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



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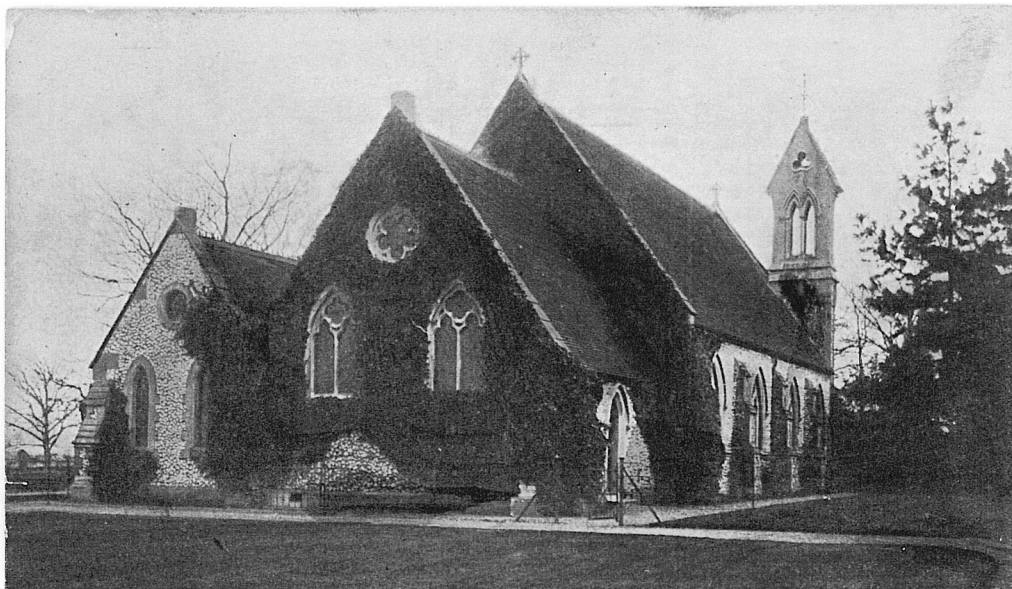
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Rod and Judith Jenner wish all friends in Ditchling, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint, A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2022. Once again, we will be donating to Sussex Cancer Care in Brighton who have looked after Judith over the 25 years that she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer.

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

We meet on the last Friday of each month in the Guide Hall next to Trinity Road car park. Our first meeting of 2022 is called "Sussex Shepherds" and will be presented by Ian Everest on **28th January**. Contact me - telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail **w.kent123@btinternet.com** for further information about our very friendly society. New members are always welcome.

Bill Kent (Chairman)

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At the time of writing, (end October) we are planning to hold Carol Services in each of our three churches and will hold the

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Crib Service and Services on Christmas Day. Details of all Services will be circulated to households in the parish, on our website and will be displayed in our churches. Plans may change at the last minute and we ask that

you keep in contact through our website **www.beaconparish.co.uk** where information will be updated. St Margaret's will be open, and carols will be playing when the lights are switched on the Village Christmas Tree on Sunday 28th November and also for the Christmas Fair on Friday **3rd December**. Do come and join us.

Sherrian Guest

Chris and Jill Kitcher, hope that all of their friends and acquaintances have had a great year and would like to wish you all very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



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We thank Shirley Jewel for the following article:- A friend sent me the article by Sean Goddard about the history of Keymer Folk Dance Club. We moved to Hassocks in 1968 and soon joined the club, at that time Hal and Joyce Wallis were the leaders and we found that they welcomed newcomers.

Soon, the four of us, 2 adults and two children joined the Goddard family who were already regular dancers. We remained members until we moved to North Devon in 2005. When there was a fifth club evening in the month, we enjoyed a "Folk Pie" when members could sing a song, play a tune or have a go at calling a dance and this led to several members starting that calling life. When Joyce and Hal stopped dancing there is no shortage of callers.

Beryl Marriott who was a remedial teacher at The Windmill's School and a brilliant folk musician started the players club where she encouraged musicians of all standards and persuaded some club members to form a band and would play for the dancers on some club evenings. After a while the Paddywacks band and then the Keymer Band started playing for club dancers and public dances throughout the area. Those small children are now almost pensioners, but the folk tradition lives on. Chris Jewell is a musician and caller his sister Jackie and enthusiastic dancer and

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Sean is a caller and Folk Historian. The folk world should be very grateful to Keymer Club. I would encourage anyone to try our kind of dancing. You do not need a partner and all ages are welcome. You have a local club. Why not give it a try?

Editors Note:- The club usually meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of the Month from September to the end of April from 7.30 pm to 9.30pm at United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks.

www.keymerfolkdanceclub.com.

ALL THE RIGHT NOTES will be returning after an unavoidable year's absence for their annual Christmas concert on Wednesday **8th December** at 7.30 pm at the United Reformed Church in Keymer Road, Hassocks. Prepare for Christmas as the local 40-strong community choir sing music by Taylor Swift, the Bee Gees, Paul McCartney & Wings and the Eagles as well as seasonal pieces. There'll be the songs for the audience to join in – including the ever-popular 12 Days of Christmas – and a glass of wine and a mince pie during the interval. Numbers will be limited for COVID safety and tickets are available now from members of the choir, by emailing alltheright-noteschoir@gmail.com, or on the door.

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LIGHT UP HASSOCKS – Friday 3rd December.

Only a few days to go now, preparations have been completed, all we need now is your participation. Please come along and support your local Christmas event, arranged by Sussex Vale Rotary and the Hassocks Community Organisation from 4 pm. The official opening and Childrens' Parade will be at 4.15 pm. You can keep up to date by checking the Sussex Vale Rotary Facebook pages.

