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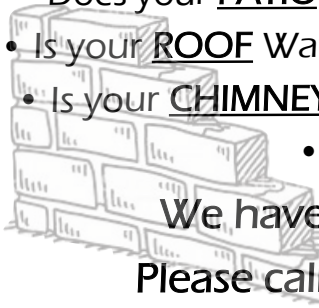
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THE MONDAY GROUP - LUNCE'S COMMON PROJECT AUGUST 2024

The Monday Group has recently completed several improvements to the footpaths across Lunce's Common in the area between Theobald's Road and Church Lane.

The major project has provided a safe walkway uphill from the bridge across the stream on Footpath WIV 1/2. The "Before" photos, taken in July this year, show how waterlogged the surface was even at that time of year. In winter it's almost impossible to traverse! There have also been reports of broken and sprained ankles, and other injuries, to walkers in recent years. Construction, over 4 weeks, required the manufacturing of 7 walkway sections, made of sustainable oak with non-slip decking overlay, and their placement on site to elevate walkers above the impassable surfaces and to allow the natural flow of the water onto the nearby stream. Generous donations from local residents have contributed significantly to this work, and to some additional tasks in the area including repairs to a nearby stile and an additional handrail at steps further along the path to Wivelsfield.

The Monday Group would also like to thank the owner of the land for allowing us access for our vehicle, allowing us to transport the necessary materials to site - an impossible task to undertake manually.

Stephen Brewis



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Many of you will have seen the Postcode Community Trust awarded us with an incredible £50,000. Words cannot describe how important this is to us as a self-funded Charity and means that many projects we have been unable to fund will now be possible, including, building renovations and updating our electrics to be more environmentally and energy efficient with the help of solar panels. Knowing that we will be able to continue our work here at Age Concern, supporting our community is another wonderful outcome from their generosity. The video of the presentation is on our Facebook page.

September included our first Craft Fair; another Rummage Sale; a Fall Awareness talk; a visit to the English Martyrs Church with lunch in Goring-by-Sea and Cake at the College which was part of Hurst Festival. We have an outing to The Orchards, Haywards Heath this month and another visit from The Sundown Ukelele Band on **31st October** which is free to all and great fun – everyone welcome. Do pop into the Office or call one of our Team if you would like any further information.

We have noticed quite a few Parents come into our Charity Shop whilst waiting to pick up their children from School. Our Coffee Shop is open to everyone serving drinks and cake until just

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after 3pm Tuesday to Friday – you could stop off and have a Mad Dog coffee or a cup of tea whilst you wait. We have a bright and airy conservatory and if the weather is good, a lovely patio where you can come and pass the time – we also offer takeaway drinks and cake. We have a variety of coffees, a choice of hot chocolate drinks, a selection of teas and delicious cakes made on site by our Kitchen Team. The Centre closes at 4 pm.

We are always happy to welcome new Members to our Day Centre where we serve a three-course freshly cooked lunch Monday to Friday and a bus Tuesday and Thursday, picking up from Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling. If you live outside our regular pick-up areas, please give us a ring and we will see if we can accommodate you. Please ask the Office to book transport and/or lunch the day before or up to 10 am on the day you'd like to join us. The menu changes weekly and is on our website.

Our Charity Shop is open 9 am to 4 pm every weekday and 9 am to 12 pm on Saturdays. Donations are most welcome. While you are visiting the Charity Shop why not stop by for a drink and cake in our Coffee Shop – everyone welcome 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday.

Feel free to come in and see what we have to offer. We look forward to seeing you.

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HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

We start this season's series of talks with Friday **4th October** 7.30 pm "Unknown Brighton - The Chalkpit Furlong" a part of working Brighton that has now completely disappeared. Speaker Dr Geoffrey Mead.

This is followed by Friday **25th October** 7.30 pm "Sussex Murders and Misdemeanours" real life cases from the 18th and 19th centuries. Speaker Paul Green. At the Guide HQ, SE corner of Trinity Road Car park, Hurstpierpoint. All welcome. For further details please email hurst.hist.geog.soc@gmail.com.

Mrs J Simmons

HASSOCKS ON SHOW RETURNS!

Following the success of our event last year, Adastra Hall is once more hosting Hassocks On Show - a showcase of clubs and societies for all ages from across our village - on Saturday **26th October** from 10 am to 3 pm.

Come and find a new pastime - with 30 or so organisations represented - bell ringing, youth club, rock choir, WI, U3a, and many, many more. There will be something for everyone and we'd

love you to come out and find out more about the lovely village we live in. Entry is free and there'll be a raffle with great prizes donated by our stallholders, and refreshments and cakes served by the WI. For more information - take a look at www.adastrahall.com/hassocks-on-show.

Chris Hobbs

DITCHLING DOWNS WI Our July meeting was our summer party in the barn on the village green - this was very well attended and we all had a lovely time listening to some music from the 60s and doing a quiz. Thanks to Bryony and Shea for the flowers and the arranging. August saw a few of us go on our theatre visit to Chichester to see Oliver - a wonderful production with some very catchy tunes.

Our monthly meetings in the Village Hall resume on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm - the next few meetings are as follows:

Tuesday **1st October** - Dealing with Poverty
Tuesday **5th November** - Raystede Animal Sanctuary

I look forward to seeing you there and of course newcomers are very welcome. *Susanne Pryde*

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DITCHLING PLAYERS AUTUMN PRODUCTION 20th - 23rd November.

By the time you read this, rehearsals for the Players November production will be well under way and we are all very excited about it.

Firstly, we're pleased to welcome a new director, Robert Tremayne, who will not only be putting us through our paces but has also adapted the script of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol". What makes this different to other productions is that, except for Scrooge, the various roles are played by members of the cast sometimes doubling and even trebling up to enable them to

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show off their versatility. To add to this, we are also pleased to welcome several new faces to the Ditchling stage.

We also intend to make this an immersive production so, as well as the usual Refreshments, we will also be selling Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, just to get you even more into the Christmas spirit.

We are conscious that a lot of our audience members do not like to come out at night and for that reason would you please note that there will only be a matinee performance on the Saturday and no evening performance that night.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased either in person at The White Horse, Ditchling or online (please note that a booking fee applies) via our website -

<https://ditchlingplayers.org.uk/wordpressnew>
Curtain up for the evening performances is 7.30 pm (Doors open at 7 pm).

For the matinee on Saturday curtain up is 2.30 pm (Doors open at 2 pm).

Be sure not to miss this exciting production.
David Tattersell

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SHAKESPEARE'S STARLINGS - Three Act Tragedy.

Hey y'all, I'm mailing in this month's article from my vacation at Bodega Bay on the foggy Pacific coast of California. It may be all organic coffee, art galleries, surfer dudes and flip-flops but this quaint coastal community is notorious for being the location for a most sinister film: 'The Birds' (1963). Alfred Hitchcock has long gone but flocks of the film's stars still sit ominously perched on telegraph wires as if unaware that the portly director yelled "cut" 56 years ago. But unlike the local hummingbirds, phoebes and chickadees these particular birds look reassuringly familiar to me. They are *Sturnus vulgaris*, the European Starling, the same species we see wheeling around Brighton's West Pier in their dramatic amoeboid murmurations. And, like me, they don't really belong here. The Starlings are here thanks to Henry IV. Well, 'Henry IV Part 1' to be precise.

Act I: London, 1597. William Shakespeare scribbles the word 'Starling' in his epic tale of power and treachery. With that feathered flourish of his quill, Shakespeare would unknowingly be the author of an ecological catastrophe that would play out until the present day.

