

HassocksLife

Including the communities of Keymer & Clayton

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #8 : Dec. 2019

Delivered
Free
to homes in
village

Meet Maddie Ross

page 8

Churches share Christmas services

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EDITORIAL



By David Tingley, Editor

Well folks – it's Christmas! For some it's been a long time coming and it's rather snuck up on others I suspect. But nevertheless it is December and we have plenty of festive content for you.

We start with news of **Santa's Grotto** (p.4), **wreath-making** workshops (p.5) and the school **Christmas Fayre** (p.7). Also on **page 7** is information about a special **Community Christmas Day Lunch** for those on their own this year.

Page 16 heroes the winning design for Light Up Hassocks, which took place recently. Well done **Ruby**, and we hope to bring you a full write-up of that event next month.

The churches in Hassocks bring you a special centre spread detailing the various **Christmas services** – see **pages 20-21**. On **page 15** there's mention of musical entertainment from community choir **All The Right Notes**, while, on **page 22**, the High Street game of **Elf on the Shelf** returns to the village courtesy of **Marchants Estate Agents** – something for you to take part in until 17th December.

If you've got more room for a festive fix – we've put together some special **puzzles** on **pages 32-33**.

In other news, we are delighted – as always – to feature a number of residents on our pages. **Deirdre Huston** spent time with our **Village People** candidate **Maddie Ross**; who you can 'meet' on **page 8**. She also goes through the door and **Behind the Counter** of A. Twine Butchers where **Andy Twine** shares the history of his family business on the High Street (**page 26**).

I must also apologise to last month's cover photographer **Michael Finch** – whose surname I printed incorrectly after he supplied a superb mushroom picture. You can also find out a bit more about him in our **5 Mins With...** item on **page 18**.

Happy Christmas, from all the Hassocks Life team.

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HassocksLife Published by Kipper



James Ward
Clayton Church under
light snowfall

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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

Santa's coming to town

A Santa's grotto, which last year raised over £23,000 for a local children's charity, is setting its sights even higher for 2019.

Tickets have gone on sale for this year's mammoth Toy Factory at South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks. The grotto will be open until Christmas Eve. Visiting children will meet some new helpers in the factory alongside some new animated displays.

The event, run by The Budding Foundation, will fundraise for local charitable projects – as all profits from ticket sales go to these causes. Among the recipients last Christmas were gardening and conservation projects with several local schools and clubs, as well as respite care and equipment for disabled youngsters. Smaller grants included school uniform assistance, educational laptops and course fees for young people trying to turn their lives around.

Clive Gravett, founder of The Budding Foundation, said: "We are hoping to raise more than £40,000 this year



from grotto ticket sales at two sites (Hassocks and Dial Post) and other associated Christmas activities. We are also looking for more volunteer elves, so if anyone can spare a few hours or even a few days over the Christmas period, please get in touch."

For more information and to book tickets, contact the charity via: www.thebuddingfoundation.co.uk

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Get creative this Christmas...

Hassocks-based florist Bryony Torney is running a day of workshops to teach you how to make a beautiful Christmas wreath. The sessions are being held in the Old Chook Shed at The Mac's Farm in Ditchling.

Attendees will learn to make an eco-friendly wreath (everything will degrade even the copper wire!), decorate with beautiful fresh seasonal foliage and other festive bits and pieces from cinnamon and dried oranges to fir cones and feathers. Everyone at the workshop will design and create their own stunning wreath which they can take home with them.

Bryony commented: "The fire will be lit, festive tunes will be playing – and we'll also be providing hot drinks and delicious treats from local producer Cakes by Lara – it will be a great day!"

There will be two times on Saturday 14th December. Email: hello@bryonymaeflowers.co.uk for more details.



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An invitation to Windmills' Christmas Fayre

By FOWS team

Christmas is coming and so is the annual festive fayre of Windmills Junior School.

Our school choir will set the tone and get everybody into the spirit. We will have great prizes in the silent auction, a Christmas crafting table, festive face painting and soft toy tombola. Special guest Santa will be in his grotto dishing out presents to children of all ages.

There will be a BBQ and a bar for the grown-ups with beer and mulled wine. On the stalls you'll find games, greetings cards and jewellery-makers among many others.

Windmills' pupil Archie said: "Last year I really enjoyed the Year 6 games room and spent most of my pocket money there. This year I am in Year 6 and we have some brilliant games to share."

Head Teacher Mrs Murray said: "The school's Christmas Fayre is always such a jolly occasion. Children, families and staff alike enjoy the afternoon, and it is always lovely to welcome people from the wider community to share the fun with us!"

The fayre is organised by Friends of Windmills (FOWS), a charity raising funds towards educational activities and equipment for the school.

Join us at The Windmills Junior School on Saturday 7th December from 1pm - entry donations welcome.



Christmas Lunch for new and old friends

By Naomi McBain

Hope and Befriended, two local charities, are looking forward to hosting their third Christmas Day Community Lunch in nearby Hurstpierpoint this year. Both charities believe in encouraging everyone in this area to become better connected and supportive of each other.

For many Christmas isn't a fun-filled family time, as presented so often in adverts. Both charities are meeting people for whom this perfect image leaves more than a slight dread of the festivities. Perhaps it's the intense sense of being on their own, the increased financial stress or even the heightened awareness of difficult memories.

Whatever the reason people have for joining in, we work at making this event welcoming and an opportunity for people to be part of a day that's full of others who care. We are so grateful for the support from local businesses with generous offers of food and drink, as well as the Hurst charity shop providing a grant to subsidise the initial event two years ago.

Our charities' work goes on through the year too, so, quite possibly, by bringing an elderly neighbour or encouraging a family who is having a difficult time to join in the fun, they may well find an ongoing community connection to help them face what the New Year brings with more hope, joy and peace.

A father, who came last year with his son, said: "It was very welcoming and had family friendly games.



The entertainment was fantastic. It made a world of difference being around people, rather than spending it alone." The wonderful thing is that they have met up during the year with the friends made around their table. They are looking forward to joining in again this year.

The event starts as people arrive from 12.30pm to spend the next few hours enjoying plenty of chatter, fun and games, good food and musical entertainment. We listen to the Queen's Speech and round the afternoon off with a few festive carols before people head home at around 4pm.

If people are interested in being a part of this year's Christmas Day Lunch, they should email admin@befriended.org.



Photo: Deirdre Huston

Maddie Ross

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Deirdre Huston caught up with Hassocks resident Maddie Ross to find out about the evolution of Maddie's theatre company, Girl Code: 'The show is an entertaining presentation of voices on a subject which is not talked about enough in the public sphere'.

As with many creative endeavours, success, when it comes, can appear suddenly and out of nowhere, but Maddie has been working hard towards this end for some years and is particularly interested in multimedia. She attended all three local schools in Hassocks, and Maddie credits the English Department at Downlands with helping her to find her voice. She was a keen member of Shine Theatre Group in Hurstpierpoint for ten years. When younger she was shy and sensitive but found confidence through her drama so, not surprisingly, she chose to study this subject at the University of Bath Spa. It was here that she was able to channel her newfound confidence into everyday life. "We were allowed complete creative freedom and every facility that you might need but we were very much left to our own devices. There was no hand-holding!" It was very much a do-it-yourself process, which could be hard at times but was perhaps, in retrospect, the ideal training for the creative industries in which self-starting and independent working are crucial.

