

HassocksLife

Including the communities of Keymer & Clayton

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #2 : June 2019

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May Day photo round-up

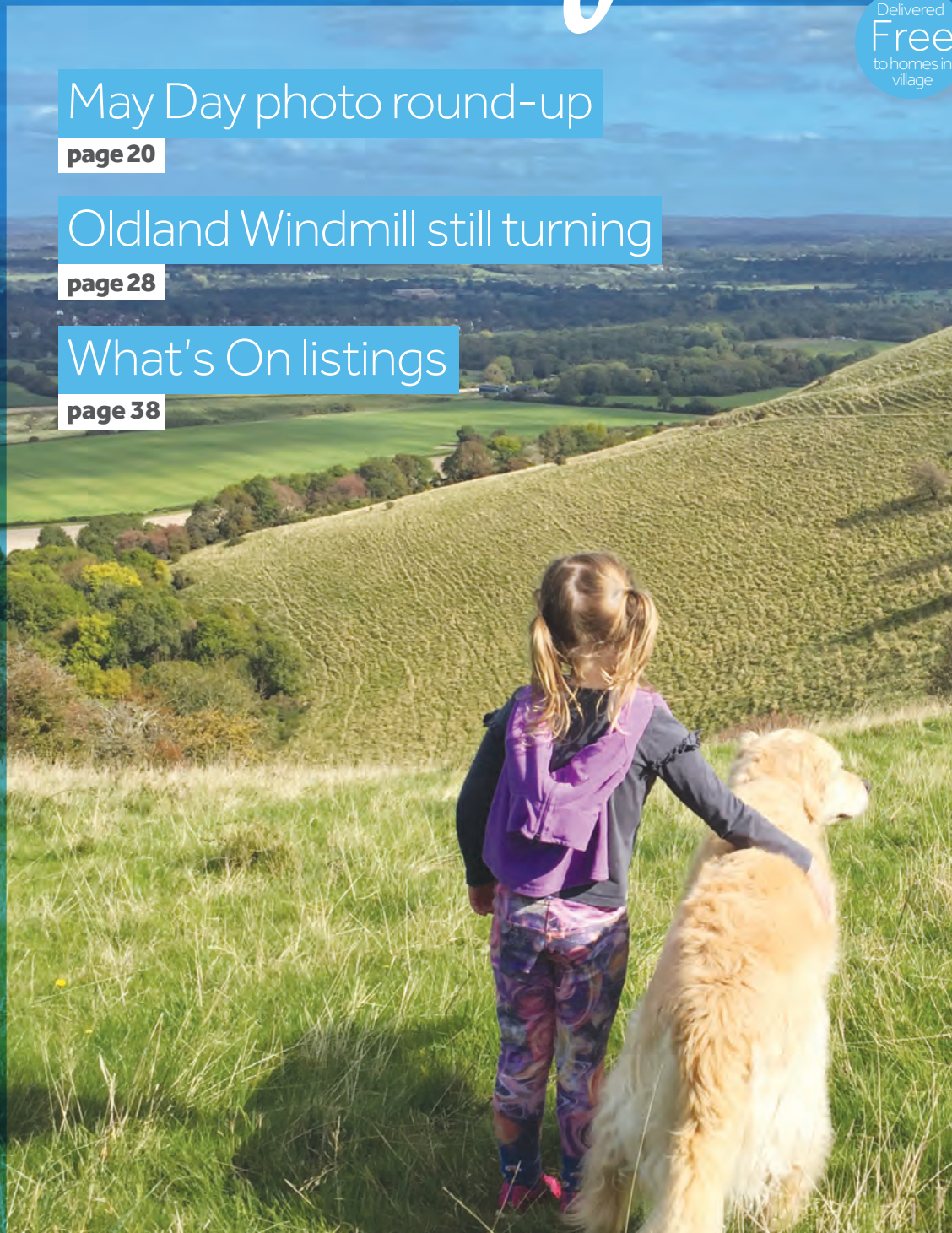
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Oldland Windmill still turning

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What's On listings

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care for your home

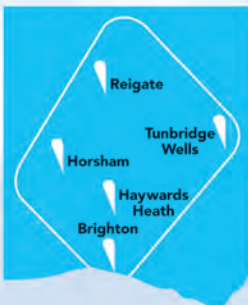
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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

A lot seems to have happened since our 'launch issue' last month! I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all those who got in touch to say they liked the magazine.



Emily and I also had a great time at the **May Day event**, which very much confirmed I was working with a community full of that all-important community spirit. You can read more about this amazing Hassocks event by **Michelle Binks** on **pages 20-22** – where we also include a number of photos from the day.

In addition to all that, I am delighted to introduce you to our **new assistant editor** on **page 9** – **Deirdre Huston**, some of you will already know her, I'm sure.

Page 16 plays host to our regular **Behind the Counter** feature which, this month, finds **Kelly Harding** talking to **Joe Wayte** about the High Street florist Bella June.

Another soon-to-be regular feature is on **page 10**. Joe met up with **Village People** candidate and Clayton resident **Kellie Miller** at her home. I love these articles, as they tell the story of folk from the village each month.

I'm delighted to be working with the **Oldland Windmill Trust** in order to publish the article on **page 28**. I would like to say particular thanks to Hassocks resident **Roger Broadbent** for this introduction and his knowledge.

Scattered throughout our leaves are various pieces of news for this month including **The Weald** hosting a county tennis final (**p.5**), the **Village Garden Trail** (**p.12**) and a local resident who has just released his **latest children's music CD** (**p.27**).

We love it all: news stories, event details, people features and the odd silly photo. Enjoy the month of June and keep in touch.

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by Kipper



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'tank tracks'

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We love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to editor@hassockslife.co.uk

Hassocks Bike 'n' Fun returns this month

The community bike ride returns later this month, as resident Pippa Crouch takes over the reins this year.

The event will take place on Sunday 30th June and will feature two safe, marshalled routes – a four and eight mile ride. Both start from The Hassocks Hotel with registration at 9.30am. The shorter route will go via Oldland Mill (which will be open until 1pm) and Ditchling, ending back at The Hassocks. The longer route will go via Oldland Mill, Ditchling, Underhill Lane, Hurstpierpoint and back to the same place.

