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We thank Jacqui for this photo Hassocks Towns Women's Guild taken Mid to late 1960's? My late Mum, Muriel Pitt 2nd left, front row, she was in the TWG choir. Can anyone give names to any of these ladies? I recognise so many of these faces from my childhood. Email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or write to us - address in inside cover.


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REMEMBERING THE LATE JOYCE BIGGS

It was very sad news to hear of the passing of Joyce - what an amazing age!

Joyce was a very gentle lady and very community spirited as her family told us in the last magazine. She was one of the earliest members of our concert party Friends and Neighbours in the late 70's and early 80's and enjoyed her time on stage especially the occa-

sional Old Tyme Music Hall that we staged from time to time. Her costumes, gorgeous long dresses and beautiful large hats were always very much admired by cast and audiences alike. She has left us some lovely memories of a very lovely lady. She will obviously be very much missed by her family to whom we send our sincere sympathy. R.I.P. Joyce. *Dorrie, Friends & Neighbours*

We thank Chris Gant for sending in these lines that his Grandfather wrote in 1900.

HOPE ON

Hope on! Through the outlook be dull and dreary;
Hope on! Though you be downeast and weary.
The day may be darkened by a passing cloud,
But behind the cloud the sun will be shining;
Then what is the use of always repining
At losses and crosses, or crying aloud?
Take heart then without any further delay,
For while the sun shines 'tis a proof it is day!
This simple fact should encourage us all
To bear troubles manfully whate'ver befall.
It bowed down with grief, or burdened with care,
Remember that others have also their share.
Amid the gloom we have the blessings of hope;
Rouse yourself, therefore, give your actions more scope.
Perhaps your next effort will lead to success,
By dispelling the darkness of your distress;
But if you preserve and hope for the best,
To our heavenly Father you may leave the rest.

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AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS RE-OPENING DATES

If the government timetable goes to plan, we shall be opening our Day Centre doors for business on Monday 17th May. Freshly cooked, three-course lunches will be available once again and the coffee shop will be open from 9 am. Those of you who previously used our minibus transport will also be able to do so again. No-one needs to call the centre as we shall be contacting all of our regular users and our volunteers to see what arrangements we need to make.

The new Charity Shop should be able to re-open much earlier on Monday **12th April** under current government plans.

Paul Dixon, chiropodist and podiatrist, has been allowed to work from the Centre throughout the pandemic and is very much looking forward to having some company once again.

The staff and volunteers are all looking forward to welcoming everyone back and slowly getting back to normality. *John Rose*



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HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS UP-DATE

Good news gymnasts! Providing the new tests continue to be met, Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club will be reopening on for the Summer term on the **20th April**. We do ask all gymnasts to double check for updates on the News page of our website **www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk**.

With class sizes having been reduced, there is the opportunity for new gymnasts to reserve a place to join us when restart. Please contact us via the link on our website.

With help from Mid Sussex we will have some new equipment and more coaches to assist. All the covid measures adopted last September will be in place.

Awards gained last year will be presented at the start of May. *Andrew*

RETIREMENT We thank Mr & Mrs Brooks who have been delivering your magazines to Beaconhurst, Keymer for many years. *Ed*

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And hair down your back always making you itch
A memory from back when I was a titch

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So every resident must step up to the plate

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It’s a dream that I have and I will keep on hoping.

*Less than 10p © Colin – a very satisfied customer

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WINDMILLS SCHOOL For the first two weeks of this half-term, the children at the Windmills were immersed in a world of books.

Author virtual visits: The children journeyed to the Land of Roar with Jenny McLachlan, learning to cast funny spells in the style of Wininja (the infamous Wizard Ninja from this series of books) and creating their very own characters to accompany them on their voyage. One parent commented, 'When I got home, X was full of talk about Jenny McLachlan's Zoom talk. She had such a fab time - she couldn't stop talking about it and I've found all bits of paper in her room with little ideas on.'