In general, Maddie has found academia frustrating: "It boxes you in whereas creative projects evolve organically." In their third year at university, students were let loose on the facilities, which included a green room, huge projectors, full lighting rig and a fully-functioning theatre. Maddie's final project was a feminist adaptation of Brave New World. This dystopian novel is set in a world where sex and drugs are central to society. Written by Aldous Huxley in 1932, it's very much from the male perspective. Using an all-female

cast and creative team, Maddie introduced a pregnant character into her own version of Brave New World. This female character brings another character out of their brainwashing and this dynamic formed the story. Unbeknownst to Maddie, the seeds of more recent work were sown during this period.

After university Maddie worked as a volunteer at Edinburgh Fringe Festival. "A lot of people just don't go and see Fringe. Your expectations of it have to be different because anyone can make a piece of theatre." Through Fringe Maddie fell in love with the idea of making truthful theatre which reflects the world she knows, but that seed lay dormant for two years.



During this gap she found a creative outlet through her vegan food blog: Maddie's Kitchen. She continued to explore Brighton and Edinburgh Fringe as a volunteer whilst grappling with the realities of the extremely competitive creative industries. She knew her skill set was well-suited to this path and she never gave up on her theatrical ambitions. All her instincts told her this was where she was headed but how to get there?

Maddie was at her third Edinburgh Fringe at the height of the #MeToo movement. It was a very female angry environment and it was creatively very exciting. This was the first time for a while that Maddie felt in touch with her creativity and felt the need to make some work. She is not a fan of derivative art and couldn't see why you would make a show unless it had some point to it. Then something happened: on a night out with a large group of friends, a man grabbed her and was insistent that she went back to his place. Maddie is confident in this setting and was able to deflect his attention through a difficult conversation, but afterwards two friends who she was with commented that they would have struggled to cope with his advances.

This incident was the trigger for Maddie's show, a verbatim piece of theatre, based on interviews with young women who go clubbing. She wanted to gain a wider perspective so interviewed a couple of young men to understand their viewpoint, plus club bouncers and charity experts on harassment in clubs. Maddie also examined newspaper articles, court cases and statistics to add depth to the show.

This research process took five months and Maddie also had to set up a theatre company: Girl Code. She describes herself as a theatre-maker but her responsibilities include production, stage management, direction, writing (although she saw this more as a process of weaving theatre out of testimony). All testimony was recorded so that transcription could be faithful to every hesitation: "The 'ums' and 'ers' are part of each interviewee's truth and remind each audience that the show is based on reality." Through auditions Maddie recruited three actors to the show. The rehearsal process was very feminist in approach but playful and collaborative too. "The all-female cast experimented with theatre technique to show how much space men take up in the room."

The show sold out at Brighton Fringe and won the Pebble Trust Bursary and got a five star review! Audiences were mainly female and found the show very relatable. Maddie was keen to take on board feedback from peers to make the show darker. It was still funny, pushing boundaries and questioning stereotypes but perhaps became a bit more challenging for some audiences. Girl Code did a night at Guildford Fringe to a male-dominated audience who also really loved the show and the insights it gave them into harassment. "There's a misconception that harassment happens in offices and to celebrities but it's far more deeply ingrained in our society and something many normal women suffer." The show did a London Preview at the Old Red Lion, and this was one of their best shows ever, with a very feminist audience who laughed and nodded a lot as they listened.



The next step was Edinburgh Fringe. It sounds exciting but it carries a financial risk, so, to minimise this, Girl Code limited the run to ten days and gained consistently good audience numbers. "Edinburgh Fringe was exhausting. Exhilarating. It was a lot to do, a lot to take in, a lot to consider." Girl Code did a promotional stint on the Royal Mile, when one cast member would stand in their underwear holding a sign saying 'NOT ASKING FOR IT' while other cast members gave out flyers. "The experience was empowering, and we got a very positive reaction from passers-by. Alongside that aspect, one day I was flying, fully-clothed, and a man, who listened all the while I explained what the show was about, lurched for me and grabbed my bum." It was so ironic, ridiculous and infuriating. There was a huge response on social media and a related article in the Guardian. 'It proved exactly why they were making the show as there is still a clear need to normalise conversation around harassment.'

Since Edinburgh Maddie has recast for Girl Code's 2020 Tour. The theatre group will be presenting 'Coming Home With Me' at Scratch Nights in Brighton from March onwards and are also proud to be performing throughout the first ten days of Brighton Fringe Festival. Alongside this they will be reaching out to university students in the South East to start developing a consent and boundaries workshop which focuses on night clubs. For drama students, Maddie will be doing workshops on creating feminist verbatim work. In the longer term, she is hoping to develop a new project based around menstruation, dealing with subjects as diverse as starting your period, to being trans with periods to the menopause. Girl Code hope to perform for the full run at Edinburgh Festival next year.

Maddie is well-established within the local community. "Growing up so close to Brighton is a great privilege. Because of it, we are more accepting of different ways of life, everyone being equal and open to new ideas. Having said that, individuals hold some very different opinions and that's okay too. Engaging with how other people think is very important. It's no good living in a bubble."

You can follow girlcodetheatre on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, although news of future shows will also feature in Hassocks Life.

Two bicycles made for two

Earlier this month volunteer-led movement Cycling Without Age Hurst & Hassocks celebrated the arrival of its second trishaw at Proper Cycling & Coffee in Hassocks.

Trishaws are specially adapted power assisted bikes that take two local elderly passengers out for rides to feel the wind in their hair. Rather than sitting alone at home, the trishaw offers elderly people an opportunity to get out in the fresh air, see new things, meet people and have fun. In winter extra blankets and hot water bottles keep people cosy.

The new trishaw has been kindly funded by the Burgess Hill District Lions.

Chapter captain Bridget Hamilton explained: "All Cycling Without Age trishaws, in over 40 countries, are given names. Our first trishaw is called Bunty, after Bunty Parkinson who lived in Hurstpierpoint, and our new trishaw has been named Peter, in memory of Peter Charlton. Peter had been a keen cyclist and, in later years, lived at Villa Adastra where he loved going out for trishaw rides, often with his daughter Claire as pilot and his wife Norma as fellow passenger.

Cycling Without Age locally now has over 30 volunteers trained to ride. They are happy to pick up from home and take people out. Please call Proper Cycling & Coffee on 01273 841 611 to book a ride or email: bridget@cyclingwithoutage.org.uk.



L-R: John Rankin, President Burgess Hill District Lions and Margaret Jones (92) sitting on Bunty with Tim Leech (pilot), and Norma Charlton, her grandson Alfe, plus Martha (dog) sitting on Peter with Dan Hyndman (pilot)

Got a fab photo of Hassocks?

We are always on the lookout for photos of the village for our front covers. If you have an image which you think fits the bill, please email the best resolution file in to photos@hassockslife.co.uk. If your image gets used in print, you'll receive a £20 shopping voucher to spend on the High Street.

www.hassockslife.co.uk/cover-photos

VE grants available

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020 a national three-day celebration will take place from 8th to 10th May.