Pippa explained: "This fun event is for the whole community, regardless of age and cycling ability."

The event will be kindly marshalled by volunteers from the Proper Cycling Club, and will feature a BBQ too.

For more information pop into Proper Coffee, QD Stationery or like the Facebook page – search for Hassocks Bike 'n' Fun.



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The Weald host county finals

Over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, The Weald Tennis Club were proud hosts to the LTA 14U Boys Regional Qualifiers.

Six county teams from Kent, Cornwall, Suffolk, Shropshire, Wiltshire and Sussex battled it out for a place at the National Finals held in Nottingham two weeks later. The teams played in two 'boxes' with the winners from each box playing the final set of matches on Bank Holiday Monday.

Sussex players, Charlie, Will, Darcy, Thomas, Theo and Thomas, having convincingly won their box against Shropshire and Wiltshire, progressed through to play a very strong Kent side in the final.

After six 'rubbers', the two teams were tied, having won three apiece. The winners were then decided by a ten point championship tie-break, played as the first to ten points, with two clear. Charlie and Darcy, having had tough matches to this point, decisively won 10-2, to the cheers of teammates, coaches, family and friends!

This victory made Sussex the weekend's champions and sent the boys to Nottingham for the National Finals, where they met the seven other qualifying county teams from around the country.



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Castles Solicitors move to Hassocks

A local firm of solicitors specialising in conveyancing and wills, probate and trusts has moved to Hassocks from Hurstpierpoint after 42 years trading on the High Street.

Castles Solicitors – run by John and Branwen Castle – has an experienced team of nine and are now based at 37-39 Keymer Road.

John explained: “The whole team is excited about the move, and we’ve had some great comments from clients on our new ‘bright and airy’ office space. Making

the move also enabled us to update our technology and work more efficiently together as a team and for our clients. We also love being on this bustling High Street.”

As well as continuing to serve their existing clients, the team is keen to explore the opportunities that Hassocks provides and welcome new enquiries from the residents of Hassocks.

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Free tennis event in Adastral Park

With the excitement of Wimbledon nearly upon us, Adastral Tennis Club will be hosting a Tennis Open Day later this month.

Members of the village club, which manages and uses the courts at Adastral Park, are inviting Hassocks

residents to take part in the event, which will see the courts open between 10.30am and 1pm on Saturday 15th June.

For more information contact Lin on 01273 845258 or email linwylam@hotmail.com.

Introducing Deirdre, your new assistant editor

By David Tingley

I am delighted to announce that Hassocks resident Deirdre Huston has been appointed as Hassocks Life's assistant editor.

Deirdre is a guidebook author, writer and photographer, and has lived in the village for more than 25 years. "I was drawn to Hassocks Life when I saw the first issue," she explained. "I really liked the format and could see its potential in our community – so I was keen to be part of it."

Deirdre is married to Ian Rayland and has three children, all of whom have grown up in Hassocks. She's been part of local fundraising committees, NCT groups and helped set up a book club 13 years ago, which is still going strong today.

The role of the assistant editor will deal with the day-to-day communication about content going into the magazine, in addition to writing up both news and feature articles for inclusion on our pages. Deirdre will also be 'sniffing out' stories about events and activities that are taking place in the village!

If you know someone we should be talking to, or have an event which you'd like promoted to our area of Hassocks, Keymer and Clayton – then do please email Deirdre via editor@hassockslife.co.uk. We will always welcome ideas, suggestions and articles of local interest.



We also need great cover photos of the village, taken throughout the year. If you have any, please email them in to: photos@hassockslife.co.uk. We will file them, and if we publish yours on a cover, you'll get a £20 shopping voucher to spend on the High Street.



Art that takes the biscuit

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Kellie Miller is a local artist who creates, curates and collects a multitude of art from all around the world. Having been highly sought-after for her ceramics in Japan at the beginning of the millennium, she's now settled in Clayton and has turned her house and garden into a beautiful display of work featuring a number of renowned international artists.

By Joe Wayte

Kellie Miller was born and grew up in Battersea before venturing down to Brighton University to study 3D design. "I always wanted to be an artist," Kellie said confidently, "my course included a mix of woodwork, paint, ceramics and more besides, so over the years I've worked with lots of different materials."

In 2002 Kellie was offered an artist's residency by the Arts Council which took her to Shigaraki in Japan. She was later selected for her second international exhibition for which she fired 101 cups to create a conceptual piece of art, inspired by the book *The Art of Possibility*. "The cups were sold individually after the exhibition," she explained, "with the idea that they're like seeds, going off into the world, and maybe one day, somehow, they'll all come back together."

Having spent a lot of time in the country, Kellie says she has a deep love for Japan and is still influenced by its culture today. "Going to Japan is like going to the moon," she described, "you've got to experience it at least once in your life."

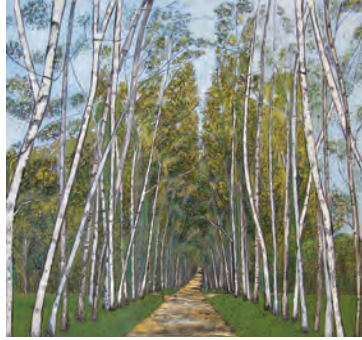
Kellie has always based herself in the South of England. In 1996 she founded the Biscuit Studio in Hove, which was initially a centre for ceramics artists. Over the years, aspiring artists of all medias have rented space in its inspiring environment.

It was at the studio that Kellie met her husband, Kim, who lived in the house adjacent to Biscuit Studio. "The studio didn't have its own toilet," she explained, "and when new tenants arrived in the unit next door they denied us access to the facilities we'd been using since we opened." Kim came to her rescue and offered Kellie a key to his house so that she could use his loo until the issue was resolved. 12 years after they first met, Kellie and Kim were married in 2011.