Act II: New York, 1877. Enter stage right Eugene Schieffelin, a socialite who would later be remembered as "an eccentric at best, a lunatic at worst". He chaired the American Acclimatization Society, a group which, despite their nationalistic sounding name, were very keen to welcome foreigners. In

fact, their aim was to import animals of economic or cultural interest from the Old World to the New. Schieffelin, a big fan of Shakespeare, had a dream: to populate America with every bird mentioned in Shakespeare's writings. And so the bard's birds were boxed up in England and brought to New York where Skylarks, Pied Wagtails, Bullfinches, Nightingales, Chaffinches and many more were 'liberated' into Central Park. The majority of them died. But on March 6, 1890, 60 Starlings (a bird mentioned only once by Shakespeare) were released in Central Park and they fared better. Much better. Today there are around 200 million of them across the United States.

Act III: United States, present day. The story of Schieffelin's Shakespearian motivation may just be an urban legend but the legacy of his misguided American Acclimatization Society is very real. Today European Starlings are widely vilified by Americans as aggressive pests that have destroyed precious ecosystems and turfed out native species. Which is pretty rich coming from a bunch of invasive Europeans who have been doing just that for the past few centuries! And since then there have been many who have appeared hellbent on dismantling this country's environmental regulations which protect wildlife, the landscape and our planet. But sure, let's blame the birds. As Mr Shakespeare (almost) once wrote, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our Starlings, / But in ourselves".

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Saturday 12th October from 10.30 am to 12 pm
 at Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST. This is the Quaker Meeting House (not to be confused with the Old Meeting House in the Twitten)

Feel free to bring your glut of beans, marrows or windfall apples! Or just bring yourself! We look forward to seeing you.

Catherine, Imke & Julie

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL, St. Margaret's Church, Ditchling **6th – 8th December**.

As I mentioned last month, we're looking forward to welcoming lots of local organisations and businesses to our first Christmas Tree Festival. Wherever you're based, we'd love to have you join us and display a real or artificial Christmas Tree (or more than one)! with your choice of theme and decoration.

This is a great opportunity to highlight what you do and any special events or offers you'll have in the run up to Christmas.

For further details about what's involved and to book a slot, please email sherrian.guest@uw-club.net as soon as possible. *Sherrian Guest*

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DITCHLING'S ANNUAL 'APPLE DAY'

celebration is almost here, Sunday **6th October**, 11 am to 4 pm. Lots of fun, food, cakes, bar, stalls, music, smoothie bike, and of course the famous welly wanting competition. As ever, bring your own or foraged apples and we will juice them using our scruncher and juicers (please remember to bring containers to take your juice away!)
Simon

THE GROUP "I always have people to go out with....."

Alone. On me tod. On the shelf. Divorced. Widowed. Single. Separated. How many ways are there to say "I am not in a partnership"? There are many. But there are also many ways to say "I enjoy the company of friends", "I always have people to go out with", "I don't feel lonely".

An unusual paragraph with which to start an article perhaps but it's important to say that being on one's own doesn't have to be difficult.

People in Sussex are having fun. And I don't mean just young people. I'm referring to people who are aged 55+. Times may have been difficult, but tough times can be overcome and that's why The Group is celebrating/has celebrated its first eighteen years in September. It's a Sussex club for men and women, which has monthly meetings in Burgess Hill and

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events all over Sussex. Take a look at The Group's website www.thegroup.org.uk. Turn up at a club night (you don't have to let us know you are coming), or call one of the numbers on the website for more information.

The Group isn't a business or agency. It's a club run by volunteers. Come along. You won't regret it.

What's on - Monday 14th October, Monday 11th November, Monday 9th December.

The Group for unattached men and women, aged 55+, meets on the second Monday evening of every month at The Railway pub, Burgess Hill. Please see www.thegroup.org.uk *Patricia Bentley*

BURGESS HILL KEYBOARD CLUB

presents Marty Rolfe, Rosalie Birchmore, Eaton & Webb and Vociferous Tim at The Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill from 7.15 pm to 9.45 pm Doors open 6 pm on Friday **18th October**.

Refreshments available please call Rosalie on **01444 241269** for tickets. *Beryl*

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For any of the above please ring Dorothy Lazenby on **01444 450947.** *Dorothy*

HASSOCKS WI Meets 3rd Monday in the month at Adastra Hall Doors open 7.30 pm starts 7.45 pm.

Our Breast Cancer Now Charity Tea raised £560 in August. Once again thanks to Bake Out for their scone donation, everyone who made the delicious refreshments, and the Community Choir, who sang many of Judith's favourite songs during the afternoon. Well done.

The September meeting will be a talk on Marianne North, reading through our great free Talkabout, every club seems to have booked the same speaker. We will be experts on MN's life and paintings.

Our October meeting is our 15th Birthday Party.

It is a member only evening. Food, fizz and hopefully fun will aid our celebration. Hassocks WI is running the refreshments for Hassocks On Show on **26th October**. Come along. At our November meeting we will be donning our boots and learning how to, or refreshing our moves with Lesley and her 'Steps Line Dance Club'. Just the thing to get us moving on a cold evening. Although my feet get confused it will be a jolly time. Do try and make it, visitors are most welcome (donation).

On a more serious note one of the nationwide WI campaigns is 'No more violence against women and girls'. An estimated 1.6 million women in the UK have experienced violence.

We aim to hold an Extra Slice afternoon open meeting in November. More details later.

As usual we will hold our busy additional meetings, the Craft Club, Community Choir, walking group and books groups. Look on our website for updated information. Don't stay at home, come along and enjoy a sociable time with us.

Gerry

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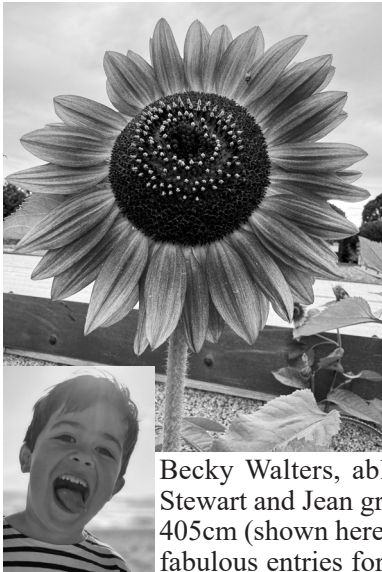
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HASSOCKS GOES GOLD SUNFLOWER COMPETITION 2024



2024 has been a tougher year than usual for growing sunflowers in Hassocks. Unfortunately, the slugs had their way with a lot of plants before they grew more than a few inches. Nevertheless, we still had some impressive entries for our 5th annual competition. The well-deserved 2024 winners were announced on 1st September to mark the start of this year's Hassocks Goes Gold campaign led by Rachel BartlettBundy.



Becky Walters, ably assisted by her neighbours Stewart and Jean grew the tallest sunflower at a monstrous 405cm (shown here in all its splendour). We also had some fabulous entries for our 'prettiest sunflower' category this year, recognising that it's not just size that matters but that small and beautiful can be just as deserving of prizes! This category was judged by Matt Burnett of Maple Leaf Gardens who kindly sponsors the event each year. His chosen winner was 5-year-old Xavi Drinkwater-Eke who grew a stunning orange sunflower (shown here). Our runner up was 7-year-old Leila Percy with her sunflower entitled "Goldilocks the Princess Sunflower". Many thanks to everyone who entered, we hope that residents of Hassocks have enjoyed the sight of sunflowers around the village, even if it's a few less than last year. By the time this article comes out, the month of Hassocks Goes Gold will be coming to an end but there is always time to donate - you can use this link to take you to the fundraising page: www.justgiving.com/page/hgg2023. Every penny is really appreciated and goes towards the fight for better treatments for childhood cancer. Congratulations to all of our winners!