Mid Sussex District Council would like to support local people in their efforts to mark the occasion and the Cabinet Grants Panel recently agreed to provide grants of £250 to those who are organising street parties and events for the VE commemoration weekend.

For full details of the VE Day commemoration grant funding, including a straightforward online application form, visit: www.midsussex.gov.uk/grants

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After ten successful years in Hove, osteopath Stephanie Witts transferred her business, The Pain Relief Clinic, to Hassocks three years ago and has not looked back. As you would expect, she brought many of her happy clients with her. "I really do love my job. I love helping people and seeing the result of them not being in pain anymore. Most of my new clients are from word-of-mouth recommendation, which is great, as people have confidence in what I've done and have passed that on to others."

Stephanie was inspired to get into osteopathy after her brother was run over by a motorbike when he was 13 and nearly lost his leg. "He went through a long period of rehabilitation and physiotherapy, and I saw how much it was needed and how helpful it could be."

The Pain Relief Clinic has a reception team available six days a week to take your call, so Stephanie never has to interrupt the treatment of a patient. Patients start with an initial one-hour consultation. "I understand that some people may be nervous about having an osteopathic treatment, which is quite natural. So you'll be made as comfortable as possible, and receive a full explanation of everything we do so that you are fully informed before giving your consent to treatment."

The ample off-road parking right outside the clinic at 10 London Road immediately relieves any pre-appointment stress. The treatment room is warm, well lit and welcoming. "I offer my patients the chance to choose their own music during treatments which they appreciate. One even asked for AC/DC!"

Osteopathy looks at the whole person and uses past history whether it's just to repair an injury or getting back to strenuous exercise or work. If your doctor hasn't got an answer, then osteopathy can improve how you deal with it. However, like all responsible osteopaths, if Stephanie is not happy about a particular of someone's

health she will always tell them to go and get themselves checked out.

Stephanie treats both men and women, with typical clients suffering with back and neck pain. She can help with arthritic pain, sciatica, muscle spasm, frozen shoulder, tennis elbow and much more. Stephanie also works with pregnant women both during pregnancy and after birth. Having previously worked in a premature baby unit in a hospital as part of her Masters degree in Paediatric Osteopathy, Stephanie specialises in helping unsettled babies.

Coming from a sporting background, as a former triathlete, event horse rider and manager of Dragons Health Club in Purley, she knows how important exercise is. She is qualified in Clinical Pilates and incorporates exercises as part of her treatment programmes. "I always advocate doing something patients enjoy as I want exercise to be fun as well as functional. Not everyone likes the gym."

She has a lot of long-term clients who come in for maintenance because of the repetitive nature of their jobs. If you are being maintained then you are less likely to struggle with those symptoms. "It is something I really believe in and I get treatment myself every month." And there are plenty of her happy clients who agree. "I first went to Stephanie when my neck froze because of poor posture whilst working at my computer," says Heather Cairncross. "I felt immediate relief after one session, so I decided to go for a treatment once a month to straighten me out and prevent neck problems building up."

The team at The Pain Relief Clinic are ready to take your call now and you can get £10 off your first appointment – just mention Hassocks Life when you call 01273 04 78 81. For additional information please refer to the comprehensive website at: www.thepainreliefclinic.co.uk



Progressing youth players

HASSOCKS FC

By Scott Mccarthy

It's been a rough couple of months for Hassocks. The Robins have won only one once in the Southern Combination League Premier Division since the start of September, their cause not being helped by a horrific injury crisis.

While Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp can replace one £50m player with another, it's a different world at step nine of the English pyramid. When Hassocks suffers injuries, there isn't another international waiting in the wings to step in – they instead have to turn to youth.

The Robins have a long and proud tradition of producing their own. Since Dave John first set up a youth team in 1991, well over 100 players have progressed from the Under 18s ranks right the way through to the first team. There aren't many clubs in Sussex who come close to those numbers.

Many of those players also played for the club's Junior Section, creating a pathway from Under 8s right the way through to senior football at county level. It's an astonishing success story, and one that shows no signs of slowing if this season is anything to go by.

Mark Dalgleish has given five youth team products their debuts this season. So far in 2019-20, 16 of the 30 players that have represented the first team began in the Under 18s. They range from 17-year-old Luke Marshall at one end of the age scale right the way through to 38-year-old Dan Jacques.

The value placed on youth isn't just restricted to matters on the pitch either. Hassocks offers free entry to all home games to Under 16s in the hope of inspiring the next generation of players to take up the game. Who knows, the eight-year-olds who watch at the Beacon today could find themselves making their Hassocks debut with a 28-year-old Marshall in a decade's time. Or a 48-year-old Jacques.



The Robins have a packed fixture list over the Christmas period, so if you've got a football mad kid who's yet to experience the fun of non-league football, then why not bring them along to a home game? It could be the start of a beautiful relationship.



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Gemma gets your dogs in order

One Keymer resident is following her dream and making the lives of dog owners better at the same time.

Gemma Rice has recently started a weekly dog training class, held at Keymer Church Hall on Monday evenings.

She has been passionate about dogs since her 11th birthday when she sponsored a Guide Dog puppy. "At this point I knew I wanted to be a dog trainer," Gemma explained. She was trained at Cambridge Institute of Dog Behaviour and Training and is also a Canine Nutritionist. Gemma has a five year old Hungarian Vizsla called EB which has helped her understand more about being the owner of the dog being trained: "EB had a bad experience with another dog when she was a puppy, so I have done a lot of work building up her confidence and helping her to feel calm."

A diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis at the end of last year was the final 'push' that Gemma needed, after she had to give up her full-time work. "Although a very stressful time, it gave me the opportunity to revisit my dream, and that's how Sussex Canines was started," she said.

Gemma's desire is for the classes (which are split into the dog's age categories) to have a relaxed and



friendly atmosphere for both the owners and their pets. You can find contact details for Sussex Canines on page 19.

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Purrfect postage

By Kirsty Warren

Beautiful, humorous, or downright adorable, Christmas cards are a lovely way to show someone you're thinking of them at this time of year. They shuffle through the letterbox with a handwritten address and maybe, if you're lucky, a good ol' special, festive stamp in the corner. It's not just the card that's a treasure, it's the stamp too! That little, sticky square could make all the difference to a rescued cat. How?

The Cats Protection League collects used postage stamps and turns them into much needed money to help all the cats in its care. Collection organiser Stella Law (aka 'Stella the Stamp') said: "The response from your magazines was amazing last year. I had large parcels of stamps! I would like to say a big thank you to all the people who sent stamps in and still continue to do so."

All stamps are welcome, ordinary, festive, commemorative or foreign, but it is important that they are not damaged. Leaving them on a square of envelope is best, with a margin around the edge. Your local stamp donation point is: Cuckfield Cattery, Deaks Lane, Cuckfield, RH17 5JB.

Whoever you're sending cards to this year, send it with a stamp and help make 2019 purrfect!



A community celebration

All the Right Notes will be presenting its annual Christmas concert on Wednesday 11th December at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church on Keymer Road, Hassocks.

Escape from the pre-election hysteria as the local 50-strong community choir sings music by Lewis Capaldi, the Supremes, the Eagles and the Beatles as well as seasonal pieces from Kelly Clarkson and Chris de Burgh. There'll be the songs for the audience to join in – including the ever-popular Twelve Days of Christmas – and a glass of wine and a mince pie during the interval.