Ivan Clarke



Kellie Miller



Klaus-w-Rieck



The couple had been looking to move to a new house for six years before finding their current place in Clayton. "The property had been on the market for two years," Kellie recalled, "and as it dropped in value it eventually came into our price bracket. When we first walked in, our jaws dropped - it was perfect but scary." The sale took a short five weeks. As part of the process, Kellie re-visited the property with a surveyor who advised them not to buy. Undeterred, they sought help from a family friend and builder who was happy to come on board and help them to get the house in shape. "I never anticipated the house looking like it does now we're done," added Kellie, "it has really become a home."

Throughout May, Kellie has been opening her house, private gallery and garden at weekends to the public. For over 25 years she has participated in Artists Open Houses with this year being the first time she's opened her home at Bluebell Cottage for the event. "I've made a body of work every year since 1994 for this event," Kellie mentioned. She displayed a selection of paintings and sculptures both by her and other international artists.

A few years ago, Kellie had the idea of renting one of the empty shops in Brighton for a short period to house a pop-up art gallery. In 2013 she was given the opportunity. "It was a very different experience for me," said Kellie. "That was the first time I'd had to be in the same place, at the same time every day and while I loved doing it, most of my time was spent sitting and waiting not knowing how my day would go." As she came to the end of her two-month lease, Kellie moved into profit during the last weekend. Success!

Having made friends with the landlords, Kellie still rents the space and the gallery has been open seven days per week since May 2014. It houses work from a selection of artists that she represents. "I encourage them all to be themselves," she explained. "Some artists create work because there's a consumer trend and they know it will sell. I always encourage creativity first – trust your instinct, and then find where that piece belongs."

Before she started representing artists at her gallery, Kellie went back to university to complete an MA in Art Criticism. "I just wanted to prove to myself that I really did know what I was talking about," Kellie explained, "and to prove to myself that I was intelligent too." Kellie didn't actually learn to read and write until she was nine years old. On discovery that the school she attended wasn't giving her the right support, Kellie was moved and constantly felt like she was playing catch up with the other students. "In later life I would have dreams that I was still at school," she added, "and completing my MA was the closure I needed to push past that."

In an effort to encourage other people to enter into the creative field, Kellie launched the Kellie Miller Arts Awards. It partners with universities and schools across the South to award outstanding work, with prizes including displaying work in the Kellie Miller Arts Gallery.

"Being an artist is a difficult life to choose," Kellie said sympathetically. "You never know where your next penny is coming from, and you've got to be comfortable with that. But I wouldn't have it any other way."

Take a look at Kellie Miller Arts online to find out more. Her website was helpfully developed by her husband, Kim. Alternatively, you can visit the Kellie Miller Arts Gallery in The Lanes in Brighton or Kellie's home is always open to new faces - give her a call and pop by for a cup of Japanese brown rice tea.

Garden Trail open: 9th June

During the National Garden Scheme, private gardens of high quality with both plant and design interest open in aid of charity. It's a fun and often inspiring way for gardeners to share ideas and, this June, Hassocks will have its very own Village Garden Trail. Assistant County Organiser for the Hassocks area, Jane Baker,



has been hoping to incorporate local gardens into the National Garden Scheme for some years. She is 'excited that at last we can welcome garden enthusiasts to some Hassocks gardens.'

Visitors should look out for the excellent use of space which includes seating areas, winding paths and a wonderful range of unusual plants and shrubs. Local allotments are also open where visitors can see early-season crops, chat to plot-holders and enjoy far-reaching views towards the Jack and Jill windmills and wider woodland. Take the time to wander along the easy access path through adjacent ancient woodland. Hassocks is fortunate to have one of the few remaining chalk streams, the Herring Stream but high water levels can cause problems. See the new Rain Gardens

in Adastra Park which demonstrate how house holders might reduce flash-flooding by holding back rain water.

Home-made teas will be available at the United Reformed Church during the afternoon and all proceeds will go to Family Support Work for caregivers. All are welcome but no dogs. Admission fees (£6 for adults with children free) will go to the NGS charities, which range from Mind to Hospices UK.

The Hassocks Village Garden Trail will be held on Sunday 9th June between 1pm and 5pm. In addition to Parkland Road allotments and the Rain Gardens, 13 Chancellors Park and 2 Ockley Lane will also be open on the day. Maps available at venues.

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College offers funding for BN6 pupils

Nearby Hurst College is offering up to two fully-funded school places for children to join Hurst Prep School in Year 7 for September 2020 through to the Sixth Form.

The BN6 Award is available to academically able boys and girls in the Year 6 age group from September 2019, who will make a contribution to the life of the college, academically as well as through extra-curricular activities such as music, drama or sport.

Children applying for this means-tested award must live in the BN6 postcode area or be attending a state-maintained primary school in the BN6 postcode area.

The award was launched in 2015 after an Endowment Fund was set up at Hurst College. The aim was to provide assisted places for academically gifted children who would flourish at the college, but who could not attend without some major financial support. As Hurst College has had close ties with the local community for more than 150 years, it seemed fitting that the beneficiaries of this fund should be children who live close to the college, in the BN6 postcode.

Further information about the BN6 Award is available on the Hurst College website www.hppc.co.uk or by contacting Christina Treadaway, Prep School Admissions Officer: christina.treadaway@hppc.co.uk



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Optometrists donate kit to charity

Village opticians Hassocks Eyecare Centre have recently donated a specialist piece of equipment for examining eyes to Burgess Hill based charity SeeKenya.

SeeKenya is a UK based charity working within Kenya to reduce blindness and provide specialist treatment and high quality eye care services to marginalised communities.

Twice a year, teams of up to 15 volunteers set up temporary clinics in the county town of Meru in central Kenya. Using one of the local church buildings as a base, SeeKenya provide full eye tests and eye health screenings for every person who visits the clinic. There is an on-site glazing lab which means it is possible to make and deliver glasses to the patients, usually on the same day.

"We are so grateful for the support of Hassocks Eyecare Centre and the donation of this vital piece of equipment," explained founder of SeeKenya Pete Marson. "This will make a huge difference in checking the health of people's eyes in Kenya. Without this kind of support, SeeKenya would not be able to provide the service that these people deserve."



Vicki Macken and Paul Watts pictured with the slit-lamp and Charlotte Olive from SeeKenya.

