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*We thank Mrs Juliet Holroyd for this Aerial photo looking
down London Road towards Friars Oak taken in 1964.*

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THE NEW ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE For their Christmas/New Year pantomime for 2024/5 Hurst Players have returned to a traditional panto - in an updated version by one of the true masters of the genre - Norman Robbins - who has been writing and revising scripts for over a half a century. The Players invite adults and children alike to join them for a range of afternoon [2 pm] and evening performances [7pm] from 28th December through to 4th January. You're invited to join Robinson and a host of weird and wonderful characters as they set off from a seafaring port to find riches beyond compare only to be shipwrecked on the island of Migrania following a storm created by chief villain Davy Jones - who has put a curse on the island. Robinson must find a way of defeating Davy Jones and freeing the islanders - and allowing himself and his crew to return home so that he can marry his sweetheart Polly Perkins - and - of course - to live happily

ever after!
Tickets are available now online at www.hurstplayers.org.uk - but if you prefer to book in person, call into the Theatre's Box Office on Hurstpierpoint High Street on Saturday mornings from **7th December** - open from 10 am to 12 noon. *Bob Sampson*

STAR CINEMA The first film of 2025 at the Adastra hall (Friday, **17th January**) is 'A Good Woman' starring Scarlett Johansson, Tom Wilkinson, and Helen Hunt. It is a romantic comedy drama, based on Oscar Wilde's 'Lady Windermere's Fan'. Doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available on the door. Tea, coffee, wine, raffle. The Star Team look forward to welcoming you. *Liz Edmunds*

Articles for the next issue can be emailed to ed@villagemagazines.co.uk

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SHIRLEY TURNER cherished wife, mother, and nan passed away on 6th November 2024. Shirley touched many people's lives during her walks around Hassocks and will be missed by us all.

Shirley donated her body to medical science so there will not be a funeral, but donations can be made to St Peter and St James Hospice.

We would like to thank friends and family for their kindness and support.

Sid, Elaine, Dawn and Neil

THE FUNERAL OF PETER WARD 8th November 2024 at St Cosmas & St Damian Church, Keymer. The family of Peter Ward, Woodland Road, Hassocks would like to express their gratitude to Eric at Bowley Funeral Services for guiding them through the intricacies of a death happening in Italy; to Father Alex and the Revd Alisoun Francis for a moving funeral service; to the bellringers, with muffled bells and the organist raising the roof for the hymn singing; to all former colleagues, past pupils and family friends who travelled the length and breadth of the country and to all our friends and fellow members of Aadastra Bowling Club, who filled the church to capacity. Thank you all for being present and giving Peter a tremendous send-off in style.

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Thank you also for your continuing support for me in dealing with this sudden shock.

Diana Webley Ward

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND DITCHLING FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE.

The Royal British Legion Ditchling & District Branch would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who was involved in the Remembrance Sunday parade and service. We had a fantastic turn out from the village and many people have commented on what a success it was.

Also, a huge heartfelt thank you for everyone who engaged with our first Ditchling Field of Remembrance. We had about 155 crosses that we 'planted' and the plan is to make this an annual part of the event.

Every year in Westminster, after the Field of Remembrance is removed from the Abbey grounds, the crosses are burned and the ashes collated and scattered in a designated British Commonwealth gravesite in either France or Belgium.

In the same spirit, we removed our field on 29th November and the ashes are now scattered on the west side of our War Memorial. I read aloud each and every name before committing them to the flames.

Michael Hughes, Margaret Bovill

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH - A DITCH-LING ADVENT CALENDAR.

This Advent, I thought it might be fun to make a calendar of 'glimpses' of Christmas past at Stoneywish. So, if you care to do so, please open the windows with me.

No.1: Here is East End Farm – a cluster of haystacks and cornstacks; a yard with hens and geese running free; horses and milking cows, in frosty stalls and stables; great elm trees standing sentinel round a Sussex flint barn.

2: Villagers playing ice hockey on the frozen farm pond, with milk churns for goalposts and improvised hockey-sticks.

3: Christmas 1938 – a hard winter. Michael is born into a world of snow. His father, who has cattle pastured in a field at Keymer, hauls hay on a sledge across the fields to feed them.

4: Moonlight gleaming on the barn's slate roof. Milking is done by hand, by the light of oil lamps at 5 a.m. and 3 p.m. The milk churns are heaved onto a brick stollage at the farm entrance, to be collected by the milk lorry once a day.

5: The farm children rolling snow into big balls in the top yard to build a snowman. The ache of cold

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hands and feet.

6: Christmas shopping in the village. Michael stops to peer at the dazzling display of soaps in the window of the chemist's at the top of the High Street. This year, he will buy some for his mother from Mrs. Sinden, mother of the soon-to-be-famous actor, Donald.

7: Michael's father brings a cartload of kale each day from the fields to feed the cows. This supplements their winter diet of cattle-cake and sweet hay, cut from the haystacks with a broad-bladed hay knife and carried on pitch-forks across the yard to be stacked in heaps in the cowstalls. The cows will stay snug inside until the spring.

8: 1947 brings deep snow and the children make themselves a sledge out of a sheet of tin with the front end folded up. This provides exhilarating rides down Lodge Hill, with 5 children hanging on and hurling themselves off into the snow before an inevitable crash into the hedge at the bottom.

9: Sweet rations are saved to be spent on toffees and pear drops in Mr. Kydd's sweet shop (now Parker's) in the High Street.

10: Cold weather is needed as the 15 to 20 cockrels, which have been reared for Christmas, are

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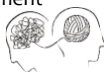
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dispatched and plucked and hung in the barn, ready for collection. Those who have plucked them will have sore thumbs to remember them by. One year is disastrously mild and the birds go off!

11: The children cut up strips of paper to make paper-chains. Michael's mother works as a packer for the Ditchling Press and each day on the way home from school, Michael calls in to see her in the packing room in South Street. Often, he is sent home with off-cuts of paper to draw on. At Christmas there are spare Christmas cards to colour in. The press works day and night and the sound of the machinery can be heard in the street, a reminder, like the sound of the blacksmith's hammer, that the village is a hive of industry.

12: Michael is put to work grinding mangels (big turnips) for the calves to eat. The mangel-grinder, like a giant cheese-grater on legs is worked by turning a wheel, much like the wheel on an old-fashioned clothes mangle. This is a good job for a frosty day. Michael always says wintry weather is 'the Master's weather', the workers having to work hard to keep warm!