This friendly community choir was set up in 2012 by Paul Simpson and meets weekly during term time on Wednesday evenings at St Francis Church Hall in Priory Road. Members come from the Burgess Hill, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint area, and anybody interested in joining is warmly welcomed to come along for a free taster session in the new year.

The singers come from all sorts of backgrounds, from



people who have never sung before to those who have regularly enjoyed being part of a choir throughout their lives. What all members do share, however, is a true enthusiasm for singing and a real enjoyment in making music. Paul explains: "We've had a major influx of new singers this term, which has given the choir new depth - we love singing for fun, and look forward to sharing an enjoyable evening."

Tickets (£6) for this seasonal celebration are available from members of the choir, on the door or by email: alltherightnoteschoir@gmail.com.

DownsFest 2020

By Michelle Binks, DownsFest Organiser

DownsFest is returning! We are really pleased to announce the date for next year's DownsFest is Saturday 5th September at Austra Park.

We are excited to reveal that 'One Step Behind, The Masters of Madness' are confirmed as our headline act, the UK's Premier and longest surviving MADNESS tribute band. Each member of One Step Behind grew up as a Madness fan, and perfecting his portrayal of his original Madness counterpart has been a labour of love. They cover the wide spectrum of Madness songs: Baggy Trousers, One Step Beyond, House of Fun, Our House to name a few!

Last year we were delighted to bring over 18 local acts to our Hassocks festival stage. Performing at DownsFest launched several bands' music into our community and wider afield. Now we are looking for more local acts covering all genres and musicality. Please contact us on: downsfest@outlook.com if you're interested to play next year.

DownsFest has raised £1,000 for St Peter and St James Hospice, and we're looking to increase this figure for them next year. Tickets will be on sale soon but in the meantime you can keep in touch via Facebook or website: www.downsfest.co.uk



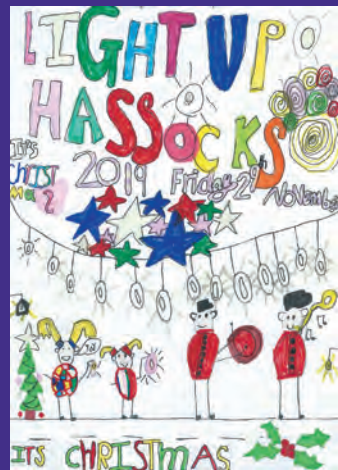
Hassocks artists selected for calendar

For 2020, local artist Sue Collins has coordinated the very first calendar of Chalk Gallery artists' work. They were all asked to provide two of their favourite images and then Sue selected one from each artist.



The group hope to raise money for an environmental charity, Client Earth, Europe's pioneering environmental law charity. Sue Collins explains: "We chose this charity as we are all aware of facing a climate crisis that threatens the future of life on our planet." The calendar costs £8 and all proceeds from the sales will go to Client Earth.

Chalk Gallery is in Lewes and has a seasonal exhibition of small affordable artworks on display. Look out too for the work of Keymer artist Bernadina Lloyd and for their advent window which runs daily through the month until it closes on 23rd December.



Poster girl Ruby

Hassocks Infant School pupil Ruby Daniel was delighted recently when hers was the poster design chosen for Light Up Hassocks.

Ruby's poster was seen all around the village in the run-up to the event, which was organised by Sussex Vale Rotary. Chris Gray, the Youth Services Chairman, presented certificates for the winner and other entrants.

More of Light Up Hassocks in next month's magazine...

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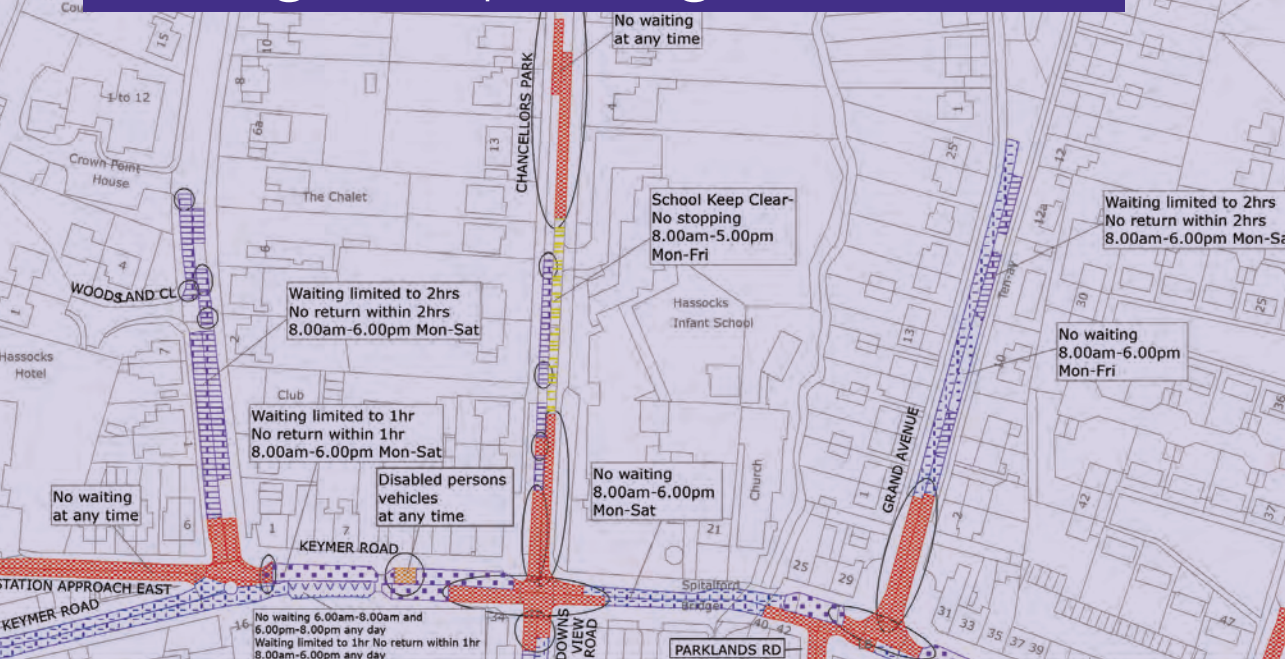


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Changes to parking in Hassocks



Last month the West Sussex County Council Local Committee gave its approval for the Stage Two Parking Scheme to become a reality. Our roads are more heavily used than ever and the Scheme aims to make it easier and safer for people to get about in the village.

Back in 2013 an initial assessment was made of access problems and potential road safety issues in the village and a plan was formed based on responses to a survey. The focus, at this point, was on two main areas: firstly, to make it easier for shoppers to park on the High Street and secondly, to create passing places on certain roads where space was very cramped. The plan was taken to West Sussex County Council and, despite some issues with funding, Stage One was implemented in 2018.

