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Local village talk,
by the village

Issue # 10 : Feb. 2020

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Hassocks runners warm-up

page 10

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Welcome to the February magazine, and I'm pleased to say it's a packed issue.



Let's start by mentioning our Village People candidate **Pennie Thomson** – who met with **Deirdre Huston** recently and what is printed on **page 20** is the result. A fascinating story of a woman who has dedicated much of her life to both her teaching career and the Girl Guides.

Talking of **Guides**, there's an article on the local division on **page 14**. While on **page 10**, **HCO** uses its regular column to focus on the **Hassocks Rail Group**. And you'll find another regular column in the form of the **Hassocks Football Club**, by **Scott Mccarthy** on **page 31**.

Our usual **What's On listings** for the month or so ahead are printed on **pages 36-37**. If you like nothing more than a spot of puzzling – turn to **page 34-35**, where a wordsearch and sudoku will greet you!

I'd like to thank **Mary White** for supplying a photo of Hassocks from over 100 years ago. We've printed the up-to-date view of the same spot – as we hardly recognised it! Turn to **page 26** to spot the difference.

On **page 10** I am delighted to feature **Debra, Ginette** and **Malcolm** – our first cohort of **marathon and half marathon runners** from the village. Do show support if you see these guys in the street, or sponsor if you can. They'll be a few more fine athletes featured next month too as marathon season well and truly starts!

If you know someone with a fantastic story from the village, have details of an event happening or like taking photos around Hassocks – do please get in touch with us via email: editor@hassockslife.co.uk. Myself and Deirdre are always looking for new connections to make in the village.

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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 girl wins prize

Emily-Mai Martin, who is five and from Hassocks, went with dad, Sean, to South Down Nurseries to collect prizes after winning a festive competition; not only for herself but also for her four-year-old cousin, Max O'Neill. The pair entered a contest run at the family-run garden centre throughout the Christmas holiday. Entrants had to follow clues to find eight of Santa's Elves hiding throughout the Brighton Road business. Well done to Emily-Mai and Max!

High demand for XR info prompts second meeting

Hassocks, Hurst, Keymer and Ditchling group (HKD Transition) are to hold another meeting about climate change. January's meeting was oversubscribed and to allow more people the chance to attend, a second talk is being presented this time at Adastra Hall. Local members of Extinction Rebellion will tell you about the latest climate science, the climate emergency we face and what we can do about it. Bring your climate emergency concerns and questions and hear how ordinary people are coming together through non-violent, peaceful direct action, to persuade world leaders to tell the truth about the climate and take immediate action.

On a more local scale, HKD member, Margaret Ford is pleased with how some recent landscaping projects are functioning this winter: "The rain gardens and the debris dams have been working flat out – but successfully – during the recent heavy rainfalls."

If you are interested in attending this meeting which takes place at 7.30pm on 7th February, book now at: www.HKDTransition.org.uk

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Chance to see a winter garden

Jane Baker explains why she and her husband Nick are opening up their Clayton garden to visitors this winter.

One January, a teenage girl who I taught brought a big bunch of different branches covered in flowers into school. Not only were the flowers beautiful but they were fragrant too. Having been brought up in a gardening family where straight edges, rows of bulbs and annuals were the norm, these flowers in January were an education to me. The next day the list of names of these winter flowering shrubs was handed over to me (far better than homework) and thus Nick and I started on a life of having flowers in the garden for every month of the year. Over the years, an ever-increasing number of hardy winter flowering shrubs and climbers have become available ... and we have bought some! Add into this mix our collection of snowdrops and hellebores and other early flowering bulbs and herbaceous plants and the garden is a joy not only for us but for bees and insects.

Our garden will be raising funds for the National Garden Scheme as well as caring, nursing and health charities. The garden can be visited from mid-February to mid-March 2020 (dates on our website, pre-booking only). Individuals and groups are welcome to pre-book so why not arrange to meet friends here and explore the garden together? The modest fee of £10 includes entry, coffee and cake and a garden tour if required. Please wear warm clothes and sensible sturdy shoes. Parking



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Mike and Reina return to play Hurst

Hassocks residents, Mike and Reina Reinstein have been invited to perform in Hurstpierpoint later this month. This is the second time that Margaret and Kevin Carey of Holy Trinity Church have invited the couple to perform in the beautiful West Gallery.