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13: Christmas Day in the Alford farmhouse: Up early to milk and feed the cows.

14: The family set off on their bicycles to Mass at St. George's. They tramp in at the back in their wellington boots while the nuns sit demurely screened at the front.

15: Home to breakfast, cooked on the black-leaded kitchen range.

16: The highlight of Christmas. The children jump up and down excitedly outside the sitting-room door, waiting to be let in to see the decorated tree and open their Christmas stockings. These are long black nurse's stockings, belonging to Auntie Vena, which are hung from the mantel-piece, each containing an orange, a colouring book, sweets and pencils.

17: Christmas dinner chicken and sprouts and brandy flaming round a home-made Christmas pudding - the kitchen filled with delicious smells and excited voices.

18: Afternoon milking. The children are taken off to visit Grandfather Stenning, who sits in state to receive them, flanked on either side by a giant toy rabbit and dog. He means it kindly, but it is rather overwhelming to children who would rather be kicking round the farmyard.

19: Evening and a fire blazes in the hearth at home. Ribbons of gaslight steal through the curtains onto the frosty garden. Michael's father takes up his lantern and checks all the animals for the night. There will be cocks crowing at dawn.

The children, tired, are tucked into bed, hugging the memory of their best presents ever - little

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milking stools made by a carpenter neighbour. An owl hoots from the ink-black meadows, where another world stirs beneath the stars.

21: A new era: Michael, grown up with children of his own, heaves himself off to milk the cows, leaving the family drowsy from lunch. Invigorated by the fresh air and exertion, he returns home ready to eat Christmas dinner all over again!

22: A few years later, just as the family are sitting down to their turkey, Michael is called out to a fire. Now a retained fireman, he instantly abandons the feast and dashes off to the Station in Keymer. It is a familiar tale - there will actually be three fires to put out this day - but for the crew the job never loses its thrill. It is a point of honour to turn out to every call and never to be late and at the end of it all, no matter how tired he may feel, the cows still have to be milked.

23: A Stoneywish Christmas in the early days: Michael's daughter, Anna, serves cake and mulled wine in the Tea Room (former Dairy), while a retired fireman, ensconced as Father Christmas in a veritable forest of greenery in the

barn, takes so long, spinning his tales to the children, his little customers begin to freeze in the queue. Suddenly the electricity fuses out. The public drift away, leaving carol singers singing to a yard empty of all but a row of chickens, roosting on a rail...

24. This year? The stars and moon still sail over the barn. The sound of Michael chopping wood resounds from the place where the cowstall used to be. New people, new worlds come and go, but the old worlds are still with us as long as we make them welcome. Now a festive toast:

May your memories and your lives be as full as the best Christmas bumper. And good health and good cheer to you all!

Rosemary

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL I'm writing this just before the Christmas Tree Festival in Ditchling church. I'll write more about it next month but, for now, we'd like to thank everyone who decorated a tree or helped in any way in the lead up to the event, over the three days and in the post event 'tidy up'. We do hope that all our visitors enjoyed themselves. More next month!

Sherrian Guest



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HAPPY NEW YEAR Hassocks WI - meet 3rd Monday in the month at Adastra Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm start 7.45 pm.

Well, our November meeting was lively Line Dancing, so many members and visitors enjoying themselves. We had a number of enquiries about Line Dancing, Lesley - Steps Line Dancing Club, says if there are 8 - 10 seriously interested, she may be able to start a beginner's class on a Thursday morning. Perhaps you could make it your New Year Resolution?

I hope you noticed the striking banner in the memorial garden publicising WI campaign 'No More Violence to Women and Girls'. The open meeting was well attended, and the professional speakers were informative. (Worth IDVA 0330-222-8181).

For our December meeting we enjoyed a Christmas themed talk from Andy Thomas, plus nibbles and our wonderful Xmas raffle. At our January meeting on **20th January**, we will be busy hearing about the 2025 WI resolutions, while helping to make breast cancer cushions. There will be cake. February is our AGM, an

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opportunity to vote for a new president, or join the committee. We will round off the evening with a light hearted musical quiz. And of course there are all the extra Craft, Choir, Book groups etc., to enjoy during the dreary winter months. Don't be lonely come along for a cheerful evening and the opportunity to make new friends. Is that another New Year Resolution?

Gerry

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STEPS A DANCE At a Keymer Folk Dance Club evening, you can easily attain 3,600 steps, and folk dancing is an excellent way of shedding some of the extra essential calories eaten over the Christmas and New Year period. The folk dance club will be meeting on **Monday 6th and 20th January** at the URC Church Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks. We start at 7.30 pm. You can always visit:

www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

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WESTMESTON PARISH HALL invite you to two fascinating local history talks at the hall on Friday **28th February** starting at 2 pm. Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided. Entry is free of charge, but donations will be requested on the day. There is ample parking at the hall.

The first talk is 'With a Spade on the 'Green-sand Way', the Roman road and other nearby Roman discoveries from Hassocks to Barcombe Mills, by Dr David Rudling, Director of the Sussex School of Archaeology and History. This talk will review the evidence for the stretch of the east-west aligned Roman road between Hassocks and Bridge Farm, near Barcombe Mills. We will consider the road itself and various settlements along it or near it, ie those at Stone Pound Hassocks (nucleated set-

tlement and cemetery), Clayton (villa), Plumpton (villa), Ditchling (farmstead), Chilmington (pottery kilns), Barcombe (villa and detached bathhouse), and Bridge Farm (a nucleated road and river side settlement).

Ditchling History Project will then give a talk on 'Milking to Munitions' - the World War II Diary of George Thomas, Patrol Leader of Ditchling's Secret Auxiliary Unit .

Born in 1913 at Spatham Farm, Westmeston, George was well known locally as farmer, sportsman and a writer keeping a diary throughout the Second World detailing life on the farm as well as his wartime service on the Home Front.

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NEIL FERRIGAN RELEASES FESTIVE NEW SINGLE THE ROBOT MAN – A

Christmas Story Beloved Sussex Grandad Neil Ferrigan Returns with a Christmas Tale for All Ages Hurstpierpoint, Sussex – *Neil Ferrigan*, the 79-year-old singer-songwriter who charmed audiences with his debut EP *I'm a Little Clock Man (and friends)* earlier this year, is set to delight listeners once again with his new festive release, *The Robot Man – A Christmas Story*. Available on all major streaming platforms from 1st December 2024, this two-track single offers a heartwarming Christmas narrative alongside a standalone song to spread seasonal joy.