In the aftermath of this, it became clear that there was an appetite for further improvements. Stage Two has been community driven and strongly supported by the Parish Council. It has evolved through the last 18 months with several consultations, including an exhibition in March 2019 and follow up surveys in the affected roads. As the plan began to take shape, it became apparent that West Sussex County Council had limited resources to implement a new Parking Scheme in Hassocks but, to move things forward, a leaf was taken from building developers' working processes and the Parish Council sponsored Stage Two itself. Parish Council chairman Ian Weir said: "Little did I realise back in 2013, when we conducted the first village-wide survey, how long it would take to get to this point. It was only through the Parish Council taking the unusual step of sponsoring the second stage of the scheme that the original community-led proposals have now been largely

achieved. Also - I want to thank local resident Sally Booker, who has done an amazing amount of work in support of this project, and our County Councillor Kirsty Lord who has argued in support of the scheme within West Sussex."

A further problem occurred when Mid Sussex County Council raised an objection about the funding required to enforce the new parking regulations, but this was eventually resolved by removing one hour restrictions in certain roads. The Stage Two Parking Scheme will improve traffic flow through the creation of passing places and hopes to reduce thoughtless and inconsiderate parking in a number of heavily used and narrow roads in Hassocks. Dale Avenue, for example, where lines will be placed where there are concerns about pedestrian safety around Windmills School and, in Stonepound Road, combining passing places with enforcing spaces opposite driveways aims to improve access for residents. The Scheme also upgrades single yellow lines to double yellows on a number of junctions and bends with restricted visibility. Importantly, the loss of parking spaces has been kept to an absolute minimum in order to avoid any significant displacement to adjacent roads. The revised scheme (omitting the removed restrictions from Highlands Close, North Court, Semley Road and part of Woodland Road) can be found in PDF format via this link: <https://bit.ly/2D4MPru>

It is anticipated that implementation of the Stage 2 scheme will take place during 2020. In future Hassocks will become part of the regular 'road space audits' undertaken by West Sussex County Council and all future road issues will be dealt with in this way.



5 MINUTES WITH...

Michael Finch

Michael is area manager for a company that supplies garden centres. At 6ft 6in, he's passionate about music, his family and loves to get out on his mountain bike.

How long have you lived in Hassocks?
11 years

What's the best thing about being here?
Hassocks Infant School – for my seven year old Harry

What would you like to see in Hassocks that isn't here?
Pizza Express

How many houses have you lived in?
Five

Favourite book, film and album?
The Gruffalo, Home Alone (1 and 2) and Joe Satriani Live in San Francisco

Most common New Year's resolution?
Get out on my bike more

Your most enjoyable event in the village?
Light Up Hassocks

Do you share your home with anyone? (If so, who?)
My wife Katie and our children Harry and Elsie-Rose

Song you play the most?
Little Wing by Jimi Hendrix

Which app on your phone do you use the most?
eBay

Your most frequented village shop?
Sainsbury's (sorry!)

What's your proudest moment?
Riding my mountain bike from Winchester to Eastbourne across the South Downs Way in one day...100 miles...and my wedding day of course!

Last present you received?
A personalised bracelet from my kids on Father's Day

Your advice for life?
Be kind

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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New support group starts in Hassocks

During baby loss awareness week in October local midwife Angie Bowles worked with Father Alex and arranged an event at Keymer Church, which they called a 'Gathering to Remember'.

The evening provided a safe and supportive opportunity for those affected by the loss of a baby, at any stage of pregnancy or at/after birth, to have their loss acknowledged. The evening was very moving and reflected the impact that very short lives can have on families and the wider community. A wide variety of experiences were shared, from losses in the very early stages of pregnancy, to babies stillborn at full term and those lost to cot death. Some losses were very recent, others a great many years ago.

In conversation that evening, it became clear that it can be difficult for those affected by such losses to find support and a place to talk about their experiences. It was discussed how those gathered might go about addressing this in our local community. Angie agreed to take the lead in exploring whether a regular meeting can be established, with support from some others who attended the Gathering to Remember. Angie has worked as a bereavement support midwife in the NHS and so brings professional knowledge and insight to add to the personal experiences of other members.



If you have been affected by pregnancy loss or the loss of a baby, however long ago and whatever the circumstances, we would welcome you to join us. Miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, termination for fetal abnormality, stillbirth or death after birth. The support group will aim to meet monthly and will be exploring various venues to work out what is most appropriate. The next dates agreed are Tuesday 17th December and 28th January at 7.30pm. The meetings will be in the Hassocks/Hurstpierpoint area and Angie will aim to provide transport for anyone who needs it.

The group will be led by volunteers and meetings will be free of charge, other than an invitation to make a small donation to cover the cost of light refreshments. The aim of the group is to share experience, acknowledge and validate feelings and to support one another in learning to live with loss. We cannot offer



personal counselling but will aim to offer signposting to other services as appropriate.

Please contact Angie on 07974 729566 for further details or to ask any questions and to find out the location for the next meeting.

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Christmas Services

in Hassocks



Churches Together in Hassocks wish all in the village a very Happy Christmas.

Join us for our Carols Together on Sunday 15th December at Adastra Hall starting at 3pm; an afternoon for all ages of informal carol singing with light refreshments.

We are also holding a Christingle Service on Saturday 21st December at 4 pm at St Francis Church, Priory Road.

The following shows details of all our other Christmas services for the churches in the village.

Happy Christmas!



St. Cosmas and St. Damian, Keymer

Christmas Eve	6pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
	11.30pm	First Mass of Christmas with Carols
Christmas Day	8am	Holy Communion
	9.45am	Family Eucharist with Carols

St. Francis of Assisi, Hassocks

Christmas Eve	4pm	Crib Service
Christmas Day	9.45am	Family Eucharist with Carols

St. Edwards Roman Catholic Church, Keymer

Christmas Eve	7.30pm	First Mass of Christmas with Carols
Christmas Day	9.30am	Mass with Carols

United Reformed Church, Hassocks

Sunday 15th December	10.30am	Christmas Festival service
Sunday 22nd December	6pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	3pm	Crib Service
Christmas Day	10am	Family Service

St John the Baptist, Clayton

Christmas Day	11.15am	Eucharist with Carols
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It's time to find the Elf on the shelf!

Hassocks estate agent Marchants will once again be organising a fun Christmas competition to raise festive spirits and also funds for charity.

For the second year running a number of shopkeepers have placed a Christmas Elf within their window display and participants will have to spot them and write down its name on the special form – available to collect from Marchants on the High Street or downloadable from: www.marchantsestateagents.co.uk

Marchants' Bennita Adair George explained: "We started the event last year as we thought it would be a fun idea to join the community of Hassocks together while doing some fundraising at the same time. We chose St Peter & St James Hospice as our charity partner as, having experienced its wonderful services, we realise how precious this organisation is to our community and want to support its future in helping others at their time of need."

Completed entry forms for Find Elf on the Shelf need to be handed in at Marchants by 17th December along with a £1 charity donation. There will be a random prize draw from completed forms after this date.



Christmas Fayre raises £1,000

Staff and residents of Hassocks' Villa Adastra residential home were hosts to their first ever Christmas Fayre last month.

All the crafts on sale were made by local people related to the residents of the Salvation Army home, and by the residents themselves. This inaugural event raised £1,000, which will be spent on the residents.

Head of Care Sharon Bacon commented: "The community in Hassocks always supports us and have been fantastic in coming in, buying gifts and enjoying a cup of tea and cake – which we are grateful for."



One day, they might need the same care their Nanny did.



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Ella competition winner from garden centre

Ella Staplehurst, aged 10, from Hassocks was the chosen winner for South Downs Nurseries Ghost Hunt competition. She is pictured here with staff member Ella Charlton who presented her with her prize.