On Tuesday 2nd March, the children in Years

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5 and 6 had the opportunity to meet Ross Montgomery who has written a number of superb books, including The Midnight Guardians which was recently voted Waterstones Children's Book of the Month.

Later in the week, the children in Year 3 and Year 4 ventured into the beastly world of Jack Meggitt-Phillips whose book, The Beast and the Bethany, is both riotously funny and deliciously macabre. It is doubtful children will ever look at parrots in the same way ever again after reading this book!

Books, books and more books! In addition to the fantastic author virtual visits, the children were able to enjoy some very special performances by a host of 'Masked This included readings by the Tin Lady, the Big Bad Wolf's

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friend the Big Bad Pig and, to the delight of the children, Boba Fett.

Throughout Book Week, the children were encouraged to engage with reading for pleasure in a whole manner of ways, including perusing the school's new virtual library and sharing book recommendations on an interactive platform.

On World Book Day itself (Thursday 4th March), the children displayed a whole host of creative skills, whether they were in school or working from home. They truly brought our Book Day to life by dressing up as book characters (whether themselves or an unsuspecting potato), creating a shoebox diorama and even making a book trailer using technology.

All classes used two fantastic texts as a springboard for their English and PSHE learning: The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore by W. E. Joyce and The Invisible by Tom Percival.

This was a Book Week to remember and one

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that we hope will inspire the children to not only read more, but also to use other skills such as empathy when reading and learning about others.

In the words of Dr Seuss, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Sarah Jacobs

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

At the time of writing (late February), we are waiting to know when services in our churches will resume. But we have been really enjoying the imaginative and thought-provoking weekly Sunday services filmed around the Parish. For the latest updates and to watch past services visit our website <https://www.beacon-parish.co.uk/> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/thebeacon-parish>

Sherrian Guest

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OLD TREE MARKET GARDEN of the future availability of organic nodig vegetables will bring great joy to hundreds of gardeners and tillers of the local soil.

The idea of no-dig vegetables will be seen by many men as the greatest thing since sliced bread. Few can have enjoyed the hours spent in the garden or allotment doing double-dig, plant, earth-up then dig again to harvest the crop.

No-dig will also be of great benefit to the nematodes and other species of wildlife that live (in the soil) beneath our feet. A true vegetarian would be uncomfortable to think of all the loss of life arising from cultivation for vegetables. Will Digless Vegetarianism be the next food culture after Veganism?

Of course vegetables grown on land previously farmed are not truly 'organic' as they benefit from many years of chemical treatment still lurking in the soil.

The only land that is completely free of fertilisers and weed killers is that in old churchyards.

Churchyards are host to a large number of plants and insects that feed on them. Westmeston churchyard contains 98 different plant species of which 29 have been identified as wild flowers.

Country churches are closing down as church (C of E) membership continues to decline. The graveyards become gardens and the churches, houses. Then truly organic vegetables will become available.

Harold Rowling

We thank David Clarke for the following letter:- Dear editors, In the March edition of Village Voice the article by Harold Rowling about churchyards and yew trees was very interesting. However, there was one significant error.

Gravestones were certainly not invented in Victorian times. There are many fine examples in English churchyards of gravestones dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Indeed, the Romans left many interesting gravestones in Britain, though most of these are now in museums.

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HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME 2021/22

Hassocks Parish Council is pleased to announce that it is now inviting applications for grants to assist local community groups or for projects and activities that will benefit local residents. Applications will be considered twice yearly in September and February, with the deadline for submission being Friday **27th August 2021** to be considered by Council in September, and Friday **28th January 2022** for consideration in February 2022.

Full details can be found on the Parish Council's website – www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk or for further information please contact the Parish Council Office on **01273 842714** or email info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk.

