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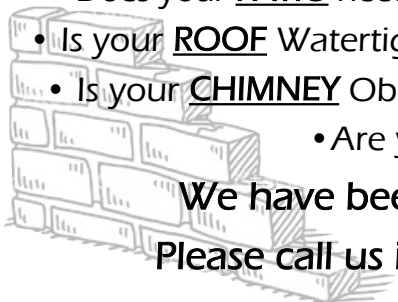
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Your Editors: Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown, Natalie Dalley & Nicola Botting

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HELP, WHERE IS THIS? Michael Alford of Stoneywish would like some help in identifying this picture, do you know where it is/was (possibly in Clayton), or do you have any information about it? Please forward it to us at QD Stationery ed@villagemagazines.co.uk and we will pass it on.

Editors

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REMEMBERING MRS JEAN LANE I was very sadly informed today of the death of Mrs Jean Lane, who passed away on 1st September after a short illness.

Jean helped me to organise The Poppy Appeal for Hassocks and volunteered to fill in any spots that needed to be covered especially at Southdown Garden Centre.

Jean also was a great help with the coin counting afterwards (having spent her working years with Barclays Bank, she was very good at balancing the books.)

Jean had served on the Branch and Club committees for Clayton and Keymer RBL and the Womens Section for many years and will be very sadly missed. R.I.P.

*Carol White (Former Poppy Appeal Co-Ordinator)
 Clayton & Keymer Branch.*

CLIVE MEYER It is with great sadness that I write to tell you that my husband, Clive died suddenly and unexpectedly on the 3rd August.

In 2018 he had a stroke which over time had affected his mobility. I am raising money for the Stroke Association and have set up a Just Giving page in his name so that hopefully something positive will come out of his death.

If you know Clive and feel able to donate it would be much appreciated.

Cathy Meyer

ASH DIEBACK AT BUTCHER'S WOOD – UPDATE Since our previous article informing you about our management of ash dieback Butcher's

Wood, we wanted to provide a short update.

Ash dieback is a serious fungal disease that is killing ash trees across Europe. It has taken hold at Butcher's Wood, so we are taking action for the safety of our visitors and neighbours by removing all ash trees with significant decline next to footpaths and properties.

We're all set to start the works in September and although the works may look drastic, please be assured that it has been carefully planned with consent from the Forestry Commission and in line with the Woodland Trust's ash dieback Position Statement <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2019/06/ash-dieback-position-statement/>

We are only removing ash trees where we have to. Ash trees out of falling distance of footpaths and properties and those showing the most significant signs of resistance to the disease are being retained and monitored. The works are taking place outside of bird nesting season and we will aim to avoid the wettest periods to minimise the impact on the soil and ground flora where possible. Timber will be extracted, and branches cut up to avoid smothering the woodland floor.

On 5th August, we held a well-attended guided walk supported by one of our volunteer wardens, where participants had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about our woodland management.

Our management decisions are centred on the best, long-term interests of trees and woods, and the people and wildlife that depend upon and benefit from them. Thank you for your support and understanding.

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WIN, WIN, WIN Your opportunity to take part in a quiz and gamble a little on some horse racing that takes place on 8th October, at the Adastral Hall, Hassocks, organised by Sussex Vale Rotary. There are prizes for the quiz winners and of course it is possible to make a profit on the horse races, where bets are very little per ticket. All the monies raised will go to the charities and local organisations we support, so why not support the Race & Quiz Night, and help our communities? We are looking for particular help from local businesses and individuals who would like to place an advert in our Race Card for the night.

Over the past year Sussex Vale has supported the local Foodbanks, Sussex Cancer Fund, St Peter & St James Hospice, Hurst Museum, Hurst Girls Brigade, the Red Cross and CAB Project Wenceslas. Without local support, we would not be able to continue these and other good causes. Also, remember we have no

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admin or other costs, so every penny made will be spent on good causes. You can find more details on our Facebook page and website.

As we are moving back to more normal times, Sussex Vale Rotary have resumed their meetings, although they are now held fortnightly in 'The Greyhound', Keymer.

With the help of Hassocks Community arrangements continue for Light Up Hassocks (LUH). Financing it is always a challenge and so far, we have received donations of £1,200, plus a further £700 from Station Garage. To raise more funds, we are holding an Evening Concert in St Cosmos & St Damien's Church on **22nd October**.

Opportunities to secure a stall for the event on **3rd December** will shortly be publicised, so keep an eye on Facebook and our website.

We have been fortunate enough to receive a donation of items of Downlands School Uniform, these will be sold by the school, with us sharing any profit.

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.

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BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL AUTUMN EVENTS

After the success of its outdoor midsummer season Brighton Early Music is delighted to offer some indoor events again in its autumn festival. This consists of five live concerts between **20th and 24th October**, to be followed by a season of on-line filmed events for home viewing during November.

The programme kicks off at St George's Church, Brighton on **20th October** with a new concert-play by former co-Artistic Director Clare Norburn. This revolves around the imagined life of English composer John Dowland, with a plot involving espionage at the Elizabethan court and plenty of music from court, street and tavern.

One of the most popular summer concerts was a celebration by the BREMF Consort of Voices of the renowned renaissance composers Josquin and Fayrfax, both of whom died exactly 500 years ago. The superb acoustic of St Martin's Church, Lewes Rd., Brighton will provide an opportunity to revisit the wonderful polyphonic music of these composers in an almost cathedral-like sound setting (**21st October**). This will be followed the next day, at the same venue, by a programme of elegant vocal and instru-

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mental music by French baroque composers Rameau, Clérambault, Marais and Leclair, presented by the outstanding ensemble Canzona (**22nd October**).

A unique and highly popular feature of Brighton Early Music Festival is BREMF Live! An annual showcase for emerging young professional ensembles. The afternoon event on Saturday **23rd October** will feature the three ensembles selected for 2021, offering an exciting mix of young vocal and instrumental talent – accompanied by what has become a tradition for this event – tea and homemade cakes.