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Flowers, weddings and a funeral

BEHIND THE COUNTER

In this next edition of Behind the Counter we meet someone who has an incredible ability to juggle multiple tasks and still manage to stay on top of everything. If she and I were to trade places for 24 hours my day would better resemble the infamous film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* - Hugh Grant charging around in a 1980s Mini, turning up late for every occasion. You'll be pleased to read that I'm going to stick to writing, and leave the floristry to our next interviewee, Kelly Harding, owner of Bella June Flowers.

By Joe Wayte

Bella June Flowers opened its doors on Hassocks High Street just over one year ago, in May 2018. Its name is inspired by two women close to the heart of the shop's director, Kelly Harding. Bella is her first and only daughter and June her late grandmother. While funerals often signify an ending, for Kelly it was the start of her career as a florist.

"While making arrangements for my Nana June's ceremony I couldn't find a florist who could provide what I needed," Kelly explained, "so I decided to give it a go myself." Using a mixture of red roses, yellows and other colours as vibrant as her Nana, all picked from June's garden, Kelly created her first masterpiece. "From that moment on people kept asking me to help with flowers," she added, "and what started as a hobby went on to become a real passion."

Upon leaving school, Kelly's initial career path was in the banking industry, but after a couple of years she realised it wasn't going to be for her. "I got so bored processing numbers every day," Kelly shared, "so I handed in my notice and booked a holiday to Greece." Two months later, and in need of some money, Kelly returned to the UK where she found herself some work in a local pub. Not long after, she enrolled to study floristry but stayed at the pub part time, selling her floral creations to the pub's clients - some of which still come back to her today.

During her first year of trading, Kelly has felt incredibly well supported by local people and businesses. "Hassocks has a really strong community vibe," Kelly told me. "I've had so many people come in to praise my work and tell me how much they love having a florist on the High Street."

In the run up to opening day, Kelly was also in the middle of renovating her house, at the same time as finalising preparations for her wedding, which took place two months after she started trading. And we're not talking about a run-of-the-mill wedding. "I had to compete with the Royal Wedding," Kelly explained, "and I wasn't about to be outdone." A carriage pulled by white shire horses; Spanish dressage horses at the beginning of the isle; a five-metre-long train; rings flown in by a falcon (which didn't



quite go to plan but we can skip over the bird flying in the wrong direction and having to be coaxed off the roof) and an evening glow party, all set in the beautiful grounds of Ashdown Park. It looked stunning.

In the last few hours before getting married you'll find most brides getting their hair done, having their nails painted and sipping champagne with their bridesmaids. Not Kelly. "I wanted everything to be perfect, so I made the decision to design and create my own flowers," Kelly said with a smile on her face, "and I had another wedding on the same day, so I needed to be in the shop anyway!"

Kelly married her brother's best friend from secondary school. While they'd met multiple times, Kelly's older brother was extremely protective and no one, including his friends, could date his little sister. When telling me how they met, Kelly said: "It was years later at my brother's wedding that we connected. I hadn't seen him for a long time but we soon found a friendship which has blossomed ever since." Between them the couple now have three children, Bella (9), Fletcher (7) and Romeo (2) and the family is complete with their dachshund, John Barker.

I was interested to know whether any of the children shared Kelly's artistic flair: "Bella loves animals – she wants to work with dogs and horses, which is exactly what I would have said at her age. Fletcher either wants to be an ice cream man or a millionaire and Romeo's too young to know yet," she responded.

Kelly credits her childhood upbringing, and time spent with her Nana June, as her main inspiration and reasoning for her character. "The family had land and a caravan park in Street and we spent most of our weekends in the woods," she reminisced. "My nana really was the most eccentric person I've ever met. Her Christmas tree would be packed with colour and it's the joy I found in her that I aspire to recreate in my work."

To celebrate the shop's first birthday, Kelly had the idea to start a flower show and competition for the May Day celebrations in Hassocks. "I never compare myself to other florists," Kelly made clear, "I wanted to showcase the work of other professionals and amateurs, and collaborate with them to encourage others to enjoy floristry as much as I do." All proceeds from the event have been donated to the Sussex Cancer Fund in honour of one of Bella June's regular customers.

As we concluded the interview, I asked Kelly to share her biggest learning as a business owner so far. "You aren't just selling a product, you're selling yourself," she advised, "I know that people come back to me, not just because of the quality I provide, but because of the relationship we build. It's the time I've taken to develop my network with other professionals and invest care and attention with my clients that has led to my success today."

Not one to sit still, Kelly's spreading her wings into a new venture in the form of a pop-up shop in Marram Trading and has also been shortlisted in the Muddy Stilettoes for Best Florist and Best Newcomer. Pop in to Bella June Flowers from 9.30am-5.30pm during the week or 9am-2pm on Saturdays, where you'll be greeted by Kelly's warm smile and an array of beautiful bouquets.

Gender neutral school uniform

By Nicki Burtson

Downlands is a forward-thinking comprehensive school; as such we believe that schools should help children develop into happy and confident young adults – who are comfortable in their individuality.

We consulted students via the Student Year Council and School Council for their views and we are delighted to announce that from September 2019 we will be taking the first steps towards a gender neutral school uniform. This will mean that we will have a trouser uniform and a skirt uniform (not boys/girls); all students wearing trousers must wear a shirt and tie. Students wearing a skirt may also wear a tie with a school shirt, or a blouse without a tie.

We will continue to consult parents, staff, governors and students about the next steps for our gender neutral uniform policy.

Having informed parents of the change, one father said: "This is brilliant. Well done to Downlands for being progressive and forward thinking and actually listening to students."

Local celebrations for two village streets

Two roads in Hassocks are celebrating the Queen's birthday with street parties.

Farnham Avenue will be holding their yearly residents' gathering on Sunday 2nd June while Semley Road will be holding a street party on Saturday 8th June.

Queen Elizabeth II enjoys two birthdays: 21st April, the day she was born, which tends to be a more private celebration, and her official birthday around the second Saturday in June. The tradition of holding an official birthday parade started in 1748 when King George II combined his birthday celebration with Trooping the Colour, enabling him to parade in summer weather.