Ian Cumberworth

HOSTELRIES IN HASSOCKS AND HURSTPIERPOINT, PAST AND PRESENT

After seeing an advert about a local publication compiled by Hurst, Hassocks and Ditchling U3A Local History Group, called 'Hostelries in Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint, Past and Present', I was given a copy for Christmas. It is an amazing compilation of the history of the Pubs, Inns and Hotels in this area that are still here or long gone. A huge amount of research has gone into putting this compendium together and I would like to congratulate the Group on creating something that is a really good read as well as being so informative. I would certainly recommend your readers acquiring a copy if there are any left.

To order a copy call Marilyn on **01273 845397**.

Margaret Taylor

If you have any articles, photographs, poems or recipes you think will be of interest please email them to - info@villagemagazines.co.uk or send them to Village Magazines, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks BN6 8AR



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Completed applications should be sent to the secretary by email, no later than **30th April 2021**.

John Wood

DITCHLING DOWNS WI The next meeting of Ditchling Downs WI is on **6th April** at 7.30 pm, when Kevin Motley will be demonstrating and talking about Tia Chia, a Chinese martial art which has health and meditation benefits.

In his demonstration you can be actively involved via Zoom, members should wear loose and comfortable clothing should you wish to take part in the slow and gentle movements. The talk and demonstration will last about 40 minutes.

The Committee looks forward to seeing you, log on is from 7.15 pm onwards.

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DOWNLANDS SCHOOL Thank you for the lovely positive feedback we've been receiving about what we have been doing here at Downlands. By the time you read this, we should all be back at school! Hooray!

January and February were long months for us all, and although we filled our social media pages with wonderful examples of our students' work, there is nothing like having the school full of life again. Don't forget to take a look on Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn/Twitter – just look for Downlands Community School.

Currently as I write this, it's 1st March, St David's Day and it's a beautiful day outside, the sun is shining and the view of the South Downs from my office is simply glorious! It's my first day back at school after working from home and home schooling my little ones. It's been an interesting, stressful and challenging couple of months, but it's lovely to be starting to feel like we are heading towards better

times.

Today, we have opened our Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) Centre to the whole school for the first time. Students have been coming in for their appointments and being tested before their return to school next week. Setting up our testing centre has been a feat worthy of an award! There are multiple hoops that have been jumped through and much Government red tape that can't be avoided. We have a huge team of volunteer staff that stepped up to run the testing centre – and we are proud to say that on our first day we have tested over 250 students. We will continue with testing these numbers all of this week. Next week, when students are back in school, we will carry on testing until those children with consent have been tested 3 times. We will then be sending kits home for students to test themselves at home twice a week.

A big thank you to our students and parents for their patience with us and the constant



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emails with changes and instructions that have dominated email inboxes over the last few weeks.

It is my hope, that by the time you read this in April, we are much closer to being 'free' again. Fundraising update - Our Lottery is being very well supported and we hope to encourage more support among our community. Weekly the prize is somewhere between £55-£75 depending on how many tickets have been purchased. Lines cost just £1 and it's easy to set up a direct debit - one ticket for every week for a month will cost you just £5 or less.

<https://donatemyschool.com/downlands-community-school-2460>

We hope to have some more charity days when we are all back in school and I will report on those in my May entry.

Date for your diary: Summer Fayre - Saturday 26th June. We are excited to say that our DSA are planning to hold our Summer Fayre on Saturday 26th June - we are hoping that all social distancing measures will have been

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lifted by then and we can go ahead with our usual event. Watch this space, more to follow! Thank you, as always, for your support, from the staff, students & parents at Downlands Community School.

Gail Wickens

ADASTRA STOOLBALL CLUB Well we can dream of playing stoolball, green grass, warm air, team members - we've missed them!

The last session didn't happen because of Covid and Lockdown but just maybe (may only be a short season) but a slim possibility we may be able to meet up again in Adastra Park.

The two Junior sessions are on Wednesday evenings (8 to 10 year olds) 5 pm to 6 pm and (10 to 16 years) 6 pm to 7 pm. Seniors meet on a Tuesday and Thursday at 6 pm.