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TWINEHAM C OF E SCHOOL Due to the recent expansion of the Governing Board we are currently seeking 2 new Co-opted (community) Governor appointments and would be delighted if someone who resides nearby would take up the posts/s.

What is a school governor? School governors have a varied and important role, in helping our school run effectively. They have 3 core functions: Planning the strategic direction of the school. Overseeing financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent. Holding the head teacher or school leadership to account.

The governor role is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day to day running of a school, instead supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement. They champion the work the school does.

Our governing board - Our board consists of 12 people and we meet all together circa 10 times per year - mainly in person and sometimes via Zoom. We also have a resources committee that governors can join -which oversees how money is spent.

Our governors come from our local community and in their role they: Get to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours and in agreement with the head teacher to support monitoring of school stan-

dards to gain a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. Attend induction training and regular relevant training and development events. Attend meetings (full governing board meetings and committee meetings) and read all the papers before the meeting. Act in the best interests of all the pupils of the school. Behave in a professional manner, as set down in the governing board's code of conduct, including acting in strict confidence.

Being a school governor is a commitment and a responsibility but offers you the chance to see first-hand the impact you can make in improving education for children in your community.

Do I need to have certain qualifications? No special qualifications are needed, and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work.

At the moment we are particularly looking for someone who can strengthen our board with skills in Education and Finance, though this is not a requirement for the role and are happy to consider any applications

How do I apply? To find out more about the role, you can find information on the Governors for Schools website www.governorsforschools.org.uk, alternatively you can get in touch with Julia Pattenden Chair of Governors via jpattenden@twineham.w-sussex.sch.uk or **07721 620292** who will arrange to talk you through what it involves.

If you would like to apply, please contact me for an application form.

If it's something you might be interested in we hope you'll apply. We really are keen to have more local community voices within our school.

Julia Pattenden

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Our hugely successful Bonfire evening will be returning on Sunday **3rd November** with gates open at 4.30 pm for 5.30 pm Firework Spectacular, followed by bonfire and accompanied by The Hassocks catering with their delicious burgers. NB parking restricted to Disabled badge holders.

Tickets will be on sale later in October with on-line tickets and also tickets available from QD Stationery (Cash Only) in Hassocks and Pierpoint Pets in Hurst.

Please support this event which supports Oldland Mill Trust, Hurst Gym Club and the following schools:- Albourne, Birchwood Grove, Hassocks Infants, London Mead, St. Lawrence & Southway.

More details in the next magazine and through the Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club website:- hurstpierpointgym.co.uk. *Andrew*

STOOLBALL DITCHLING This year we held our end of the 2024 season supper & presentations.



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Each of the Stoolball Ditchling committee received a bottle of wine as a gesture of thanks for their outstanding contribution.



Individual prizes for Kathryn Browne (Most improved player) Frances Jane Palmer (Contribution to the club) Andrea Stratford (Most Valuable Player) on the field of play.

Chairman, Michael Stratford thanked everyone for their contributions

And commented that the increased players strength including two fine juniors, had produced three league wins and two cup wins, which was a marked improvement.

Michael Stratford

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH Our farm seems to grow worked flints. The bands of sandy soil which run east to west across the land are seeded with flakes, cores, and tools in various stages of completion – all the handiwork of human ancestors from the Deep Past. Michael spots them on his rounds where moles have unearthed them, or the pigs have turned them up with their snouts. They glisten in the sun after rain. They sit in his hand like familiar friends. “This one was a scraper, look. See the indented edge, useful for skinning prey? The shell-like bulge where the hammer-stone struck it free from a larger flint?” They lie strewn, like the dragon’s teeth of Greek legend and though they do not spring up as armed men, they do raise legions of questions in my mind when they come home in Michael’s pockets and pile up quietly on the window-sill in the hall. Who fashioned them and what kind of world did they inhabit in those far-off Paleolithic days? Their handiwork passes us hints of the reality they knew, of the skills they had honed, of their choice of location. Could they have imagined that some descendant would find and cherish the discarded, perhaps half-worked tools they had abandoned, tens of thousands of years before? Most indigenous societies have a view of time which to us seems back-to-front.

Still, today in Village Africa or among the Inuit, the

Gogga 

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Past is the place where man is headed. Humans are destined to join the ancestors which have preceded them, and the job of each individual is a heroic one: to weave Time, which arrives raw and unformed, into something worthy – something which will prove beneficial and life-fulfilling to the young who are to follow them. The Ancestors leave their memory to guide and encourage by example. In this way any and all of them can live on after death and help the living so long as they remain in peoples’ minds. The role of the living, meanwhile, is to succour life and earn the respect of those who will one day remember *them*. Here is the ‘seventh generation’ that North American Indians honoured when they planted trees for a time, they themselves would not live to see. Surely this is the origin of ‘culture’: the encoding of memory and knowledge which can safeguard the survival of the community.

Earliest of all were depictions of the hunt - of the life force - fertility – the permutations of the seasons; then tales of heroism – courage and cleverness, (vital qualities in a dangerous world), and notes on medicine, and astronomy... the meaning of life and death... These messages come to us in rock art, in carvings, and then in voices we can actually hear – the remembered lines of epic poems, sagas, and *then* in written form. This is, I suppose, why I have always cared so



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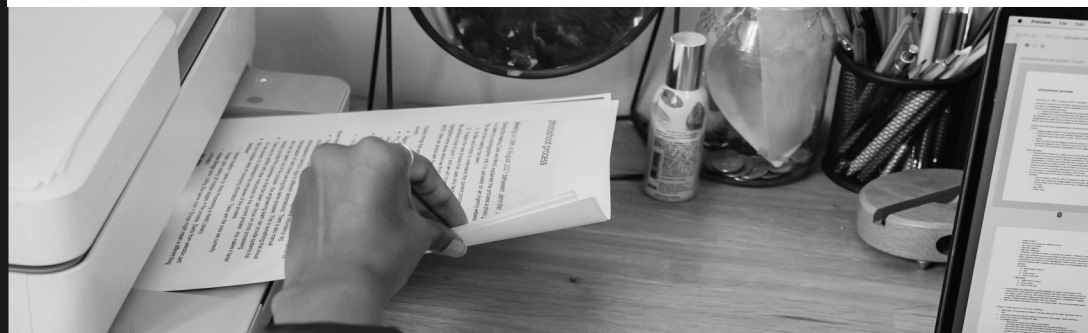
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passionately about literature. Ancestral voices reach us this way with a freshness and directness which seems utterly miraculous. The words are gifts, seeds which can germinate anew in anyone's mind for the relatively simple effort of learning the lingo, even after centuries of being lost and buried. That the past can reach out to us in this way has always mesmerised me. As a child, I was lucky enough to have long-lived great-aunts and -uncles who were willing to share with me stories of their own childhoods. These memories brought alive for me scenes of life before the the Great War, of gleaners toiling in the fields in Hampshire, of laundry girls skipping with long ropes in the streets of Brighton... I was hungry then, as now, for any wisdom they could pass on. And what they could tell me, from their humble origins, has certainly withstood the test of time. Their voices still ring in my ears and make my world a companionable place. When we start to listen, there is no end to the stories that the past has for us and we need to hear as many as possible in order to prepare fertile ground for our cultural heirs.