The final concert in the series (**24th October**) is a return visit from the dynamic and inimitable ensemble Joglearesa, this time with a programme of medieval cantigas telling of weird and wonderful miracles performed by the Virgin Mary.

For full details and booking information for all these concerts please see www.bremf.org.uk/whats-on/.

The festival aims to provide a safe environment for audiences and performers during the pandemic and will be implementing a number of measures to facilitate this.

Details and dates for the online filmed events will be announced later.

Mike Clemens

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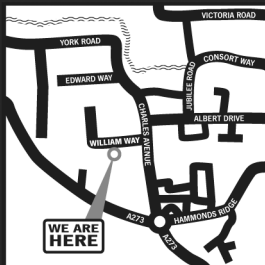
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WATCH THIS SPACE! United Reformed Church, Hassocks Christmas Day Lunch for people on their own will hopefully happen this year unless government rules change more details to follow. *Rita*



FUNDRAISING PIN BADGE LAUNCHED TO MARK 100TH ANNIVERSARY

4Sight Vision Support provides specialist services to blind and sight impaired adults and children across West Sussex. To celebrate the Charity's 100th anniversary this October, it has just announced the creation of a special limited edition pin badge.

The design features a daisy which was chosen as it has a special connection to sight – its name comes from 'the days eye' or 'the eye of day'. The daisy also symbolises 'new beginnings', which ties in with the Charity's new strategy to deliver more tailored sup-

port for people of all ages living with sight loss. Originally called the West Sussex Association for the Blind, over the years the Charity has seen significant changes from our way of life and employment opportunities to methods of communication and the growth in technology. Some services introduced in the 1980s are still in place, whilst others have adapted to meet the changing needs of members, including a number recently introduced reflecting how methods of support had to change during the pandemic.

The pin badges are available now and all profits will help 4Sight Vision Support continue to provide its services. Fundraising Manager, Chloe Neilson-Hopkins, commented, "£5 for example could enable us to provide low vision advice to one member for two months, providing specialist magnifiers and equipment which help them make best use of their remaining sight and live independently."

To order a pin badge please call 4Sight Vision Support on 01243 828001.

Cathy

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MORE LETTERS ABOUT HASSOCKS PAST

We thank Val Payne for the following letter:- The butchers shop (now Humanity at Heart) was Crumps before becoming Smiths.

The one on the other side of the road (now Twines) was Durrants before Smiths.

The Solicitors next to the bridge was Bunkers.

Bradley and Vaughan must have moved at some point because when we moved to Hassocks in the late '60's they were at 5 Orion Parade, I still have a street map which they gave us.

We thank Gerald Mackintosh for the following letter:- I left Hassocks in September 1951 but I can still remember many things from my time spent in the village 1937 - 1951.

Trust Derek and Michael to be 'Earlier' than me, I think they have forgotten about Barclays Bank that was next to Berrys, also the empty shop between, Bradleys and Master's Tulley. Last but not least the Cabin as the name implies it was a small shop next to Holmans milk shop. These two shops compliment the two shops at the east end of shops the Coop shop would have been a later addition, in the 20s/30s.

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HELLO FROM PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

I have been reading the Hassocks Talk About for years & keeping up with news of Hassocks. If my memory serves me right, I have listed the names of the shops in Hassocks from 60 years ago. South Side - Co-op. Dairy. Bank. Ayling & Strudwick, Estate Agents - I worked here with Tony Sharp before emigrating to Australia in 1970. Crawford's, Fishmongers. Allwoods, Greengrocers. Rookards, Butchers. Gas Showroom. Solicitors. Berrys, Sweetshop. Post Office. Brook Garage, Service Station. Seals, Bakers. Masters & Tulleys, Hardware Shop. Deannes, Ladieswear. Bradley's, Greengrocers. Fittleworths, Cafe. Princes, Menswear. Shafers, Electrical. Bennett's, Hardware. Tanners, Cobblers. The Wool Shop, owned by my Auntie Hilda Bates. North Side - Eric Marchants, Estate Agents. Furniture Shop. Next door to the church was Brook Stores, General Store. Butchers. Deckers, Sweetshop. Bank. Selbys, Chemist. Bakers, Hairdressers. I'm sure you will have many replies who can fill in the blanks.

Mavis (Anthony) & Peter Saunders



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MOTHERS' UNION IS STILL HERE AND GOING STRONG! In last months issue there was a photo of two determed looking women, one named as a Mrs Clark, holding a banner which the editor asked if anyone knew which organisation it represented.

We are proud to say that the banner they proudly held represented the Mothers' Union, which is still going strong in our village. We are a thriving group of MU members who continue to meet twice monthly, and who are involved in a variety of community activities to support families locally and worldwide. Everyone – men and women – are very welcome to our meetings, or to become members. Here is a photo of some of our more recent members, in the porch of Chichester Cathedral, with the very same banner that Mrs Clark was holding!



Today Mothers' Union Hurstpierpoint Group is involved with many activities to support families in unexpected or difficult personal circumstances. These include Providing emergency hospital toiletries bags for emergency admission patients at Princess Royal Hospital. Organising the term-time toddlers' group in Fairfield Recreation ground pavilion. Fund-raise for 'Away from it all holidays' to give a caravan holiday break for families in challenging circumstances. Fundraise for our extensive outwork overseas. For example, in Nigeria MU has been present for over 100 years having started in 1908.

Now with a membership of more than 60,000 MU is very active in creating opportunities for women and young girls to reach their full potential.

How did this worldwide, Christian organisation, of over 4 million members begin? In Mary Sumner's footsteps: the story of Mary Sumner.

It all started when Mary, married to George, Rector of the Parish of Old Alresford, was passionate about transforming the home-lives of Parish families, by helping the women to support one another in raising their children.