The distribution of Christmas Hampers for those in need, will take place shortly, with 15 families already identified. Help is needed if we are to continue supporting local individuals and groups and we will be holding street collections in Hurstpierpoint on **11th December**, followed by Hassocks on the **18th December**. Please give generously, every penny raised goes to good causes as we have no overheads. Our communities need your help to continue to develop a supportive and friendly environment for all the local residents. So, if you want to become involved in this, why not consider having a look at what Sussex Vale Rotary offers? We meet fortnightly in The Greyhound, Keymer, in a relaxed and friendly environment, so if you are interested in learning more about Rotary and how you can help or join us, please contact our club secretary on secretarysvrotary@gmail.com, or ask in the Greyhound for the next meeting date. Finally, Sussex Vale Rotary wishes everyone a Happy Christmas & A Good New Year.

Duncan Honeyman

THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL The whole school celebrated World Poetry Day on 7th October. Children enjoyed taking part in a Poet Scavenger Hunt and were thrilled to have online visits from authors Michael Rosen and Jack Meggitt-Phillips.

Year 3 have had a brilliant start and have enjoyed maths, using Numicon equipment, which is a great resource for understanding numbers and calculating. They have also been enjoying mark making and patterns in art and have recently started Ukulele lessons. Year 4 have become historians and are enjoying their topic on Ancient Egypt. The children have been learning how to mummify their toys in the classroom and are writing their own set of instructions to show off their expertise. They are looking forward to sharing their topic with Parents at their Pop-Up Museum events in December.

Year 5 have been investigating the period when the Roman army left Britain in their 'Raiders to Rulers' topic. They are now entering the Anglo-Saxon and Viking times and have chosen to focus on dragon heads in art. Using tones and shading, they have produced some fantastic dragon pictures.

Outdoor learning is continuing, and year 6 children have been helping to develop communal and play areas by utilising their gardening skills and exploring how this area can be used.

Sally Jacobs



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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 Winter edition containing news about reMEMber and what's going on in the world of CFS/ME will be posted from 1st December. Also, on our website you can access videos of presentations by top doctors at our Zoom conference in November 2020.

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*

DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Our last film of the year on Thursday, **2nd December** will be Pain and Glory. The most autobiographical of Almodovar's films, it is about a romantic, ageing film director, Salvador Mallo, who, as his health begins to wane, reflects on relationships and experiences that have shaped his life and he rekindles old connections from his past. As he struggles to separate his urge to create from the reality of his own life, his encounters with his past ultimately lead him to a better path. There is a brilliant performance from Antonio Banderas as Mallo, who won the 2019 Cannes Best Actor award ably supported by Penelope Cruz playing Jacinta, his mother. Director: Pedro Almodovar Spain Spanish 2018, 114 minutes, 15 Cert.

The film will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall. The film starts at 8 pm and doors open at 7.30 pm. All being well, free coffee, tea and biscuits will be available and there is ample free parking behind the hall.

Rowena Cager and Melanie Samuel

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We want you to feel comfortable and safe here at Age Concern, we have implemented staff and volunteers to wear masks if they can whilst serving food and refreshments.

Christmas Fayre on Thursday **2nd December** 9.30am to 2 pm. We will be serving a Ploughmans Lunch and there will be a raffle with our famous hampers, tombola, cake stall, Christmas produce and decorations and a bookstall. All Welcome please do tell your friends and family all are welcome. Come and have a coffee, tea or hot chocolate with mince pies in our coffee shop/dining room and admire our beautiful real Christmas Tree that South Downs Nurseries Garden Centre, Hassocks kindly donated for our members to admire! We are very grateful to them.

Lunches - We serve lunches weekdays in our dining room - Brunch served on a Monday between 10am and 1pm as well as sandwiches, paninis, soups and cakes available. Afternoon Cream Tea boxes to take away with two scones, cream and jam are available to order daily.

Have you tried our delicious Roast Dinners, Roast Lamb, Beef, Pork, Chicken and Gammon offered on alternative days. We seem to be getting a very good reputation for our Roasts. Please do call us on **01273 844461** to book a place, do let us know by 10 am on the day at the latest. Our Menu is always on our website.

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every day so if there is a particular day in mind, please do let us know.

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Activities – Art Group Thursday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon, Hairdresser and Chiropody here Monday to Thursday.

Can you help us? Volunteering opportunities to help drive our bus - We are looking for drivers and escorts to expand our daily pick-up runs, please do call the office for more information, or come in and see us. We are also looking for a Saturday morning volunteer to help in our coffee shop, this can be once a month on a Rota system to take orders including payments for refreshments. Do call us or pop in and see us.

We look forward to welcoming you and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

All at Age Concern

HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP meet at Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, at 2 pm.

1st December - Christmas Celebrations with the Weald UK Ukulele Players and Singers.

5th January - A talk on Oldland Mill with Colin Woodford.

For more information please contact me on **01273 649023**.

Ann Tranter



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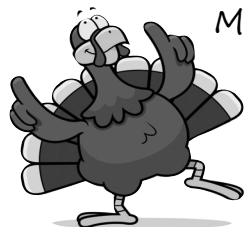
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We thank Dick Morley for the following article:- What a lovely punnet of nostalgia in last month's Talk About! Thank you, Shirley Greenhalgh, for revealing details of what must surely been the dominant industry in Hassocks and District right up to the beginning of WW2 and probably beyond that. The Orchard Gardens enterprise had collapsed and in the first stages of Grand Avenue were first homes to commuters and then others, many of whom had no gardening experience. I knew Walter Russell and many of the other growers. In your photograph alongside George Russell the man with his cap all awry with his partner for a decade or more, my dad Jack Morley.