A Magical Christmas Morning *The Robot Man – A Christmas Story* invites listeners to join siblings Bryetil and BowSee on a magical Christmas morning. Creeping downstairs to see if Father Christmas has visited, they discover a mysterious box hidden behind the tree. As the family gathers to investigate, they unveil a cheerful blue robot with glowing yellow eyes, who springs to life,

singing and dancing to their delight. Father Christmas himself even makes a heartwarming appearance.

This captivating narrative is narrated by Plum Phillips and paired with *The Robot Man* song, a joyful track written and performed by Neil Ferrigan with accompaniment by Paul Phillips. Together, they bring to life the charm and whimsy of Christmas for listeners of all ages. Building on Past Success Neil's debut release, *I'm a Little Clock Man (and friends)*, resonated with families, blending imaginative lyrics and timeless melodies. Tracks like *Mr Jumbo* and *Bolts and Wires* showcased Neil's gift for creating music that transcends generations. With *The Robot Man – A Christmas Story*, Neil continues to capture hearts and imaginations, delivering a festive treat perfect for holiday playlists. Recorded by Paul Phillips, this release reflects Neil's passion for storytelling and his dedication to producing music that brings families together. *Debbie Clare*



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On Sunday 10th November 20 young members and 15 adults from Girlguiding Sussex Central joined the 10,000 individuals, different Armed Forces and civilian organisations to represent Girlguiding UK and march past the Cenotaph in tribute as part of The Royal British Legion's Veteran Parade.

The contingent consisted of members of Burgess Hill, Crawley, Haywards Heath, Horsham, Parkminster and South Down divisions. Wendy Colson, County Commissioner said 'it was a privilege to lay our wreath on behalf of Girlguiding UK. I know that many other guiding groups will have done the same in their own local communities and many groups have been participating in activities during their unit meetings too, to understand about those who

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fought, fell and still live with the consequences of conflict. We will remember those who gave their tomorrow so we could have our today.' Girlguiding is the UK's largest youth organisation dedicated completely to girls. We're over 300,000 girls from 4 to 18 who come together to laugh, learn, explore and have adventures. We're over 70,000 volunteers, and 25,000 local groups having fun and exploring activities week in, week out. Girlguiding Central geographically covers Mid Sussex, and the borough of Crawley. For more information visit www.girlguidingsussexcentralcounty.com www.facebook.com/girlguidingsc www.girlguiding.org.uk Janet Samuel



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HASSOCKS FC continue to do well on all fronts; we're at the top end of the tables in the men's, u23's, youth, and ladies!

We've had some brilliant games recently at the Hassocks Hotel Beacon ground, there is a super atmosphere and a credible chance the first team may get promoted if form continues. That would be the highest level Hassocks FC has ever played at (into semi professional level).

Each 1st team home game we're really keen to continue inviting the Hassocks Junior sides to be mascots and walk out with the team, it has provided an excellent atmosphere, and the crowds have been really encouraging.

We've added a secondary catering van at the ground and are looking for more ways to improve match day experience.

Off the pitch we're close to getting new energy efficient LED floodlights, and we're also installing some solar panels to reduce outgoing energy costs.

The field we own behind the ground unfortunately was rejected for artificial surface training pitch and lighting by the South Downs National Park. Although there are plans for a good grass playing surface, which we may rent out and could be available for the many boys and girls junior teams lacking in facilities for training/matches in the area. Of course, this is weather and darkness dependent but still an option in the drier months of the year and weekend mornings.

Bizarrely there are no home fixtures in the month of January at the time of writing. We'll continue to update the board outside the ground with any rearranged fixtures and times. If you've never been down before, please give us a try.

Pat Harding, Hassocks FC chairman

THE GROWING NETWORK will not be meeting in January. Our next meeting will be on Saturday 15th February. *Julie Ulbricht*

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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON May we wish everyone blessings for a healthy and peaceful 2025.

After a busy December which included our Christmas Tree Festival, a concert from The Brighton Singers and carol services across our three churches, including one for St. Margaret's School, we return to a more regular pattern of services this month. We enjoyed seeing so many visitors of all ages at the Christmas events and we look forward to welcoming you to one of our regular services.

Our Sunday services of Morning Worship with Holy Communion and activities for youngsters at a 'Little Beacons' session will be held in Ditchling on Sundays **5th and 12th January** starting at 10 am.

On Sunday **19th January**, we meet together at Streat Church for Morning Worship with Holy Communion at 10 am and on Sunday **26th January**, we return to Ditchling for one of our popular All Age Family Services.

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Wednesday @ 10, our weekly service of Holy Communion, will be held each Wednesday this month at 10 am. Please check our website www.beaconparish.co.uk for any changes to the above.

Sherrian Guest

KEYMER AND HASSOCKS POPPY APPEAL: THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH

On behalf of our President, Mrs Virginia Lewis-Jones, Vice President, Mrs Juliet Smith JP, DL, Chair, Catharine Robinson and the Branch Committee we would like to express thanks for to everyone in Keymer and Hassocks who has supported and donated to the 2024 Poppy Appeal.

This year the total has so far reached £3,000 for which we are so very grateful.

Please accept a very heartfelt thank you to all who have given so generously.

On behalf of the Branch, we would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy and successful 2025. *Margaret Bovill*

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1,000TH GYMNASTICS AWARD TWO

The Club has now presented its 1,000th British Gymnastics Award Two.

Since the formation of the Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club in 1980, British Gymnastics Awards have been gained by the gymnasts every term.

Well over 100 awards are earned each term and now the Club has presented its 1,000th Award Two

Over 1,000 Award 8s, 7s, 6s, 5s, 4s and Award 3s have been gained in the past forty five

years, with the 1,000th Award Two being the latest achievement. Over 700 gymnasts have now earned the coveted Award 1. The Award scheme starts at Award 8 and progresses in difficulty to Award 1 followed by Advanced Proficiency Awards - Bronze, Silver and Gold. At each level the gymnasts have eight skills to attempt and to pass each level they have to successfully perform eight of the skills.

Over 130 other talented gymnasts have gained Awards 8 to Award 1 or awards for

Floor, Vault or Acrobatic Pairs this past Autumn term.

With sponsorship from groups including Mid Sussex District Council, Tesco's and Sussex Police, awards are presented free in the last

session of each term.

Pictured are the winners of the 1,000th, 1001st and 1,002nd Award Two - Amelie Rose, Freya Gofton and Rosie McGuinness..