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The man watching upstairs

By Scott Mccarthy

Non-League football is full of characters. While the Premier League is bankrolled by its Russian oligarchs and Royal families worth billions of pounds, the further down the pyramid you go, the more interesting people you find volunteering at clubs across the country.

Hassocks is no exception and it was with great sadness that the Robins lost one of their characters last month when Ken Deaville suddenly passed away at the age of 85. Not that anybody realised quite how old Ken was, given the active role he played behind the scenes at the Beacon.

In recent times, he was best known for entertaining visiting club officials in the boardroom. He undertook the job with great enthusiasm, but there was an ulterior motive for Ken's role in hospitality as it also gave him one of the best seats in the house.

Each and every home game he would lean out of one of the boardroom's first floor windows, giving himself an elevated vantage point from where he could watch proceedings. Countless visitors commented on Ken sticking his head out of the window as it became one of the most photographed sights in Sussex football, especially by groundhoppers who were unlikely to come across a scene quite like it on their travels.



Ken's window view earned him the moniker of 'The man watching upstairs'. Sadly that takes on a different meaning from now on.

He wasn't just known for his unusual vantage point. Ken knew how to welcome visitors to the Beacon, and the fact that messages were received from Horsham YMCA, Peacehaven & Telscombe, Crawley Down Gatwick, Haywards Heath Town, Lancing, Pagham, Langney Wanderers, Lingfield, Arundel and Horley Town was testament to the fact that he was a man who touched other clubs as well as his own. Even Crowborough Athletic sent their condolences to a great host, and they've not visited the Beacon for a league game since 2013. That's how much of an impact Ken had.

Many readers may remember the Hassocks six-a-side tournaments that used to take place every summer in Adastra Park. These events quickly became one of the most popular of their kind in the South of England, attracting teams from as far away as Norfolk and the Midlands. Ken was not only instrumental in the setting up of the tournament, but also in helping to successfully organise it for many years.

Ken will be sorely missed by everyone at the Beacon.



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Photos: Deirdre Huston

A family business

BEHIND THE COUNTER

By Deirdre Huston

Andy Twine grew up in Ditchling. When he was a boy, he would go into Woods, the butcher's shop in Ditchling. Sawdust was sprinkled across the floor and a cashier took payment. Andy's grandfather once worked as a butcher in that same Ditchling shop but then the trade skipped a generation and, for thirty years, Andy's father worked full-time on the local fire engine. Around that time, Nick Smith was also one of the team of firemen based at the old Keymer Fire Station in Dale Avenue – but he doubled up as the Hassocks butcher, and this connection was to help Andy get his first job. Andy's mum worked locally too, in Budgens, although he insists that he beat her into the retail business when, at the age of 13, Andy started work as a cleaner for Nick Smith. He got on well, and three years later he was offered a job. Andy's always enjoyed work more than education describing himself as a 'hands-on person' rather than an academic. He knew he didn't want to go to college: "It made sense to learn a trade," Andy said.

He became a full-time butcher at the Hassocks shop. The apprenticeship was 'on the job' style and, even today, Andy admits he's still learning: "Every day is a different day. Nothing is ever exactly the same. We haven't been replaced by robots – yet." He grins and goes on to explain that how some meat products sold in supermarkets are in the process of becoming more automated.

Andy enjoys interacting with people. In his late teens he tried working with computers, but the office life was not for him. "It was a no-brainer to return to the shop." A wise choice because, not long after that, Mr Smith offered him the role of manager. He accepted and it was around this time that his nephew, Luke, began work as a Saturday boy who undertook general cleaning. Then there was a spell when Andy left to work for a butcher's in Burgess Hill but he always stayed in the trade.

In 2018 Andy seized the chance to return to Hassocks, but this time as owner of the shop. "It felt weird because, during the gap when I'd been away, Mr Smith had died. Although it was different, some things had stayed exactly the same. It was almost like putting on a pair of shoes you haven't worn for a year or two and, to your surprise, your feet just slip right in." Andy admits to feeling under pressure and was apprehensive regarding the success of his new venture: "It got to 11 o'clock on the first day and I hadn't served anyone. It was a bit of a shock as I'd come from a busy shop where, by that time, we'd have served a hundred people."

After about six months, the shop built up a loyal following of regular customers again and Andy felt confident enough to employ his nephew Luke full-time. "This is very much a family business." Luke, too, grew up in Ditchling and, like Andy, attended Downlands Community School. "For the most part I liked it," Luke explains, "but I was more of a hands-on person too." In his spare time, Luke does bouldering, a hobby



he got involved with through friends. For those who don't know, bouldering is a form of rock climbing performed on small rock formations or artificial rock walls without the use of harnesses or ropes. "You never go too high and there's always people around but I'm building up to going outside." He goes to a centre in Shoreham called Boulder Brighton and elaborates: "I've met loads of people down there. You see people from the village and then they come into the shop and it all intertwines."

Each butcher's shop is different and there's a knack to understanding what customers might want. "We get all the mums and dads going past on the school run so we try to do kiddie-friendly stuff like pinwheels. We've even bought a new machine to make meatballs." A lot of the traditional cuts are coming back too, like stewing lamb, oxtail and ox-cheek. Lamb shanks are currently in vogue. The shop is geared around what customers want and it's all aimed at a flexible way of cooking. "You can buy one portion or twenty," Andy said.

Although sausages are a year-round favourite, especially with families, it's a seasonal business. In the summer there's a high demand for kebabs, burgers and any cuts people might wish to barbecue but, during the winter, slow cook meats and roasting joints are popular to ward off the cold. Although ready-made pies and sausage rolls are on sale, Andy generally stays away from the cooked side of the trade, as he's happy to leave that to the deli. A few items available are marinated or prepared, dishes like Hunter's Chicken, Chicken Kiev or parcels. "Chicken is a staple in many people's diets, so it's nice to offer some variety." A new idea this year are the Christmas Hampers, an easy way to purchase the meat basics needed for the festive season, such as turkey crown, pigs-in-blankets, gammon, sausage meat and an extra roasting joint.

During the nine years that he was away, Andy feels Hassocks' high street has become a lot quieter and puts this mainly down to the banks having gone. "Fortunately, the schools and train station do draw people here and lots is available on the High Street for people to buy. It's a pretty self-sufficient place – you can get everything you need." Andy likes to see the bigger picture. Twines is a member of the Hassocks Community Organisation discount card scheme and offers a 10% price reduction on all sausages. "We always try and support the village where we can, including the local schools." He's no sooner finished this sentence than a representative of Downlands Community School PTA appears on the hunt for a donation, a catering pack of bacon, to sell in rolls at their Christmas Market. Andy's only too happy to oblige. His daughters went to the Infants school and now attend Windmills Junior School where his wife, Helen, works in the kitchens. They are a family based very much at the heart of the village community.



School STEM Club wins national award

The STEM Club at Downlands Community School has been awarded Outstanding STEM Club at the STEM Inspiration Awards 2019. The winners were announced at a prestigious event held at the House of Lords last month.