At the beginning of the war, I was 11 years old, in the top age group in Hassocks School, and my parents insisted that I should play my part in the family's war effort. For the next 18 months, or so, I found hours of weeding and other jobs at Stone Pound Market Garden far from exciting, but I was able to find plenty of time to play football with John Burgess and Ben Earl in the northern field of the Adastral. Then, as adolescence crept in, George Russell and dad hatched up a cunning plan up at Stonepound was actual and potential space for growth, coupled with problems of getting produce to the wholesalers in Brighton and, to a

lesser extent, to Covent Garden. In the new houses were many newcomers with no experience of producing their own food, and even those who tried found that the quality of soil left by the developers was too poor for growing their own vegetables. George dad turned me into a 13-year-old Saturday mornings and school holidays barrowboy!

They procured a very large two wheeled barrow and filled it with half-bushel boxes of vegetables which I was to trundle down from Stone Pound to Grand Avenue.

From the start it was a very successful venture and I soon discovered that I was able to empty the Barrow after Kings and Queens Drives. I was given a penny in the shilling commission for my pains which was very good pay, but it didn't last. A change of Brighton school meant that I had compulsory Saturday morning school, and that was the end of my first commercial enterprise.



George Russell (left) with Jack Morley

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THE PLAYERS THEATRE 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9PU. After breaking with tradition because of Covid imposed restrictions some quick thinking resulted in a 'virtual' version of Robin Hood, made available online during the first lockdown. This year Hurstpierpoint Players took a step back once again to consider their contribution, in theatrical terms, to Christmas 2021.

Thinking outside the 'panto' box the Players revived a long-standing ambition to present a stage version of Charles Dickens' sprawling novel "A Christmas Carol" which first-time directors Linda Burton and Jan Bell began working on well before their September auditions to cast the forty characters of Dickens' novel.

Forty characters swiftly became twenty performers, including children playing the young version of Scrooge, Marley, the Cratchit children, Tiny Tim and the young Fezziwigs, and during readings it became apparent that the appeal of "A Christmas Carol" is undiminished, despite being first published as a short story in 1843. Also undiminished is the enthusiasm of two regular performers with the Players, Jan and Linda, directing for the first time with their aim of bringing this traditional Christmas story to life for modern audiences.

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"A Christmas Carol" will run from 9th to 18th December at the Players Theatre with afternoon performances at 2 pm and evenings at 7.30 pm. Tickets are now on sale online at **www.hurstplayers.org.uk** and in person at the Theatre Box Office on Saturday mornings between 10 am and 1 pm. We wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Anne Hopper

SUSSEX CHORUS FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT on 18th December at 7 pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill. RH15 0LG.

We will be singing this is our Centenary Year so what has been a difficult year when we couldn't celebrate this significant anniversary is going to end in a wonderful way returning to live performance by performing music which includes well-loved classical pieces to traditional carols for every member of the family to sing. In between there is a new work written for us this year by local composer, Simon Austin and a new arrangement of Away in a Manger by Jeremy Weaver, our accompanist. All the above is accompanied by a Brass Quintet.

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH

This morning we had a frost - not quite enough to nip the late nasturtium flowers, but a warning that the residual warmth of the earth now wanes quickly under a clear night sky. Autumn feels late this year, with many trees still hold-

ing stubbornly to their leaves and red Admiral butterflies gorging their last unfallen apples, but the vigour has gone out of summer's green. Salad suddenly seems insipid and instead the body longs for warming soups and stews, roasted things, toasted things, kernels and roots who store of nourishment, designed to see the winter through, can be released only by cooking.

In former days, November was the time for the mangle harvest here on the farm. Fat mangle wuzel turnips, purple-jacketed, orange-bellied, were grown as a winter fodder crop. Four or more acres of them where hoed and tendered through the summer, then lifted and piled in the field with their severed leaves laid on top (protection from the frost) till they could be brought in by horse and cart and stacked in the barn. The farm children had the job of lobbing them high onto the turnip heap. Later, when they had been crushed in a root chopper, they would make a tasty meal for the cows. It feels like an ending, this point of the year - the

moving into the cool, dark realm of the earth: daylight retreating, leaves withering, a general withdrawing and hunkering down of all the soft summer we love. But perhaps it is better to think of it as another beginning, the start of a new cycle of change. Earth's riches are now underground. Animals bury themselves in winter coats or find themselves burrows and holes. All of nature is bent on the twin goals of securing shelter and nourishment. Plants which intend to grow next year consolidate all their energy in their roots, so this is the best time to harvest roots, whether vegetables or herbs, before that energy is expanded or new growth.