Many will now be fo-



cussing their attention on the Arts competition on Saturday 29th March when gymnasts will be competing in Solo Ribbon, Pairs Ball, Pairs Beam and Sports Acrobatic Sixes.

There are currently vacancies in the Pre-school classes on Friday afternoons for those who have passed their third birthday. Vacancies are available for school age boys on Tuesdays and for school age girls on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Please visit www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk for more details and a link for enquiries.

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IF YOU FANCY A NEW CHALLENGE IN 2025 WHY NOT GIVE BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY A TRY?

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“I love singing some of the greatest music ever written and being part of such a welcoming and supporting choir”

We are holding open rehearsals, free of charge, each Monday in January from **6th January** and always welcome new members. You can be sure of a friendly reception.

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Jane Leng

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH

On behalf of our President, Mrs Virginia Lewis-Jones, Vice President, Mrs Juliet Olsworth-Peter JP DL, Chair, Mrs Catharine Robinson, and the Branch Committee, we would like to thank everyone who has supported and donated to the 2024 Poppy Appeal.

This year our total has so far reached £4,400 for which we are so very grateful.

Please accept a very heartfelt thank you to all who have given so generously. The Branch (which is made up of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston) would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy and successful 2025.
Margaret Bovill

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DITCHLING NATURE SPACE- A NEW PROJECT BETWEEN DITCHLING AND KEYMER

The opportunity to purchase the field north of the Keymer Road next to the new car park in Ditchling on behalf of the village came about because it went up for sale at the beginning of this year and was eventually purchased by a family in Ditchling in order to stop it being sold to a possible developer. It was purchased for a sum of £130,000 on the understanding that it would be bought back in due course and used by the community in some way or other. A Working Party was set up comprising representatives from the principal Ditchling organisations with the aim of doing this and identifying what could be done with the land, to whom it would belong, and how it would be financed and managed.

The field lies within the South Downs National Park. The land itself is around 2.7 acres and runs along beside a 200m length of the Keymer Road. There is a fall of around 5 metres from east to west and the western end is boggy. There is a ditch along the northern boundary, where there are several large oak trees, into which the outfall of the village pond discharges. It adjoins the South East Water Pumping Station to the west, which they have used as a pilot project for nature regeneration.

The field was stripped of topsoil in the early 1990's and the east end is dry and firm. It has been used for grazing a few rescue horses over the last few years, but the grassland is poor.

A wide range of opinion has been sought both around the village and elsewhere (including Hassocks) and advice has been sought from numerous organisations about conservation and management of the land. The general view is that the land should developed as a natural green space that can be enjoyed by the Community. The character and topography lends itself to a natural division into broadly three parts, the western end which could be developed as a wetland habitat, the middle, an open space which could be grassland and the end near the car park which could be used for occasional functions, such as the housing of the traditional Fairground on Fair Day for which the Village Green would not be suitable.

It is as important to decide what it will not be used for!

There are numerous ideas that have been put forward by different parties and it will be necessary, over time, to settle on some simple ones that do not require major changes to the existing field. We have received a lot of encouragement from numerous environmental organisations who are willing to give advice

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and, in some cases, grants for developments in specific areas, such as wetland habitats. There is a lot of concern about the safety of the footpath along the Keymer Road and there may be ways in which the purchase of the land will allow improvements to be made.

Efforts have been made by the Working Party set up to take the project forward to obtain pledges of financial support. Following the open meeting on the 9th November in the Barn, over 60 individuals have come forward to pledge their support and the total sum promised is now £124k, and this is still rising. The efforts have not ceased and there is increasing confidence that the initial target will be reached. However, we will still need further money to undertake work and to pay for annual maintenance once we have purchased the land!

If you are interested in supporting this project and getting involved please make contact through www.ditchlingnaturespace.org.uk or email info@ditchlingnaturespace.org.uk or through our Facebook page Ditchling Naturespace.

Hugh St John

We thank Dave Evans from Hurstpierpoint for this photo of Mr W Wyndham Sayers: It was taken while he was shooting on the lane near Stuccles Farm. He lived in Sayers Common

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all his life and was a cricketer for Sayers Common in his youth and the Vice-President to Twineham and Wineham Cricket Club until the day he died. He was a Chorister at Sayer Common Church and a member of the Sayers Common and Twineham Drum and Fife Band.



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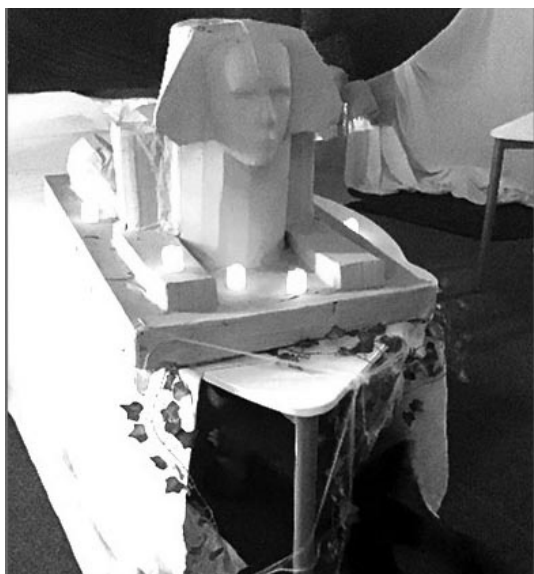
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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL It is with immense pride that we celebrate the latest round of football tournaments that took place on Wednesday 27th November. Having both won the first round, it was time for the boys and girls to go again, this time taking on the best that Mid Sussex had to offer. The boys did exceptionally well and came away with bronze medals, finishing in third place out of 40 schools. We are also beyond proud to announce that the girls came out top once more, leaving as Mid Sussex – champions! On 28th January they will take part in the county finals in Lancing against Sussex's finest, and we cannot wait to have the chance to compete one more time.

Year 5 have recently taken part in a Viking day. They assigned themselves Viking names first thing in the morning, and then were referred to as these for the rest of the day. They had a Viking packed day; making shields, having a rowing race on long boats, writing letters in Viking script and finding out more about Viking life. We were so proud of how engaged the children were in all the activities, and how amazing they were at getting into the role of Vikings.



Year 4 were recently given the rare opportunity to explore a perfectly preserved Egyptian tomb! Untouched for thousands of years, the tomb contained wondrous treasures and relics of an ancient civilisation, along with a few challenges and obstacles to overcome. Luckily, all of our explorers survived the experience and have put their adventures into fantastic pieces of writing for us to enjoy.