Her talks were inspired by her faith – it was practical and

down to earth – "Remember, Ladies, to be yourselves what you would have your children be".

The meetings grew, and included women - old and young, rich and poor. Others heard about her work and started groups in their own areas.

In 1876, she founded "the Union of Mothers" – with a membership card and promise: "to be given up, body and soul, to Jesus Christ in Holy Baptism, and that your duty is to train your children for his service".

Let's see where Mary's vision took her - **1876** Mothers' Union was founded by Mary Sumner. She wanted to create an organisation for women that brought together rich and poor to build a network that would support mothers of all kinds as they brought up their children in Christian faith.

1885 Mary Sumner delivers her first speech. 'Those that rock the cradle rule the world'. She also called for a Mothers' Union founded prayer.

1909 Mothers' Union becomes the largest voluntary women's organisation in Britain.

1918 We celebrate women over 30's right to vote by advising members on how to use their vote wisely. 'The vote is a duty we owe to womankind'

1952 HM The Queen writes to grant her royal patronage to Mothers' Union

1965 Away From It All (AFIA) Holiday Scheme for disadvantaged families launches in the UK.

1996 At least 125 of our members become priests in the Church of England following the Synod's approval of the Ordination of women

2000 We are given consultative status within the Economic & Social Council of the United Nations on issues such as poverty, gender equality and HIV and AIDS

2005 We join the Jubilee Debt Campaign calling for debt relief for the world's poorest countries. Members live in 21 of the 52 severely indebted countries.

2010 Our Bye Buy Childhood campaign calls on government to ensure that the advertising and marketing industry value children as children and stop exploiting their natural inexperience to pressure their parents.

2016 Mothers' Union representatives from across the globe attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) in New York to lobby governments and the United Nations on women's economic empowerment.

2018 Our charter and constitution are updated to be fit for the 21st century. Mothers' Union starts a conversation with thousands of members across the globe to reaffirm who we are and how we should continue to make a difference to lives in the future.

2021 We celebrate 145 years of Mothers' Union and mark 100 years since the death of Mary Sumner. If you would be interested in finding out more about our village MU group please contact: Alison Dewdney (Leader) alidewd@gmail.com 01273 843466.

Catherine Thompson



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The plan is for the memorial to be erected in a specially created area on the Western Heights of the famous White Cliffs of Dover and is intended to serve as a reminder of my mother's enduring legacy for future generations.

Please take a few moments to visit the website below, and we would be immensely grateful if you could support our campaign. www.dameveralynnmemorialstatue.co.uk

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popular singers, not just because of her immaculate voice - warm, sincere, instantly recognisable and musically flawless. She will be remembered just as affectionately for her vital work in the Second World War and for her own Charitable Foundations in the 75 years since". Sir Tim Rice

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SUSSEX CHORUS Christmas Concert, Saturday **18th December**, 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG. www.sussexchorus.org

The Choir will be performing under the baton of Stephen Anthony Brown, our new Director of music, who is a composer, conductor, professional tenor soloist and an already valued friend as he has sung with us several times. We shall be singing beautifully arranged Christmas music alongside the best loved traditional carols.

We have missed celebrating our centenary year this year and so our forthcoming concert season will be full of exceptional music including The St John Passion.

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted, we are pleased to announce that our first film of the season on **Thursday, 7th October** will be Parasite.

A Korean, blackly comic, satirical thriller. The poverty-stricken Kims live a hand-to-mouth existence until their path crosses that of the wealthy Park family. Slowly infiltrating every aspect of the Parks' day-to-day life (and home), they are delighted by their luck, that is until an interloper threatens their new-found comfort, and a battle of class warfare breaks out. Full of energy, verve and visual wit, Parasite is incredibly watchable whilst exposing the immorality of contemporary capitalism. This winner of the 2019 Cannes Palme D'Or is a masterful, unforgettable creation – a gripping, satirical parable of class, status and justice which is brilliantly designed, performed and shot.

Director: Bong Joon-ho South Korean 2019 132 mins 15 Cert.

Our film on Thursday, **4th November** is entitled Leave No Trace.

The films will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. The films start at 8 pm and doors open at 7.30 pm. All being well, free coffee, tea and biscuits will be



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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING AND DISTRICT BRANCH This year RBL has celebrated its 100th anniversary. The foundations were laid in 1921 so that today, through Poppy Appeal fundraising, RBL has become the largest Armed Forces Charity. RBL provides welfare for our Veterans and their families. Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday **14th November**. This year we are preparing to hold our Parade, which will be led by our Branch Standard carried by Mr Colin Marshall, followed by RBL Members, the Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Again, we will be supported by The Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band. We will muster at the Scout Hut, East End Lane, from 10.15 am to march off at 10.40 am to the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance. We will remember those names on our War Memorial from WW1 and WW2 as well as those others we personally know who have lost their lives in the service of the Nation. Please contact me the RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser, on **01273 845319**, if you would like further information. *Margaret Bovill*



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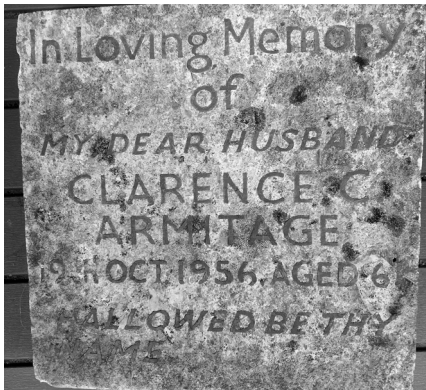


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DOES ANY KNOW THE FAMILY OF CLARENCE C ARMITAGE On clearing my Garden in Ockenden Way I found this stone that I would like to return to the its family. It reads 'In loving Memory of my dear Husband Clarence C Armitage 19th October 1956 aged 61 Hallowed be thy name.' Please contact QD Stationery (info on inside front cover). *Ian Paterson*

HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS Having avoided batting on a sticky wicket with their Hurst Festival production of "Outside Edge" last month, we are



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looking forward to following the success of that production with something equally memorable for Christmas 2021.