Mike is an accomplished guitarist and songwriter with seven critically acclaimed albums to his name - four for children and three for grown-ups. Reina will be adding her lovely harmonies on the night. When not performing for audiences in folk clubs and concert halls, Mike sings with primary aged children in two schools in Brighton, and when Reina hangs up her vocal chords, she's a writer currently working on her latest novel. Expect an evening of well-crafted songs that are poignant, thought-provoking and often hilarious. A reviewer once said: 'A superb songwriter. His songs take witty and wonderful snapshots of the planet's follies and absurdities - he's a fine fingerpicking guitarist too.'

The concert takes place at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 15th February - starting at 6pm. To reserve tickets (£5) email margaret@112a.co.uk, phone 01273 835113 or turn up and pay on the door.



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HASSOCKS COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Rail Group braces for train changes in May

Hassocks Rail Group (HRG), part of Hassocks Community Organisation, is already preparing for closer liaison with the rail companies as new works are planned for the Brighton mainline starting in May.



2020 sees the beginning of major upgrade works to Gatwick Airport station to meet the ever-increasing passenger demand there. As a result, platforms and lines at Gatwick will be out of commission for a time and that means that train paths to London will be limited. This in turn means that some trains from Hassocks will be altered.

Under current plans there will still be two off-peak trains per hour in each direction from Hassocks, as at present, but Southern's services will be travelling to and from Hove and the West Coastway line, so Victoria-bound trains will be more crowded going north, while Brighton-bound travellers will find their only direct services will be via Thameslink trains.

HRG is already on the case and will be feeding the concerns of Hassocks residents to Govia Thameslink Railway through the group's stakeholder representatives' group. It has a great track record of achievement on the village's behalf and has good connections to the rail companies.

It was HRG, then as a part of Hassocks Amenity Association, that campaigned for, and won, us our new station under the initial visionary leadership of then Chair Gina Field. More recently, HRG has lobbied hard for the reinstatement of peak services that stop at Clapham Junction after May 2018's timetable reorganisation, and has been a strong voice in the recent introduction of later last trains from both Brighton and London, with a train running south from Blackfriars at around midnight all the way through the week and not just on Fridays and Saturdays.

And the achievements of HRG are being reflected in the use of the trains. Thanks to the increased schedule, as well of course to the general expansion of the area's population, footfall through the station has increased from 700-800,000 journeys per year 15 years ago to around 1.25 million and is still increasing.

The HRG expects to be very busy in the run-up to the May works and would welcome feedback or suggestions from Hassocks residents. To raise an issue all you have to do is go to the Forum, Rail section, of the HCO website at: www.hassockscommunity.org.uk

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New website and resources for Ramblers

Mid Sussex Ramblers is a local group formed in 1973, which now has a membership of more than 450. It has recently unveiled a new website, which allows users to search for specific walks, distances or areas. Perhaps the new year has given you the perfect excuse to start being more adventurous in your walking?

MSR is leading a number of events this month including: an eight mile 'walk through history' around East Hoathly and Laughton, including a pub lunch on 11th February; a leisurely (and mud-free) route around Plumpton, taking in the station and racecourse, on Sunday 16th February, and a longer (11.3mile) Downland walk towards Cissbury and Chanctonbury on Tuesday 3rd March.

Full details of these walks and more can be found at www.midsussexramblers.org.uk or listed in our What's On Elsewhere on page 37.

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Make mine a marathon

The new year can be a popular time to take up the pastime of running with all those gin-ethused resolutions made on 31st December. However, this group of Hassocks residents were committed to pounding the village streets long before Big Ben's strike of midnight.

This two-part feature will hero a number of runners who are taking part in either a half marathon or marathon this year. Many of us will marvel at this group, as some play for fun and the personal challenge while others are driven by a fundraising target for a poignant charity. Whatever their motivation we wish them all the very best.

Hassocks, meet your first marathon-running cohort...

Hassocks Marathon

28TH MARCH

Hassocks personal trainer, Jane Roweth, was the inspiration for this idea when she ran 23 times between Stonepound Crossroads and The Greyhound while training for her first Brighton Marathon in 2010. Since then We Run! Hassocks has taken on the idea with the first official charity event taking place in 2014.

This is a free community event, sponsored by Aspire Fitness Solutions, which starts at 8am on 28th March. A few run the whole 26.2 miles, but many more join in for as much as they want to on the day.

The Hassocks Charity Marathon has raised over £3,000 since it started. For more information search Facebook or see: www.werunhassocks.co.uk

Debra Moller

Which run(s) are you taking part in?

I have five half marathons booked this year. My next event is the Barcelona Half on 16th February, but I'm also doing the London Landmarks Half Marathon (29th March).

Have you run a marathon before?

Yes, I've run five: Brighton twice, Southampton, Edinburgh and Beachy Head (I'm having a year off marathons this year!).