In November, a number of our enthusiastic year 5 children were selected to become sports leaders. They went over to Downlands where they were trained by the PE team there to be leaders, to inspire others to participate in sports, and be ambassadors for the joy of active living. They learnt some games that they could play with younger children and how to make these easier and harder depending on who they were playing them with. These leaders will be used throughout Yr5 and Yr6 to help with clubs and sporting events and help within their classes. We are so pleased with their enthusiasm and commitment to taking on this leadership responsibility.

'on behalf of The Windmills'

THE HURSTPIERPOINT NSPPC COMMITTEE have held their very popular annual Quiz at the Hurstpierpoint Bowls Club. It was very well attended, with the usual waiting list for hopeful quizzers!

Andrew was the Quizmaster who always makes the evening great fun, and everyone enjoyed the questions. Dave from Crossways fish and chip shop supplied nearly 80 suppers, which were absolutely delicious - he and his team work very hard, getting them ready on time and piping hot. The Bowls Club were in charge of the bar and did a good trade. Thanks a lot, to the Bowls Club for having us.

A big thank you to Charlotte Grace Casuals for selling the tickets.

The total profit raised was £928 which is a fantastic amount. Thank you very much to everyone who supported us and looking forward to seeing you next year! *Jonet Marshall*

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A CASE OF THE JANUARY NEWS

Happy New Year! I hope you all celebrated the festive period with cheer and are still basking in the twinkly afterglow, hoovering up remaining treats and reminiscing over time spent with loved ones.

As that sparkle fades to a glimmer, don't give in to that looming January chasm of grey-blue doom. Instead, focus on the new. Think of Month 01 as a springboard for all the things that await you this 2025; new wildlife, new experiences, new Parish magazine article authors... and with that shameful segue let me introduce myself.

I'm Kerry, 'Communications Officer – Conservation' for Sussex Wildlife Trust. My role consists of running the Trust's wildlife information advice service, WildCall, and also writing content for blogs, our website, and social media.

In December, Michael Blencowe signed off with his last Parish Magazine article about footprints, fittingly leaving me mighty big shoes to fill. Flicking back through the past library has been a wonderful read, and considering Michael's term of seven years (!), it's a challenge to find a fresh new topic not already covered. Seeing as it's a new year, how about

newness itself?

So, to January newness. I'm looking forward to fieldfares and redwings delicately tweezing berries from treetops. Huddling on Brighton Pier, amid ghost train squeals and the smell of sweet doughnuts, to watch Starlings sky-dance. Drops of snow and Snowdrops. Chilly stomps up the Downs on roaring fire Sundays. From now on, the days ever so slowly get longer again, giving more precious minutes to get out there and explore. Last year I visited Ebernoe for the first time, searching for Fungi in early autumn. I look forward to heading back to experience its Old-England-come-fairy-whimsy in the crunching frost. I'll head back to Rye Harbour to hole up in hides, be-gloved and binocularled, to spot winter waders and hovering Marsh Harriers.

I will search for paw and hoof prints in the snow or the mud. I'll be vigilant for too-witting and wooing Tawny Owls and scan darkened woodlands to see one; I never seem to succeed, but maybe this is my year.

Whatever you choose to do with this often-condemned-as-miserable month, I hope it instead brings you joy. Let your only January blues be that of the sea and sky. Here's to 2025!

Kerry Williams



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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Happy New Year! We hope you are all ready for 2025. And you're possibly in the middle of "Dry January". None the less this month we are showing a riotous and moving film about ...drinking...on **16th January**.

It's.... Another Round. Director Thomas Vinterberg (2021) Danish. Subtitles. 12A. 117 mins.

Played by Mads Mikkelsen, Martin is a high school teacher in a mid life crisis. He and his three colleagues embark on an "study" to see what level of alcohol makes them better people. Measuring social and professional performance they drink only during working hours.

Intoxicating, very funny and sobering.

The film won a Bafta for Best Film not in the English Language and an Oscar for best international feature.

On the **6th February** we will be showing Perfect Days. Director Wim Wenders (2024)

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German, Japanese. Subtitles. PG. 125 minutes.

Described by The Guardian as Wim Wenders best feature film in years. This is an achingly lovely tale of a public toilet cleaner in Tokyo, Hirayama, who finds quiet joy in the world around him. Hirayama looks at the world with his eyes but sees with his eyes.

We're looking forward to an interesting year of films with special events and guests being planned. Our next programme is being put together now. Watch this space and keep up to date via our website, **ditchlingfilm.org.uk** or Instagram **@ditchlingfilmsoc** and Tweet **@Ditchlingfilm**.

Members of the Ditchling Film Society are eligible for a 20% discount on pre-booked meals and drinks at The Bull Pub on film night.

Films usually show on the first Thursday of the month at Ditchling Village Hall. Doors open at 7.30 pm and you can buy a glass of good wine before the show which starts at 8 pm. Cards accepted.

Ditchling Village Hall, 18 Lewes Road, Ditchling, Hassocks, East Sussex. There's plenty of parking next to the village hall.

See you in January.

Kate

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Lucy commented: "Being a woman in the trade industry comes with a unique challenges and rewards, so receiving this recognition as women in Trade Champion is incredibly meaningful, I hope this award inspires more women to pursue careers in trades, knowing that skill, dedication, and professionalism are what truly count. I'm proud to represent women in this field and to keep delivering top notch service for my clients".

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Our January talk will be on Friday **31st January 7.30 pm** "Shoreham Fort" The history of this 19th century fort built to protect Shoreham and the entrance to the river Adur. The speaker is Speaker Gary Baines from the Friends of Shoreham Fort. 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.

J Simmons

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AGE CONCERN Dale Avenue, Hassocks. 01273 844461 www.achassocks.co.uk

Facebook - Age Concern Hassocks

We would like to wish you a Happy New Year from everyone at Age Concern, Hassocks.

We held another Rummage Sale on Saturday 16th November and raised a total of £373.00, which is our best total yet. Thank you to all the Volunteers who continue to help at these events, we couldn't do them without you and to everyone that comes and supports us. The money raised is helping our Centre continue its work within the Hassocks community and surrounding villages.

We also held our Craft & Christmas Fair on Saturday 14th December, and we will let you know the total raised in the next issue.

There will be various events and trips during 2025 which will be advertised on posters at the Centre and in our regular newsletter. Why don't you come along and see what we have on offer and enjoy a hot drink and piece of cake in our Coffee Shop.

