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

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## Useful Information

**HASSOCKS PARISH CENTRE** Council Office in Adastra Park, Keymer Road - telephone **01273 842714** (answerphone out of hours) Website: [www.hassockspc.net](http://www.hassockspc.net). Parish Clerk - Ian Cumberworth  
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**WHERE IS THIS?** Michael Alford of Stoneywish Nature Reserve is asking for help as to where this picture may have been taken, its says Ditchling 1920. Please email us at [ed@villagemagazines.co.uk](mailto:ed@villagemagazines.co.uk) or write to us info on inside front cover. *Ed*

**OLDLAND WINDMILL**

*The Trust owns a fully restored working Windmill in Keymer which is now over 300 years old.*

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Do you live in Ditchling or know someone who does? We could come and pick you up on a Wednesday for coffee and then lunch, before we drop you home again. Call our office for further details.

Lunches - We serve lunches weekdays in our dining room: Brunch served on a Monday between 10 am and 1 pm as well as sandwiches, paninis, soups and cakes. Freshly cooked, three-course meals are available on other weekdays. Please call us on **01273 844461** to book a place and let us know by 10 am on the day, at the latest. Our Menu is always on our website and if you need help with transport to come for lunch, we may be able to collect you in our minibus; enquire in the office.

Our Coffee Shop is open from 9 am to 3 pm serving refreshments. Have you seen our new Charity Shop? Come and have a browse. Our charity shop and coffee shop are both open on Saturday mornings too.

Activities - Art Group Thursday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon. Gentle Chair Yoga Friday mornings 11.30 - why not pop in for coffee before or stay for lunch afterwards. We would like to re-start our Knit and Natter group, so would you like to come along for a hot drink and a biscuit and meet other knitters? If this is something that you would like to join in, please let us know and we can arrange a suitable morning or afternoon in our

## DEADLINE DATES

Deadline date for the  
March 2022  
issue is 1st February

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cosy conservatory.

Happy memories from the past can raise everyone's spirits in these gloomy times. We plan to start a "Memory Corner" in the new year, initially with some photographs but is there something from the past that you could bring in to let everyone see?

Can you help us with Volunteering opportunities to help drive our minibus? We need drivers and escorts to expand our weekday pick-up runs. Please call the office for more information, come in and see us, or email [enquiries@achassocks.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@achassocks.co.uk).

*From all at Age Concern*

## HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

We meet on the last Friday of each month in the Guide Hall next to Trinity Road car park. The speaker for our next meeting will be Mak Norman. He will give his presentation on the Anglo-Saxons on Friday **25th February** starting at 8 pm. Mak (or "Osgar" to use his Anglo-Saxon name) will be bringing some artifacts from Anglo-Saxon Times and will attempt to teach us some of the Old English language!

Contact me - telephone **01273 832280**, email [w.kent123@btinternet.com](mailto:w.kent123@btinternet.com) for further information about our very friendly society. New members are always welcome.

*Bill Kent*

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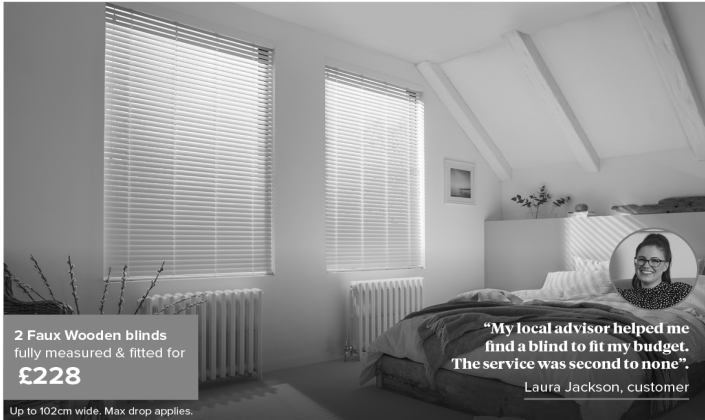
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**EILEEN EDWARDS** of Hassocks, died peacefully on 15th December aged 81 years. Eileen's funeral service took place at Woodvale Crematorium in January. Donations if desired, can be made online via

**www.pandsgallagher.co.uk** (click on Memory Giving) or by cheque payable to The Clayton Contact Club and sent c/o P & S Gallagher, Fraser House, 20 Sussex Road, Haywards Heath RH16 4EA. **01444 451166**.

*Dele Soan*

## **THANK YOU REG OUR PAPER BOY**

We would like to thank our paper boy Reg for delivering in all weathers and rarely missing a day. All the more amazing because Reg is nearly 80 years old.

Many thanks Reg, heres looking forward to many more years of seeing you in Ockenden Way. Take care.

*Sid and Shirley*

*We thank Shirley Turner from Hassocks for the following letter:-* A big thank you to everyone who knitted the angels, snowmen etc. and

hung them all round the village, what a lovely gesture at this time of year, it made my day and I hope everyone else's. Your hard work was worth it. Thanks again and hope you all had a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

**BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY ASSOCIATION** meet on Friday **11th February** at 8 pm at Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill, RH15 8DX.