In my own burrowings, looking for interesting tidbits of buried information, I find that in ancient Chinese cosmology summer belongs to the sun, the 'yang' power of Heaven, but winter is the province of the 'yin' element of Earth and its Tao, or wisdom, or energy-flow, is the Tao of Humanity, which makes it seem completely appropriate that the joys of winter are social ones - tapping into Nature's loader and sharing the plunder with all comers. November's bonfires are an ancient gateway to these pleasures, sharing light and laughter and warm food and storing up glowing memories for the challenging days ahead. Winter's external hardships are to be assuaged by inner consolations. In other words, feed everyone with whatever will nourish body and soul. That is mangles for cows, and music and mirth for humans, not forgetting the

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odd bowl of punch and slice of figgy pudding!
To this end we are delighted to announce a festive
Stoneywish History Morning at the visitor centre,
Spatham Lane, on Friday **3rd December** from 11
am to 1 pm. All friends, old and new are invited.
Come and go as you please. This is not a talk but a
chance to view Michaels new museum exhibition
and fortify yourself with some of Stoneywish cof-
fee and cake, make conversation, swap stories and
listen to some wonderful seasonal early music, per-
formed by the much-loved Sussex Waits. Those of
you who have heard of the band before will know
what fun this is and for those who have not yet dis-
covered what a swarm sounds like, or heard a sack-
but, you have a special treat in store. However,
you decide to spend this time I hope you will be
able to tuck many such delights under your belt be-
fore Christmas - make a great mango heap of them
to last you through till spring. *Rosemary*

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house days for people to see bookmarks, coasters and
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To school, to learn their ABC
And start a perfect day for me.
Now I've come to XYZ,
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bow sponsors, ribbon wearers, sunflower growers, gold runners, friends, family and supporters – you are all amazing. This year we even had supporters in the USA!

HassocksGoesGold will be back next September with more GOLD Bows, Ribbons, Pins, Posters, Auction, Tombola, Running and Gold Star evening events!

If you have suggestions for events or fundraising for next September, then please do get in touch.

There are even ways to support this vital Childhood Cancer Research throughout the year too.... Fiona from www.FlowerFolly.co.uk has offered to donate 25% from all

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HASSOCKS WENT GOLD! HassocksGoesGold's final total climbed to £11,603.29 with an uplifting finish from FunnyThatComedy's night at The Hassocks in October. This takes the total raised in Pearl's name with the Children's Cancer & Leukaemia Group to over £60K in the four years since she died, a fabulous growing legacy for our forever 10-year-old daughter.

A huge thank you to this wonderful community: to all the shop owners, business sponsors, auction bidders & winners, prize donors, stall runners & helpers, organisers, fundraisers, competition entrants, poster displayers, giant gold



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DOORSTEP CAROLS was a phenomenal success throughout the UK last year... and the tradition is growing. If you want to take part this year, Hurstpierpoint is joining in in a BIG way.

Hurst Rethink Community Doorstep Carols will be from 6 pm to 7 pm on Wednesday **15th December**.

Doorstep Carol singing – uniting neighbours, across streets, villages, towns, city and the UK to celebrate Christmas.

Anyone who wants to participate will find it is amazingly easy – see here:-www.doorstepcarols.co.uk
The carols will be broadcasted over BBC Sussex Radio during this time (same across BBC local radio stations throughout the UK) so it's a simple case of tuning in on a mobile phone or other device and attaching a speaker to share the carols with your neighbour group. Then sing your heart out!

Here's the full ingredients for a happy time:-
Visit the website. Invite your neighbour Group – especially focussing on those not online. Download, print and share the programme of Carols and words

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telephone 01273 835696 for details.

Ensure any local musicians and budding musicians know they can download sheet music, and everyone would love them to play along. Organise a device and speaker to broadcast the music at 6 pm on **15th December**, tune into BBC Radio Sussex Carol broadcast. Sing, Sing, Sing.

Optional Extras - Dress up, serve mince pies, pour mulled wine, be joyous.

Please remember Covid Guidelines and keep everyone safe. Return home with a warm heart. All variations of the above are up to you. Maybe we have some local choirs that will stroll the streets and join in as they sing. It's your call!

And now for the jewel in the crown - in Hurst, we have the church bells ringing out at 7 pm on **15th December** - so huge thanks to Sue Elrick and our lovely bellringers who are giving up some of their busy pre-Christmas time to keep that special, warm feeling going!

Look forward to hearing your voices above the rooftops of Hurstpierpoint.

Charlotte Snook

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CHARITY GROTTO WITH SIGNING ELVES

Exciting news as santa is joined in hassocks by 'signing elves' who will use makaton to welcome children with hearing difficulties on **4th December**.

The Budding Foundation's ever-popular Santa's Grotto at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks is pleased to offer a special signing day this year.

On Saturday **4th December**, the team of Elves will use 'Makaton' signing to help children with special needs and hearing difficulties.

The Elves volunteering on the day all work at a special needs school and have extensive knowledge of Makaton signs which they use during their day-to-day work with young people.

Clive Gravett from the Budding Foundation says tickets for their Grotto's at Hassocks and Old Barn Garden Centre, Dial Post are selling fast and those interested should book as soon as possible via the charity's website where more details and a booking link can be found.

www.thebuddingfoundation.co.uk.

The Budding Foundation have supported many Sussex children and families with grants ranging from £50 for school uniforms to over £5000 to help purchase an all-terrain wheelchair. Also helping locally with the Burgess Hill Pantry.

Trevor Butler



Santa is pictured in his popular charity grotto at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks



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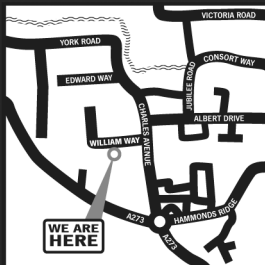
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SOME MORE FANTASTIC PICTURES OF HURSTPIERPOINT FROM DAVE EVANS



Mr Talbot was Head Carter for Little Park and this photo show him being awarded a medal from an Officer from the Farmers Union. He worked for Mr Hender. George Talbot 1892 – 1963 in 1939 he lived 1 Cobbs Croft, Chalkers Lane, Hurst-pierpoint. He married to Edith Ethel Bert in 1915.