Would you like to Volunteer at Age Concern, Hassocks? You can give us as little or as much time as you like, and we have a variety of Volunteer roles available. If you are interested, please give us a call on the above number or call into the Centre and talk to a member of Staff who will be happy to help you. We are also on the lookout for Volunteer minibus drivers. You will need a D1 driving license and any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated. We run the bus on

a Tuesday and Thursday and occasionally on trips out for our members. We regularly need Drivers for holiday cover. Please feel free to give us a call or pop into the Centre for more information.

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 our minibus picks up from Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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 which, we are pleased to announce, is up and running again.

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 is 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.

All at Age Concern

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DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT The timber framed building at the southwest corner of Ditchling crossroads, dating from the 16th century and currently undergoing extensive renovation, is the subject of a detailed project recently completed by Ditchling History Project. The property's long and fascinating history has been uncovered through painstaking deciphering of Manorial records, mostly written in Latin in many and varied hands. This work, along with searches through wills, newspaper reports and reminiscences, throws light on the lives of both owners and occupiers, their fascinating and sometimes unexpected stories enriching our knowledge not only of the building but of village society over four centuries. Information shared by owner's past and present is also gratefully acknowledged.

An eighty-page in depth study compiled by Judith Davies has been passed to the current owners while the project has raised the idea of encouraging others to explore the history of their own Ditchling properties. You can find out more on our new DHP noticeboard in Lewes Road at the entrance to the village hall. Our activities for the new year begin on Wednesday **8th January** with the first of our monthly drop-ins held in the White Horse every second Wednesday from 2 pm.

We will be at a history event in Westmeston Parish Hall on Friday **28th February** to give a talk about local farmer George Thomas who kept a diary throughout the Second World War describing his farming life as well as his duties as a member of the Home Guard, later becoming Patrol Leader for Ditchling's secret Auxiliary Unit.

Janet Cragg

SUSSEX PATHFINDERS RAMBLING CLUB At the time of writing the Sussex countryside has unexpectedly turned into a mud bath thanks to the sudden arrival of Storm Bert and torrential rain causing flooding overnight.

So as autumn turns into winter a recent walk in my village with Sussex Wildlife Trust identified possible swift locations, and residents will be approached with regard to having swift boxes installed. An owl box has now been installed in an area where owls have been heard at night. Residents hope they may decide to occupy the box and enjoy a safe and warm nest site.

Golden eagles, once driven to extinction in England and Wales, are on the brink of a historic return. Thanks to the success of the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project (SSGEP) their numbers in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway have soared from a handful to around 50 - the highest in 300 years.

With backing from the new charity Restoring Upland Nature, plans are underway to extend this groundbreaking work to the English uplands and beyond. "Golden eagles don't see borders" says Dr Cat Barlow, SSGEP's project manager. "Many are already showing interest in England's uplands, and we're exploring opportunities to re-establish this iconic species across Britain."

If you would like to see forthcoming walks for SPRC please see our website

www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk

Diann Clarke

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SUSSEX CHORUS - 'Springing into Action'.

Nearly 50 years ago when Sussex Chorus was called Ditchling Choral Society a piece of music was written especially for us by a young local composer called Howard Blake. He is now famous as the composer of 'Walking in the Air' for the 'Snowman' film - and many other compositions.

Our song was called The Song of St Francis, using the words of the saint, and it was appropriate because we sang it in the chapel of the

then St Francis Hospital in Haywards Heath - now the apartment complex next to Princess Royal Hospital. We have sung it a few times since, a long time ago, but have decided to revive it as part of our Spring Concert 2025. Howard Blake was a guest of honour for our centenary concert a couple of years ago, is now our Vice President and will be at our Spring Concert.

The other piece in the concert will be Mozart's Requiem - so overall a musical delight. The concert will be on **22nd March** 7.30 pm in St Andrews Church Burgess Hill.

We will be rehearsing from January 2025 and if you want to come and 'have a go' we are having an open rehearsal on **14th January**, 7.15pm in the drama studio of St Pauls School, Burgess Hill. No charge for the evening, no auditions for joining the choir, but you do need to be able to sight-read your line of music.

Margaret Rea

THE GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX presents An Afternoon with Opera Anywhere.

They will explain how they go about staging their productions, show some video clips and sing a few songs live.

Sunday **26th January**, 2.45 pm at Adastra Hall, Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8QH.

Tickets includes refreshments to book email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

Pennie Ingram



The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Sussex

presents

AN AFTERNOON
with



OPERA

ANYWHERE

26th January 2025 at 2.45pm
at the Adastra Hall, Hassocks, BN6 8QH

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 serveries 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.ditchlingvillage-hall.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

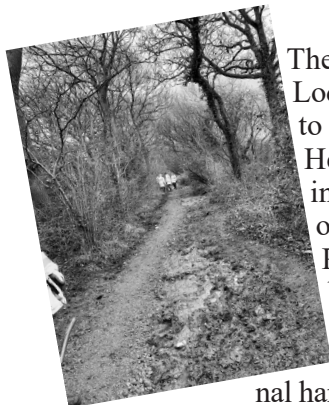
Hurstpierpoint Guide HQ - Kitchen and carpeted hall and lovely enclosed garden call Judy Leech on 01273 833954.

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.

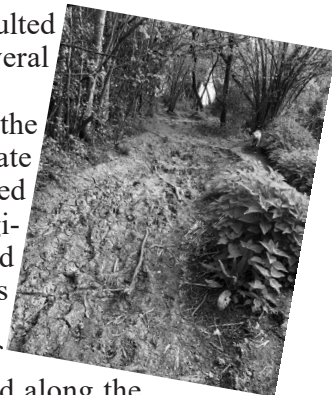
Westmeston Parish Hall A great venue for parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries, christenings, workshop days and seminars. The main hall is available at weekends and some afternoons/evenings during the week. There is ample parking and flexible outdoor space. To book contact Paul Charman - pec.glebe@tiscali.co.uk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

THE MONDAY GROUP'S BIGGEST PROJECT TO DATE COMPLETED



The bridleway and parallel footpath running from Oldland Mill to Lodge Hill Lane had, over the years, become increasingly difficult to negotiate during or after wet weather. Heavy foofall and poor drainage resulted in many sections of thick mud, several over 6inches deep.

Phase 1 of the project, to improve the bridleway section, started in late 2022. Most of the problems resulted from some subsidence of the original hard surface, which needed to be raised in a manner that wouldn't impede horse riders or cyclists who had a right to use the route.