Linda Burton and Jan Bell are combining their love of English literature and theatrical know-how to present Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at The Players Theatre for nine performances during the Festive Season.

Every generation comes to the work of Dickens in its own way – and every generation learns to appreciate what the celebration of Christmas means.

So let your imagination run wild a little as the summer memories fade away ... pretend it's Christmas Eve, the children are restless and mother decides to tell them a story. "It's all about Christmas ..." she begins – as the Hurst Players bring to life the heart-warming tale of miserly Scrooge, visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future and how, in one night, he begins to understand just what the traditional festivities are all about.

The novel has been adapted for the stage by Shaun Sutton and performances will run from **9th December to 18th December** – with three afternoon and six evening shows and as soon as tickets are available, you'll find full details on the Players' website – www.hurstplayers.org.uk

Anne Hopper

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Hello again. My name is Stephen Hamilton and I run Kitchen Carousel. I have spent the last six months training new installers and cabinet makers. All our kitchen installers are fully qualified cabinet makers. So, the same person who builds your bespoke cabinets is also responsible for the fitting. As far as I know, we are one of the very few kitchen companies who do this. I think it creates continuity in the project and an creates an ultimate pride in our cabinet makers to achieve that perfect personal finish.

Any kitchen project starts with intelligent and thoughtful design. Every kitchen space is different and every client has different requirements. I started my cabinet making career designing the interior of boats. It taught me how to utilise space. Many kitchen designs try to accommodate your storage needs with more cupboards but I believe intelligent design is actually the opposite. We are master drawer makers. A well-designed set of drawers is three times more space effective than a basic cupboard. Larders, if you have room are brilliant. Islands are also wonderful ...if you have the room. We now specialise in small and micro kitchen spaces. We are masters of making space accessible.

Large kitchens are much easier. The main problem in a large kitchen [strangely] is where to put that huge fridge freezer. That's my second design secret. How to make a functional kitchen look uncluttered and aesthetically charming. It's usually a bit of a compromise.

We do lots of simple makeovers where we just change the doors and perhaps fit drawers under the worksurfaces. Sometimes we change the worktops sometimes we don't. Everyone has some kind of budget so we work very hard to try and achieve the best result within your budget. By the time I have finished my first design visit I have usually scribbled a few alternative plans...and given you a fairly clear idea of the costs...then I just leave it for you to mull over at your leisure.

Our team includes professional plasterers, damp proofing specialists, electricians, plumbers and floorers so we can, if necessary strip and prep your kitchen to a newly minted freshly plastered shell ready for a new installation. We move doorways, fit new windows, do underfloor heating or new radiators. Perfect prepping is the secret to any recipe including a kitchen project.

Our kitchen range is very extensive. It is simpler to say that we can; make or source any kitchen cabinet door you have ever seen in those pretty kitchen pictures...but we also handmade some you may not have seen. You can visit our showroom workshops and see hundreds of examples of doors and worktop finishes. Today most people are realising that a painted door is the most practical in a kitchen. It can always be repainted many years down the road to make it look new again. We have a professional spray facility which means we can make any shape, size or style of door in any colour of your choice in the most hard-wearing paint available today. [Three times tougher than standard interior paint]

We are constantly posting up new pictures of projects completed locally. If this sounds like it might be of interest to you please give me, Stephen Hamilton, a call or make an enquiry through our website.

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HASSOCKS GOES GOLD SUNFLOWER WINNERS

2021 has been a trickier year to grow sunflowers with less sunshine than 2020 and a deluge of slugs. Fortunately, many residents have still managed to grow impressive sunflowers and we have had a good number of entries from around the village. The announcement of the competition winners on

1st September marked the start of 'Hassocks Goes Gold' - a month packed with events to raise funds and awareness for childhood cancer. First prize this year went to Fiona Wood with her sky-high sunflower at 355cm (although when measured more recently had reached 371cm), second prize went to Josie Hodges with an impressive height of 340cm (subsequent measurements after the closing date increased to 362cm) and third prize was won by Tilly and Clara with their sunflower reaching 320cm. Special mentions also go to Emma Taylor, Nicola Abbey, Tom Ward, Danny Lessacher, Karen Dickson and Helen Twine who all managed to grow sunflowers over 3 metres. This year's competition was sponsored by Maple Leaf Gardens (01273 857147) and we are very grateful to Matt for his support.

We hope that everyone enjoyed growing their sunflowers whether they won a prize or not. Next year we hope to add a category for 'prettiest sunflower in a pot' so that those residents without gardens can also participate in the fun. Dwarf sunflower varieties can be grown in pots indoors and have the added bonus that they won't be plagued by slugs!

Rachel Barton



1st Prize Winners A

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1st Prize Winners B



2nd Prize Winners A



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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH In former days, they were scattered haphazardly around the village; stranded in people's gardens or pressed into service as boundary markers, gateposts, gap-stoppers and cutlers to protect the corners of barns from the wear and tear of passing carts. They were used as informal tool-sharpeners, anvils, seats and steps, but as the need for anvils and protective strike stones in the countryside diminished, they began to be regarded as something of a nuisance. They were often buried or given some ornamental role. In the 1960's, when Michael first became keen to collect them, folk were only too glad for him to come with a tractor and take them off their hands.

I am of course, talking about Sarsen stones, which the meltwater of the Ice Age deposited in the dips and hollows of our local chalk and clay. A plentiful feature in this part of the world, they gave their name (Saxon 'Stan', meaning stone), to Stanmer and Standean, where they occur in impressive great numbers. Weathered lumps of a sandstone layer which once covered a large area, they have been loved or loathed, venerated or cursed, accumulating legend and, folklore along the way. The splendid, example, embedded in the south wall of Ditchling churchyard, was once rumoured to be a pagan altar-stone. Other stones, with pitted forms, are said to have served as the devil's sacrificial drinking cups. To the gypsies they were known as 'bell-wethers', their

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grey, rounded forms resembling the sheep which grazed on the hills. They were also known as 'thunder stones' being linked in folk memory with the sky god, Thor - much like the Troll stones of Scandinavia. But everyone agreed that there was a special energy, a palpable resonance, associated with them and early archaeologists made the link between them and the famous megaliths of historic sites such as Avebury and Stone Henge.