At Stoneywish we have another tangible gift from the past in the form of a 'juvenile' Redwood which is already beginning to tower above other trees in the Pinetum. The tree is a Mountain Redwood, a specimen of *Wellingtonia Gigantea*, among whose veterans are the largest and some of the oldest trees on Earth. A mere fifty or so years ago, the seed of our tree was collected from the Sequoia National Park in

California and coaxed into germination here in Sussex. The tree was given to us as a baby, the size of a small Christmas tree, and after 35 years here has reached a height of over 60 feet. Mature trees, felled by foresters in California, have yielded tree-ring readings of over 3,200 years. Seeds of the newly discovered 'Big Trees' arrived in Britain in 1843, and soon provided a fashionable addition to every plantsman's garden. The choice of name, *Wellingtonia*, was made ten years later as a tribute to Wellington, who had recently died and remained the 'biggest' hero we had at the time. But Sequoias were not really new to Britain and fossil evidence shows that they were growing here long ago, during the Eocene and Miocene Periods. In a sense you could say that our tree has found its way home and already it is producing cones and seeds of its own – messages, encrypting the essence of its DNA for the next 4,000 years? For several mornings this week I have sat, drawing this Redwood, exploring the complexities of its form, the way the light plays through the branches, and simply sitting with the tree has brought me closer to it. Stillness is something we are rarely able to share with trees. We are always in a hurry or have an agenda. We take a proprietorial stance towards them. We decide what must be done, or we extract information, or produce from them. To draw a tree is to reduce oneself in size to the point of a pencil – a mere ant – creeping from crevice to crevice in the corrugated bark, or teetering along branches which

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extend, like muscular elephant trunks, in all directions. It is a lesson in humility. In fact, I gave myself a stiff neck, craning to take in the monumental outline from my little stool. But my reward was to enter into a communion of stillness, through depths of bruise-like shadow, purple and brown; to share the sweet pungency of soil-infused air, which we breathed together in a detachment outside time. The Scottish naturalist John Muir, one of the first Westerners to celebrate and fight for the preservation of the American Redwoods, experienced this communion as a kind of intoxication when he first came upon them in Yosemite Valley in the 1860s. In his book *'The Wisdom of the Ancients'*, Neil Oliver quotes from a letter Muir wrote to Jean Carr, wife of his tutor: "The king tree and me have sworn eternal love, sworn it without swearing... I've taken the sacrament in Sequoia wine, Sequoia blood... Seen with sunbeams in it, its colour is the most royal of all purples. I wish I was so drunk and Sequoical I could preach the green brown woods to all the juiceless world, descending from this divine wilderness like a John Baptist." Did Marianne North experience the same feelings when she set up her easel to paint the Big Trees in the Sierras? What is the message these gentle giants have for us today? Logging companies are still destroying ancient redwood forests for lumber at an alarming rate, causing local

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climate change and exacerbating California's wildfire catastrophes. Can we hear anything above the roar of chainsaws? Oliver's movingly humane approach to archaeology finds lingering traces of warmth in the finger-prints of our ancestors. Burials, hearth-places, fragments of everyday life miraculously preserved, hold lessons, warnings and reminders for us about what is timeless and what it means to share this planet. Older ancestors, the animals and plants from which our own species has evolved, also have their own vital tales to tell. If we listen well, Oliver suggests, we will become seed-bearers in turn, ensuring shelter and protection for the present and leaving generous stores for the future. We are not at the end of things. We are in the middle, which is why the Ancient Celts and their cousins the Vikings and Saxons called our place Middle Earth. The challenge facing us all is not so much how to be the last man standing, but how to fashion a message worth leaving behind.

Rosemary

STAR CINEMA The film at the Adastra Hall for **18th October** is Joyride, starring Olivia Coleman. Doors open 7 pm and film starts 7 30 pm. Tickets on the door. Tea, coffee, wine, plus the usual popular raffle.

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BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

Brighton Early Music Festival (BREMf) will be presenting its autumn programme soon, with a series of exciting concerts in October. The theme for 2024 is "Connections". As usual, the festival will present both new talent and well established, much-loved BREMF performers.

The main festival starts Friday **11th October**, but before then there are some pre-festival events on offer. The Telling will be performing at The Brunswick in Hove on Wednesday **2nd October**, and on the morning of Saturday **5th October** musicians from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will present their highly popular OAE TOTS concerts for children aged 2 to 5 and their parents, grandparents or carers. The main festival has 13 different lunchtime and evening events. These are scheduled to make it possible for you to attend all of them if you're really keen and if you book for 6 or more in one go, you'll benefit from a 10% discount. All the events are described in detail on the BREMF website (go to www.bremf.org.uk/whats-on/), but here are some of the highlights.

On Friday **11th October** in St George's Church, Kemptown you can hear the ever popular and spectacular Red Priest in Truly, Madly Baroque. On the following day, in the same venue, the Armonico Consort present Family Connections: The Forgotten Scarlatti. A totally different type of event will follow on Sunday **13th October** in St Martin's Church, Brighton, when multiple performers are involved in Origins - an immersive show exploring ancient roots and connections via music, dance and stories from the Mediterranean, India and West Africa.

Music for the 1468 wedding of Margaret of York to

Charles the Bold of Burgundy will be featured in Connections Of Power on Friday **18th October** (St Bartholomew's Church). The following day is a busy one with three events – Don't Stop The Music, at lunchtime in St Nicholas Church, followed by two events featuring four young emerging professional early music groups; firstly the ever-popular BREMF Live Showcase (Saturday **19th October**, 3.30 pm in St George's Church) and then an informal pub performance by the same groups (9 pm in The Rose Hill). The next day there is a chance to hear the haunting music of Hildegard of Bingen (Sunday **20th October**, 6.30 pm and 8.30 pm in St Martin's).

The final weekend of BREMF has Smock Alley – Irish and Italian music (Friday **25th October** in St George's), Decameron Musicale - musical stories from Medieval Europe (Saturday **26th October** at lunchtime in St Nicholas), French Connections – works by Carissimi, Charpentier and Lully (**26th October** in St Martin's), and Catherine & Mary: Tudor Queens Forever Entwined (**27th October** in St Martin's).

It's been a great year for BREMF, with funding from Arts Council England and a very successful Big Give donation campaign back in March. As well as all that, BREMF's Artistic Director, Deborah Roberts, was awarded a British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours this summer, in recognition of her work in establishing the festival as a major part of the arts scene in Brighton and beyond. If you've been before, you will know that BREMF events are very friendly and welcoming. You can find out more about BREMF on its website www.bremf.org.uk – and of course you can book your tickets there as well.

Mike Clemens

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WESTMESTON JUBILEE PATHWAY TRUST - APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

History - Westmeston Parish Hall opened on the first day of the Millenium and immediately became a huge success. The location of the hall at the extreme eastern end of the parish was accessible by car and bicycle but posed difficulties for people wishing to walk, owing to the lack of verges on the high roadside banks. The route along the carriageway was extremely hazardous, at any time, more so for children, and anyone during dusk and the hours of darkness. The parish council was by then meeting at the hall and a proposal was tabled with a view to creating a traffic free safe track from Church Corner to the hall.

In 2002 Councillors Harold Rowling and Rob Mills formed an independent trust resulting in the construction of a surfaced track along the top of the bank on the south side of Lewes Road from Church Corner to the "V" bridleway, continuing on the north verge past Old Middleton to the entrance of the hall. This involved clearing, excavating and rolling in stone on a route that until then could only be traversed with difficulty. It was on ESCC Highway land. The project was financed by local fund raising, charitable gifts from local people, and grant aid. This was not paid for out of council tax, neither are the repairs and maintenance. The pathway proves its value on a daily basis with walkers and riders making use of the safe traverse. Additionally, it links Westmeston Bostal and the "V" Bostal, creating a "circular" route joining South Downs Way opening up a spectacular vista. This was opened in time for Her Majesty's golden jubilee.

Working on similar principles, the trustees built a similar pathway along an embankment on the south side of Lewes Road between Wapple Way and the wide green verge that runs through to a point opposite Spatham Lane. This track had an official opening at Hooks Acre attended by Norman Baker M.P. These two tracks were then linked by clearing a path for pedestrian use through the roadside copse on the north side between Wapple Way and Glebe cottages. This route continued east to the convergence of footpaths opposite April Cottage. It was achieved with the co-operation of private landowners granting the use of permissive paths along the inside of the hedge line.