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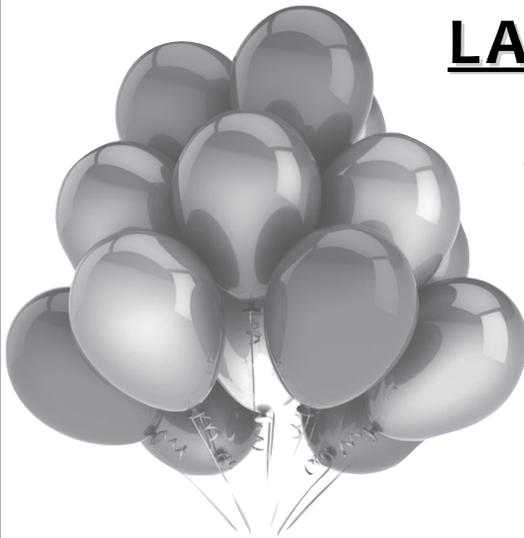


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We thank the late Lorraine Langridge for this postcard.

Sent in 1930 it shows the High Street, Hurstpierpoint looking east. The late Ray Packham once advised us there were fourteen chimneys on the building approximately where the Post Office is. We wonder if they are all still there?

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some way
Brittania lost her way
rules stopped
the many waves and
all the time we had to play and
drew our attention
to the grim irony
of a shattered vision.
But we will remember the day our
Dame Vera led the way
to the Cenotaph ground
as if there was no sound.

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Over the years Ray was a big collector of photos and postcards and that's why I originally started collecting myself. I know he received photos and postcards from as far as Australia.

Dave Evans

Following on from last month we thank John Pierce for the following information:-

Florence Pierce was my grandmother and she is the lady on the left. Her youngest son, my uncle, Eric is still alive. My cousin is also doing a family tree, and Florence had 7 or 8 brothers and sisters. As an aside the small building in the foreground of the photo was used as a joiners shop by my dad (Fred Pierce) who was the eldest of Florence's 4 sons.



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OLDLAND MILL Anyone who has walked up to Oldland Mill in recent weeks will have noticed building work has started around the Mill. In February our Portacabin, which had served us well for the last 20 years, was removed to make way for a new, permanent workshop building. This is being completed as part of work to continue the brick and flint wall around Oldland Mill House.

We hope that construction work will have finished in time for us to reopen to the public. Current plans to reopen, further to the Prime Ministers announcement of 22.02.21, include our usual August and October Open Afternoons and an event day of Heritage and Music in September.

In addition to the above, our website has been out of action in recent months. We are pleased to report that it is once again in operation and any further updates will be detailed there, along with our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts

We thank Julia McGill for the following letter:- Good morning My name is Julia Mc Gill I live in Burgess Hill but have worked and visited Hassocks for 30 odd years. So get your mag every month from where I worked.

Love the article on Mothering Sunday. I was also told there was another reason, It was to do with the MAIDS, BUTLERS and all the other kinds of SERVANTS who worked in the big houses, Christmas and other big holidays maids and the like were paid to work, but Mothering Sunday 2nd Sunday of Lent was the day given to maids and other servants to visit their mothers with-in reason of where they lived, and giving them a bunch of wild flowers,

Hope this is of interest to have another version.

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We have been marvelling at the changing of the seasons, and have been inspired by all the new life springing up all around us over this month, including some of our own seeds we planted ourselves last month! We love the out-



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doors in all weathers, but with the weather warming up, its been a welcome relief to swap our wet-weathers and wellies for some lighter clothing. Our Westmeston setting at the foot of the Downs makes the perfect setting for walking to see the local horses, admiring the daffodils, and even spotting some Easter bunnies...

Alongside our outdoor adventures, we have been enjoying a whole variety of creative activities that have been inspired by the wonder of this time of year — flower paintings, egg decorating, and our music sessions that have been focused on natural life-cycles.