The awards (by STEM Learning and sponsored by UK Research and Innovation) celebrate those extraordinary individuals and organisations who inspire young people to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The judges praised the school's STEM Coordinator Helen Colvert: 'Downlands Community School has done

an exceptional job raising the profile of STEM subjects. The Clubs are highly collaborative, working with others schools, STEM Ambassadors and with a range of industries. They also encourage a highly practical approach, with students developing business plans and working through a real life design/build processes.'

Yvonne Baker, Chief Executive of STEM Learning said: "I am delighted to celebrate some truly amazing people, all of whom work tirelessly to broaden the horizons of young people in the UK."

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
Miranda Pocock with Storm 'I would rather be out there!'

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A Family Christmas

By Mary White

The family are coming for Christmas,
The rafters will ring with the noise,
Coats and shoes will strew the hall,
And the lounge will be littered with toys.

There'll be breakfasts and lunches and dinners,
And milkshakes and coffees and teas,
And Grandma will have to remember
That Jeremy doesn't like peas,
And Angela doesn't like dumplings,
Whilst William doesn't eat fish,
And baby John can now eat off a plate,
But Emily still has a dish.

The camp beds will come from the attic
And sleeping bags cover the floor,
Where the teenagers lie awake giggling,
And listening to grandfather snore.

Then after a real Christmas Dinner
Which Grandma will always get right,
Grandad will say that's what he calls real food,
Not a pizza or burger in sight!

The children will open their presents
While the grandparents look on in awe,
They cannot help thinking how different
From the one-each they had in the war!

What with videos and Gameboys and skateboards
And dollies and robots that speak
And mobile phones that send pictures and cost
More than Grandfather earned in a week!

Then Grandma will sing to the babies
As she sang to their dad and their mother
And Grandad will tell them Billy Goat's Gruff,
They don't want to hear any other!

Yes, the family are coming for Christmas
How quiet it will seem when they've left us,
Then we will remember the fun that we had
And we will thank God that he blessed us.

THE YOUNG ACTORS group



AGES
5 - 19



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Time for a break

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE FUN...

In this, our festive issue, we have given you a bumper collection of brainteasers to have a go at. Answers on page 39.

MAGIC SQUARE

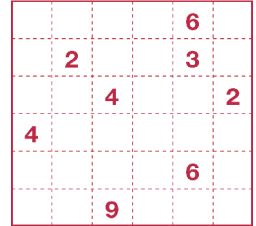


GREETING CARD IDEA

From the 16 letters of the phrase above, find four words which fit the grid so that they can be read both horizontally and vertically.

BOX CLEVER

Fill the 6 x 6 grid with as many boxes as there are numbers printed in the grid. Each box must be either square or rectangular and must contain just one of the numbers. The numbers show how many squares there should be in each box.



MISSING LINK

Each pair of words has a missing word between them that acts as a link to both (e.g. FRONT – DOOR – MAT). The initial letters of the six answers (reading downwards) will spell out a tree.

STERLING -----
 SALMON -----
 TRUNK -----
 TURN --
 WEDDING -----
 DEAF ---

LINING
 GIN
 RAGE
 START
 WALK
 TRUMPET

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SUDOKU

There is just one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. This is a logic puzzle, and you should not have to guess!

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

NONAGRAM

W	O	N
F	S	T
R	I	D



How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found. **15 Good; 18 Very Good; 21 Excellent.**

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

___ _ **T** _

What words link the following definitions?

1. a side;
2. a group of people;
3. a social gathering;
4. those involved in something.

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Christmas unwrapped

RECYCLE THIS

By Colin McFarlin, Volunteer Waste Prevention Advisor WSCC
Christmas is a busy time and poses more recycling questions! In this month's extended column I try to give quick answers to a range of festive waste dilemmas...



Christmas Tree – did you know that in West Sussex Christmas trees are turned into compost when you recycle them? In Lindfield you can drop your real tree to Lindfield Common car park, Backwoods Lane (until 10th January) after you've finished with it. I call it treecycling!



Wrapping paper – remove as much packing tape as possible. Paper in the Blue recycling bin, tape in the Black top rubbish bin.



Cardboard – flatten boxes and remove as much Sellotape and packing tape as possible. Cardboard in Blue bin, tape in Black bin.

Christmas cards – remove bows and ribbons. Cards in Blue bin (even glittery ones!), everything else in Black bin.

Sweet/chocolate boxes/tins/tubes – metal, cardboard, plastic or paper can all be recycled (Blue bin).

Glass bottles – beer, wine and champagne in the Blue bin, without the tops please. Metal tops can go in the Blue bin separately. Plastic tops and corks in the Black bin.



Plastic bottles – fizzy drinks bottles in your Blue bin.

Plastic/foil trays – from Mince Pie and other food packaging, in the Blue bin please.

Christmas paper chains – in your Blue recycling bin.

REMEMBER the bin must close. If the lid will not close it may not be collected. Do NOT leave recycling next to the bin as it may not be collected.

What to do with other items that **cannot** go in your recycling bin...

Plastic wrapping paper, bows and ribbons – if you cannot reuse them place them in your Black top rubbish bin.

Tinsel and baubles – take to the Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS), 'the tip' to you and I.

Christmas fairy lights – as an electrical item take to the tip and not in your kerbside bin.

Artificial trees – take to the HWRS.

Batteries – take them to any supermarket that sells batteries, or the HWRS.

Textiles – from old rags and holey tights to clothes that don't fit any more, bag them up and take them to a charity shop that accepts 'rags' or take them to your HWRS. Do not put in your kerbside bins.



Broken toys – if they cannot be fixed, take to the HWRS.

Used paper napkins – Black top rubbish bin.

Broken crockery or cups – it happens at Christmas(!), take to the HWRS.

Old drinking glasses – take to a charity shop, or - if broken - put them in your Black bin.

Disposable plastic plates and cutlery – try to avoid as they will have to go in your Black top bin.

Please note: your Christmas and New Year rubbish and recycling kerbside bin collections operates from Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January. Visit: www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling for details.

HWRS – Now on winter opening hours. For example, Burgess Hill site is closed on Thursdays. From 1st December you will need to show you are a resident of West Sussex to use the HWRS. Take with you your driving licence or utility bill. TOP TIP: photocopy them now and keep in the car or ready to take with you.

In the new year I would love to hear from you about your 'Recycling Wisdoms' and share your ideas in this column.

What do you do to recycle more, what do you do to recycle better in your house? Tell me about your local community recycling points.

Email the editor (with a photo if possible) to send these in to me. Happy (Christmas) recycling!



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What's on

AT ADASTRA HALL

Monday

7.45pm **Hassocks WI** (3rd week)
2pm **Scrabble**
2pm **Table Tennis**
7.30pm **Table Tennis**

Tuesday

9.30am **Short Mat Bowls**
1.30pm **Short Mat Bowls**
2-4pm **Maj Jong** (1st & 3rd week)

Wednesday

6.30pm **Hassocks Youth Club** (term time)

Thursday

2pm **Table Tennis**
8pm **Debonair Dance**

December

9th **Hassocks Field Society** – 7.45pm
'Out on a Limb' by Lesley Baker (£2 non-members)

11th **Hassocks Horticultural Society**

13th **HHD U3A** – 2pm
Weald Ukulele and Song Band (members only)

16th **Hassocks WI** – 7.45pm

January

24th **Downton Abbey (PG)** – doors 7pm
(Tickets £4.50/£4)

Is everything sorted?