The trustees aimed to provide a safe route along the

B2116 Lewes Road between the parish boundaries of Ditchling and Streat. Linking up with all the footpaths and bridleways en-route. The next task was reclaiming an impassable track between Spatham Lane and Shirleys. This stretch was within Ditchling parish and on completion it at last enabled people to travel safely between the parishes on foot, bikes or horses. This was followed by surfacing the remaining stretch of verge from Hooks Acre to our track that meets Wapple Way. The Trust acknowledges the valuable help and co-operation from Monday Group, Footpaths Conservation Society and Mid Sussex Bridleways Group who allocated some funding. These volunteers contributed both financial and practical help in clearing rubbish and overgrowth along the path lines. Thanks go also to the many people who helped financially through our fund-raising events and by personal contributions. The Turner Dumbrell Foundation, Ditchling Ball, Lottery and other charitable trusts provided vital help.

Present Day

The Jubilee Pathway is now used by hundreds of people who wish to walk safely from Ditchling to Westmeston and link up with bridleways and footpaths which criss-cross the area. Many users have no idea that this is a charitable project paid for and maintained by donation and volunteers.

With the increase in use and the wetter winters comes the need for more maintenance to keep the pathway open.

We are a small charity with only 4 volunteers and we need more local people to help us by offering to join working parties. We don't need expertise using chainsaws etc, although that would be welcome in a few places! We need willing hands who can use secateurs etc. to clear weeds and undergrowth away from the path. Presently we have been very fortunate to have had help from the Monday group but they have a huge area to cover and time is limited.

Without help these pathways will gradually disappear as growth makes them narrower and narrower and the ease

of passage will disappear with them
If you could help, please let us know by calling Rob or myself on **01273 84 3936** or email hooksacre@btinternet.com. Reg. Charity Number: 1095561. *Cathy Mills*

POPPY APPEAL & REMEMBRANCE 2024

Every year the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal demonstrates the generosity of the general public.

Poppy Appeal will launch this year on **17th October** with unmanned boxes being in many of the shops and businesses in Ditchling, Keymer and Hassocks.

No16 Sussex Army Cadet Force: We are delighted that the Army Cadet Force, stationed in Hurstpierpoint, have once again offered to collect for Poppy Appeal in Hassocks on Saturday **26th October**.

All our Poppy Boxes take cash but they will also have a QR Code that can be scanned with a smart phone, which will then be able to take a card donation.

Ditchling Field of Remembrance: This year we are hoping to introduce for the first time our own Field of Remembrance which will be sited in a designated space within the Ditchling War Memorial enclosure.

This will be an opportunity for everyone to not only remember those sacred names carved on the War Memorial itself, but also to be able to personalise a poppy cross with the name of a family member or friend who has at any time served with the Armed Forces.

In principle, remembrance crosses will be available in all our Poppy Boxes with a larger amount in the Ditchling Post Office. The concept is that for a donation you can personalise your remembrance

cross with family or a friend's name. Crosses should then be returned to the Ditchling Post Office.

On the weekend before Remembrance Sunday (**2nd/3rd November**), the crosses will be collected and set out in a formal Field of Remembrance at Ditchling War Memorial. The Field of Remembrance will remain in place for a month.

We very much hope you will embrace this opportunity to honour a loved one who previously served; and remind all of us of our gratitude to them. Please remember that this act of remembrance of naming a poppy cross is open to anyone who has served, during both war and peacetime, regular or reserves.

Remembrance Day Parade. Sunday - **10th November**. The Act of Remembrance Service will take place at Ditchling War Memorial, on Sunday **10th November** at 11 am for the two minutes silence. The Parade, led by Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band, will start from St Margaret's School and everyone taking part in the Parade should be outside the school entrance in Lewes Road, ready to step off no later than 10.20 am. St Margaret's School will be open from 10 am.

Each year we have a fantastic attendance from the Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, their Section Leaders, plus our RBL Legion Members. However, we would also really like to invite more adults and family's to parade with us as well.

One does not need to have personally served to march with the parade or be a member of RBL. If you have a relative or friend who deserves to be remembered, please do consider coming to march with us to the War Memorial. It is absolutely your right to do so. You might wish to remember a parent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, grandparent, great grandparent who served; if you have their medals, you are also entitled to wear them (please fix these to the right hand breast pocket).



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Most of us have a relative or a name at least of some family member who has had a connection with the Services. If you do, then please do come and join us for the parade. It is genuinely such a privilege on this one day of the year to take time out to attend and remember them during the two minutes silence.

It is a lovely friendly atmosphere, and of course the more adults that we have on parade, the greater significance and importance the event has for all our young people also marching. In an age when we have less veterans to attend the parade, it falls to us to ensure that we honour and remember those that went before.

The service will start at 10.50 am, and everyone is very welcome to attend. Once the ceremonials at the War Memorial have ended a further service will take place in St Margaret's Church.

This year we would be honoured to include your personalised Poppy Cross in our new Ditchling Field of Remembrance. In addition, we would be delighted if you would march with us from the St Margaret's School to the War Memorial.

Lest we forget

If I can be of further help or you need any other information about any of the above, please do not



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hesitate to contact me on **01273 845319**. Margaret Bovill, RBL Ditchling & District Poppy Appeal Organiser. *Margaret Bovill*

THE HURST VILLAGE ADVENT CALENDAR WINDOWS 2024

Join us in creating a festive spirit around the village with the return of the village Advent Calendar Window Displays. We're looking for 24 households or businesses to create a festive scene using crepe paper, in a window visible from the road. The window is to be backlit on your allocated advent day between 5 pm and 8 pm. All the addresses are to be lit on **24th December**. Look out for the maps of locations to be posted around the village and take an evening stroll to enjoy the festive window displays!

To take part please e-mail **hurstadvent@gmail.com** by **25th October** with your address and any December dates you would not be able to do. *Anna*



Hurst ReThink Community



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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY On Thursday **3rd October**. We're showing; Anatomy of a Fall. A French film directed by Justine Triet and with Sandra Huller as its superb lead actor. Sandra, a writer, her husband Samuel and their eleven-year-old son live a secluded life in a remote town in the French Alps. Samuel is found dead in the snow and the police question whether this is a suicide or a murder with Sandra being the main suspect and her son the only witness. The trial becomes an unsettling journey into the depths of Sandra and Samuel's conflicted relationship.

(2023). 12A. 140 mins Palme d'or winner. Drama. French, English subtitles. Director Justine Triet

On **7th November** there is a change to our previously published programme.

We will be showing One Life a 2023 biographical drama film directed by James Hawes. Based on the true story of British humanitarian Nicholas Winton. The film alternates between following Anthony Hopkins as a 79-year old Winton reminiscing on his past, and Johnny Flynn as a 29-year old Winton who successfully helps 669 predominantly Jewish children in Ger-

man-occupied Czechoslovakia to hide and flee in 1938-39, just before the beginning of World War II.

Doors open at 7.30 pm and you can buy a glass of good wine before the show which starts at 8 pm. Annual membership is available and guest entry on the door.

Ditchling Village Hall, 18 Lewes Road, Ditchling, There's plenty of parking next to the village hall. For full information go to their website ditchlingfilm.org.uk. Follow them on Instagram @ditchlingfilmsoc and Tweet @Ditchlingfilm.