Special guest is Simon Stevens 'Archaeology of the Burgess Hill Northern Arc'. guests welcome.

*Stephanie Swaysland*

**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@villagemagazines.co.uk**

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## **reMEMber (THE CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME SOCIETY)**

Unfortunately, because of the Covid restrictions, we are still unable to resume our meetings and fund-raising events for the time being.

However, our Newsletter is now online and can be accessed on our website – **www.remembercfs.org.uk**. Our Winter edition contains news about reMEMber and what's going on in the world of CFS/ME including the new NICE Guideline.

Also on our website you can access videos of presentations by top doctors at our Zoom conference in November 2020.

We are still trying to raise funds to set up a consultant-led clinical service for people who have ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome).

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**, e-mail us at

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## **BRIGHTON CONSORT – BACK TO BASICS**

(“remembering why we do what we do”). In their first full public appearance since March 2020, Brighton Consort confidently begin again with music by Josquin des Pres, Lassus, William Byrd, Thomas Tallis, Palestrina, and Victoria. They will be joined by the Ashdown Consort of Viols to celebrate the roots and variety of truly great choral and instrumental music.

They will perform on Saturday **5th February** at 4 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint BN6 9TS. Tickets can be purchased online via the Brighton Consort website (go to the “Next Concerts” page), or by ringing **01273 833746**, or on the door.

Please also see more details about Brighton Consort on their Facebook page (**www.facebook.com/brightonconsort**).

*Mike Clemens*

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*We thank Isabel Monteith, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (where it is colder than Mars right now!)*

I was Googling "Old Mill House, Keymer" (Sussex) and came across a local magazine called "Hassocks and Keymer Talk About".

I think the date was early 2020 but cannot not be sure. Anyway, there was a photo in this little magazine of the Old Mill House at Keymer. The people who live there were asking for information about who the people in the photo might be. I do not know who they were, but I can tell them something about some previous occupants of the house.

I discovered yesterday, with the release of the 1921 Census of England, that my father lived in that house as an 8-year-old child in 1921. He was Eric Stanley Major Monteith (the census has transcribed his middle initials incorrectly) and lived there with his father Henry Percy Monteith, his mother Mary Ethel (Major) Monteith and siblings Sybil and Lau-


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rence. I have no idea what they were doing living there as I thought they lived in Wimbledon.

My grandfather Henry Percy Monteith was a retired textile merchant.

It is fascinating to me that my father lived in this house and near the old mill which has been restored.

I was born in England in Southborough, Kent, but my family moved to Canada in 1953 when I was 7.

Can they tell me anything about the house. I see a lot of information about the mill but not much about the house?

Email QD Stationery at:  
[ed@villagemagazines.co.uk](mailto:ed@villagemagazines.co.uk).

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**REWILDING OF KNEPP CASTLE ES-TATE** An illustrated talk by ecologist, Penny Green, on the rewilding of the West Sussex Estate since 2001 transforming it from failing farmland into a profitable site of wildlife abundance.

The Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society meet at 7.45 pm on Tuesday **8th February** in the Club suite Hurstpierpoint Village Hall.

*Kathy Green*

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**HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS** Having had to cancel their Festive production of “A Christmas Carol” in December the Hurstpierpoint Players are hoping for better times [not “the worst of times”] for their spring production of Alan Ayckbourn’s comedy “How the Other Half Loves”.

Auditions took place at the Players Theatre in Hurstpierpoint in January just as this issue of Village Voice and Talk About was being compiled – so Director Richard Coney will be announcing his cast in time for the March edition.

Often incorrectly described as a farce this was Ayckbourn’s second West End comedy success and his seventh play. It follows the lives and confused loves of three married couples, using inter-changeable rooms in a single setting to enable Ayckbourn’s exploration of space and time to add to the general mayhem. Rehearsals are under way now and this latest

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production by Hurstpierpoint Players will have five performances from **Tuesday 29th March to Saturday 2nd April** at 7.30 pm. Casting, booking details and ticket prices will be available on the Players’ website – **[www.hurstplayers.org.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.org.uk)** – as soon as possible and in this magazine next month.

Covid restrictions have played havoc with all theatrical ventures, both amateur and professional over the past two years. We are all hoping that some semblance of normality will have come to pass by the spring of 2022 and that this production, along with those by all our fellow groups, can go ahead as planned.

*Anne Hopper*



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*Janet Irwin*

**HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY** meets at Adastra Hall, Hassocks at 7.45 p.m.

On **14th February** we have special guest Ray Hale 'Mary Anning – An Amazing Woman in a Man's World'

On **28th February** with special guest Colin McFarlin 'Recycling in West Sussex'.

*Beryl Varley*

*Local Activities for the March 2022*

*magazine can be email to:*

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*We thank Dave Evans for the following pictures of Little Washbrooks*

The Baker family who  
ran Little Washbrooks.  
Top is Frank Coleman  
and  
L-R is Joyce Baker,  
Uncle Cecil,  
Doris Baker  
and Mr Baker  
taken in 1947.