Little Park Old Stables and Cart Shed built in the 18th/19th Century (photo taken in the 80s)



Photo of Big Edgley Park Cottages, Hurst-pierpoint (Possibly 14th/15th Century). The cottages were demolished and replaced by a nice modern house.

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NEWS FROM DOWNLANDS It has been a fantastic start to the new school year at Downlands. Our new Year 7 students have settled into school life and we have finally been able to welcome parents back into school making life feeling a little more normal. We've been able to hold some fundraising events including a #HelloYellow Day to raise funds for the mental health charity Young Minds raising an impressive £1500, and at the time of writing, we are looking forward to celebrating 'Daisy's Crazy Trainer Day' in memory of our student Daisy Bushnell, when students are invited to wear their craziest trainers with their school uniform to raise money for Chestnut Tree House.

We have also been fortunate enough to welcome two former Downlands students back into school this term - Tasha Dhanraj, a multi-award winning top comedy writer who has worked for BBC Three, Comedy Central and Channel 4 to name a few; and James Villiers, Masterchef: The Professionals semi-finalist. These visits are so inspiring, showing our students that hard work and dedication can lead them anywhere they wish to go.

And finally, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas here at Downlands! After missing out on a whole year of celebrations, our preparations for the festive

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season are well underway. We are excited to be welcoming our students, parents, friends and the local community to our Christmas Market on 27th November. This will encompass the Christmas Tree Forest, a wonderful collaboration between our students and local businesses. Each tree is sponsored by a local business and assigned a team of student decorators. A frantic afternoon of decorating then takes place and visitors to the Christmas market are asked to cast £1 votes for their favourite tree. It is a thoroughly enjoyable event; the trees provide a wonderfully festive entrance for visitors to the school getting everybody into the Christmas spirit!

Wishing you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

Downlands Community School

STAR CINEMA The next film night will be on Friday **10th December** at the Adastra Hall. The film will be 'A Christmas gift from Bob' - a feelgood true story of James Bowen (Luke Treadaway) who lived on the streets of London with his cat Bob, and how Bob changed his life for the better. Tickets - cash only please on the door which opens at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Wine/tea/coffee and the ever popular raffle as usual. Hope to see you there.

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TURKEY: NAKED CHRISTMAS LUNCH Post-modernist author William Burroughs named his infamous 1959 novel after “a frozen moment when everyone sees what is on the end of every fork.” Like the drug-fuelled characters of Naked Lunch, 76% of Brits will soon be itching for their festive fix from a bird which has taken a strange, disjointed trip through time and space to land on our plates. So, before you start gobbling this Christmas, allow yourself a frozen moment with the defrosted, oven-cooked, gravy-coated bird perched on the end of your fork. Let’s talk turkey.

There are just two species of turkey in the world. The stunning iridescent Ocellated Turkey is confined to the Yucatan peninsula, while the commoner Wild Turkey has a range that extends from the sun-baked savannahs of central Mexico north through the oak forests of the United States.

The Wild Turkey is a monstrous, spectacular bird. The huge males prowl the forests, their ruffled black feathers billowing like a cloud of volcanic ash. From this darkness erupts a bare, blue reptilian head with lava flows of red, warty skin dripping from it. These grotesque, leathery skin-flaps – the snood, wattle and caruncle – inflate with blood and are irresistible to females.

This extraordinary animal was revered by primitive

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people who plucked its feathers for ceremonial rituals. Centuries ago, one population of Wild Turkey from the hills of south-central Mexico was tamed. By the time the Aztecs ruled the roost they wore turkey, ate turkey, and prayed to Chalchiuhtotolin, their turkey god.

Spaniards returned from their Aztec conquests with ships laden with gold, silver and turkey. Not long after, in 1524, turkeys landed in England where some geographic confusion about their country of origin gave the bird its name. Soon these supposed Turkish delights were being carved and served to the wealthy. Henry VIII may well have been one of the first Brits to enjoy a turkey for Christmas lunch and then no doubt spent the rest of the afternoon asleep in front of the jester.

The turkey’s domestication continued. In eastern England, specialist poulterers developed breeds such as Norfolk Black, Cambridge Bronze and the Broad Breasted White; the bird that we eat today.

In 1620 the Pilgrim settlers, in a ‘coals to Newcastle’ scenario, shipped these brainwashed breeds back to North America and proudly gave them to the bemused native people who for centuries had been enjoying the rich, dark meat of the larger, original WildTurkeys. It must have been like aliens landing outside Harvey’s Brewery and presenting us with a small glass of weak lager.

Today we remain a nation of turkey addicts. Ten million of them were eaten here last Christmas. It’s time to stop staring at your fork and satisfy your Christmas craving – so get it while it’s hot. It’ll be cold turkey for us from tomorrow. Merry Christmas everybody and best wishes for 2022.

Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust



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So, to help with this situation, Holy Trinity Church has, for several years, organised a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' scheme. There's a multitude of varieties of Advent Calendars these days, some of them involving a small bottle of gin inside the calendar each day, others with chocolate, but traditionally you just opened a little door in an advent calendar to discover a quotation and a picture.

This is different. We give, rather than receive, something. We ask people to find a big cardboard box and put something into it each day of Advent. This helps us all to think of the needs of other people, many of whom have little or no help at Christmas, or at any other time.