Kate

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB. We will be meeting twice in October, on Monday **7th and 21st October** Starting at 7.30 pm in the URC Church Hall, 23 Keymer Road, Hassocks. On **21st October**, we welcome Liz Smith as our guest caller. Liz calls regularly at folk dance clubs over in East Sussex, and we are expecting to be taught several new dances. Well at least new to us. This will be Liz's first visit to the club. Why don't you come along and join us? www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

Sean Goddard

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HURST PLAYERS It's almost Panto time – “Oh no it isn't ...” but – yes, it is for Hurst Players who held auditions for the cast of children for their 2024 Pantomime “The *New* adventures of Robinson Crusoe in mid-September – but will be opening the Players' Theatre in Hurstpierpoint on Wednesday **2nd October** and Thursday **3rd October** at 7.30 pm for adult roles.

Director Richard Coney needs to find up to twelve principals willing to begin rehearsals before the end of October working towards eight performances from **28th December** this year to **4th January**.

We would advise you to forget any previous productions of Robinson Crusoe you may have seen- Norman Robbins' new version might surprise and hopefully delight you – and all the family.

You can find full details on the Players website: www.hurstplayers.org.uk and tickets are available online now.

Anne Hopper

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON We'll be starting October exercising our voices at SING! in St. Margarets at 6 pm on Wednesday **2nd October**. Do join us, however you rate your singing ability!

Our Services of Morning Worship with Holy Communion and 'Little Beacons' sessions for younger visitors will take place at St. Margaret's, Ditchling on Sundays **6th and 13th October** at 10 am.

Also on Sunday **13th October** there will be an afternoon service at Streat Church at 3.30 pm, a really informal time. Great for inviting family, friends and visitors to.

On Saturday **19th October**, we'll be welcoming Vivace! To St. Margaret's Church for a concert. See separate article for full details. Sunday **20th October** is the date for our Harvest Festival with Holy Communion, which will be at St. Martin's Church, Westmeston starting at 10 am. Do join us to celebrate including singing well known harvest songs in what is always a beautifully decorated church for Harvest.

Our last Sunday service of the month will be an All Age Family Service with Holy Communion at St. Margaret's on **27th October** at 10 am.

Wednesday @ 10 services of Holy Communion will be held every Wednesday at 10 am in St. Margaret's.

Everyone is very welcome to all our services. Please check our website for any alterations to the above. www.beaconparish.co.uk.

Sherrian Guest

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

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

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

A GARDEN PONDS & WILDLIFE TALK

Join Hurst Rethink at the Scout Hut on Wednesday **2nd October** at 7.30 pm in welcoming Pete the Pond, who will talk us through why, what and how to have a wildlife-friendly pond in the

garden. In the interval enjoy wildlife information stalls, shop for garden plants, and buy tea, coffee and Ukrainian cakes. Tickets on the door and from Eventbrite. Pete the Pond has worked tirelessly for over twenty years helping to sustain and restore many local aquatic ecosystems, especially ponds, which are critical to the health of local nature and wildlife.

A wildlife pond is an underestimated but increasingly valuable oasis for wildlife. As agriculture struggles against climate change to meet business demands by spraying pesticides and herbicides, the local wildlife is being forced to migrate to our Hurstpierpoint gardens for food and shelter. Even a little freshwater pool with an easy entry point is a magnet for birds to drink and wash their feathers, for thirsty hedgehogs, and for newts, frogs and toads to take up residence. The latter will, of course, also ease your slug problem.

We hope you can join us on **2nd October** for Pete's talk and the stalls promoting the cause of local mammals and birds, selling plants and local honey, and offering teas, coffees, and homemade Ukrainian cakes. *Katie*



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SUSSEX PATHFINDERS So many changes have evolved this year with a new King and Queen installed at Buckingham Palace and a new prime minister in Downing Street with a myriad of proposals he assures us we won't like – good luck to that confident man and us minions.

Of course, dramatic and horrendous changes in our worldwide climate continue to affect us all – some to a more serious degree than others. A continuous belt of rain affected the south east of our country earlier this year causing many walkers to bemoan the ankle deep mud and group leaders having to plan last minute changes to published routes. However, I have just returned from a dry and very enjoyable walk around the Knepp Estate in West Sussex famed for its rewilding projects.

As ever, Sussex Pathfinders's October weekend walks stretch across both East and West Sussex, as follows –

Sunday, **6th October** Lindfield (east side of West Sussex) 10 miles starting at 10.30 am.

Saturday, **12th October** Crawley Down (north east corner of West Sussex) 6 miles starting at 10 am.

Sunday, **13th October** Telscombe Cliffs (enjoy those sea views in East Sussex) 8.5 miles starting at 10 am.

Sunday, **20th October** Storrington leafy West Sussex) 5+5 miles (figure of 8) starting at 10.30 am and 2 pm.

Saturday, **26th October** High Salvington (downland and woods in West Sussex) 6 miles starting at 10 am.

Sunday, **27th October** Offham (downland in East Sussex, north of Lewes) 9 miles starting at 10.30 am.

Full details of all our walks can be seen at www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk.

No need to book. Just turn up and introduce yourself to the leader.

Diann

WANTED If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included please email us at ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR.

Deadline for the November Issue is **1st October**.

Ed

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We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for this picture of the Blacksmiths in Pitt Lane, Hurstpierpoint in 1930's. Pictured Owner Andrew Russell, Charlie Diplock and Charlie Clark.

HURSTPIERPOINT GYMNASTICS CLUB - THANK YOU. We thank you for your support in voting for us in Tescos, who have awarded us £1,000 towards equipment and leotard subsidy.

We are now offering 'Gym Collect' at St. Lawrence where we can collect children in Key Stage One attending our 4 pm class directly from school at the end of the school day.

Please reserve Sunday **3rd November** for the next Danny Family Bonfire which we will be organising again.

Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club is up and running for the Autumn term. There are vacancies for pre-school children on Friday afternoons who have passed their third birthday and for girls from Reception to Year 11 on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Any others interested should contact the Club to

find the up-to-date position.

More details of the Club can be found at www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk. *Andrew Hair*

PARISH COMMUNITY FAMILY BARN

DANCE – all ages welcome! We are holding a Barn Dance for all the family on Saturday, **19th October** 4 – 7 pm in Adastra Hall Hassocks. The band, Square the Circle, are looking forward to getting us all on the dance floor for a fun and enjoyable evening.

There will be hotdogs, cakes, tea/cold drinks provided and craft for the young people as well as a prize for the best barn dance costume!

Tickets (including food) can be obtained from Hassocks Hardware (cash only), or ring Rev. Sue on **07973 315127** and leave a message with contact details and how many tickets required.

Hannah Wurtz

Useful Information

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DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

are at the following locations in the parish. In an emergency please dial 999 to access them:

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Sayers Common Community Shop, London Road, Sayers Common

Village Centre Library Entrance, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, 40 High Street, Hurstpierpoint

Bowling Club, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint

Court Buses Community Hub, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint

Fairfield Recreation Ground, Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint

DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling Church, Streat Church and Westmeston Church