The stalls for the heavy horses dated 1989.



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**HAPPY NEW YEAR** - from everyone in Sussex Vale Rotary. I'm happy to report that Light Up Hassocks was a huge success, due to the support given by the many people and organisations who contributed to the event: the Burgess Hill Marching Band; Hassocks Infants School who organised the lanterns for the procession; All the Right Notes, The Blitz Boys, Windmills School, Downlands Academy and the Zaffire Twins, who all entertained from the stage; Hassocks Hardware; Burgess Hill Radio; Beacon Security; Sussex Police; Event Medical Services; Clancy Group; Panther Waste Services; all of the stallholders and shops that stayed open to take part; MSDC for the loan of barriers and to everyone who came along to enjoy the activities. Clearing up afterwards is a large task and a special thanks is due to Matteo and his team from Adastra Deli. Thanks also to Burgess Hill Rotary who arranged for Santa to join the parade and Proper Cycling for organising live

music outside their shop.

A picture gallery can be found at [www.mid-sussextimes.co.uk/news/people/26-pictures-from-light-up-hassocks-2021-3482423](http://www.mid-sussextimes.co.uk/news/people/26-pictures-from-light-up-hassocks-2021-3482423)

The poster competition was won by Woody Daniel who was ill on the night and unable to come along, so his prize was presented to him a few days later. The Best Dressed Window Competition was won by Humanity at Heart, with Bella June Flowers and Bowley Funeral Services tied in second place. We were pleased that so many of our local traders worked so hard to present such a high quality of entries, so well done everyone. When Sussex Vale stepped in to run LUH 4 years ago, it was to ensure the event continued, but with a view to making it a community project. So, the organisation and running of LUH has been passed to the Hassocks Community Organisation (HCO), although Sussex Vale will support them. This year's LUH will take place on **2nd December 2022**, a date for your diary. Un-

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fortunately, the prevalence of Covid obliged us to cancel the street collections in Hurst and Hassocks. Despite that, we were able to arrange for 16 hampers to be delivered to local families with the help of the infant schools in Hurst and Hassocks. Our grateful thanks are owed to Tesco which made a donation to enable us to include gifts within the hampers. Our Christmas Dinner at the Duke of York was a great success and enjoyed by everyone, the live music was particularly appreciated. Plans are now underway for a Burns Night, something that we have celebrated for many years and are keen to resuscitate after missing out last January! If you would like to become involved in supporting your local community, 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

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Greyhound for the next meeting date.

*Duncan Honeyman*

*Anisah has asked us to include this again as  
there was a typo last month - Ed*

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## SUSSEX CHARITY GROTTOES IN HAS SOCKS AND HORSHAM BREAK ALL RECORDS

Charity grottos this Christmas at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks and Old Barn Garden Centre at Dial Post have collectively seen over 4,000 children and raised a total figure of £55,000 this year.

“This is a record-breaking amount after our fundraising totals of £23,000 in 2020 and £46,000 in 2019, both pre-Covid”, says Rebecca Houghton-Knapp from the family-run garden centre group.

“Santa has also seen over 100 children for free through various links to local charities, food banks and schools in his mobile grotto – a converted horsebox kindly loaned by Universal Trailers at Billingshurst for the festive period.”

*Rebecca Houghton-Knapp*

**HASSOCKS WI** meet at Adastra, Hall, Hassocks on the third Monday in the month doors open 7.30 pm start at 7.45 pm.

December meeting had to be cancelled like so many others, but in January we enjoyed wine and mince pies while swishing our way through the evening. The big raffle prizes were excellent.

January also the start of our new afternoon craft club. A lovely turn out and ideas galore. The new craft club meeting is the **7th February** at 2 pm in the Green Room, Adastra Hall, Hassocks, Theme ‘crochet’ come along and learn how to do it, or bring your own project to be worked on with tea and company.

**21st February** evening meeting is a talk by Ray Hale ‘Mary Anning - a remarkable woman in a man's world’

Our March meeting will be focused on taking care of ourselves. Come along at warm welcome tea biscuits and hopefully some WI cake.

*Gerry Dandridge*

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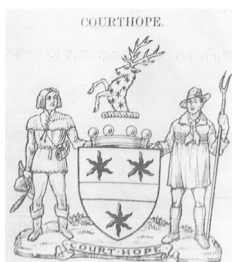
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The Courthope Family Coat of Arms  
(see also in Hurstpierpoint Church)

### THE MISSING FAME OF HURST- PIERPOINT

In the 17th century there was no such thing as a domestic refrigerator. In the Big Houses meat and poultry were hung from the ceiling in the pantry until well past

their sell-by date. To make meat more palatable, generous use was made of various spices especially nutmeg and mace. Nutmeg was also valued for its medicinal properties because it was thought to be effective against many viral infections including the dreaded Plague.