At Stammer and Falmer, the Sarsen stones (the name Sarsen derived from 'Sarsen' - i.e., heathenish, with rich echoes of the Crusades) are placed around ponds. In Ditchling, stones originally collected at the top of the High Street, were moved to form a guard of honour round the war memorial, soon after its erection. Another possibly a strike-stone, is situated against the former farmyard wall at the entrance to the village green. Once you start looking for them, you begin to spot them involuntarily.

Michael, inspired by his juvenile flint-collecting on the farm, had larger ambitions. If Eric Gill once had the ambition of the building a replica Stone Henge on the downs at Ditchling, Michael decided he would make a stone circle in his own back garden. With the help of his son and willing (or press-ganged) volunteers, he unearthed and moved the stones which were dotted round the farmyard and cadged some neighbours till he had about 20 of varying sizes.

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When Stoneywish opened its gates in 1981, the Stone Circle went public, appearing on the latest OS maps and attracting attention from amateurs and professional Sarsen stone enthusiasts. According to one professor from Sussex University, ours were 'a very nice family of stones' which, usually, contained tiny shells in their composition.

In 2003-4, when the Reserve was redesigned, the Stone Circle was moved to Stonwish field, where it enjoys a view of the Beacon and where the sheep can commune with the stones and the lambs can snuggle down behind them and shelter from the wind. They are visited by Little Owls, which leave behind offerings of pellets, and by sun-loving insects which warm themselves there. ~We affectionately call it Stone Henge! And yes, there is a special atmosphere about the place. This week, at dusk, a flock of martins has been hunting there, skimming low across the field and diving over the stones, their wings like steel scimitars, slicing the air. This seems like magic enough.

As for anything more esoteric? Perhaps we should borrow some dowsing rods to see, Michael's father was a dowser and worked his way round the farmyard with hazel rods, looking for water. He also dowsed the hens' eggs with a gold ring threaded on a strand of horse-hair. The ring would turn one way for an embryo hen – the other for a cockerel. Perhaps the gift is in the genes?

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In common legend, boulder stones have the power to move spontaneously, to dance, to go to water to drink and to heal. Since, at a quantum level, all matter is a fluid dance of energy, flowing vitally through the cosmos, these ideas are perhaps not as far-fetched as they seem. Dowzers have discovered that many ancient stone circles are located over blind springs, where the presence of water magnifies the electromagnetic resonance of the site. Who knows what secrets a new circle can reveal? At any rate, we can all do with more magic and healings in our lives I find the thought that there are these 'sleeping' guardians among us, very reassuring.

An American Indian creation myth tells that the 'rock people' are our earliest ancestors and have important lessons for us. And these rocks do not have to be large. They might fit comfortably into a pocket, but all have the antiquity and 'signature' of our origins imprinted in them. Talking to rocks is as good a way to go mad as any. Why not try it?

Rosemary Alford

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We thank Margaret Carey for the following letter:- In this month's Village Voice, you feature an article on Clarks Corner, Hurstpierpoint and ask about the banner being held by Mrs Clark. It is the banner of Hurstpierpoint Mothers Union, which is still in Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint where there is a flourishing branch of the Mothers Union, an organisation of Christian women worldwide – and now a few men!

MU was founded by Mary Sumner and this year celebrates 145 years of the organisation and pays tribute to her on the 100th anniversary of her death for all she achieved in life, empowering women, and mothers worldwide. Hope this is helpful.

We thank Susan Mottram for the following letter:- Having just collected the above magazine, I glanced through it, and looking at the "Clark's Corner" piece saw that you were, asking about the banner that Mrs Clark is holding?

I am able to say that it is a "Mothers Union" banner, my grandmother was a member of the Clayton/Keymer Group! I probably have a pin badge somewhere.

Next issue deadline is 1ST OCTOBER for November issue - www.villagemagazines.co.uk

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reMEMber (THE CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME SOCIETY)

Our Newsletter is now online and can be accessed on our website – www.remembercfs.org.uk. Our Autumn edition contains news about reMEMber and what's going on in the world of CFS/ME. Articles include the new organisation Doctors with ME, how to manage relapses, exacerbations and flare-ups, the new Guidance from NICE, and dysfunction of the immune system, as well as amusing articles from two of our members who have ME.

Also, on our website you can access videos of presentations by top doctors at our Zoom conference last November.

We are trying to raise funds to set up an exemplar service for people who have ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). This could be a team consisting of a consultant physician, specialist nurses and rehabilitation staff. This would demonstrate to the NHS just what is needed throughout the UK.

So, all donations to reMEMber, however small, will be very welcome. To find out how to donate, or for information about ME or the work of reMEMber, go to our website – www.remembercfs.org.uk or e-mail us at me_cfs@hotmail.com.

Janice Kent

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We thank Julia McGill for the following letter and photo:- Having read through Septembers Magazine, I was interested to see the picture of a 'Mothers Union' banner held by Mrs Clark and in the wedding picture a surprise I hope of my Mother as one of the bridesmaids standing behind the groom with a bouquet of flowers. Could anyone tell me where the bride came from 'Mrs Clark'. My mother came from Wivelsfield/Miss Grace Knight. Photo was taken around 1926 – 1929. The picture grand mothers younger brother Newick William in 1889 delivering meat.