Hassocks - Defibrillator Locations

Location	Opening hours	Address	Telephone
Railway Station	Outside the ticket office area 24-hour access	Keymer Road	
Adastra Bowling Club	1 - 8 pm Mon, Wed & Fri 10 - 8 pm Tue, Thurs, Sat & Sunday Bowling season only - late April to late September	Adastra Park - north field Via Orchard Lane or Keymer Road	
Age Concern	9am - 4pm Mon to Fri. 9 am -12 noon Saturday. Closed Sunday.	Dale Avenue Located at entrance, available during opening times	01273 844461
Freedom Leisure Centre (at Downlands Community School campus, Dale Avenue)	7am - 9 pm, Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4pm Saturday 9am - 3pm Sunday 9am - 3pm Bank Holiday (unless otherwise stated)	Downlands Community School Dale Avenue Located at entrance lobby of Leisure Centre - available during opening hours	01273 841348
Hassocks Dental Surgery	9am - 6pm Mon, Tue, Thurs. 8.45am - 4pm Wed 9am - 5pm Fri.	54A Keymer Road Available during opening hours	01273 842987
Graystone Referral Centre	8.30am - 5.30pm Monday 8.00am - 5.30pm Tuesday - Friday	38 Keymer Road Available during opening hours	
Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club	On the wall in the covered alcove at the front of the building 24-hour access	Adastra Park - south field Via Orchard Lane or Keymer Road	
Age Concern Hassocks	9am - 4pm, Monday to Friday 9am - 12pm Saturday.	Dale Avenue Available during opening hours	01273 844461
Hassocks Health Centre	8.30am - 6pm, Monday to Friday	Windmill Avenue Available during opening hours	01273 834388
Thatched Inn	Outside the front of the pub 24-hour access	Grand Avenue	01273 842946
Weald Lawn Tennis And Squash Rackets Club	9am - 9pm Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Saturday - Sunday	South Bank Available during opening hours	01273 844283
South Downs Garden Centre	8am - 6pm Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm Sunday	Brighton Road Available during opening hours	01273 845232

What's On in October

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

Regular Events

BEACON PARISH OCTOBER SERVICES

Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **6th, 13th** (both inc. Little Beacons) and all age family service on **27th**. On **13th** 'Afternoon Service' 3.30 pm at Streat. **20th** Harvest Festival with Holy Communion at St Martins Church, Westmeston at 10 am. Wednesday@10 (am) Holy Communion weekly at St Margarets Church, Ditchling. Check www.beaconparish.co.uk.

BBT - Hassocks (Bumps, Babies & Toddlers) - St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks. Thursdays 1-2.30 pm. A group for play & chat.

DITCHLING MORRIS - Practise Thursday at United reformed Church Hall at 7.30 pm. Pop in if you feel like joining.

DITCHLING YOUTH GROUP - Open to those young people in school year 6-11 we meet at The Emmanuel Centre 24 South Street, Ditchling on a Tuesday evening 6.30 to 8 pm.

Pool, table tennis, games consoles & lots of activities finishing with circle time and prayers

HEARTS OF SUSSEX BRIDGE CLUB - Mondays online and Tuesdays Age Concern Hassocks. See www.hsobcbridgeclub.co.uk

HUG IN A MUG - A coffee (and cake!) morning for all. St Cosmas and St Damian Church Hall, Keymer every Monday at 10.30 am Clayton Church Hall, Clayton every Tuesday at 10.30 am.

HUG IN A MUG - THE SCHOOL RUN - 9 - 10.30 am every Monday at Keymer Church Hall, for Parents, carers or grandparents who look after children. Cake, coffee, toys & games.

IRISH SET DANCING The Emmanuel Centre,

Ditchling 7.15 - 9.30 pm. Come and join us for some fun and active dancing (not Riverdance). We are an informal and friendly group. Beginners are very welcome, no need to bring a partner. Your first session is free call 07802 847234 for more info.

THE KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB Club nights are on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays at the URC Church Hall, 7.30 pm.

More details can be found on the clubs website: www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk

MID SUSSEX SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP. Meet every Tuesday Evening, 7.30 pm, Main Hall Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Anyone is welcome, no previous knowledge is necessary just a willingness to have fun. Please visit www.msscd.org.uk for more details. (We do not meet in July or August)

SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD Clayton Village Hall, Thursdays 7 - 9 pm. Beginners to Advanced sussexflydressersguild.org.uk.

HASSOCKS YOUTH GROUP The Green Room, Adastra Hall, Hassocks. Thursday 5.30 - 7 pm School Years 4 - 13 (Term time only). All welcome for games, crafts and activities and social time.

QUAKER MEETING FOR WORSHIP. 10.30 am every Sunday, Ditchling Friends Meeting House. Also on 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10.30 am, at The Yews, 55 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath. All are welcome for peaceful worship followed by coffee. Our magazine "Friendly News" is available at Ditchling PO www.ditchlingquakers.org.uk

WHIST DRIVE - Our friendly club meets at Age Concern, Hassocks every thursday at 6.45 pm. More info 01273 843390.

1st HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Little Common. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

1st DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. 'Dealing with Poverty in 19th Century Sussex' Mary Rudling.

1st GREENER HASSOCKS & DITCHLING Proper, Hassocks 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Monthly meeting see posters for more info. All welcome.

2nd - 27th BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL various performances. Please see article for more info.

2nd HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm 'History of Sport in Sussex' Mathew Homewood. Visitors welcome call 01273 649023.

2nd THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

2nd UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

2nd BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors open 7.45 pm. 'What's Special about the South Downs' Glynn Jones. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.

2nd HURST RETHINK Scout Hut, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'Garden Ponds & Wildlife' Pete the Pond. See article.

3rd DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 'Anatomy of a Fall'. Tickets available on the door

3rd BEFRIENDED Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 10 am - 12 pm. Bereavement Cafe - A safe place to chat about grief loss & share stories about loved ones. More info office@befriended.org

4th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 - 11 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Surplus Equipment Sale' Hot food, cake, and refreshments available. All welcome.

4th MID SUSSEX MUSIC HALL The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East 8 pm. 'Ren Harvieu & Romeo Stodart' For more info and tickets www.brighthelmstonepromotions.co.uk.

4th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide HQ Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'Unknown Brighton - The Chalkpit Furlong' Dr Geoffrey Mead. All welcome.

5th COELIAC GROUP South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road, Hassocks 9 am - 11am. 'Brunch and Chat'. All welcome.

6th DITCHLING VILLAGE ORCHARD Ditchling Village Green. 11 am - 4 pm. 'Apple Day' Bring your apples for juicing, activities, stalls, bar, food, cuppas and cakes.

6th HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

6th OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer 2 pm - 5 pm. Open Afternoon. All welcome.

7th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

8th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. Illustrated talk 'Wild Flowers in Sussex' Nicholas Sturt from Sussex Botanical Recording Society. All welcome.

9th HURSTPIERPOINT & DISTRICT NSPCC Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint 1.30 pm. Chicago Bridge and Tea. Tickets and more info from b.toop@yahoo.co.uk.

11th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. Talk 'The Theory & Practice of Moonbounce' John Berry GM8JBJ. Refreshments available. All welcome.

12th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 10 am - 12 pm. Coffee Morning for The Rockinghorse Children's Charity

12th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

12th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. (Mens) The Robins take on Eastbourne United. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

12th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book sussexsewingclub@gmail.com.

12th THE GROWING NETWORK Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling 10.30 am - 12 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or

plants to share or gardening books/tools you don't need. Children welcome too.

13th DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome to come along and join us.

13th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Hassocks Hotel Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 2 pm. (Ladies) The Robins take on Eastbourne Town. Bar and Food available. Free entry.

14th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thegroup.org.uk.

15th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee Morning Ditchling Downs WI. All welcome.

18th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'Joyride'. See article for more info. Tickets available on the door.

18th BURGESS HILL KEYBOARD CLUB Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors 6 pm. Performances by Marty Rolfe, Rosalie Birchmore, Eaton & Webb and Vociferous Tim. Tickets 01444 241269

19th PARISH COMMUNITY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 4 - 7 pm. Family Barn Dance with Square the Circle. Tickets Hassocks Hardware.

19th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email alexboxter66@yahoo.co.uk.

20th PARISH OF CLAYTON WITH KEYMER Meeting Room, Keymer Church Hall. 9.45 - 10.45 am. Storytime Creative - Stories from the Bible, the heart and your own pictures or creative writing. Bring an adult. More info 01273 845964.