Nutmeg commanded a very high price because supplies were limited and moreover were controlled by the Dutch, with whom England was at war.

The East India Company in London had no position in the East Indies much of which had been colonised by the Dutch, so the

Company decided to despatch an armed vessel to attempt to gain a foothold.

Nathaniel Courthope whose family home became Danny (House) in Hurstpierpoint set sail in 1616 in The Swan.

There was just one spice island which had not accepted Dutch sovereignty, and this was Run, the most prodigious yielder of nutmeg. The Chief of Run objected to the aggressive approach of the Dutch and formed an instant close relationship with Courthope. He agreed to transfer the sovereignty of Run to the English Crown. The local Dutch Commander Coen did not like this at all and entered into negotiations with Courthope at Coen's house. The Dutch colonist's way of negotiating was simple. Nathaniel Courthope was never seen again.

But despite Courthope's murder, Run was still English sovereign territory and the East India Company, and the English government were determined to avenge Courthope's death and obtain appropriate compensation. The Anglo-Dutch war continued.

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Eventually after many years of conflict and negotiation, England transferred the sovereignty of Run to the Dutch in return for the transfer to England of New Amsterdam and the island of Manhattan. New Amsterdam was promptly renamed New York - not after the city of York but after the Duke of York, the King's brother.

Nathaniel's father, Peter died with only one surviving child, Barbara who married Henry Campion of Kent and the Danny estate came into the ownership of the Campion family.

So, Nathaniel Courthope's action in Run was the direct cause of the foundation of New York. Hurstpierpoint should be famous. The Danny-Run-New York connection is nonetheless recorded in the Danny Archive, the books of The East India Company, the Book 'Nathaniel's Nutmeg by Giles Milton 1999' and now in the Hassocks Talk About and Village Voice 2022.

*Harold Rowling*

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Heber is hoping to inspire all you singers out there to come and enjoy an evening (or even two) of singing and finding out about what it takes to put on one of our operas.

At 7.30 pm on Sunday's **6th and 13th March**, Heber Opera will be holding two open rehearsals in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. There will be a small fee for joining in each rehearsal.

To take part and for more details, please contact Michael Withers via email at [michael@michaelwithers.co.uk](mailto:michael@michaelwithers.co.uk) or call **07802 735190**.

No-one should be afraid of the word 'OPERA', it is simply the musical theatre of its time, like Les Misérables is today. Heber

always sings in English, and the stories are eternal – love, loss and death in varying forms, just like modern musicals!

We would love to see you there – don't be shy, please sign up. *Jenny Hawkes*

**STAR CINEMA - BOND COMES TO HASOCKS..** on **11th February**. 7.15 pm film starts, Adastra Hall, Hassocks.

'No Time To Die' is the twenty-fifth in the James Bond series, and was the fourth highest-grossing film of 2021. It stars Daniel Craig in his fifth and final outing as James Bond (rated PG-13).

Doors open at 7 pm, but please note - Earlier Starting Time of 7.15 pm as the film is quite long.

Wine/tea/coffee and raffle. Tickets on the door (cash only please). The Star team look forward to welcoming you. *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@villagemagazines.co.uk](mailto:ed@villagemagazines.co.uk) or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR. Deadline for the March Issue is 1st February.

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** At the entrance to the Pinetum stand two trees, like centuries, either side of the path. One is an oak - of vigorous, spreading youngster of 40 or 50 years, whose branches shade a mossy bank where primrose's bloom in spring. The other is a holly veteran, a shattered shipwreck of a tree, whose great trunk sprouts knew shoots every year, proving that in spite of any outward dereliction the inner will to life is strong. The boughs of these two touch overhead and they have always seemed to me to be a perfect epitome of the changing year. Here in one spot they play out the shift back and forth between the dark forces of winter and the life bringing light of summer. In ancient Celtic lore, the holly and the oak divide the year between them, each representing half of the calendar. The holly king reigns from Mid-summer to mid-winter when the oak king takes his sceptre and rules for six months in his stead. The lengthening days belong to the oak. The short-

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ening days to the holly. Each grows from a weakling to a giant during his reign and is deposited at the height of his power. Just now, the legend goes, with the winter solstice just past, the oak king is still a puny infant. His son is feeble and the life-sap of the earth barely stirring, but each day will bring an increase in strength. The theme surfaces in the medieval tale of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: King Arthurs Christmas feast is interrupted by the arrival of a fantastical Knight. This figure is a giant, green from head to foot, riding a gigantic green horse - with trimmings, trappings, everything green. As a Christmas entertainment he invites whoever is brave enough to strike him dead on a condition that he may take his revenge at a later date. All demur, but finally a young knight, Gawain attempts the challenge and decapitates the Knight. Unperturbed the apparition then picks up his head, reminds Gawain of his obligation and, rides out into the night once more. The Green