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DITCHLING'S APPLE DAY Sunday 3rd October 11 am to 4 pm

We look forward to seeing you at Apple Day on Ditchling Village Green. We are planning all the usual activities plus some new ones. So, bring along your apples (and bottles for the juice), enjoy the bar, hot drinks, orchard related cakes and bakes, and hot food from Bangs Food Truck. Bring some cash for our many activities, build a bird box with HKD or buy one ready made from the Monday Group, make a smoothie on the smoothie bike, wang a wellie, donate to Southdowns Refugee Project, find out about Lockdown Crafts, check out the DVA, partake of a PTA or Ditchling Museum of Art and Craft activity, find out about hedgehogs, see what Made in Ditchling has for you and purchase Charlie's Chestnut products. Posters will be going up soon.

Volunteers: we still need a few more people to step forward and help us with serving hot drinks and cakes (and/or bring cakes or bakes that we can sell) and with tidying the site at the end of the day. If you'd like to have a go on the apple presses, that's an option also. Please let us know if you can help us. It's a fun day and a great way to get to know people. Once you



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THE ACORNS Hello again! As Autumn fast approaches and the leaves start to change colour, children at The Acorns are busy looking for natural treasure and creating all sorts of amazing things from nature's bounty. We have picked blackberries and made jams, jellies and crumbles too. We have found conkers and pine cones of all different sizes and are catching leaves as they fall from the trees.

Every day at The Acorns is a new adventure for everyone as we all discover and learn together. Striving for the best outcomes for all our children is at the heart of all we do and this term we are introducing the updated Early Years Foundation Stage and seeing what works best in partnership with our parents.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, we welcome parents, nannies and grandparents with their little ones to our 'Stay and Play' sessions at Westmeston near Ditchling and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays we invite children being home educated to join us too.

Some children divide their time between our two settings and spend some days at Westmeston and others in Lindfield. This flexibility enables you to choose what is best for your child

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A SUNSHINE HAVEN

At rest upon the churchyard's sheltered seat
Here stone-clad graves surround my feet:
Tall stands the memorial in shady cleft
Comforting lost souls, war made bereft.
And here in November, when life seems so drear
Those named wooden crosses and red poppies
appear.
Nearby sloping fields slide down, where trees
Share in silence the stifled breeze.
Beyond the timbered valleys lie
The South Downs stretched from eye to eye.
Upon its gentle slopes roam free, the sheep,
Whose ancient paths there still to see.
And posted on carefully chosen mound
A church there stands in walled surround.
The wall not high, flint built and knapped,
Chased yellow sandstone provides the cap.
The lychgate commands where wall must end
Which built of English oak, not bend:
Beyond the church in gentle sway,
The elms stand tall where rooks do play.
The centuries past, and time forgot;
Soon a Norman church, built on Saxon plot.
And there in sunlit dappled grey

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Long forgotten graves their boundaries display.
But here in hallowed ground, and measured feet,
Those still loved souls in timeless sleep.
In formal ranks, spaced row on row,
So many names I chanced to know.
Perhaps those gathered from near and far
Add still to the light of some distant star.
Time now to leave this sunshine spot,
Shall I return, how could I not?

So suddenly sighed and turned away.

© William Tingley (2021)

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 2 to 4 pm. Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint. **6th October** - Colin McFarlin has confirmed he will be talking to us about re-cycling. Please bring along any items you are unsure how to re-cycle and Colin will advise. **3rd November** - Carole Rowe from Bennett Oakley Solicitors will be telling us about the importance of Wills, Probate and Power of Attorney. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information contact me on **07806 670359** or Diane on **01273 835284**. *Ann Tranter*



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We thank Dave Evans for this his picture of himself having a chat with Percy Bellingham. Percy was originally from Kents Farm, Malt-house Lane and moved to Danworth Brook Farm, Danworth Lane around the 1980s before he died. Percy used to tell me about the Ot-



ters that came up from the river at the bottom of the field. They would come up and take fish out of the farm pond (this was before the World War I)

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To book your team please contact me stratford.m@hotmail.co.uk or **01273 844231**.

Michael Stratford

BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY We're Back! And we're raring to go with a wonderful season of music including choruses from Handel's Messiah, Bach's Cantata 122 and Christmas carols, all culminating in a concert at the beginning of December. If you don't already know us, we're a thriving and inclusive choir who sing a wide repertoire of classical music. Our musical director, Michael Stefan Wood BEM, encourages a high standard of singing from us and makes rehearsals interesting and enjoyable.

We welcome new members. Perhaps you are an experienced singer; we have several professional singers amongst the membership. Or maybe you're returning to singing after a while, which is how many of us became involved. Or maybe you simply have a love of and curiosity about singing this kind of music. We're a friendly bunch and the choir is non-auditioned. Our concerts include a full orchestra and young professional singers at the beginning of their careers. Concerts are always well-supported by the local community.

The season begins on Monday **13th September** and

takes place from 7.45 to 10 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill.

New members can join at any time in September and early October. If you'd like to know more or would like to try a taster evening, visit our website at www.burgesshillchoral.org, look on our Facebook page or phone **07522 493966**.

Frances Eales

FLU CLINICS The 2021/22 flu clinics for the Mid Sussex Health Care Practice started at the beginning of October. The Practice will be ensuring everybody who is eligible is offered a vaccination as soon as possible, starting with the most vulnerable first.

You can get updates on progress at www.midsussex-healthcare.co.uk or on the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MSHCGPs.

The practice asks patients not to call the surgery regarding appointments for flu vaccinations, these will be sent out to you via text message or email, with details on how to book your appointment. Those without access to mobile phones and email, will be telephoned by the team to offer you an appointment. All your feedback from last year's clinics was taken on board and where possible, the improvements that you asked for have been made. There may still be some queuing at clinics depending on the individual needs of each patient and flow of patients arriving within their allocated time slots.

Clinics are being organised to allow for social distancing and we hope that there will be no disruption to these clinics due to the pandemic.