How long have you been running?

Nearly five years

Do you run alone?

Sometimes but I prefer to run with my husband or friends.

Why do you run?

I love running - it keeps me fit and clears my head after a hard day at work.

What are you most proud of regarding your running?

The fact that I can run a marathon! I never dreamed that I could run a mile when I started and when I crossed the finish line at Brighton on my first marathon I was buzzing.

Are you raising money for a charity?

Myself and five of the teachers at Downlands School are running The London Landmarks Half Marathon for Breast Cancer Care. It's such a worthwhile charity. My sister suffered with Breast Cancer but luckily, after a lot of treatment, has the all clear now.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/debra-moller3



What tips and advice would you like to give other runners?

Lace your trainers up and get outside and run, just put one foot in front of the other and keep moving. It doesn't matter how far you go or what speed you go you are still out running.

Ginette Read

Which run(s) are you taking part in?

Brighton Half (23rd February) and London Marathon (26th April)

Have you run a marathon before?

Yes: 6

How long have you been running?

I've always played sport, but have only been running properly since 2013.

Do you run alone?

Very rarely - I need support and encouragement! I love the camaraderie.

Why do you run?

Health and well-being (physical and mental)

What are you most proud of regarding your running?

Completing my first 10k in 2014 (when I still used to hate running). I amazed myself that I could actually do it.

Are you raising money for a charity?

I haven't asked for sponsorship for any events that I have done to date, but I have decided to run in aid of St Peter and St James Hospice. It is such an amazing place, local and has touched the lives of so many people.

My parents will be hosting an Open Garden event for the charity on the same weekend as London Marathon!

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GinetteRead>



Photo: Jon Lavis

What tips and advice would you like to give other runners?

Join a group or club - you will soon realise that not everyone is a pro, and there are people of all shapes/sizes/abilities/speeds. Just get out there and give it a go!

Malcolm Roweth

Which run(s) are you taking part in?

Hassocks Charity Marathon (28th March) and Brighton Marathon (19th April). Probably an 'Ultra' later in the year as well.

How are you training for the event?

Three runs a week and two core strength sessions.

Have you run a marathon before?

Yes

How long have you been running?

All my life. I am now 55.

Do you run alone?

Usually. Although I do run and volunteer at regular group events like ParkRun and We Run! Hassocks.

Why do you run?

Mental and physical health. Plus I also enjoy the challenge and competition.

What are you most proud of regarding your running?

Completing the 'Lakes In A Day Ultra Race'.

Are you raising money for a charity?

I don't try to raise money for charities when I run - people know I do it for pleasure! Instead, I help organise charity running events like the Hassocks Charity Marathon and the Hassocks Goes Gold run.



What tips and advice would you like to give other runners?

Don't train too hard. Try to avoid injury. Consult a coach if you want to do your best. Remember that recovery time is when you get stronger, so rest more!



Photo: Deirdre Huston

Board games anyone?

Deirdre Huston dropped into The Purple Carrot to meet The Hassocks Board Game Group...

Like many of you, over the festive season, we played a number of games with family and friends so when I learned the Hassocks Board Game Group meet locally, I braved the rain to go and see what it's all about. As I opened the door of the café, I could hear laughter and knew immediately that this convivial group know how to enjoy a board game or two! I was greeted with a smile by Kat and invited to join the table.

The group were immersed in a game called Celestia. They take it in turns to take games along so that they will often play something different, particularly at this time of year when people will often have bought new board games. "It's mostly light games that are easy to learn," says Pete Laycock, a regular member who enjoys attending.

Alastair Lichten set up the group together with his wife, Kat: "We moved to Hassocks in spring of 2018 and when we were unpacking our board games, we thought it would be a sociable way to meet new people locally." Their first post generated a lot of interest and the group is now well established. "We usually start the evening with a quick-fire card game and then play a longer game for an hour or so," explains Kat Lichten.

Graham Court was visiting from Australia and is delighted to have found the group. He and his sister hope to participate whenever their regular visits to their mother in Hassocks coincide with a meeting. Pete agrees: "It's social because you're not on a computer,

you're actually communicating with each other."

There are other board game groups which meet within Mid-Sussex, including Mid-Sussex Meeples. Its founder, Paul Lamprey has no doubts about the extensive benefits of gaming groups for mental health and social well-being: "I convinced myself to attend a gaming group in Horsham at the time and have not looked back. My life now is full of friends I would never have met if I hadn't taken that leap. The act of sitting at a table and discussing a communal goal of a board game always negates the chit chat about oneself until you're ready to open up." Mid-Sussex Meeples meet monthly in Burgess Hill and details of their meets are included in this magazine's What's On Elsewhere listings on page 37.