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Knight, or Holly King, significantly carries a bunch of holly in his hand and he turns up elsewhere in old tales as the spirit of winter. He is the 'Here come I, old Father Christmas' of traditional Mummers' plays and he is the holly-crowned ghost of Christmas past in Dickens 'A Christmas Carol'. At mid-summer, so the Celtic legend goes, the holly King strikes back. In pre-Soviet Latvia the custom was for the men to wear crowns of oak leaves at their solstice feasts and to leap over symbolic fires in honour of the sun. There would be two bonfires, my Latvian uncle told us: a large one on the ground, which represented life on earth and another small one, suspended high on a pole, to represent the departing sun. Both Earth and Sun, it seems, need protection now. With the current intensity of spraying in our skies, the Sun is hardly able to show its face and without its life-giving light, plant life and our own bodies too, will be condemned to live in a prolonged artificial Winter. Looking at the plight of our trees last Summer - willow, ash, alder, maple, chestnut, beech, fruit trees of all kinds, visibly sickening and plagued with fungal infection; looking at our herbs and native plants similarly afflicted, and our own humankind sickening for want of vitamin D, I

wish the New Year could bring an awakening and urgent debate about the harms of geo-engineering. The present policy of 'air raids', which obliterate the sun with webs of chem-trails on almost every fine day, seem to me to be a threat to life itself. If plants are starved of sunlight they cannot photosynthesize properly and the life-giving sugars they produce will be missing for the entire earth community. What use is it to plant trees if they are unable to grow and thrive? This surely must be stopped. I feel the holly and the oak have a vital message for us. We lose our direct connection with them at our peril. We too have roots, physical and cultural, which are buried deep in the earth and give us access to our one true hope, which is Memory. According to the poet William Blake: 'The Daughters of Memory are wiser than the Horses of the Imagination'. I have long puzzled over these words, but the holly and the oak have thrown new light on them for me this year. The Horses of the Imagination - innovation - man's determination and delight in ripping out, discarding and refashioning the universe to please his own schemes of invention, have brought us all to the brink of destruction. But the Earth and all its living systems cohere and thrive, not by Darwin's in-

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dustrial model of competition an innovation, but by the free gift of Memory - the millions of years of shared inheritance through natural chemistry, through instinct, through adaption and acceptance of what is. After Christmas there is a tiny pause before the world hurtles on with its agendas. Time to stop and listen. Time to lay aside our assumptions and hear our past human and present natural relatives have to say to us. Our own ancestors had the connectedness to Nature that we so desperately need. Our wild cousins in the countryside have it still. They live in a vital and dynamic world of shifting lights and energies. They know when the moon is full, when the tide is in, when the damsons are ripe, not because they read it, or looked it up, but because they saw it. They had already been watching for it.

If I have a New Year wish for us all, it will be this gift of watching, without a pencil or a camera or any recording device. To allow the world to speak to us, (as the sea talks to creatures in the rockpool) spill over us and nourish us and awaken our memory of what it is to be human fit to belong to a beautiful world.

And of course, if I have another New Year wish, it is that there will be enough Christmas merriment left for us all to celebrate new life,

knew hope, new friends and laughter under the protection of King Oak!  
*Rosemary*

**ALL THE RIGHT NOTES** had a very successful Christmas concert in December at the URC in Hassocks, with a full house joining the choir and band for an evening of seasonal fun. The raffle also raised £280 for Alzheimer's Research UK.

Unfortunately, four days later I had a major heart attack, and consequently All the Right Notes is on a break while I recuperate. Practices will be returning no earlier than February and members of the choir will be notified by email. This means the planned 10th anniversary concert for June is being postponed, hopefully to later in the year.  
*Paul Simpson*

**TREFOIL NEWS** Our Christmas meal was held at the Jack and Jill Inn and enjoyed by all. In January we met Hurst Haven For Hedgehogs.

On **16th February** we have an International Event. 'Come and Travel the World!'

We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road at 7.45 pm for 8 pm on the 3rd Wednesday in the month. Visitors welcome. Call **07546 495433**.

*Pam*

**SOUTH EAST TOAD SUMMIT IN HAS-SOCKS.** Toad Patrollers and anyone interested in our native toads are all invited to attend this free event.

It is an opportunity for local Toad patrols to get together, share ideas and learn more about how best to conserve toads. When? Saturday **5th February** 1.30 pm to 5 pm Where? Adastra Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks, BN6 8QH. Info: to find out more and get your tickets

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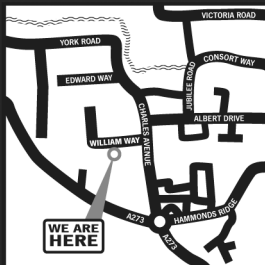
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## THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL

We have had a very busy time at The Windmills Junior School, despite us not being able to do all the usual things at this time of year, due to Covid restrictions.

At the beginning of December, a team of 10 boys and 10 girls took part in the local cross country competition. Following weeks of training the time had come to compete against the other schools from the local area. After working extremely hard and together, the Windmills girls managed to come second and the boys came first. We are very proud of the whole team as well as of the children who have come out to run each and every lunchtime for the last three and half weeks; super commitment shown.

