but obviously it's not many, but of course it does mean more people out of jobs which is a great shame. That just leaves the Post Office now where you can pay money into but I don't know if they can help with Nationwide Customers probably not.

It was a great shame to here of the death of Andy Flowers he was a local man for many years and married to Caroline who worked at Bowleys, he loved his Koi Goldfish and regularly came in the shop to get fish food. We eventually became good friends and I remember the day when he told me he was selling up and moving to Leicester for a more quiet life I was pleased for him. He'd worked hard all his life and everything went as it should for several years, a happy retirement with family, but then Covid came along and changed all that and sadly for Andy it struck him down at only 69. He had many happy years ahead of him, but after only 10 days of illness he passed away leaving a devastated family behind. I mention this because Andy was a lovely man who didn't deserve to die, but I get people in my shop who still think all this is some big conspiracy theory by the government, to what end I cannot imagine, but they are convinced and it drives me MAD.

Now it would appear I upset a few people by my comments I made about the young ladies that came into my shop to enquire about empty premises for a Nail Bar. Luckily they left me a phone number to get in touch with them if anything came up. I read out to them what I'd written to ask them if they were offended by it. Their reply was that prejudice is born out of ignorance and hatred and has no place in modern day society and they have experienced it more since Covid struck, but they are very proud of their heritage and up bringing everyone has to have a nationality no matter where they come from. Their upbringing was quite strict and good manners were installed in them from an early age, which is why they say thank you so many times — 'to call us what you did is an accurate description of where we come from and we are honoured that you mentioned us in your article, no offence given and thank you for phoning and letting us know about the soon to be vacant Building Society we will investigate.'

bevery time I drive home in the evening I'm always in awe of the window displays in Ditchling High Street, they are beautiful, obviously got a lot of time on their hands. My windows are always a mess mostly covered in snot and saliva from dogs ogling the cats.

That's it for this month. Thank you for reading it and your comments. Also, I thought you might like to know I was recently vaccinated like many of you at Clair Hall.

Stay safe and well love Steve & furry friends

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392