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MY BACK PAGES I love old natural history books. It's not just the information they contain. I love the smell, I love the binding. For the past twelve months I've avoided Covid anxieties by burying my head in old books, scientific papers and traveller's journals. I've been researching a book of my own, an account of my travels in search of what remains of the world's iconic extinct animals. A journey which took me from the dark forests of New Zealand to the ferries of Finland and finally to an inflatable crocodile floating on Widewater Lagoon in Shoreham.



After spending long lockdown nights writing at my computer it was somewhat surreal to receive an advance copy of my book in the post this morning and to run my hands over its embossed cover. I finally filed it on my bookcase where it rubbed shoulders, and spines, with *On The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin and *Animal Magic* by Johnny Morris.

My bookshelves sag with old natural history books. Just holding these tomes transports me to

another time. Tucked away inside my battered (but beloved) copy of *The Butterflies of Eastbourne* (1928) by Robert Adkin is a map, which I always unfold eagerly as if I've discovered the concealed directions to some long-lost buried treasure. Indeed, in the book Adkin describes bounteous butterfly riches which could be found in the woodlands and downland coombes between Lewes and Eastbourne. You can almost hear Rudyard Kipling whisper of "something lost behind the Ranges. Lost and waiting for you. Go!" At the time, many young explorers answered the call and Adkin claimed that "almost daily during the summer, one meets small armies of schoolboys each armed with a butterfly net."

Perhaps Adkin's eager Eastbourne entomologist army had been inspired by another of my favourite



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books. *The Outdoor World* (1900) by William Furneaux aimed to distract children from “victimising their schoolmates” and give them “a taste for something better.” Back in 1900, it seems pinning butterflies and collecting birds’ eggs fell into the “something better” category. Furneaux encouraged young naturalists to make “killing bottles” in which they could dispatch butterflies, and instructed children to ask the local chemist for some cyanide. The chemist will, Furneaux assures you, sell you cyanide if “he is satisfied with your inten-



tions.” Although it all sounds rather macabre now, this popular book went on to inspire a generation of young naturalists (and probably one or two aspiring Dr Crippens). Back on my bookshelf, I look at my book and wonder if — in 100 years from now — my own story will seem as distant and ridiculous as a world where schoolboys wielded butterfly nets and 10-year-olds could pop to the chemist to buy deadly poison.

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Michael Blencowe

Photos are supplied :-Books © Charlotte Owen

Common Blue Butterfly © Emma Varley,

Michael with a butterfly © SophiEcoWild,

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A black and white silhouette of a commercial airplane in flight, viewed from a slightly elevated front perspective.

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DITCHLING NURSERY NEWSLETTER

Term 3 was a very busy time for the children in the nursery. It was also an oasis of normality, despite what was going on in the wider world we continued to build; paint; cut and glue. We read, sang, danced and gave each other hugs when needed; the biggest problems we faced were sharing the tool-kit and who to sit with during snack time. It was really a great place to be!

We enjoyed learning about penguins: where do they live? - we built a junk model of Antarctica; how do they move? we sang, 'Have you ever had a penguin home to tea?' flapping our flippers and waddling around: right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg. Our letter sound was P; Peter our pet penguin went to the shop and bought a peg, pencil, pebble, pepper and a pig.

Our favourite book became the story of Hiku the penguin with the heart shape tummy. This story inspired the children to recreate a scene

from the book using finger paints, showing his family arriving on icebergs. Can you find Hiku in the picture on the next page?

Freezing temperatures gave us the opportunity to experiment, we put water in containers around the nursery garden, to find out what would happen to the water overnight. The next day we had another problem to solve, how do you get ice out of a watering can?