Louise Evatt, The Mid Sussex Health Care Patient

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SLOES From up there, it felt like I could see the whole world: the Oak trees adorned in summer's fading leaves, the fields at harvest, the city far in the distance. Each October, my Grandad would load me and a bucket into Betsy, his faithful 1963 Ford Anglia. Together we'd cruise the county's back roads. Every few miles he would ease Betsy to a halt and inspect the landscape until finally declaring "this is the place." My bucket and I would be hoisted high up on his shoulders and from there I'd get my Grandad-stand view of the world. More importantly though, it'd put me within reach of the treasure. The jewels we sought on our expeditions were sloes, the round, purple-black berries that bedecked the Blackthorn bushes. My Grandad was convinced that the finest fruits were located high on the hedge. And the best sloes made the best sloe gin.

Each spring, the Blackthorn hedges bloom; their brilliant white flowers creating snow-white drifts against the woodlands and along our roadsides. These ephemeral petals soon fall and the Blackthorn becomes cloaked in small, oval leaves, capturing the energy that powers production of the sloes. A Blackthorn bush is a prickly character and as approachable as an enraged porcupine. Each twig is armed with spikes, which deter cattle and Grandads from helping themselves to its leaves and berries. This spiny spinney fortress also safeguards a wealth

of wildlife. Nightingales, Turtle Doves and other birds nest under its protection and the elusive Brown Hairstreak butterfly lays its miniature sea urchin-like eggs on the bush's black bark.

Many years after my Grandad and Betsy had departed, I decided to honour them both and concoct my own sloe gin. I found an online recipe and, in what was and still remains one of the biggest disappointments of my adult life, I discovered that the main ingredient in sloe gin...was gin. After watching my Grandad making his moonshine, I had genuinely believed that by submerging a load of sloes in a bottle you would magically turn water into gin. It seems my Grandad couldn't perform miracles. Indeed, looking back, our hedgerow pillaging raids could easily be dismissed as forced child labour. Was he exploiting me and my tiny hands to bypass those thorns and reach the best berries? A few decades earlier he'd probably have sent me down a mine or up a chimney. But my Grandad wasn't some Fagin-like character. Now I think of it, I never once saw him actually drinking any of his sloe gin. Perhaps just being out in the countryside in the autumn sunshine, on an adventure with Betsy and his grandson, was the truly intoxicating ingredient.

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STAR CINEMA The team hope to bring you much anticipated Friday film nights on the **12th November** Dreamhorse, and **10th December** A present from Bob. Both chosen for their 'feelgood' factor. We look forward to welcoming you back again after our enforced break.

Liz Edmunds

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

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 and surrounding areas. Do you think you have any spare time to deliver to your road/area then please give us a call on **01273 846978** or email **info@vilagemagazines.co.uk**

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LIFE

Sometimes in Life

When things go wrong

And we get down at heart

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And make a new start

Just think of all the good times

As memories never die.

Don't be beaten by mishaps

Just hold your head up high

The little word I can do it,

Will gladden up your heart

And thank God you're still alive

To play another part.

© Stella Simmons

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

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

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

Jo Mitchell

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CHRISTMAS MENU 2021

~~ STARTERS ~~

Pate of the Day

mixed leaves & melba toast

Rosemary and Garlic Breaded Brie

mixed leaves & cranberry dip

Lightly Dusted Calamari

mixed leaves & sweet chilli dip

Cream of Tomato & Basil Soup (Vegan option avail.) *roll & butter*

Prawn Cocktail *mixed leaves, bread & butter*

~~ MAINS ~~

all served with fresh vegetables & roast potatoes

Roast Turkey *in a rich gravy*

Roast Beef *in a rich gravy*

Nut Roast (Vegetarian) *in a rich gravy*

Lamb Shank *in a red wine and rosemary sauce (£2 extra)*

Carrot and Cashew Wellington (Vegan) *with spiced carrot marmalade*

Salmon *in a lemon and dill sauce*

~~ DESSERTS ~~

Christmas Pudding *with custard*

Strawberry and Champagne cheesecake *with cream*

Rich Chocolate Torte *with cream*

Mixed Sorbet

Cheese and Biscuits (£2 extra)

Coffee & Mince Pies to follow

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~~~ WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER ~~~

Clubs, Societies & Groups please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section. Email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or send to **QD Stationery 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR** or call **01273 846978**.

1st HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.45 pm 'What is Landscape?' Geoffrey Mead.

3rd DITCHLING'S APPLE DAY Ditchling Village Green, 11 am to 4 pm. All the usual activities.

3rd HOLY COMMUNION St Margaret's Church, Ditchling, 10 am.

6th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 2 pm. 'Re-Cycling' Colin McFarlin. Guests welcome.

7th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall, 7.30 pm Parasite (15)

8th SUSSEX VALE ROTARY CLUB Adastra Hall, Hassocks. Race and Quiz Night. call 07546 111996.

8th DITCHLING STOOLBALL Hassocks Pub, 6.30 pm Quiz, Curry & Desert Auction call 01273 844231

8th BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill 8 pm 'The Salt Industry in the Adur Valley' Janet Pennington

10th HOLY COMMUNION St Margaret's Church, Ditchling, 10 am.

12th LUNCTIME JAZZ Hassocks Pub, 12 pm, Trad. New Orleans 6 Piece Jazz Band. No need to book. Food available.

13th HASOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.30 pm 'The Potato: Past, Present & Future' Steve Millam

17th HARVEST FESTIVAL Westmeston Church, 10 am

17th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre Opera Choruses and Arias. Tkts www.heberopera.co.uk

22nd SUSSEX VALE ROTARY CLUB St Cosmos and St Damien Church Keymer. Evening Concert raising money for Light Up Hassocks. call 07546 111996.