By February 2023 some 17 tonnes of hard surface material was laid by hand along the whole length of the bridleway, underlaid where necessary by good quality brick hardcore donated by a local landowner.

Phase 2, of the project, to improve the footpath itself, making one of the best local views of the Downs, from Ditchling Beacon to Jack and Jill, and Wolstonbury more accessible, started in March 2023 and has now been completed.

A continuous walkway over 300ft long has been installed, raised off the ground to provide a level walking surface and allowing the surface water to find its own way without creating the impassable muddy pockets that previously made using the path so difficult. Each section has a durable oak frame, topped with high quality decking boards to give good grip when wet.



Whilst the Group provides all its labour for free, partial funding for the materials came from a very generous donation of the proceeds of the 2022 and 2023 Ditchling Local Views calendars, and also by many individual donations received over the course of the project.

To make a donation, view our latest work or report an issue please visit our website at www.mondaygroup.org.

Stephen Brewis

Useful Information

OUT OF HOURS CHEMIST

Either **Day Lewis** or **Boots** in Hassocks.

Mon. to Fri. 5.30pm - 6pm.

Sun. 10am - 4pm covered by Boots Burgess Hill

Bank Holidays Please see chemist doors.

Urgent prescriptions call Sussex Police
0845 6070999

LIBRARIES

Hurstpierpoint - 01273 832609

Hassocks - 01273 842779

Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 9am - 1pm
& Thurs., Fri. 1 - 5pm

HASSOCKS FOOD BANK

Open to anyone in need of support. Held in
Powell House (next to United Reformed Church),
Hassocks, 10am to 12noon, every Friday.
Or drop donations to Mansell McTaggart and
The Sussex Grocer in Hassocks

TENNIS COURT HIRE

Adastra Park, Hassocks

Book www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/AdastraPark

NEAREST HOUSEHOLD WASTE

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WEST SUSSEX

01243 642106.

Fairbridge Way, Burgess Hill, RH15 8AR.

To book a visit via www.westsussex.gov.uk

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Ham Lane, Lewes, BN7 3PS

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PARISH COUNCILS

Hassocks

01273 842714

www.hassockspc.net.

Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 2pm, Fri 10am - 12pm.

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common

01273 833264

www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

Mon.- Fri. 9.30am - 1pm.

Ditchling

01273 844733

www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk

DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON

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 & KEYMER

Railway Station, Outside Ticket Office

Adastra Hall, Keymer Road

Adastra Bowling Club, Adastra Park (North Field)

Age Concern, Dale Avenue

Freedom Leisure Centre, Downlands School, Dale Avenue

Hassocks Dental Surgery, 54a Keymer Road

Graystone Referral Centre, 38 Keymer Road

Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club, Adastra Park (South Field)

Hassocks Health Centre, Windmill Avenue

Oldland Windmill, Oldlands Lane, Keymer

Thatched Inn, Grand Avenue

Weald Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, South Bank

South Downs Garden Centre, Brighton Road

What's On in January

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.**

Church Services

BEACON PARISH JANUARY SERVICES

Morning Worship with Holy Communion 10 am St Margarets, Ditchling on **5th & 12th** inc. Little Beacons and **26th**. On **19th** 'Service of morning Worship and Holy Communion' 10 am Streat Church. Wednesday@10 (am) Holy Communion weekly at St Margarets Church, Ditchling. Check www.beaconparish.co.uk to be kept up to date.

Clubs

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.

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. Mondays 10.30 - 12 pm at Keymer Church Hall and at Clayton Church Hall, every Tuesday at 10.30 am to 12 pm.

MUMS, DADS & CARERS HUG IN A MUG - 8.45 - 10.30 am every Monday, 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.ditchling-quakers.org.uk

VISUALLY-IMPAIRED CLUB We meet alternate Wednesdays from 10.30 am to 2 pm at Clayton Parish Hall in Underhill Lane. If you are interested, please ring me on **01444 450947.**

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

Regular Events

28th Dec - 3rd Jan HURST PLAYERS Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint various performances. Panto 'Robinson Crusoe and Friends'. Tickets www.hurstplayers.org.uk.

1st UKES OF HASSOCKS Proper Cycling & Coffee 7.30 pm. Monthly community jam session, play and sing along, beginners welcome. All welcome.

2nd 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.

6th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

7th MEMORY CAFE Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint 2 - 4 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.

7th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm. 'A Small Slice of the Big Apple' Neil Sadler.

8th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT White Horse, Ditchling 2 pm. Drop in all welcome.

10th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Nag & Natter Evening' Refreshments available. All welcome.

11th 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.

11th CHURCHES TOGETHER URC Hassocks 9.30 am. Messy Church - breakfast, crafts, games and story. All welcome.

13th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thereupon.org.uk.

13th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'The Ecology of Wilding at Knepp' Matt Phelps

14th MUSKRAT RAMBLERS, Hassocks Hotel, Station Approach East, doors 11.45 am Start 12 pm. Great Food, Great Jazz & Great Company. A set lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01444 235986 or 01444 235639 to book.

14th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Club Suite, Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.45 pm. 'Drinks, nibbles, chat & a fun

quiz'. All welcome.

15th MEMORY CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. These sessions are for anyone with memory problems, dementia and their family member or carer. More info call 01444 450248.

16th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee Morning run by 1st Ditchling Scouts. All welcome.

16th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. 'It's... Another Round'. Tickets available on the door

17th STAR CINEMA Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7 pm. Film - 'A Good Woman' Tea, coffee, wine and raffle. Tickets available on the door.

19th PARISH OF CLAYTON WITH KEYMER, Meeting Room, Keymer Church Hall. 9.45 - 10.45 am. Storytime Creative - Stories from the Bible and the heart and respond with your own pictures or creative writing. Bring an adult. More info 01273 845964.

20th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'WI Resolutions and making Breast Cancer cushions'. Visitors welcome.

23rd LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

24th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.midsussexars.org.uk. 'Norris Brothers Mid Sussex's Forgotten Geniuses' Mick Pepper G4WEH. Refreshments available. All welcome.

24th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'Fraud: So you think you are immune? You might not be'. Roger Tristram. Small entrance fee. Refreshments inc.

25th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

25th REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransition.org.uk.

26th GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2.45 pm. 'An Afternoon with Opera Anywhere'. Tickets inc refreshments to book email gandstodaysussex@gmail.com.