Earlier in the term, the Windmills Year 5 and 6 girls took part in a regional football tournament. The tournament was played on an Astro-turf pitch at The Triangle, a much faster pace of football than they are used to on grass. There were 5 teams: Windmills, Lindfield, St Wilfred's Burgess Hill, St Wilfred's Haywards Heath and St Marys. They kicked off the tournament and battled hard to take the win 1:0. The team were all delighted and revved up for the next match. The next match was very close and despite their best efforts they lost 1:0. The loss pushed them to try even harder and they managed to draw the next 2 matches 0:0 and 1:1. Everyone played so well and they all enjoyed the experience very much. Let's hope Windmills can win it next year!

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into school to visit their Ancient Egyptian Pop-up Museum. It was fantastic to see parents in school again and the children were brilliant tour guides. The children took on the role of Egyptologists, sharing the knowledge they have developed throughout our 'Wealth and Water' topic. The school hall was transformed into an art gallery. The children displayed their mixed media Pharaoh portraits, water colour scarab beetles, decorated 3D boxes along with



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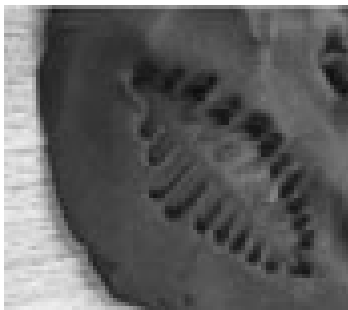
*Joanna Turns*  
*Nicola White*  
*Joanne Cruse*

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all the brilliant topic homework projects. There was also a surprise video showing the children's ancient Egyptian style dancing choreographed in PE. A huge thank you to all the adults at school who put in lots of hard work behind the scenes, to ensure that the Egyptian Pop-up Museum was a great success.



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In Science this term, Year 3 have been geologists and palaeontologists! They learnt about the different properties of rocks and how sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks are formed. They then investigated our own rocks looking at the rocks very carefully using magnifying glasses. The children worked out if the rocks were permeable or impermeable by pipetting water onto them. We also scratched them to see how hard they were. The children then moved onto learning about fossils which can be found in sedimentary rocks. They made our own fossils out of play-doh.

Year 5 have been linking Art with our History project (Raiders to Rulers), we have completed a seascape project. We started by building up our colour mixing using watercolours and the children used their skills to replicate

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a range of seascapes from various different artists; Joseph Turner, Erin Hanson and another classic, Vincent Van Gogh. We then used our replicas to design our own landscape for a Viking longboat scene. The children had the choice of mood to create with their background designs. Some Viking adventures were calmer with a range of sunset tones whilst others were stormy, dangerous scenes with lightning splitting the sky. In History, we have been learning all about what brought different groups of people to England. You might be surprised to know that they all came for very similar reasons! The children created their own settlements and then compared this to an Anglo Saxon and a Viking settlement, making a personal response about who they would rather be and why.

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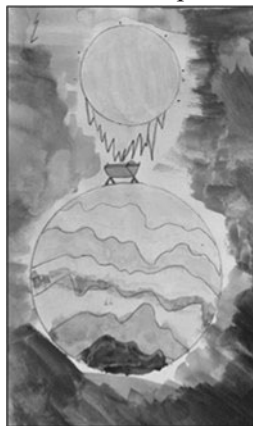
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RE lessons in Year 6, have been focusing on the true meaning behind Christmas. We researched and thought about the traditions we have around this time of year. We were really interested in the idea of the candy cane being either a shepherd's crook or the J of Jesus. Most of the traditions do stem from the origins of the birth of Jesus where Christians believe God was incarnate as the baby Jesus. This particular area of learning enabled the children to be really curious and question the beliefs of others, in a respectful way.



As part of this learning, we looked at paintings of this key concept and became art critics. The children then had a go at creating their own interpretations of the incarnation. Some were abstract and some were more traditional. Their understanding of the religious terminology alongside scientific knowledge was

outstanding. The uniqueness and independence really shone through.

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During the last week of term, the children enjoyed a festive lunch from Chartwells for those that had signed up. For packed lunches, children were invited to bring in a festive lunch, a Christmas hat and a joke. Festive music was played and their jokes were shared. The day of the lunch coincided with the Save the Children 'Christmas Jumper Day'. Everyone was invited to take part by coming to school wearing a Christmas jumper.

The children were able also to enjoy a class Christmas party and played fun festive games in the hall. They were invited to dress up in a 'Christmas outfit' and there were prizes for the winner in each class and two runner ups. The outfits have been wonderful and so much thought went into creating them. It brought so much happiness to the school and everyone had a fantastic time.

The children took part in decorating their classroom doors as well, the theme was 'Christmas around the world'. The doors were

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then judged by pupils and staff and the winning class from each year was able to choose a book to be purchased for their classroom. The results were very close and all the children did such an amazing job.