Photo: Press-Association / Danny Lawson



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Bringing the community together for May Day

By Michelle Binks, Organiser

The sun shone, dogs' tails wagged, smiles abundant and fun was had by all. What a fabulous day out Hassocks May Day was this year! Resident Sandra Weir said: "What a wonderful community event, bringing all the people of Hassocks together to help raise money for some very worthwhile causes." I couldn't have said it better!

With over 2,000 visitors, some 30 stallholders, a dog show, maypole dancing, a display of owls, beer festival, wood whittling and two new activities - a Fun Run and a Flower Festival - Hassocks May Day was celebrated in Adastra Park on the early Bank Holiday Monday in May.

Our village event enabled the community groups and charities to raise collectively over £4,000 for their causes. "We raised £450 which is amazing. The crowds at Hassocks May Day are always the highest amount we raise each year and we are very thankful for that," explained a spokesperson for Christmas Wishes.

Did you have a go at our Maypole Dancing? I think Julie at Burgess Hill Community Radio took up the challenge of choreographing our dance around the maypole. It definitely was very entertaining and put a smile on many faces!

To celebrate Bella June Flowers' first year of business in Hassocks, Kelly Harding arranged our inaugural Flower Festival under the theme of a first birthday. Contestants entered some beautiful and imaginative arrangements that were judged by visitors to May Day. Congratulations go to Olive Laing (4 yrs old) winner of Under 7s, Benin O'Mally Richardson (8 yrs old) winner of Under 16s, and



Mrs J Haywood and Loretta, winners of the Amateur and Professional categories respectively.

PearlPower raised an astonishing £944 through their community café; thank you on their behalf for all the cake donations, they looked delicious. And thank you to Kelly Foley for managing this. To further support PearlPower, look out for 'Hassocks Goes Gold', which will be happening in the month of September. More about that in future issues of Hassocks Life, I'm sure!

An abundance of information was on offer on the plethora of opportunities available in our village; from painting with U3A to dance workshops with Bounce, or toddler swimming lessons with Crest Swim School to singing in a youth choir at DownsFest, a music festival coming to Hassocks on 7th September.

Thank you to Keymer and Hassocks Sports and Social Club for their offering of a beer festival and BBQ and donation towards Hassocks May Day. And did you try the Egyptian Street food on offer from Cairovan? Another new mobile business set up in our village.

We welcomed Hassocks Community Runners with their first Fun Run at our May Day. And thank you to LoneMed for being our first aider; there was lots of interest at his stand! "It was so uplifting to experience the children's willingness and interest to learn how to save someone's life," Andy commented afterwards.

Another stallholder told me: "It was a great day out for young and old and had a real sense of community spirit."

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who came out to support Hassocks May Day and look forward to seeing you next year on Monday 4th May, same time, same place!



Flower Festival debuts at May Day

Bella June, with its dazzling floral displays and heady scents, has been brightening up our High Street for a year. In honour of this celebration, four categories invited entrants to exhibit colourful, imaginative flower arrangements at this year's May Day event. Prizes were kindly donated by Indulge in Beauty & Remember Mindfulness, Bella & Megs, Stuart & Partners and Washbrooks Farm.

Jackie Haywood, winner of the amateur arranger category, explained her arrangement: "I represented the uncorking of champagne, which is overflowing in celebration of Bella June's first flower show. Here's to future shows."

Meanwhile Emily Brazier, whose arrangement encompassed a favourite childhood publication (Bunnies First Birthday), took second place in 7-16 age group. Emily said: "I chose garden flowers whose colour correlates with the animals in the story. Carrots were added in lieu of a candle."



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Andy jumps in the fundraising saddle

Three years ago, Hassocks resident Andrew Parker met a group of young people in The New Inn in Hurst. They were there following the funeral of Hurst College school friend Cameron Forster; he had left school, joined the RAF and was tragically killed in an accident aged 21 in April 2016. His mother set up a charity in his name - Cameron's Orphanage Project - which has now successfully built an orphanage attached to a school in Mkushi, Zambia. Musician Andy did a concert at the time, which paid for the roof.

They need continual support to keep going each year, which is what has inspired Andy to do the 1,000 mile cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats later this month.

Andy is not a cyclist, he is a professional musician, working at Abbey Road studios recording for many well-known pop and rock bands (from Rod Stewart to Taylor Swift) as well as pretty much every film you have ever heard strings on!

Andy will be setting off from Abbey Road after work on 12th June and getting the train to Cornwall to start this mammoth ride. He needs to be home for the College Leavers' Ball two weeks later!

Readers can support Andy via the following link:
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/andrew-parker-4





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Sunday 7 July

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T: 01825 741331

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W: www.ncac.cats.org.uk

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5 MINUTES WITH...

Stuart Dew

Stuart, although now retired, worked as a journalist, probation officer and charity director. All he really wants to see is 'peace in our time' and he has 708 football programmes, one from every match he has ever attended!

How long have you lived in Hassocks? 10 years

What's the best thing about being here?
Indian, Chinese, Kebabs and Church - all within five minutes' walk

What would you like to see in Hassocks that isn't here?
Sufficient school places for all local children

How many houses have you lived in?
Ten

Favourite book, film and album?
The Bible, The Shawshank Redemption and 50th Anniversary Album by the New City Jazzmen

Most common New Year's resolution?
Not to make New Year's resolutions!

Your most enjoyable event in the village?
Deputising for Father Christmas at the Scallywags party

Do you share your home with anyone? (If so, who?)
Yes, Rosemary

Song you play the most?
Mr Blue Sky

Which app on your phone do you use the most?
What's an app? No... sorry ... I mean WhatsApp!

Your most frequented village shop?
Childhelp

What's your proudest moment?
My 100th blood donation

Last present you received?
A rather good jar of Spanish olives

Your advice for life?
It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness

If you would like to provide your own answers for 5 Minutes With, simply email them to editor@hassockslife.co.uk along with a photo of yourself, or do please encourage a friend to send their answers in!



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Mike's Wobbly Tooth comes out

Hassocks resident Mike Reinstein is about to release his fourth studio album for children: Wobbly Tooth.

The CD of children's songs is due for release this month and features his wife Reina, Ray Knight and Ali Gavan – who also produced the album at London Road Studios in Hassocks.