27th CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

27th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'The Beauty & Utility of Hay Meadows' Iain Parkinson.

29th SOUTH DOWNS WOODTURNERS Upper Beeding Village Hall, 7pm Freestyle competition and hands on practical evening. Visitors welcome.

30th 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 HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 8 pm 'Shoreham Fort' Gary Baines. All welcome.

ARE YOU SINGLE? Have you thought about the wide variety of things there are to do in our area? A glance at local events pages demonstrates that there are loads of walks, shows, dinners, live music, theatre.

It's not always easy to find people who want to do the same things. But a Sussex club has that covered. With over 300 members, you can be pretty certain of finding people with similar interests. And you'll make new friends too.

The club is called The Group. It's a Sussex club for unattached men and women, aged 55+.

The Group was never intended to be a busi-

ness or agency. And now, 18 years since it was founded, It's a club run by volunteers, with a low membership fee, true to its original vision.

Members pay just yearly. Once you receive the fortnightly diary by email, you can choose which events you would like to attend, and then let the event organizer know you are coming. The more events on the diary, the more exciting 2025 will be. And if you enjoy organizing, you will be very welcome.

Take a look at the website www.thegroup.org.uk. The festive season is the time of year when many of us take stock. How was last year? Could it be better? A new beginning?

If you want to have a conversation, call one of the numbers on the website. Or you can just turn up at one of 5 club nights (you don't have to let them know you are coming). Your first visit is free to give you the opportunity to meet people.

How did it all start? Well, in 2006, talking with a friend about life as a single person in Sussex, Tricia Bentley agreed that there are plenty of things to do, but wondered how to get people together to enjoy those things. They co-founded The Group. Now they have monthly club nights in Worthing, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Lewes and Horsham.

The first step may seem like a big one. But hundreds of people have taken that step. Maybe you will too. You'll be very welcome.

Patricia Bentley



VALENTINE'S DAY

Friday 14th February

Foil Balloons - Bunch of 3 for £15

(Phone orders accepted for balloons)

Cards, Gifts & more in stock.

01273 846978

QD Stationery 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks BN6 8AR



GILES TURNER

FINANCIAL PLANNING

A very Happy New Year to you.

2024 coming to a close has offered an opportunity for reflection on what I feel grateful for, and what feels important moving forward into the new year.

Enjoying participating in occasions that bring the local community together, such as Hassocks Goes Gold, HURSTfolk and the Macs Farm events, reminds me of how fortunate I feel to have lived here for 15 years.

My children have both attended school in the village, and various clubs over the years, and I now watch my eldest enjoying coming home from university to 'top himself up' with a bit of Hassocks life.

Having lived here a while, I also now benefit from knowing the local businesses who can help when something needs doing, and I very much enjoy being a part of that circle and service.

I'm currently exploring how I can bring information on specific areas of Independent Financial Advice in a group capacity to the local villages – if there is a particular subject you would be interested in knowing more about that you'd like to suggest, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**“The path to the financial future
you desire starts with the plans
that you make today.”**



07502 360517



giles@gilesturnerfinancialplanning.co.uk



gilesturnerfinancialplanning.co.uk

Giles Turner Financial Planning Ltd is an Appointed Representative of ValidPath Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Firm Reference Number 197107. Giles Turner Financial Planning Ltd is registered in England & Wales Companies House registration No. 15718448. FCA registration No. 1019535.

Registered address: 8 Ockley Way, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8NE. Tel: 07502 360517.

Web: gilesturnerfinancialplanning.co.uk

David J Stevens

Property Maintenance

Feel free to contact me
07593 792418
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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

In my line of work, you're never sure what's going to happen from one day to the next. These past few months we've had a lot of injured or ill pigeons brought in which are then quickly passed on to the excellent Wildlife Organisation which operates locally. The ones that survived were recently released in the park, so well done and thank you to those who took the trouble to pick them up and bring them in.

As always, this time of the year we take delivery of the Kit Wilson Trust Donations Box. They do a great job rescuing and rehoming a large variety of animals. So, if you've got any unused food, medicines or accessories you'd like to donate to help any of the animals in their care, then please feel free to pop them in the box and I'll make sure it's there for them when collected in the New Year. The thing to remember is these smaller charities don't always get the support that the bigger ones do this time of year.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, I'm never sure what's going to happen, but I will say I do hear about people who buy pets and then seem to not want to look after them properly or decide just not to feed them. I had a couple come to see me about two cats they knew about that were not being cared for properly and could I help. I said I'll do my best but only if the owner consented to them being rehomed, the next day I had a phone call to say they had got one of them and could they bring it over. When they arrived all I could see looking out of the cat carrier were these huge orange eyes, but this wasn't a moggie, this was a Persian cat with the flat nose and seemed to be struggling to breathe. When I got it out the box it was just like handling a bunch of twigs, she was so bony I was frightened something might snap if I didn't handle her carefully. I immediately took her upstairs away from my other cats, I needed to check her over properly before I'd let her mix with mine. She'd obviously not been wormed, was covered in fleas, had ear mites and the way she fell into a bowl of water was probably dehydrated as well. As the couple left the shop, they said they would see if they could find her sister and by the way her name is Marshmallow.

She now needed feeding up so I put her on a raw diet using Natural Instincts Pure Chicken which she just inhaled, raw is the best because her little body would abort at least 90% of it, there would be minimal waste coming out the other end and I can put additives in to help with vitamin and mineral shortage. On this diet she quickly gained weight and when she did eventually poo something it was a good consistency, no evidence of worms, and the fleas were gone. The Ear Mites take a little longer to get rid of but we're moving in the right direction. Her breathing has improved, but you have to feel sorry for these snub nosed cats. Personally, I don't think it's right to breed cats like this, but the breed is hundreds of years old so it's not likely to change anytime soon. Marshmallow will obviously stay with us now so pop in anytime to see her and watch her progress. I'm still trying to get hold of her sister but have had little success at the moment, but if she's anywhere near as bad as Marshmallow was then her chances of survival are very slim. You can follow Marshmallow on our Facebook page 'Hassocks Pet Centre' or come in and donate towards her keep.

We're hoping for a good Christmas this year to help with all the increases put upon us. For all you hotties we do a Hot Max High Density Pure Wood Eco Fuel logs 20 kilogrammes for £9.50.

Next year will be very interesting for a lot of reasons, we shall see progress on the old National Tyres building and more chaos when they start work on the 40 retirement homes.

Thank you for reading this and telling me how much you're enjoying it Happy New Year love Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392