The number who turn up at Hassocks Board Game Group can vary from two to eight and the choice of game is adapted to suit the evening. The gateway games are popular: Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Alhambra and Carcassonne, all of which have been nominated for Game of the Year by Spiel des Jahr. Anybody interested in board games should look at the website called BoardGameGeek or come along and meet this well-informed group. They are open to new members and anybody who's interested should have a look at the Hassocks Board/Tabletop Games Social Group Facebook page. And, if you can't make Tuesday evenings, some board games are available in the Purple Carrot for people to play at other times too!

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Shakers re-stirred again!

Autumn Grierson and fellow Guide and Ranger Darcey Nixon are organising a fundraising play at The Hassocks Hotel this month. Darcey explains: "Both of us are extremely grateful for our wonderfully talented mums and their friends putting on this play in aid of our trip. We'll be there on the night to say a few words to help out too." The girls have been lucky enough to be chosen to go on a trip to South Africa next summer with the Coco's Foundation. They are going for three weeks to build houses for child-led families and give them food and school uniform, building new lives for young people in desperate situations in Africa.



Autumn explains what will be happening on the night: "In order to help our mums out we will be directing some of the play and will help with sets and costumes and advertising. This play is full of laughs and lets the audience think there are multiple actors in this play when in fact it's just the four women creating and characterising many, many characters."

This comedy is written by John Godber and Jane Thornton. In Shakers, Mel, Carol, Nicky and Adele work in the newest, shiniest cocktail bar in town where, despite the glitz and glamour of the decor, the patrons and the people who serve them are none too happy at all.

It is five years since Lyn, Jan, Sam and Karinn first performed these characters to sell out audiences in Hurstpierpoint and now they are bringing them back to raise money for Coco's! So come along and raise a glass whilst being transported back to the 90s and laugh along with this fast paced comedy.

Shakers Re-stirred Again will be performed on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st February starting at 8pm, at The Hassocks Hotel. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite online.



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Guiding for a new decade

The 22nd day in February is a very special date for Girlguiding, marking the birthday of the founder Lord Baden Powell and coincidentally, that of his wife, Olave, who became the first World Chief Guide.

This year, Girlguiding South Down Division will be holding an event to mark this date at Downlands School. Girls will gain a World Thinking Day Badge, raise funds for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (known as WAGGGS) and share a tea together. There will be Rangers talking about international opportunities they have successfully applied to take on: four are off to take part in the Coco's project in South Africa and two are off to Kenya; this is designed to inspire younger members to apply for such opportunities when they are a bit older.

Between them, the two local districts which make up South Down Division, Beacon (Hassocks and Ditchling) and Wolstonbury (Hurstpierpoint) have three Rainbow units, six Brownie units, four Guide units and one Ranger group, enabling many girls between the ages of five and eighteen to participate locally in a wide range of opportunities and activities through Guiding.

Immensely proud of its heritage, Girlguiding constantly updates itself for the current age so, while there are traditional items in programmes (map reading, cooking, hikes), there is much to inspire and interest the 21st century girl too (for example: mindfulness, vlogging, safety online, body awareness and accepting who you are, human rights, being a conscious consumer, geocaching and upcycling).

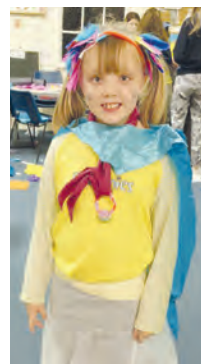


In April 2019, Girlguiding launched a new programme across all age groups. Awards can be gained within six themes including 'Know Myself' and 'Take Action'.

South Down Division keep it local with visits to supermarkets such as Budgens, to learn about the foods we eat, plastics and recycling as well as visits to other services like salons such as Profiles and to local hairdressers. Girls also take advantage of the wonderful nearby woods for wide games, orienteering and cooking over fires. They



also raise money for their termly chosen charities and support all the local village days such as Light Up Hassocks as well as supporting the Remembrance Parades. There are also opportunities to take part in prestigious national events with South Down girls being part of the Carpet Guard for the Chelsea Pensioners at a recent Royal Albert Hall's Remembrance Service and being on the Girlguiding float in November's Lord Mayor's Show. Great excitement when both events were televised!



Girlguiding now has an array of ambassadors who travel to talk to young girls about what they can achieve. One example is Sally Kettle who rowed the Atlantic and who wows her audience with her story and continues to inspire all who hear her with her positive, can-do attitude.