21st POLICE BEAT SURGERY South Downs Garden Centre, Hassocks 2.30 - 4 pm. Come along to get crime prevention and advice on neighbourhood issues.

21st HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 15th Birthday Party. Members only.

24th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. For a social cooked breakfast. All welcome to book email tamarajaneboxter@yahoo.co.uk.

24th ST LAWRENCE FAIR New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. AGM all welcome.

24th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee

Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

25th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'Ghosts and the Paranormal' Andy Thomas. Refreshments inc.

25th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide HQ Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.30 pm. 'Sussex Murders and Misdemeanours' Paul Green. All welcome.

25th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag & Natter Night'. Refreshments available. All welcome.

26th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

26th REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransitition.org.uk.

26th HASSOCKS ON SHOW Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10 am - 3 pm. Over 30 organisation will be present. See article.

27th DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome to come along and join us.

28th MID SUSSEX PLAYDAYS Haywards Heath College 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm. Free Family Fun. more info midsussex.gov.uk/playdays.

28th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'Michelham Priory' Helen Poole.

28th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

29th MID SUSSEX PLAYDAYS Kings Centre, Burgess Hill 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm. Free Family Fun. www.midsussex.gov.uk/playdays.

30th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Beeding and Bramber Village Hall 7 - 10 pm. 'Members Demo' Jubal Prevatte. All welcome. www.southdownswoodturners.com

31st BEREAVEMENT WELL-BEING GROUP Clayton Wood, Natural Burial Ground, Brighton Road, Clayton 10 am - 12 noon. Come and meet others who understand what you are going through. www.bereavementcare.uk.

31st AGE CONCERN HASSOCKS Dale Avenue. Southdown Ukulele Band. Free event. Call in to find out more.

HALLS FOR HIRE

1st Hassocks Scouts HQ Our hall is available to hire and ideal for children's parties. A main big hall (fully accessible for wheelchair users) & small recently refurbished kitchen. www.1sthassocksscouts.org.uk.

The Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint- A meeting room for up to 10 people. If you need a larger space, the auditorium is available too. Please contact Pippa Sampson on 01273 833397 for further details or e-mail: enquiries@hurst-players.org.uk

Adastra Hall, in Hassocks is your community space and can be booked for parties, meetings and events. If you'd like to book, please take a look at our website www.adastrahall.com or email bookings@adastrahall.com.

Albourne Village Church - ring 07513 453679 or book online at www.albourneparishcouncil.co.uk for your business or pleasure bookings, some space is available for regular bookings.

Clayton With Keymer has three church halls and servery available across the parish. Please visit the website for details www.claytonwithkeymer.org.uk

Court Bushes Community Hub, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9TH

This building has a large function room and club lounge. For booking enquiries, please contact the Parish Council office on 01273 833264, email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk or visit www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

Ditchling Village Hall - attractive, well equipped and versatile venue, comprising large main hall with stage, smaller hall and kitchen. Suitable for a diverse range of occasions and activities such as parties, plays, weddings, exercise classes and certain indoor sports. See website www.ditchlingvillagehall.uk for full details and pricing. Email the booking secretary on bookings@ditchlingvillagehall.uk for enquiries.

Emmanuel Centre South Street, Ditchling is a well-equipped venue with a hall which can seat 60 people. It has a large refurbished kitchen, two toilets and a grassed area to the rear. In front of the building is parking for eight cars. Email: admin@beaconparish.co.uk for further information.

Hassocks United Reformed Church Hall Large and small halls for hire, with use of kitchen tel: 01273 831632

Hurst Scout H.Q. - has a hall and kitchen as well as a smaller meeting room. Ideal for parties, classes or meetings. Ring Heather Hush on 01273 831023 email: bookings@hurstpierpointscouts.co.uk. For hall bookings visit www.hurstpierpointscouts.co.uk/hq-bookings.

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre - has three spaces for hire, a hall that seats up to 200, a conference room for up to 20 and the Club Suite for up to 40. The Club Suite is ideal for children's parties, offering its own kitchen and toilet facilities. The kitchen serving both the hall and conference room is also free of charge. Email office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk or www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

Hurstpierpoint Guide HQ - Kitchen and carpeted hall and lovely enclosed garden call Judy Leech on 01273 833954.

Sayers Common Church Hall - ring Ian Simmons 01273 833342 or iansimmons@gmail.com. Space available for regular clubs/bookings.

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

Westmeston Parish Hall A great venue for parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries, christenings, workshop days and seminars. The main hall is available at weekends and some afternoons/evenings during the week. There is ample parking and flexible outdoor space. To book contact Paul Charman - pec.glebe@tiscali.co.uk or 01273 844743.

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Now, before I start on the serious stuff here's something that quite a lot of you will find very interesting a Red Squirrel was spotted in woodland in Plumpton. The sighting was verified by a local wildlife group who were very excited that they are around this area - we will have to wait and see if they expand into other areas, I'll let you know.

I was very sorry to hear of the passing of who I knew as 'Blind John'. John Burling was born blind so never having had sight he overcame all the obstacles that are normally associated with blindness to live a normal life, getting married and having children. He regularly came into the shop to buy food or litter for his cat. I had great respect for him, and I shall miss seeing him around the village. He was an inspiration to us all who take sight for granted.

Another wonderful man who I have loved dearly and was proud to call my friend has also passed away after a relatively short illness a famous musician and composer who wrote the record 'Grandad' for Clive Dunn, who took it to number one in the charts, also played music with the best of the best. He'd been a Ditchling resident for a great many years, a friend and a customer of mine, he did love his cats and would regularly visit with his family. I shall miss him very much; he was of course one of the loveliest men you could ever wish to meet - stand up and take a bow Herbie Flowers.

As I'm sure you have all heard by now that we're in for a pretty tough time with some unpopular decisions to be made later in the year. Well, I can tell you some of the decisions that are being put forward at the moment around here, because our local Council are desperately short of money (aren't we all). The proposals to raise more money include charging to park at our two main car parks the one behind the supermarket and the one across the road from me, which is called the free car park. So, if you're one of those who parks in it and then gets on the train to work, you may find it may work out a bit expensive by the end of the week. So far the proposed amount to charge is £1 an hour. If these proposals are passed, then they could come into force early next year. However, nothing is written in stone yet but be prepared for some unpopular decisions.

It's not often I mention people moving from one job to another, but Ahmed the very popular pharmacist at Day Lewis Chemist is leaving at the end of September to take up another position elsewhere. He will be greatly missed because of his kind and knowledgeable approach to people who go in not just for prescriptions, but for help with other matters. Apparently, his job will be filled at the end of October by a lady pharmacist who is local to the area, so if you haven't had a chance to wish Ahmed the very best for the future now's your chance.

I'm sure you've notice that the roof has now been removed from the National Tyres Building. It was only low-grade asbestos and basically that's it for the time being. No new plans have been submitted, so we'll just have to wait till they are and then we'll get a better idea of what's going to replace it. Mind you in preparation for the new building apparently they've bought John Saxby Way. I didn't know you could buy a road. So, when things start to move and scaffolding etc is erected, you then don't need permission from the road owners if you've already own it. Cunning Eh! As for the parking on it, then I'm sorry the fence will have to stay in place till proper work begins, the owners are being upfront and honest about this and everything else, so I will do my best not to upset them again.

I know I sound like a stuck record, but it is so important that wherever you can - support your local shops and businesses. It is tough out there at the moment and we can only survive with your help.

Don't forget the new vets in Burgess Hill - Happy Paws - it will save you money on neutering and spaying, plus a range of other veterinary treatments. Did you know we sell frozen food for snakes? And if you've got chickens, chances are we have got what you need for them too - I know parking is a big issue which doesn't help but we have a service area at the back of the shop where you can park safely while shopping with us. Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392