The term ended perfectly with snow - just enough to make a snow angel! *A Holford*



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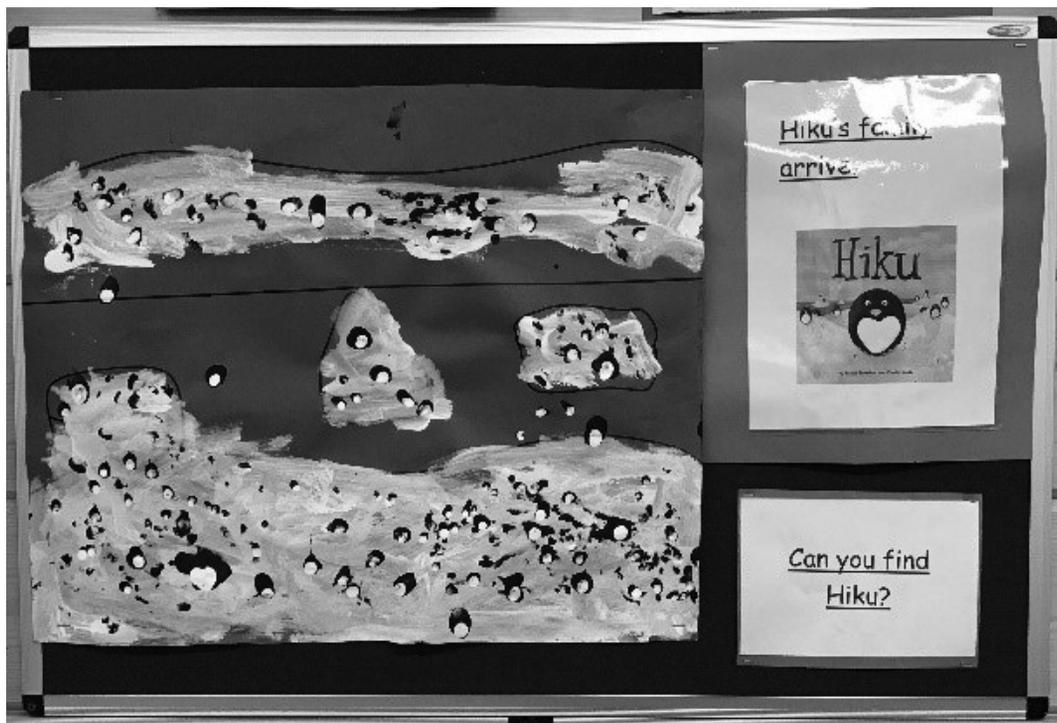
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SUSSEX VALE ROTARY It's 12 months since the first Lockdown began and since then we, with all the other Rotary clubs in this area, and around the world, have had to adjust our processes. Like many others, we now hold our meetings on-line via 'Zoom'. However, we have continued to help our local communities and despite the difficulty of raising funds, you will see below that we have been very successful.

Locally we have supported local young people by providing 'Activity Packs'; organising an Easter Bonnet competition with prizes; and emergency food parcels distributed through the local infant and primary schools in Ditchling, Hassocks and Hurst.

We have also been able to give donations to Hassocks Boys Brigade and the 1st Hurstpierpoint Girls Brigade.

Our Christmas hampers were distributed again, and we have continued to provide financial support to the local foodbanks, donat-

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We have joined forces with the Citizens Advice in West Sussex, which is distributing funds raised by Sussex Vale Rotary through their Operation Wenceslas. It is targeted to help local people who are worried about heating their homes over the winter by helping pay their energy bills.

In Hassocks, the defibrillator held by Hassocks Hardware was repaired and brought up to an operational standard.

The other local organisations which have benefited from our help include, Know Dementia, Princess Royal Rehab Unit, Air Ambulance, St Peter & St James and the Sussex Cancer Fund. In addition to all this activity, Sussex Vale has continued to support international causes. Examples of these included help to deal with the aftermath of the horrendous explosion in Beirut, which was facilitated through Rotary Clubs based there. Additionally, we provided support to Joshua Orphan

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Care in Malawi and clean water for schools in India. Rotary has been working to eradicate Polio from the world since 1988, contributing large amounts in financial support, but also providing volunteer doctors and nurses to administer the vaccine. Sussex Vale has made significant donations over the past year to help with the final push towards ridding the world of this dreadful disease. To further highlight our commitment to the 'End Polio Now' cause, members have planted purple crocuses around the area in the past few years and you may have seen them in bloom during February and March.