An example of how Girlguiding is adapting can be seen through what is now the second line of the Guide Promise: 'I promise that I will do my best: To be true to myself and develop my beliefs...'. Guides may attend church services and parades but, as South Down Division Commissioner Pennie Thomson points out, the Promise stresses Girlguiding's inclusivity: "People with other beliefs or no religious belief may make the new Promise."

The Division is hoping for another successful Thinking Day event this month and welcomes new volunteers so, if you are interested in helping, have a look at: www.girlguiding.org.uk

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Later Life Lending: Mortgages for the Over 55s

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

By Nigel Urban
Mortgage, Equity Release and Protection Adviser

Growing up in Mid Sussex in the 1960s and 1970s presented a simple view of mortgages. Homeowners invariably took them out in their twenties, paid them off over about 25 years and never borrowed again. Those days are largely over. With low interest rates, house price inflation enabling re-mortgaging and the provision of interest only mortgages, many homeowners are borrowing into retirement.



A common reason for that is when re-mortgaging "interest only" mortgages. The investment strategies intended to repay those have often proven unsuccessful or were abandoned, so many borrowers are finding themselves with their mortgages ending but without the money to pay them off.

Downsizing may be a solution. A smaller property may be acceptable, if there is sufficient equity available. Moving home is not always best, though. People have emotional attachment to their homes and moving has associated costs, not just logistics but estate agents' commissions, conveyancers' fees and stamp duty on the new property.

Thankfully the financial services sector has responded and there are now options for over 55s (even over 50s in some cases) to take out mortgages into retirement, even for life. The term is "later life lending", an unpopular term with the author, who is in that age group and still considers himself youthful.

Later life lending comprises term mortgages, Retirement Interest Only mortgages ("RIOs") and lifetime mortgages.

Term mortgages, like traditional mortgages, have a set duration. They can be repayment or interest only, usually the latter. They require affordability, with income throughout the term being considered. For terms extending beyond retirement, pension income is assessed. For joint mortgages, independent affordability must be demonstrated after a certain age, for example the ability to transfer pension benefits to a spouse

after death, or life cover. If the repayment method is interest only there must be a repayment strategy, often downsizing, although sale of holiday homes or investment properties are other possibilities.

Alternatively, a RIO might be the solution. These are interest only mortgages which last until the borrower (or last borrower for joint mortgages) dies or goes into permanent care. They require affordability but need no repayment strategy. Currently up to 70% of the property's value can be borrowed.

Finally, there are lifetime mortgages, otherwise known as equity release. Like RIOs, they last for a lifetime or until going into permanent care. Affordability is not required. Maximum borrowing depends on the younger borrower's age and the value of the property. The older the borrower, the more that can be borrowed, currently to a maximum of 58% of the value of the property. Possible features include rates fixed for life, voluntary payments, guaranteed minimum remaining equity and downsizing protection (escaping early repayment charges on moving, typically after five years). Lifetime mortgages are appropriate if no other option is feasible or desired. Monthly payments are optional – otherwise the interest rolls up and equity decreases. Products with a 'no negative equity' guarantee are recommended.

The mortgage products above can also be used to raise capital on an existing property or purchase a new one.

The later life lending market is complex; the above is a simplified overview. Specialist lenders are usually required and, with many criteria to be considered, care must be taken in selecting a product - the use of a qualified mortgage adviser is highly recommended and sometimes required by the lender.

Talk to me to discuss your options: by email to nigel.urban@financeplanning.co.uk or call me on 07765 465508 (preferred) or our head office number 01444 449200. FCA Registration Number 715721. www.financeplanning.co.uk.



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5 MINUTES WITH...

Paul Simpson

As Director of Music for All The Right Notes choir, Paul's passion is getting people to have fun with music, but his claim to fame is appearing on the special Doctor Who edition of Mastermind in 2005!

How long have you lived in Hassocks? 9 years

What's the best thing about being here?

It's easy to get to town (London or Brighton), but we're still in the countryside

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

A bookshop

How many houses have you lived in? 13 or so

Favourite book, film and album?

The Saint's Getaway; Skyfall; Jeff Wayne's The War of the Worlds

Most common New Year's resolution?

To not make resolutions

Your most enjoyable event in the village?

Light Up Hassocks

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

My wife Barbara and our dogs Rodo and Bella

Song you play the most?

Whichever one I'm arranging at the time. My all-time favourite though is John Miles' 'Music'

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

Your most frequented village shop? McColls

What's your proudest moment?

When my daughter had her first original work appear in print.