23rd HASOCKS VILLAGE MARKET National Tyres Forecourt, 9 am - 1 pm, Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

23rd REPAIR CAFE Hassocks URC, 10 am - 12.30 pm, bring items for repair book your slot www.hkd-transition.org.uk

24th HOLY COMMUNION St Margaret's Church, Ditchling, 10 am.

29th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.45 pm 'Wiston Estate; 1000 years of history' Janet Pennington

31st HOLY COMMUNION St Margaret's Church, Ditchling, 10 am.

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THE HURSTPIERPOINT NSPCC committee recently hosted a very enjoyable contemporary jazz and blues concert at Danny, Hurstpierpoint. Julie Roberts, vocals and Michael Hinton on the keyboard gave a very entertaining afternoon which included a cream tea.

Thank you very much to everyone who came and thanks to all the committee and friends for the delicious scones and organising the afternoon! We made a profit of £1,050 which is a fantastic result. Many thanks to Richard Burrows for letting us use the Great Hall at Danny which is a lovely venue. *Jo Marshall*

HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY will be meeting on **13th October** at Adastral Hall, Hassocks, 8 pm.

'The Potato: Past, Present & Future'. Steve Millam will give an insight into how this popular vegetable has been developed. *Pat Ticehurst*

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON We hope to have a stall at Apple Day on the Green in Ditchling on Sunday **3rd October**. Do come along and say hello and buy some delicious treats.

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Our Harvest Festival on Sunday **17th October** will be at Westmeston Church at 10 am - parking available. Services on **3rd, 10th, 24th & 31st October** will be at St. Margaret's, Ditchling. The 10 am service of Holy Communion is available online from 7 pm each Sunday via our website at www.beaconparish.co.uk. *Sherrian Guest*

THANK YOU to Paul Charman and more recently Dominic Ashby both have been delivering this magazine in Westmeston. If you feel you could take on this voluntary delivery, please call **01273 846978** and ask for Heidi. *Editor*

BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY ASSOCIATION meet at Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill On Friday **8th October** at 8 pm. Janet Pennington will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Salt of the Earth, the Salt Industry in the Adur Valley'. *Stephanie Swaysland*

CAN YOU HELP DELIVER VILLAGE VOICE IN HURSTPIERPOINT. Its a voluntary post please call for more information **01273 846978**. *Editors*

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Well, it would appear all the rumours about Costa becoming another Dentist were unfounded, so now we wait and see who's going to take it on. Whenever I ask people what would they like to see going in it, they all say a nice restaurant, now all the restrictions have been lifted someone may decide to make your wishes come true - who knows?

Who remembers the Bob Potter Band, some of us oldies do, after the band disbanded Bob bought a nightclub in Frimley called The Lakeside Country Club, with all his connections in show business it soon became the place to see all the top stars. I'd met him a couple of times, mainly because his daughter loved horses. She would regularly ride at Penny Hill in Bagshot. This was a very prestigious hotel which had all sorts of sports facilities including a riding stables. The head girl at the stables was called Susan Sugg and she had a crush on a very good friend of mine, Alan Whitehead, he was the drummer with the pop group Marmalade. He was tall long blonde hair and very beautiful, a typical pop star. He lived in a modest house in Eversly on the left hand side, just before the double bridge on the Reading Road. I still remember the party he had when they reached No 1 with Oobla De Obola Da, but that's definitely another story. Sadly, Alan didn't have eyes for poor Susan, but did like Bob Potters daughter and he shared her love of horses and riding, so they made a good couple.

One day I received a call from Bob which was a bit like one of those old Bob Newhart comedy sketches. He was having at his club a charity do with a host of stars in aid of a charity of which Princess Anne was the patron. He had an invitation there for me with my name on, thank you Bob, I said, what's the catch? No catch it's free, but your table is not in front it's at the side next to the curtains, what curtains I said, the curtains the performers enter and leave from. Morcombe and Wise are headlining and they want a couple on that table who they can make part of their act, to make fun of and I told them you'd do it - drinks are free and I'll arrange transport to and from.

Now do I want the 'P' taken out of me all evening by Morcombe and Wise and what about Nola - anyway I hear you've booked Roy Orbison who's promoting his new record Penny Arcade I want a front row table and meet him after the show, that's the deal and he said yes.

The show was great and Roy Orbison was a shy quiet man, but incredibly kind to someone who just wanted to say hello and thank you for all the incredible music and he never took the sunglasses off.

I persuaded Nola to come with me for this charity do, she was very impressed with the Chauffeur driven limo, but not very impressed by the table at the back, I hadn't told her about the phone call with Bob. We hadn't been seated for long before a set of black glasses came through the curtains going up and down, then two heads, Eric at the top, Ernie underneath. Eric was a bit of a ladies man, so he was very quick to pull up a chair next to Nola to explain what they were going to do. Mind you, I got the lot, slapped cheeks, hand under the chin, remember that one, much to the pleasure of the audience, not to mention Princess Anne, they really did make fun out of us, but we enjoyed it - then Vince Hall came out and sang Edelweiss to Nola, that was a bit embarrassing, but she loved it, the show eventually ended, Princess Anne left and everyone took to the dance floor which was great.

Afterwards we went back to our table to sit down for a rest and within minutes Morcombe and Wise were back, but just to thank us for being good sports. Nola very shyly got our invitation card out of her bag and asked if they'd sign it on the back for her which they did, then Ernie disappeared through the curtains and arrived back with Vince Hill, Tony Christie, David Nixon the magician and Cliff Richard. The only ones who couldn't were Peters and Lee and he got them to all sign the back of our invitation, for Nola it was quite a surreal experience and she still has that invitation with all its signatures to this very day.

A few weeks after that event we received complimentary tickets from Morcombe and Wise to their show in Bournemouth, but sadly we didn't get their due to a family crisis.

Both Alan and Bob's daughter Laura turned up for our wedding which was a lovely surprise as he was meant to be away touring, it's been a real joy recounting memories from my past. I hope you've enjoyed it as much as have. **Love Steve xx**

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