Christmas Tree



Presents



Tax Return filed

At PRB we can't do much about the first two on the list but we can help you tick off your personal Tax Return! We also do company accounts, payroll, tax planning, VAT compliance and bookkeeping.



Chris Whitley-Jones

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What's on...

ELSEWHERE

December

- 4th **Hurst Monthly Social Group** – 2-4pm
Guide HQ, Trinity Rd - Christmas Celebrations with The Handbell Ringers and a Quiz (Dianne 01273 835284)
- 5th **Green Book (12A)** – doors 7.30pm
Ditchling Village Hall – Ditchling Film Society (members free, guests £5)
- 5th **Dementia Café** – 2-4pm
Court Bushes Community Hub, Hurst - Hurst memory Christmas tea party
- 5th **Mid Sussex National Trust** – 2.30pm
Clair Hall - 'Christmas Past in West Sussex' by Dr Caroline Adams
- 6th-8th **Cuckfield Christmas Tree Festival**
Holy Trinity Church - Decorated trees, open from 11.30am across the weekend (£5 adults, kids free)
- 7th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm
Outside The Talbot
- 7th **Dad La Soul** – 10am-12noon
Court Bushes Community Hub, Hurst - Dad's play date club
- 7th **Hurst Christmas** – 4-7pm
Hurstpierpoint High Street - annual Christmas fair with stalls, entertainment and Santa! (www.hurstchristmas.org)
- 8th **Christmas Concert** – 3-5pm
Warden Park Academy, Cuckfield - Popular and festive classics from Ensemble Reza and the community orchestra (£10/£5 from Pepperbox or www.ensemblereza.com)
- 9th **Wreath-Making Workshop** – 9.30am
The Talbot, Cuckfield - By Chez Fleur (£50pp, call 07811 892644)
- 11th **Choir Christmas Celebration** – 7.30pm
United Reformed Church, Hassocks - By community choir All the Right Notes (£6 incl. a glass of wine and mince pie, alltherightnoteschoir@gmail.com)
- 12th **HH Ceramics Group** – 10am
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - Patricia Ferguson will give a talk on 'Dolls' Houses and Ceramics' (First visit free, 01444 483372 or 452804)
- 13th **HHD U3A** – 2pm
Adastra Hall, Hassocks - Weald Ukulele and Song Band (U3A members only)
- 14th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm
High Street – Seasonal produce

- 14th **Candlelit Celebration of Christmas** – 7pm
Newtimber Church, BN6 9BT - A festive evening of songs, poetry and storytelling with folk group Cotillion (Tickets £10/£4 includes mulled wine and mince pie. Book via Lucy 01273 831877)
- 14th **Wild Rose (15)** – doors 7pm
Scout Hurst, Brown Twins Rd, Hurst (£4/£6, www.hurstfilms.com)
- 15th **Christmas Carols** – from 12noon
The Greyhound Pub, Keymer - BBQ and raffle. Proceeds raised in aid of Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice. All very welcome to join in the festivities.
- 15th & 22nd **Sussex Chorus Carols** – 6.30pm
The Coach House, Sheffield Park & Gardens (TN22 3QX) - Christmas music and carols (tickets: www.nationaltrust.org.uk)
- 17th **Pregnancy Support Group** – 7.30-9pm
New support group for those affected by pregnancy or baby loss (for venue details contact angie@walkingwithyou.org.uk or call 07974 729566)
- 17th **Advent Carol Concert** – 8pm
Ardingly College Chapel (free entry)
- 18th **The Arts Society Mid Sussex** – 10am
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - Lecture: Grandfather Frost & Old New Year - The Russian Christmas by Dr Rosamund Bartlett (Non Members welcome, £7)
- 21st **December Village Market** – 9am-12.30pm
National Tyres forecourt, Hassocks – market stalls from independent traders

January

- 7th **Mid Sussex NHS Retirement F'ship** – 10.15am
Franklands Village Hall, Haywards Heath - Talk
- 15th **The Arts Society Mid Sussex** – 10am
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - 'The Magic of Prague - Czech Art and Culture' by Gavin Plumley (Non-members welcome, £7)

Want to promote a local event?

If you know of an event taking place in Hassocks or beyond, do let us know and we'll do our best to include it in our listings in this magazine.

Email the details to: editor@hassockslife.co.uk.

Downton comes to Hassocks

Downton Abbey is coming to Hassocks, thanks to Hassocks Community Organisation's Star Cinema.



The film, not the TV series, will be shown at Adastra Hall on Friday 24th January. Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £4.50/£4 conc. There will be teas and coffees available for purchase, as well as wine at £2 a glass, and a quality raffle on the night.

Star Cinema is one of the nicest things to happen in Hassocks. Putting a film on about six times a year, it is open to all but is particularly keen to attract those who struggle to get out or don't have easy access to transport, by offering a pleasant and local night out. It's a great evening for meeting new people and catching up with old friends.

Planning is already underway for February. Rumour has it the film, scheduled for the 21st, will be Judy, which celebrates the life of Judy Garland.

Work for Star Cinema starts early on the day. The projectionist, who comes down from Surrey, needs to be setting up from 4.30pm and the room must be prepared, with a hall full of chairs to be laid out and with the hall's kitchenette to be readied for hungry and thirsty filmgoers arriving from 7pm. Then, after the film, all those chairs need to be restacked and the room made good for whoever is coming in on the Saturday morning.

Any profits raised go to Hassocks Community Organisation (HCO), which oversees Star Cinema. The Cinema itself is run by the wonderful Liz Edmunds. Like all of HCO's activities, all the work that goes into Star Cinema is done by volunteers, of whom there are rarely enough, and it says something about how keen the volunteers are that they are hoping to add new events to the Cinema schedule in the future.

Hassocks Community Organisation would like to wish all Hassocks Life readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. HCO has plenty of plans for 2020 and, if you would like to help shape those plans or volunteer your services to help deliver them, please get in touch by emailing hassocksvolunteers@gmail.com or via the website or Facebook page. You don't have to have any special talent or make a regular time commitment. Just give us whatever time and expertise you have when it works for you. You can also become an HCO supporter, making a small annual donation to support HCO projects. Contact togetherwithhco@gmail.com for more info on becoming a supporter. Thanks so very much to all those volunteers who have given time in 2019 - we couldn't do it without you!

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- ✓ It's only about Hassocks
- ✓ Full colour, great design
- ✓ Delivered to all homes
- ✓ Focus on local people

We hope that's why you like it!

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HassocksLife

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE ANSWERS

From the puzzle fun on page 32

BOX CLEVER:

			6	
	2		3	
		4		2
4				
			6	
		9		

SUDOKU:

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

MISSING LINK: silver; pink; road; up; cake; ear.
Tree: spruce.

TRAIN OF THOUGHT: Party

NONAGRAM: disown; dost; first; fist; foist; fortis; frons; frost; frowst; rosin; sift; snit; snort; snot; snow; SNOWDRIFT; soft; sort; sown; stir; stow; strow; strown; swift; sword; sworn; swot; wist; worst; wrist.

MAGIC SQUARE: tare; acid; ring; edge

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Wishing everyone

**A Very Merry Christmas &
A Happy New Year**

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