Here is a suggested selection of items which would

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be particularly welcome: tinned meat, vegetables and fruit, tea and coffee, toiletries such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and soap, but not bulky items such as loo rolls. Not required are packets of pasta and rice as FSW has a large supply in stock. Please check the expiry dates of everything you put into your box.

So please, start on the first day of Advent, which is 28th November. Put something in your box each day right up until Christmas.

Then, please take it to Harvesters, Mossy Mile, Albourne Road on **Saturday 1st or Saturday 8th January 2022** between 10 am and 12 noon. The gifts will

be sorted and then distributed to

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CHRISTMAS

I'm getting quite excited
though I try not to let it show
But it's getting near to Christmas
there's not that long to go
It isn't just the presents
though I often wonder why
No-one buys me negligees
or black underwear to try
It isn't just the goodies
though I ought to watch me weight,
But I eat the lot from mince pies
to nuts and Christmas cake
I have trouble with the turkey
I stuff it by the book
But what goes where's beyond me
and I'm a bit too shy to look
I know I've lost me vigour
and I suppose I'm past me prime
But here's a chance I just can't miss it
might be the last time
So I've bought some sprigs of mistletoe
not one or two but three
And hung one up in every room
for all the men to see
That's why I'm so excited,
this year I cannot miss
If it's only Father Christmas
I'll get at least one kiss.

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BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT Saturday 4th December.

We're delighted to be back with our ever-popular Christmas Concert which features music from Handel's Messiah, a cantata by Bach and a number of favourite Christmas carols.

If there is one piece of music that eclipses all others at Christmas it is G F Handel's Messiah, popular from its first performance in Dublin in 1742, via flashmob performances, to its latest Youtube incarnation: a video of singers projected onto a Barcelona church. Our concert includes all the Christmas music from Messiah as well as the rousing Hallelujah chorus. We are also singing J S Bach's Cantata 122, The Newborn Child. This cantata written for a Sunday after Christmas is in turns gentle and dramatic and has been described as a wake-up call after the possible over-indulgence of the Christmas holidays!

The concert will be held on Saturday 4th December at 7.30 pm, at St Andrew's Church, Junction Road, RH15 OLG. Tickets are available from Burgess Hill Help Point, on the door, or phone 07522 493966. For further information about the concert, visit our website www.burgesshillchoral.org. Frances Eales

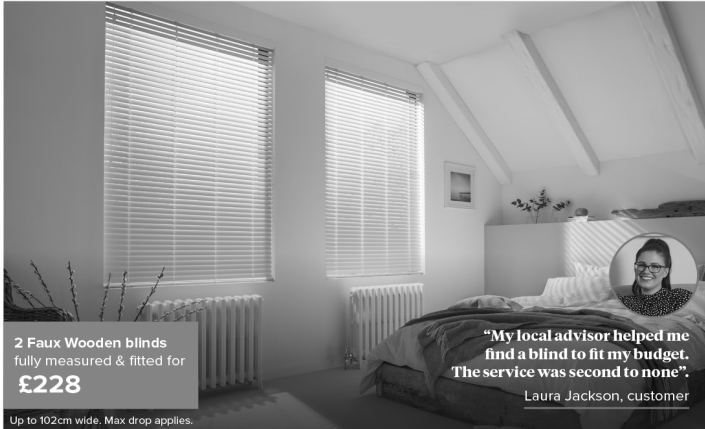


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MEMORIES OF MS JOHAN VAN OLDEN-BARNEVELT

Steve's back page in November issue brought back some very happy memories for me when he talked about his mother's wartime voyage across the Indian Ocean on the MS Johan van Oldenbarnevelt (JVO). From 1959 to 1962 JVO was making round-the-world cruises, based in Southampton. My two voyages on JVO were in 1961, with the first starting in Sydney, crossing the Pacific, via Wellington and Tahiti, through the Panama Canal, and then ending in New York on a very cold St Patrick's Day (quite a contrast from warm and balmy weather at Fort Lauderdale in Florida a couple of days earlier!). I was 17 and travelling with my family to join my father, who was on a sabbatical at Michigan State University. I have memories of a very luxurious ship, with terrific food and even a swimming pool. After about six months in the US, including a spell for me in high school (so I could get a driving licence!), we then re-joined JVO (two circumnavigations later) for the voyage across the Atlantic to Southampton. After whizzing around UK to meet lots of relations, we finally finished our travelling with a voyage back to Sydney on SS Orontes. This voyage was not so memorable, as the ship was getting old and was offering 'no-frills' voyages to mainly 'ten-pound poms' emigrating to Australia. The highlights of that voyage were passing through the Suez Canal, and then arriving in Sydney in the best possible way - sailing down

the harbour on a warm sunny day and under the Harbour Bridge before docking.

How sad it was to remember (as Steve recounted) of the tragic end for JVO, after being renamed TSMS Lakonia under Greek ownership, catching fire north of Madeira and sinking in December 1963, with the loss of 128 lives.

John Willis

OLDLAND MILL Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Oldland Windmill. We are drawing to a close a second year where the mill has been closed to the public. Essential maintenance to our 300-year-old windmill has continued, and the volunteer millers have continued to mill our own stoneground, whole meal flour. Please continue to support us by buying our flour if you see it in local stockists. These include Budgens, Adastra Deli, the South Downs Heritage Centre and Oaks Poultry Farm Shop, Ditchling.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Mill in Spring 2022 when our usual programme of events will hopefully recommence.

Beckie

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TREFOIL GUILD has members from Hurstpierpoint, Burgess Hill, Ditchling and Hassocks. We are very friendly and have lots of fun! with speakers, making things, outings, walks and much more!