Other activities have included an inter-class school quiz, a poetry competition and teachers read festive stories virtually for the children. The choir sang beautifully at Light Up Hassocks, so thank you to all the children who practised so hard and made it a success. Finally, a big thank you to FOW's for providing the sweet treats for the children's advent calendar and for holding a stall at Light Up Hassocks.

We would like to wish everyone all the very best for the New Year and we look forward to informing readers more about life at The Windmills during 2022!

*Ruth Jayal*

*Deadline for March issue 1st February*

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**HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** Meet at Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint at 2 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. On **2nd February**, David Tingley, Editor of Hurst Life will be talking to us about the Magazine.

On **2nd March**, Hurst Hedgehog Heaven with Ann Winney

Our January meeting was cancelled due to the current Covid situation. Colin Walford has agreed to talk to us about Oldland Mill later in the year.

At present, we would ask anyone attending the meetings to have taken a lateral flow test and to wear a mask if possible. Thank you.

For more information, please contact me on **01273 649023** or Dianne on **01273 835284**.

*Ann Tranter*

**HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** meet on **9th February** at Adastra Hall, Hassocks at 8 pm. With special guest Jane Terry 'Gardening for Water Management'. All welcome.

*Pat Ticehurst*

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**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON** At the time of writing (end December), the pattern of services going into 2022 hadn't been finalised.

There will be a 10 am service of Holy Communion at St. Margaret's, Ditchling on most Sundays each month. Check our website **www.beaconparish.co.uk/services** for details of services being held in Streat and/or Westmeston. You will be very welcome.

*Sherrian Guest*

*John Norris of Hurstpierpoint writes:-* I was interested to see, in the last edition of Village Voice, the 1930s photograph of Hurst Fire Brigade and engine, submitted by David Evans. For some years the engine's 1920s(?) predecessor stood decaying on waste ground not far away and one of my childhood pleasures in the late 1940s was being taken there by my grandmother to climb into the driving seat and pretend to drive it. Does anyone else remember the old engine?

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**2nd HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP** Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 2 pm. 'Hurst Life Magazine' - David Gingell. Guests welcome.

**5th BRIGHTON CONSORT** Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint 4 pm, 'Back to Basics' tickets 01273 833746.

**5th TOAD SUMMIT** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 1.30 pm. Free event for toad patrollers to get together and learn more. See article for booking.

**6th HEBER OPERA** Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.30 pm. 'Open Rehearsal for all' call 07802 735190

**6th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion

**7th HASSOCKS WI** Green Room, Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 2 pm. New afternoon Craft Club. 'Crochet' Guests welcome.

**8th LUNCHTIME JAZZ** Hassocks Hotel, 12 pm, lunch included with booking call Jo 01444 235986

**8th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 8 pm. 'Rewilding Knepp Castle' Penny Green

**9th HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Gardening for Water Management' Jane Terry. All welcome.

**11th STAR CINEMA** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. 'James Bond - No Time To Die'. PG-13. Cash only on the door.

**11th BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY SOCIETY** Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill 8 pm. 'Archaeology of the Burgess Hill Northern Arc'



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**13th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion

**14th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY** Adastra Hall, 7.45 pm 'Mary Anning - An Amazing Woman in a Man's World' Ray Hale.

**16th HASSOCKS TREFOIL GUILD** Guide Hut, Semley Road, Hassocks 8 pm. International event 'Come and Travel the World'. Visitors welcome.

**20th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion

**21st HASSOCKS WI** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.30 pm. 'Mary Anning - A remarkable Woman in a Man's World' Ray Hale. Guests welcome.

**25th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY** Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 8 pm Osgar and his Anglo Saxon artifacts plus old English language. Guests welcome.

**26th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET** National Tyres Forecourt, 9 am - 1 pm, Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

**26th REPAIR CAFE** Hassocks URC, 10 am - 12.30 pm, bring items for repair book your slot [www.hkd-transition.org.uk](http://www.hkd-transition.org.uk)

**27th ST MARGARET'S CHURCH** Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion

**28th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY** Adastra Hall, 7.45 pm 'Recycling in West Sussex' Colin McFarlin

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"Now, you got a corpse in a car, minus a head...take me to it." In Quentin Tarantino's movie Pulp Fiction, Winston Wolf provides a professional clean-up service for two incompetent hitmen when they have a little 'problem' that needs solving urgently. Hopefully, illicit corpse disposal isn't a regular dilemma for readers of this magazine - but in the natural world death, disposal, decay and decomposition are vital, constant processes which recycle the nutrients that keep our planet functioning. This clean-up duty is undertaken by a cast of unsung underworld characters. Bacteria and blow-flies, fungi and foxes, worms and woodlice all put their tendrils, talons, mandibles and molars to the task. But if you want a corpse removed efficiently and cleanly you had better call in the professionals: the sexton beetles.

The sextons are members of the family Silphidae. At about 3cm long they are amongst the heavy-weights of our county's 3,000 beetle species. Some sextons can be identified by their lurid orange wing-cases; a hi-vis jacket befitting a worker at the scene of a tragedy. Now, let's say you've got a dead blue tit in the back yard. Its little soul will have winged its way to that great peanut feeder in the sky and now it's time to return its earthly body back to the soil. Sextons, armed with super-sensitive chemoreceptors in their clubbed antennae, can detect the sweet smell of death from a mile away.