Last present you received?

Tickets for Hamilton for my birthday

Your advice for life?

Apparently the best piece of advice I've given my 17 year old daughter is 'Always walk on the far side of the pavement from the road so you don't get splashed'.

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!

Year end coming up soon?



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Snick's art exhibition

A teenager from Hassocks has found local fame through a new art initiative in Haywards Heath.

13 year-old non-binary student Snick is currently exhibiting their collection of digital art prints in the Art Hub in the Orchards Shopping Centre.

Beginning their interest in art with pencil and charcoal, Snick quickly developed a new style digitally last summer. They work on an XP-Pen Deco 01 tablet using FireAlpaca, and produce mainly portraits and caricatures. Snick's work was originally published on social media, until a visit to the Art Hub in Haywards Heath before Christmas. The Hub's initiative started last year, showcasing younger artists alongside more established work.

Snick's work has been well received, with eight prints currently on display.

If you'd like to have a look, pop into the Art Hub opposite Superdrug. The display will run until 9th February.



Local pupils sew 'joey pouches'

By Nicki Burston

With estimates of over one billion animals lost to the terrible wild fires in Australia, the Downlands School students have been busy contributing to the efforts to save as many joeys as possible.

Answering a call from the Animal Rescue Craft Guild, every lunchtime the students, together with Mrs Moller and Mrs Grala, have been making joey pouches out of donated sheets and material. About two years ago, we had a massive donation of art and craft materials from a local resident, which has now been put to very good use. From cutting out the material, to ironing, to sewing and putting the pouches together, it has been a wonderful team effort.

The pouches are now on their way to Australia. We hope that our contribution will make a difference to some of the orphaned and injured baby kangaroos.



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Pennie Thomson

VILLAGE PEOPLE

“Education is a journey. People reach different ages and stages when they’re ready. It’s not a race.”



Photo: Deirdre Huston

By Deirdre Huston

Local resident, Pennie Thomson, has been involved with the Guiding movement since she was ten. At 14, as a volunteer Guide: “I was attached to a very good Brownie unit, run by an amazing lady who taught me more about teaching than I ever learnt at training college; this particular lady was inspirational, you absorbed all sorts of skills, like how you speak with children, how you motivate them and encourage them to do their best.”

The experience led Pennie towards teaching, a profession she enjoyed for forty years: “I knew I wanted to be a teacher the whole of my life.” She achieved a B.Ed. with Sussex University and Eastbourne College of Education and started work as an English teacher at Bexhill in 1973, determined to share her love of literature and language with her students. A year later, she moved to the Knoll School for Boys in Hove. When Pennie arrived there, she was the only female teacher: “It was a bit isolating at first but I knew it was the right school for me.” And by the time she left, she had five female colleagues, so things were changing.

In 1979, the Comprehensive System started in Hove and Pennie moved to Blatchington Mill. This new school was formed from The Knoll Boys, the Nevill County Secondary and Hove Grammar School for Boys. It was a co-educational comprehensive but was, initially, predominantly made up of male staff and students and Pennie explained how, “it was tough at the start because everybody had their own allegiances. They took the fence down between the Grammar and Nevill schools but there were still the invisible barriers.”

A decade on and Pennie, having studied part time and achieving a B.Phil from Exeter and an M.A from the Open University, became Head of English at Hampden Park School, Eastbourne, where she took responsibility for English Language and Literature. Pennie has an affinity with literature but recognises the importance of basic language skills being given enough time in the curriculum. “Education is a journey. People reach different ages and stages when they’re ready. It’s not a race and exams don’t always serve the purpose.” Pennie felt it was important there was enough time for the ‘extras’ which offered huge opportunities for students to learn.

During her time at Blatchington Mill and Hampden Park schools, Pennie directed 13 shows. “There were children who struggled to learn but who became a part of a huge show, an important part of a team and subsequently grew in confidence and this success inspired them in the classroom.” A production of *Oliver!* was a particular success and after another with Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, the choir were invited to participate in the touring professional version. National Poetry Day was an annual highlight and Pennie found writers to invite in who she thought would inspire her students, including reluctant readers and particularly boys. There was Dave Smith who rocked up on his motorbike in full leathers and Adisa, billed as the tallest poet in the country. One Year 11 pupil truanted from a science lesson but was discovered in Adisa’s workshop, such was his magnetism! She arranged for

amazing writers and poets to attend the school for World Book Day, too, including Michael Morpurgo. They discussed how hard it could be for children to find that creative spark during SATs tests! She has stayed in touch with him and particularly enjoyed attending the first night of the World Premiere of The Butterfly Lion play at the Minerva Theatre, Chichester.