Hopefully with the vaccination programme making such good progress, we will be returning to a more normal life by the Summer. In anticipation of things improving, we have already begun exploring the viability of holding Light Up Hassocks this year. So, as you will have gathered, Sussex Vale is still alive and kicking, working with and within our communities.

We are looking forward to being able to meet together again, as the social side of our club has been greatly missed.

HELP - We have recently placed a number of posters around the villages appealing for donations and seeking volunteers to help with

our work in the local community. As you will appreciate all these activities have a cost and the Covid restrictions have prevented us from running our usual fund-raising events. All help will be appreciated and as we have no admin or other costs, you can be sure every penny will be spent on good causes. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary and how you can help or join us, please contact our club secretary on secretarysvr@gmail.com, or **07546 111996**, he will be pleased to hear from you. We can also be found on Facebook and our website.

Duncan Honeyman

CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for volunteers to deliver your free magazine **Village Voice**, which has been delivered to you for the past 24 years in the Hurstpierpoint, Albourne, Sayers Common and surrounding areas. Do you think you have any spare time to deliver to your road/area? If you do then please give us a call on **01273 846978** or email info@villagemagazines.co.uk

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

It's not often I bother to comment on something I read in the newspaper, but it did make me sit up and take notice, especially as I have two quite elderly In Laws thinking of taking that final leap, that a multi-millionaire care home boss is having to sell his fleet of 7 Bentleys as part of his divorce settlement - strange isn't it most care home workers I know drive a second hand fiesta, now you know why some places charge so much?

I have to be honest I never thought I'd see the day when stealing peoples pet dogs is more profitable than stealing cars. It's now a huge business and it doesn't seem to matter what age or size of dog it is, yet I still see dogs tied up outside shops and supermarkets. These thieves are organised and everywhere, so please do not take any chances when out walking your dog. Make sure you change your route as many times as you can and don't be afraid to carry some personal alarm. With the prices of puppies still rising this isn't a problem that is going to go away anytime soon. So please be Vigilant.

If you've got children aged 9 to 14 you may be interested to know that there is a virtual youth club held online every Thursday from 4 pm to 5 pm. It's full of live games, chats, music, arts etc, if you want to know more then either phone 01273 443563 or www.sussexcp.org.uk and give it a go.

You're certainly pleased with the new look Budgens especially the wider aisles and bring your own bag food dispenser; also the 20 customers limit makes it much safer social distancing. I did pop over to see David Knight on the opening day to get the inside story of the highs and the lows of owning a supermarket while having a total refit. What I will say beyond a shadow of a doubt is that man needs a holiday.

Sad to see Garden Sage closing and moving on to new premises. We wish them luck, it must be very difficult in this area when you're surrounded by huge garden centres, everybody floods to them because of the huge range of stuff they carry. You'll always get that small amount of people who like to buy direct from the smaller nurseries and hope this keeps them afloat. Do you remember Mill Nursery which was opposite Garden Sage, Jill had a nice little business growing and selling a range of plants and hanging baskets, but once South Downs opened, that was it and Jill worked herself to an early grave trying to keep open. Strangely after all these years the place still stands empty, I'd have thought someone would have bought and built on it by now.

I'm not sure how other businesses are finding it out there at the moment, but we're having a devil of a job to get some stuff. We've just had some more Wellington Boots in, and then not all the sizes. I seem to be constantly apologising to customers when we've got an empty space on the shelf, I'm not sure if it's Brexit or Covid and prices seem to be constantly changing. But don't worry we haven't put the wellies up yet, they are still £10 and £10.50! I am sorry please stick with us, things will get better I'm sure, but it's going to take time to get back to any sort of normality, but it's good to see the kids back at school and soon you'll be able to get your hair cut - lucky you.

Stay safe everyone, don't refuse your vaccine and whenever you can support your local businesses and shops.

See you next month Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392