The male flies in first and assesses the scene. First job - call for backup. He secretes a stink from his rear end to lure in a female and his partner arrives. Next job - secure the corpse. The beetles start

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beetling around the blue tit, stripping off the feathers. But - phew-wee! That smell will soon be luring in every fly in the neighbourhood and the sextons don't want to draw attention to their work. So, they baste the body with their antibacterial and antifungal chemicals, slowing down the decay and preventing the pong. Now the sextons live up to their name. Working together, they dig a grave and line it with feathers. The corpse is tenderly lowered down into the earth. It's here, in this cosy crypt, that the sextons will raise their family. Eggs are laid and develop into hungry larvae which, unusually for an insect, 'beg' for food and are fed by their devoted parents. The bird's body is slowly stripped of flesh and reduced to a simple skeleton. After pupation, new sexton beetles emerge from the soil and fly away, perhaps to find their own corpse or to become food for birds themselves. No eulogy, no flowers, yet it's still a dignified, life-affirming send off. So, when it's my time to go, just drag me into the garden and let the sextons do their job.

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*Michael Blencowe*

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## **STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP**

When I left you at the end of last month's magazine my very good friend at the time David Fuller had without my knowledge answered an advert for extras for a remake of the Charge of the Light Brigade. This one was intended to be more factual than the Errol Flynn version made in 1936 where good old Errol defeated the Russians single handed and survived. We are now 1968 and I have been told to be at an old WWII airfield which was near Hartley Whitney on June 19th. Strange how that date always stuck in my mind, if you know the area Hartley Whitney, Minley, Heckfield etc, most of the land in that area is owned by the MOD so, it very rarely changes. You don't get masses of new homes springing up all over the place. I had just passed my driving test and my parents have bought me a Triumph Herald from Solomon's and Sons in Camberley High Street. It was my pride and joy so I drove David and myself to this very secret airfield. When we got there it was like a step back in time, men in light brigade uniforms were walking about everywhere. We handed in our letters of invitation and were directed to the first of many marquees.

This was the catering tent, and it was full of the most glorious food, it made the sandwiches my mum had made to take with me look very small but, I ate them anyway. After that we went to the next tent which was where we were fitted with our uniforms, a very professional lady threw a tape measure round me and went along the rail, picked out a uniform, handed it to me, then directed me to the changing area. I put it on and looked in the mirror it fitted beautifully, perhaps Adam Ant got his outfit ideas from something like this, even the boots were a right size. In the next tent I got my helmet for a light cavalry man. Next tent was the armoury where I got my sword belt and lance, even at this point I could feel the adrenaline building up in my body, mind you, nothing that I was wearing would have offered me any protection from real cannon fire. The next stop were the stables where I was given a fully tacked very feisty light grey horse about 16 hands. He was very excited as well and raring to go. We had to use the mountain block to get on then someone handed me my lance which slotted into the little holder down by my stirrup so I could hold it easier. I then had half an hour to ride around to get the feel of my horse and uniform, it was certainly more comfortable than the cavalier's outfit I had worn a few months earlier. I met up with David who was dressed just the same, he was very happy and like me looking forward to the next stage which was lining up in groups of 12. I suppose there must have been 100 of us in total, then we had to walk, staying in a straight line which they called walk charge, then, all of a sudden they started playing cannon fire noise and explosions all over the Tano system. We then had to go into canter and at this point, we were all directed to lower our lance ready for the charge. I felt as if my head was about to explode, the excitement was almost unbearable, then the order was given to charge, full gallop towards the straw bales. I was screaming at the top of my voice, what I was screaming I couldn't tell you but, I was there, I could see the cannons and the Russians, and I was in kill mode. When I eventually reached the straw bales, I thrust my lance through one then leapt off my horse and started slashing away at it with my sword, the adrenaline had completely taken me over, I totally lost it but, wow I was enjoying myself. I just completed a mock-up of the Charge of the Light Brigade something I knew I'd never do again. I hated giving the uniform back if I could have stolen it I would have, neither David or I got the job but, we didn't care we had had a great day even now my thoughts go out to the real men who, without question made the charge into almost certain death, they were an army of lions led by donkeys, that has a familiar ring to it?

I often wonder what happened to David Fuller maybe became a blacksmith like his father I suspect.

Ridley Scott is at the moment making a film about Napoleon called Kitbag, it may feature another famous charge, that of the Scots Grey at Waterloo 18th June 1815. I wonder if any of these events are taught in history these days.

Before I go, blind John a man, I greatly admire, would like me to thank everyone involved at the Club RBL which was formerly the British Legion for all the sterling work they do, the way they look after him and all the fabulous events they put on, a big thank you from all of us to all of you.

Steve - stay safe and see you next month and remember to support your local shops.

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