Pennie gained her Girlguiding warrant in 1968 and became an Assistant Leader to 1st Hove Brownies. Twenty years later, she was invited to apply for the post of District Commissioner for Hove East. She enjoyed mentoring new volunteers and leaders, visiting units to present badges and arranging events. Throughout her time teaching, she was always involved in the guiding movement.

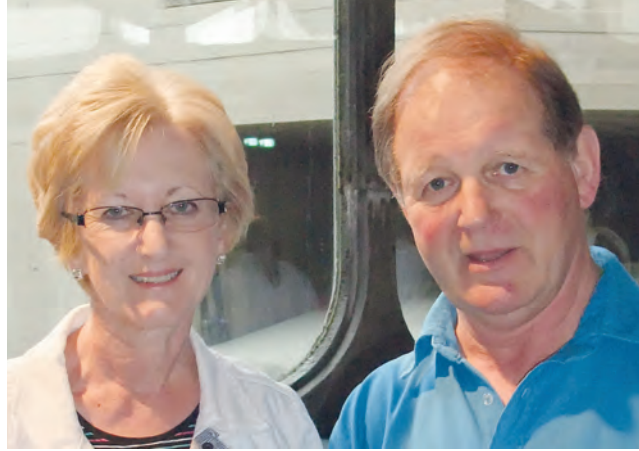
By 1983, Pennie was married to John and the couple moved to Hassocks together where they initially lived in North Court. Pennie was commuting to Eastbourne which was quite a drive and she decided she wanted to get more involved in her local community so in 1996, and finishing her District Commissioner role, she became an Assistant Leader at 1st Hassocks Guides. The unit meet at the Guide Hall in Semley Road, where Pennie is still an Assistant Leader today, 23 years later!

In 2017, she was invited to be South Down Division Commissioner. The role includes looking after two districts: Hassocks and Ditchling, called Beacon District; and Hurstpierpoint, called Wolstonbury. Each District is made up of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers as well as Unit Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Unit Helpers. Lots of effort is expended to make sure all aspects of Guiding are safe, creating the necessary policies and importantly, into retaining adult helpers once they are trained.

There's a lot of team work involved in Guiding. "One challenging aspect of the role is making sure we have enough leaders. A recent rewarding moment was when I went to present a lady with her Adult Leadership Certificate. It's an important qualification but most of the training can be done on the job through the time spent with the unit." The skills gained in Guiding are very transferable and Pennie has witnessed leaders and helpers gain admittance to college courses and even jobs because they've been able to demonstrate skills and dedication in giving something back to the community through their commitment to Guiding.

Since she retired from her Assistant Headteacher post, Pennie has undertaken other voluntary roles: "I'm a people-person so these roles enable me to engage with others. She is a room steward at National Trust's Monk's House, where Virginia Woolf lived and also at Charleston Farmhouse where Woolf's sister Vanessa Bell lived. As a result, the Bloomsbury Set have become something of a passion. Along with her husband, John, Pennie can also be found front-of-house at Ditchling Museum of Arts and Craft, helping with admission tickets, the shop and café.

With all the pressures of modern life and social media, and having taught in single and co-ed schools, Pennie sees Guiding as particularly important for today's young women: "this hour and a half a week gives an opportunity



Pennie and Michael Morpurgo

for them to just be themselves, to be just girls together." Pennie recently attended a Brownie meeting where one young attendee, bursting out of the hall at the end of the evening explained excitedly, "Brownies was great tonight!" Pennie elaborates: "she was so overwhelmed with what they'd done on their first night back that it brought a bit of sunshine into a cold, wet January night!"



Hassocks residents Clare Brittain and Pennie Thomson receive Girlguiding County awards in 2018

In 2018, Pennie was proud to gain her 50th year service brooch, and is equally proud of South Down Division. "Supporting our amazing leaders and girls is key to my role. At the end of the day, whatever I've given to Guiding, it has given me back more."

For more information on the local Guiding Division, see our article on page 14.



The Island Child by Molly Aitken

BOOK REVIEW

By Deirdre Huston

If you're looking for reading to immerse yourself in at the start of this new decade, I'd like to recommend *The Island Child* by Molly Aitken. I was privileged to receive a proof copy for this debut ahead of its release in January this year. Molly is very talented, unassuming and perceptive; I was fortunate enough to study alongside her during my MA at Bath Spa University. As a young author, I predict that Molly has a long literary career ahead of her. She is one to watch.