We meet the Guide Hut in Semley Road, just behind the station on the third Wednesday in the month from 8 pm to 9.30 pm come and join us. For more information call to **07546 495433**. *Pam*

**BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,
01444 245509**

Online Zoom Talk Wednesday **1st December** at 7.45 pm 'The Story of the Crystal Palace' by Ian Gledhill. Small charge but no booking fee.

About the talk: Originally built to house the Great Exhibition of 1851, then dismantled and transported to Sydenham, where it was rebuilt and enlarged, the Crystal Palace was one of the greatest engineering feats of the Victorian age. Our modern-day greenhouses and conservatories owe a debt to the revolutionary design and manufacturing techniques used in the construction of 'The People's Palace'. Ian Gledhill's fascinating talk will tell the story of a much-loved building that dominated the south London skyline for over 80 years, until its tragic destruction by fire in 1936.

For more information and to book, visit: **www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com**

Please note: You do not require a Paypal or Zoom account. Perhaps you are new to Zoom technology and unsure how to proceed? We offer free IT support – please contact us via our website if you have any queries. Want to watch the talk, but it's at an inconve-



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nient time? Never mind – we also offer a free 'Catch-Up' facility. The talk will be recorded live, and you will receive a link to the recording, allowing you to watch at a later date. (For copyright reasons, the recording will expire after 14 days.) *Flo Walker*

DITCHLING DOWNS WI Our Christmas Party, which is for members only, is to take place on **7th December** at the White Horse in Ditchling.

We have now arranged our meetings for next year and information on speakers will be sent later. The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at Ditchling Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. Guests welcome.

As a reminder, the **4th January** meeting is for members to talk about, and perhaps demonstrate, their activities undertaken during lockdown, in the form of a 'show and tell' session.

Our new subscription year will start on **1st April**.

Sally Willis

Karen Butterfill Mssch Mbcha
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HASSOCKS WINEWS We meet at Adastra Hall Hassocks at 7.45 pm on 3rd Monday in the month. In October we had our AGM and social – it was wonderful in how much we achieved in spite of lockdown (94 Breast Cancer Cushions made). In November was our crafty meeting – Lantern making and stone painting with a festive or personal theme.

December enjoy goodies at our LUH stall. There will be a theatre trip our Christmas party and fabulous xmas raffle. Come along a warm welcome awaits you.

Gerry

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY For the past nine years I have been privileged to serve as a Volunteer at the Hassocks Library on Thursday afternoons and have enjoyed meeting the regulars and occasionally recommending a book to someone looking for a good book but not knowing what to choose. Also of course doing a number of other things, most fairly mundane, but all part of this amazing, largely free service.

On returning recently post lockdown I have been

surprised, and a little dismayed, to find numbers of visitors and borrowings well down on previous levels. We all know that the very existence of public libraries is at risk and many have sadly been closed; so the future of ours can only be made more secure if we local people support it.

So, as I retire from my Volunteer role, my message is – “Visit your library and borrow a book”. For what is better on a wet winter’s day than “feet up and a good read”? For our Library it may well be a case of: “Use it or lose it”.

David Brown

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Janet Irwin

HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMENS GUILD It seems
 that everyone enjoyed the Federation Lunch last
 month at Adastra Hall.

Our **14th December** afternoon meet will be our Party
 with lots of good things to eat. The Hassocks Ladies
 Choir will entertain us with some carols. Looking
 forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

Sheila Southwell

CROHN'S DISEASE RESEARCH I want to give a
 big thank you to Andy Twine, our popular butcher, and
 his friendly staff for housing a collecting can for
 Crohn's Disease Research during this part year.

All Charities have suffered during this worrying time
 because lots of customers have used the contact card
 payment, but Andy kindly kept the can there for any-
 one who wished to donate. So - thank you Andy and
 thanks too to your generous customers from us all at
 Crohn's in Childhood Research Association.

Thanks to Jo at QD Stationery, too for keeping this
 magazine going for us. Here's wishing you all a
 Merry Christmas and, hopefully, a better New Year in
 2022. Stay safe!

Dorrie

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~~ WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER ~~

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For more information call **01273 846978.**



1st HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 2 pm. 'Christmas Celebrations' Weald UK Ukulele Players and Singers. Guests welcome.

1st BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Zoom Meeting 7.45 pm. 'The Story of the Crystal Palace' Ian Gledhill. See article to book.

2nd AGE CONCERN HASOCKS Dale Avenue, Hassocks 9.30 am to 2 pm. Christmas Fayre

2nd DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall, 7.30 pm. 'Pain and Glory'

3rd LIGHT UP HASOCKS Keymer Road, Hassocks 4 pm - 7 pm. Various events taking place all night.

3rd BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING St Margaret's Church, Ditchling. Christmas Fair

3rd STONEYWISH HISTORY MORNING Visitor Centre, Spatham Lane, Ditchling 11 am - 1 pm. View Michael's new museum exhibition and hear music by Sussex Waits

4th CHRISTMAS MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Profiles Health and Beauty, Hassocks

4th BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. Christmas Concert. Tickets 07522 493966.

5th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion

7th DITCHLING DOWNS WI White Horse, Ditchling. 7 pm Members Only Christmas Party

8th ALL THE RIGHT NOTES, URC Church, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Annual Christmas Concert. Tickets see article.

9th - 18th HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, various performances, 'Christmas Carol' visit www.hurstplayers.org.uk

10th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. 'A Christmas Gift from Bob'. Cash only on the door.