Mike, who is a teacher in Brighton Music Service, produced his first kids album back in 2005. Tommy

Tomato Songbook received rave reviews from both children and the education press at the time. When he's not singing with kids, Mike gigs regularly in folk clubs and theatres across the UK and has released three albums on Brighton-based Irregular Records label.

Now this latest CD features artwork by a Year 2 pupil from Balfour Primary School and can be purchased via Mike's website: www.mikereinstein.co.uk

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Photo: Jacob Neller

Born 1703 and still working

By Roger Broadbent

To understand the significance of the restoration of Oldland Windmill, it is important to remember how crucial bread was to the survival of the population of the region in 1703. Today we take the availability of bread for granted, but for thousands of years it was the staple food for much of the world's population and remained so in England until well into the 19th century. No wonder it was christened the staff of life.

It is thought that knowledge of windmills reached England in the 12th Century with the principles of 'wind engines' brought back by the Crusaders. There are ruins of windmills in Northern France which date from around that period supporting this notion. Before then it is likely that watermills were the principal method of grinding wheat to make flour.

The date of the earliest windmill on Lodge Hill is not known. However, the construction of Oldland Windmill was possibly due to the great storm in 1703 that destroyed so much of Brighton, and the surrounding area, together with many windmills and possibly one on Lodge Hill. A quotation from Daniel Defoe's graphic 'historical narrative' of the storm and its catastrophic effect on the population of England includes the following account:

'Above four hundred windmills were overset and broken into pieces, or the sails so blown round that the timbers and wheels have heated and set the rest on fire and so burnt them down'

With bread being so essential to survival for much of the population, it is not hard to imagine that the sudden



loss of flour production forced the urgent building of replacement windmills.

It is astonishing that the huge post of oak, calculated to weigh about 1.5 tonnes, on which the structure of the Oldland Mill building is balanced and revolves (which itself is estimated to weigh around 20 tonnes), was raised using simply block and tackle and timber spars.

Built 120 years earlier than Jill was established atop the Downs, Oldland Mill in 1703 must have been an important supplier of flour to Hassocks, Keymer and surrounding villages. There cannot have been many alternative sources.

Oldland Mill continued to grind flour until the early years of the 20th century. When the mill eventually



stopped producing flour in 1912 it was left to decay. It is something of a miracle that the timbers were not stripped away and the main cast iron wind shaft sold for scrap.

Fortunately, in 1927, the mill was conveyed by the Turner family to the Sussex Archaeological Society, which worked to prevent further decay. It mounted a display of agricultural implements in the Round House, the building that houses the main post.

In 1934 the idea of restoration was first mooted and a 'shilling fund' launched. Only £12 was raised and the attempt was abandoned.

The following year the Sussex Archaeological Society carried out urgent repairs to the structure, primarily to prevent the total collapse of the mill.

The artist Frank Brangwyn loved Oldland Windmill and the spectacular views it offers to the south along the Downs. In 1951 he attempted to raise funds to restore the mill but was unable to generate sufficient interest. Earlier, in 1928, he had painted a watercolour of the mill.

In 1976 the future looked bleak when the structure was found to be 'unsafe'. At this point the mill was close to becoming a ruin. An estimate to restore it was calculated to be £2,000 (£12,750 today). This dismaying news prompted The Hassocks Amenity Association (HAA) to explore the possibility of its restoration.

In 1980 The HAA began a substantial fundraising campaign. A major exhibition was held on Ditchling Village Green, by Mrs Iris Annett of the HAA and my aunts, Joanna and Hilary Bourne, the founders of Ditchling Museum. They succeeded in raising a sum close to £1,700 (£6,600 today). An estimate of the cost of the restoration work was calculated, via an independent Engineers Report, to be £25,000 (£97,000 today). This sum would be conditional upon all the work required being carried out by volunteers.

From 1980 onwards, through to 2004, steady progress was made deconstructing the mill to a minimum state. All rotten timbers were removed and the structure rebuilt using matching types of wood and original jointing methods.

Through the initiative of Professor Fred Maillardet, Chairman of The Oldland Mill Trust, a Rural Enterprise Grant of £62,500 was awarded by DEFRA in 2004, enabling major work to be carried out. Substantial reinforcement of the main structure together with the creation of new sweeps and a new brake wheel was



achieved with the aid of this generous grant.

The Turner Dumbrell Foundation has also given more modest but regular grants, further encouraging the volunteers to accelerate the restoration process so that by 2007 the mill was largely restored.

In October 2008, for the first time in nearly a hundred years, flour was produced once again.

A truly remarkable team of volunteers has spent 40 years recovering and restoring the mill. The amount of flour now being ground equates to more than a tonne each year. Assuming there is sufficient wind, our current mill operating team can grind close to 127 Kg (2.5 cwt) of flour an hour.

With the distinctive logo designed by Professor Ewan Clayton, a 1 kg bag (2.2 lb) of Oldland Mill flour is on sale through local outlets - Ditchling Museum and South Downs Heritage Centre, south of Stone Pound.

Please visit Oldland Windmill. It is a great experience. See details of upcoming open days below or visit www.oldlandwindmill.co.uk for more information.

Opening dates & What's On times

7th July	Open Afternoon 2pm - 5pm
4th August	Open Afternoon 2pm - 5pm
1st September	Special 'History & Heritage' day 11am - 5pm

Arts & Crafts exhibition focuses on 'Women's Work'

Nearby Ditchling Museum of Art & Craft will be housing a major new exhibition on the work of craftswomen who turned their craft into successful businesses between the two World Wars. Women's Work focuses on pieces made by textile artists, weavers, ceramicists and silversmiths, many of whom were informed by the experiences traveling during the First World War. Often overshadowed by their male counterparts, these pioneering women achieved success by looking to past techniques to create contemporary designs, which went on to inform future generations of crafts people.

Featuring over 100 pieces the exhibition will focus on a core group of makers including Ethel Mairet (inset), Alice Hindson, Phyllis Barron & Dorothy Larcher and Enid Marx – some of whom are relatively unknown yet hugely significant to the development of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Women's Work draws on the museum's own and other specialist collections to demonstrate the importance of women in the crafts revival in the early part of the 20th century. The exhibition will run until 13th October. Ditchling Museum is opening between 10.30am and 5pm Tuesday-Saturday, and 11am-5pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays.