12th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion

13th HASOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Christmas meet 'Sussex Harmony'

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14th LUNTIME JAZZ Hassocks Pub, 12 pm, Trad. New Orleans 6 Piece Jazz Band. No need to book. Food available.

14th HAS SOCKS TOWNSWOMEN GUILD 2.30 pm. Christmas Party and Carols by Hassocks Ladies Choir, all welcome.

15th HAS SOCKS TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hut, Semley Road, Hassocks 8 pm. Monthly meeting all welcome.

15th DOORSTEP CAROLS 6 pm to 7 pm. Nationwide event see article.

15th WELL-BEING WALK AND TALK Proper Coffee, Hassocks 1.30 pm Free event to book call 07904 982579

18th SUSSEX CHORUS St. Andrews Church, Burgess Hill 7 pm. Family Christmas Concert. Tickets 01444 412579

18th HAS SOCKS VILLAGE MARKET National Tyres Forecourt, 9 am - 1 pm, Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

18th REPAIR CAFE Hassocks URC, 10 am - 12.30 pm, bring items for repair book your slot www.hkd-transition.org.uk

19th ST MARTINS CHURCH Westmeston, 10 am. Holy Communion

19th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, Ditchling, 6 pm.



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20th HAS SOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Monthly meeting. Guests welcome.

24th ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH Priory Road, Hassocks 4 pm. Crib Service

24th ST COSMAS AND ST DAMIAN CHURCH Keymer 6 pm 9 Lessons and Carols and at 11.30pm First Mass of Christmas with carols

24th ST EDWARDS RC CHURCH Keymer 5 pm. First Mass of Christmas with Carols

24th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 4 pm. Crib Service

25th ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH Clayton 11.15 am Eucharist with Carols

25th ST COSMAS AND ST DAMIAN CHURCH, Keymer 8 am Holy Communion, 9.45 am Family Eucharist with Carols

25th ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH Hassocks 9.45 am Family Eucharist with Carols

25th ST EDWARDS RC CHURCH Keymer 10 am Mass with Carols

25th UNITED REFORMED CHURCH Hassocks 10 am Family Service

25th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH Ditchling, 11 am. Christmas Celebration & Holy Communion



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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

I thought this month I'd go back to basics and just have a wander around to see what's going on in the area. Wheels do turn very slowly these days, that collapsed drain out the front of my shop has been a real problem for drivers and cyclists for quite a while now, but I did have a meeting with a council official about it and he said it will be done before Christmas. It isn't on their agenda to do it urgently, because it hasn't caused any accidents, and that they are short staffed, the best they can hope for is before the end of the year. I hope that helps?

I would have thought Boots the chemist would have had a maintenance department that looked after its shop, it's been ages now since its ceiling collapsed which has closed off one complete aisle due to a water problem in the flat above. As we have no water features in there, then it must have been fixed, so I'm surprised they'd left it so long. Unless of course there is another reason for not fixing it, mind you I was in there the other day this bloke was giving the poor pharmacist a very hard time and being incredibly abusive there really is absolutely no reason for that sort of behaviour. What do you do, he was a big guy who obviously had a very short fuse, intervening could just fuel the situation, so you have to walk away, which was very hard to do. She was only responding to what was written on the prescription and doing it incredibly well with him even with a tirade of abuse, a very professional lady.

The Dance shop finally opened which is good to see. I assume it will be eventually called something like 'Dance Away' or 'Strictly For Beginners' we could have a competition to pick a name that would be fun. It looks very nice inside, but I haven't been in yet I've got enough leotards?

As for the National Tyres I don't think that development you can stop, which is a great shame because it will block the light out of all the shops opposite and create even more traffic chaos in the village, it just needs to be a bit smaller, but greed is a human trait that powers the economy and causes people not to do what's right and reasonable, but only what's good for their bank accounts.

Next door to National Tyres, Pavilion Electrics is remaining a shop, albeit a very small one with a new flat at the back. You can see the separate entrance at the side, mind you, I suppose whoever takes on the shop could also live in the flat and use some of it for storage. It will be interesting to see how it pans out.

Along a little bit further where Costa used to be an application has appeared in the window for the retail sale of alcohol up till 10 o'clock in the evening which are basically off licence hours, being a non drinker I'm not the best one to comment on this, but I'll do my best so please don't be offended - we already have six alcohol outlets in the village do we really need another one, I do understand that people love to drink and find it very relaxing, I did used to enjoy a drink myself, but as I got older I found that I needed it less and less and with a large amount of animals that rely on my love and well being decided that I no longer needed it in my life. Infact it is big business and the government makes billions every year from duty, alternatively it costs the NHS billions every year from the consequences of people drinking it. So, we'll just have to wait and see if the license is granted, and what type of retail outlet it becomes, and how it's going to be different from those already in the village.

That just leaves Marmar Trading which was originally in Hurstpierpoint but now resides on the corner of Downsview Road and sells all sorts of household gifts and accessories. This is a nice addition to the village and I'm sure a lot of you have paid it a visit already. We need to support all our local shops whenever we can.

Our or should I say Nolas washing machine broke down and getting it repaired is virtually impossible these days, so on the phone to Carters Domestic Appliances, Haywards Heath, a new one would cost £240 plus £20 to remove the old one. All sorted and done in 48 hours - brilliant service.

I must congratulate Aziza and Poppy from Deux Amies, our neighbours on the birth of their baby boys, I hope they don't have too many sleepless nights and I'm sure it won't be long before they're back in the shop doing what they do best.

Christmas is nearly upon us, so be safe and have a good time.

Steve xx

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