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RECYCLE THIS...

WSSCC Recycling Ambassador Colin McFarlin sheds some light on what can and can't be recycled in our domestic blue bins. If you have a question for him, email: editor@hassockslife.co.uk



Thank you for all your individual enquiries about your recycling. By the time you read this I will have replied individually to all your emails to the editor on recycling. Do keep the questions coming...

Plastic Bottle Tops



One of the most frequent questions I get asked is about plastic bottle tops, and in particular plastic milk bottle tops.

The basic rule to remember is to remove all bottle tops before you recycle the bottles. Rinse the bottle, shake dry and it is then OK to recycle.

All your recycling needs to be clean, dry and loose, and with the tops off.

All the lids are then placed into your black top rubbish bin, please, or even better save them - see below...

Let me explain. Yes, the lids are plastic but it is the size that is the issue. When all your recycling arrives at the West Sussex Recycling plant at Ford, near Arundel, one of the first processes is to remove glass.

This is done by allowing the glass to fall through the holes in a large metal revolving drum called a Trommel, that breaks the glass. However, the small plastic lids are small enough to also fall through the holes and pollute the glass.

So do remember plastic milk bottle tops CANNOT be recycled in your blue top bin. No plastic lids smaller than coffee jar lid size please.

Did you know that charities collect these milk bottle tops, and raise money? There are various collection points in the area, but I know there is a collecting 'bin' at Princess Royal Hospital, which raises money for the Hurstwood Park Neurological Unit.

Would you like me to give a talk to your local group on recycling?

Do you have an individual question on specific items you are not sure how to recycle? One email to the editor, with a picture if possible, and I can let you know.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Keep recycling!

Charity collection does well

By Jo Marshall

The Hurstpierpoint and Hassocks NSPCC committee would like to thank everyone who supported their recent house-to-house collection. The grand total of £1,239.94 was raised, which is considerably more than last year's, and a very big thank you to all the collectors.

Some of the committee went to the Plumpton Racecourse meeting on Easter Bank Holiday Monday. The exit collection raised £849.15 which was a fantastic amount and a very big thank you to everyone who contributed and to the collectors.

Forthcoming fundraising events include a smoked salmon lunch with strawberries and cream, drinks and tea or coffee at Court Gardens Farm in Ditchling on Wednesday 17th July. Tickets available from Mishon McKay, Hurst from early June. There will also be a stall at St Lawrence Fair on 6th July, where we will be selling strawberries and cream.

If anyone would like to help us at our events, please get in touch with Belinda on 07860 736077.



Composer performs at College

Sussex is in for a rare musical treat in June when well-known English composer, Will Todd, joins local choir Sussex Chorus for a performance of his acclaimed work, Mass in Blue. Written in 2003, this mass setting has been performed worldwide and very much reflects the composer's love of jazz music.

Together with his ensemble of musicians, Will Todd will be at the piano for a creative programme that also includes three of his shorter works as well as George Shearing's Songs and Sonnets, set for choir, jazz piano and bass.

Performed in nearby Hurst College Chapel on 15th June, this innovative choice of concert programme is part of the choir's plans for attracting a wider range of people to choral concerts and to singing.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15/£5 and are available from Sussex Chorus online.


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Patronal Festival Weekend in Clayton

St John the Baptist Church in Clayton is holding its annual Patronal Weekend later this month.

Father Alex Baxter explained: "A patronal festival is where we celebrate the patron saint of the church. Each church is normally dedicated to a particular Saint. In Clayton we celebrate the birth of St John the Baptist on the 24th June."

Each year the Clayton church celebrates and this year, events include a Plant Fair and Flower Festival, a special pet blessing service and musical concerts.

The Flower Festival takes place between 10am-12 noon on Saturday 22nd June, with a Farone! Orchestra (medieval instruments from the period when the church was originally built) that evening at 7pm. Sunday worship will take place on 23rd June at 8am and 10am for the whole parish. At 3pm there is a pet blessing service, followed by Richard Durrant in concert at 7pm that evening.

Tickets for the Music for Midsummer concert on Sunday are available from Hassocks Hardware at a cost of £15 which includes a glass of wine. Farone! concert tickets may be purchased on the door.



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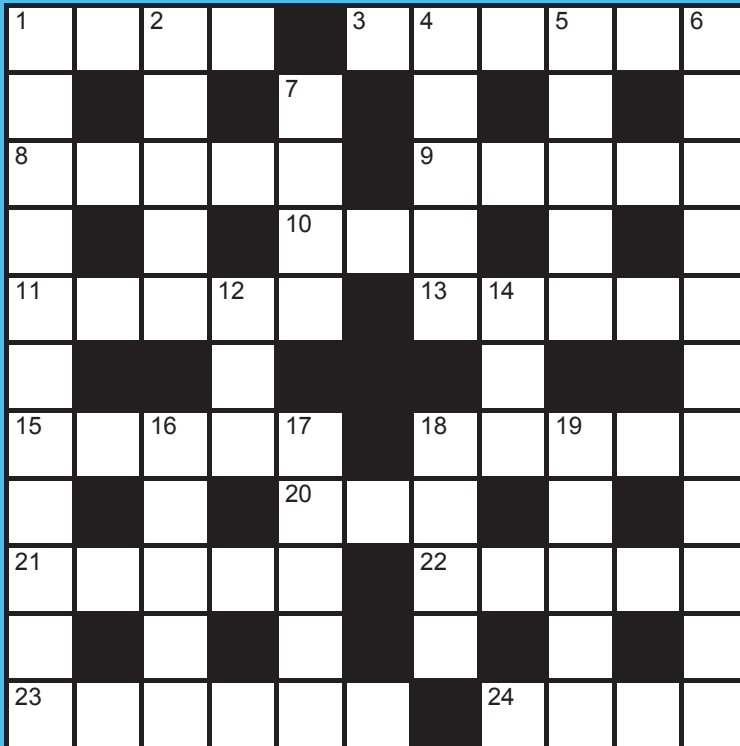
The Hassocks May Day frame

Hassocks Life magazine launched at the May Day event last month and, to celebrate, took along our Hassocks photo frame.

These good people helped us capture a magical day of community spirit...



Family crossword



Got 20 mins spare?
Have a go at this crossword - which should be varied enough for all ages to answer some clues.
Answers listed on p.39

Across

- 1 Republic between Iran and Syria (4)
- 3 Largest Samoan island (6)
- 8 Former Portuguese territory in S China (5)
- 9 Acute (5)
- 10 Unity (3)
- 11 Speak in a slow manner (5)
- 13 Lute of India (5)

- 15 Got up (5)
- 18 Japanese dish (5)
- 20 Decay (3)
- 21 In addition (5)
- 22 Corpulent (5)
- 23 Union soldier in the US Civil War (6)
- 24 Is not (4)

Down

- 1 At once (11)
- 2 Capital of Ghana (5)
- 4 Donkeys (5)
- 5 Look for (5)
- 6 Rude (11)
- 7 In (4)
- 12 Used to be (3)
- 14 Acknowledgement of debt (1,1,1)
- 16 Many times (5)
- 17 Efface (5)
- 18 Cease (4)
- 19 Prophets (5)

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Sudoku #35

Courtesy of <http://andrews-sudoku.blogspot.co.uk>

Find the solution to #35
in next month's magazine

		6	7	4		9		
7	9						4	8
	1				9	7		
5	7	2		1		8		
1				2				
							3	
			2				8	7
								1
	4	5						

#34 Solution

2	9	8	3	6	4	5	7	1
6	1	7	8	5	9	2	3	4
5	4	3	2	1	7	9	6	8
8	7	2	5	4	3	6	1	9
3	6	9	7	8	1	4	5	2
4	5	1	9	2	6	7	8	3
9	2	5	1	7	8	3	4	6
1	3	6	4	9	5	8	2	7
7	8	4	6	3	2	1	9	5

Your body works hard for you, isn't it time you gave something back?



"I went with aches and pains, left feeling refreshed and relaxed" - Hannah

Massage therapy tailored to your individual lifestyle. Located in the centre of Hurstpierpoint village. Treatments are bespoke and based on your body's needs.

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We are CIBTAC qualified. Before all treatments we conduct an initial consultation.

What's on this month

AT ADASTRA HALL

Regular events

- Tue **Modern Jive class**
8pm
- Thur **Beginners/Improvers Dancing**
6.50pm
- Ballroom & Latin Dancing**
8pm

June

- 12th **Hassocks Horticultural Society** – 8pm
Planting and caring for fruit trees with Mark Piper,
Fruit Tree Grower (admission £1.50)
- 29th **Strictly Dance Magic** – 8pm
Dance to a selection of Ballroom, Latin and
Sequence dance music

Got an event going on?

If you are organising an event or function which you'd like to promote to Hassocks - here's where to do it!

Our monthly What's On section can include events taking place right here at Adastral Hall or elsewhere in Hassocks, or could be further afield (provided we have space).

Email details of any events which you'd like listed to editor@hassockslife.co.uk before our copy date - the next of which is 21st May.

See the website for copy dates for the rest of the year: www.hassockslife.co.uk

AND ELSEWHERE

June

- 6th **Textile Recycling Meet-up** – 7.30pm-9pm
Adastral Deli. HKD Transition Group with Carrie Cort from Sussex Green Living
- 9th **Hassocks Village Garden Trail** – 1pm-5pm
Open Gardens event to include the Adastral Park Rain Garden (see p.12)
- 9th **Learn to Weave & Spin** – 11am-4pm
Ditchling Museum - by Textiles Students
- 9th **Mid Sussex Triathlon**
The Triangle, Burgess Hill – 400m swim, 25k bike, 5k run (www.midsussextriclub.com)
- 9th **Burgess Hill Bike Ride** – Reg from 8am
Queens Crescent Car Park, RH15 9DP – 10, 20 or 40 mile routes (www.burgesshillbikeride.co.uk)
- 12th **Adults Crafters Afternoon** – 3pm-5pm
Ditchling Museum – drop-in craft session (monthly)
- 13th **Mid Sussex National Trust** – 2.30pm
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - Talk: Hampton Court
- 15th **Tennis Open Day** – 10.30am-1pm
Adastral Tennis Club (free)
- 16th **Summer Stroll** – 2pm
Meet at Hassocks Train Station, through Clayton village, Jill Windmill and a drink in The Jack & Jill pub
- 22nd **Village Market** – 9am-12.30pm
National Tyres forecourt – various market stalls
- 22nd **Downlands School Fayre** – 12 noon
- 22nd **Ceramics Workshop** – 10.30am-4pm
Ditchling Museum
- 23rd **Mobile Refuse Collection** – 10am-12noon
Belmont Close, Hassocks (01273 842714)
- 23rd **Richard Durrant Concert** – 7.30pm
Clayton Church (Tickets £15, includes a glass of wine, from Hassocks Hardware)
- 23rd **RNLI Tea Party** – 2.30-5.30pm
50 Hurst Road, Hurstpierpoint – For a delicious cream tea (£5 per ticket)
- 30th **Bike 'n' Fun** – 9.30am
Start at The Hassocks Hotel – 4 and 8 mile community bike rides (p.4)

July

- 7th **Windmill Open** – 2-5pm
Oldland Windmill, Lodge Hill, Hassocks

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Freeman Brothers (Funeral Directors)	7
Griffith Smith (Solicitors)	8
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BN6
AWARD

Attending the Hurst Sixth Form can transform lives, which is why we launched the Sussex Sixth Form Award in 2018.

A small number of scholarship and means-tested bursarial awards for up to 100% of Sixth Form fees will be available to applicants from any maintained school in East or West Sussex.

Successful applicants will have a track record of academic excellence and demonstrated exceptional character in pursuit of their goals and the good of their community.

An opportunity to transform your child's future.

Hurst is offering up to two fully funded places for children currently in Year 6 to join Hurst Prep School in Year 7 through to Sixth Form.

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