Be drawn into the atmospheric setting based on a Gaelic-speaking island off the West Coast of Ireland. This dual narrative centres around a warm portrayal of Oona, who we meet as both a mother and daughter. There is a subtle turnaround through the text as our loyalties and understanding shift between mother and daughter, daughter and mother. The story has brutal moments, subtly told. Oona's attempts to find a place for herself in the wider world are drawn from a frustration and desire to explore that we can all recognise.

There is much in the book to enrich the reader: the lyrical prose, sensitively-drawn characters, the understanding of complex relationships. There are points in the story when you will be driven to read on and others when you will luxuriate in the careful choice of a word, the evocative landscape or the possibility of escape for the characters.

This story is very relatable and speaks of wider mother-daughter relationships, of lifelong coming-of-age moments, to daughters who fight to establish their own identity and to the illumination borrowed from the experiences of our mothers.



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Neighbourhood Plan Referendum: Thursday 5th March. Now it's up to you!

For several years now the Parish Council and members of the community have been working on a Plan for our Parish. It has not been easy. Since we started to prepare our Plan permission has either been given, or sanctioned by a Government Inspector, for many more new homes than we originally planned.

The Parish Council and a huge number of residents campaigned hard against these developments (Ham Fields, Friars Oak and North of Clayton Mills) but were not successful. But, in spite of these setbacks, and after careful consideration of the pros and cons, the Council concluded that we should proceed with the Plan because that would give us the best chance to control our future.

A Government Inspector has now approved the Draft Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan and recommended that it should go to a local referendum. This is because the law requires a Neighbourhood Plan to receive the support of residents.

The time has arrived for Hassocks to decide whether or not it wants a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Final Version of the Plan, which contains the amendments recommended by the Inspector, is now on both the Hassocks Parish Council and the Mid Sussex District Council Websites. Paper copies are also available to view in the Parish Centre. The Plan contains very

strong Policies for the Protection of the Countryside Gaps between Hassocks, Burgess Hill, Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling; designates a series of valuable Local Green Spaces round the Village and a comprehensive series of Housing, Environmental and Design Policies.

The referendum will be held on 5th March. All those eligible to vote in Hassocks, Keymer and Clayton will be invited to take part. If a majority of those voting are in favour of the Plan it will be adopted. If a majority vote against it will not.

Bill Hatton, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan working Group said: "Please spare the time to have a look at our Plan. The overwhelming advantage to our village is to have the protection of a Neighbourhood Plan. Not having one will place the village at much greater

risk of further unplanned development. We all know that Hassocks is a great place to live and bring up our families. So does the development world. Developer interest remains very strong and if our Plan is rejected we will have far less ability to control our future and protect our environment.

From the office of the Clerk of Hassocks Parish Council



Parish Council meetings

FEB/MAR 2020

11th Feb	Hassocks Parish Council	7.30pm
17th Feb	Planning Committee	7.30pm
18th Feb	Policy, Resources and Communications	7.30pm
27th Feb	Grounds and Environment Committee	7.30pm
9th Mar	Planning Committee	7.30pm
10th Mar	Hassocks Parish Council	7.30pm
17th Mar	Policy, Resources and Communications	7.30pm
25th Mar	Grounds and Environment Committee	7.30pm

Members of the Public are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings but please note, a maximum of fifty people are allowed in the Council Chamber at any one time. This is in order to comply with current fire regulations.

Life-saving knowledge

We'd like to encourage everyone living and working in the village to familiarise themselves with the sites of the life-saving defibrillator machines and learn how to use them.

An estimated 60,000 people each year in the UK have an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and, sadly, less than 10% of those people will survive. Yet if a bystander is able to start CPR they could double a person's chances of survival.

Hassocks has eight defib machines that we know about. Two of them are available 24/7 as they are fixed to the outside of the Railway Station and Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club. The other units would only be available when each location is open.

All of the machines are portable and contain full instructions, but why not give yourself a head start with an online tutorial?

The Resuscitation Council (UK) has produced plenty of information to help us all learn more about what to do in this dramatic and highly pressured time, should we find ourselves involved.

You can watch videos and play interactive games to increase your understanding. You can even download an app - see www.resus.org.uk/apps/lifesaver for more information.

At Hassocks Life we will commit to reprinting this map and information on a regular basis in order to familiarise the whole village regarding access to this life-saving equipment - which can be used by anyone.

Please give it a go. With our emergency services so overworked, we as communities can get better at helping ourselves, and it really does make a difference.

If anyone knows of any other publicly available defibs in the area, do please email us (editor@hassockslife.co.uk) and we'll update the map for next time.

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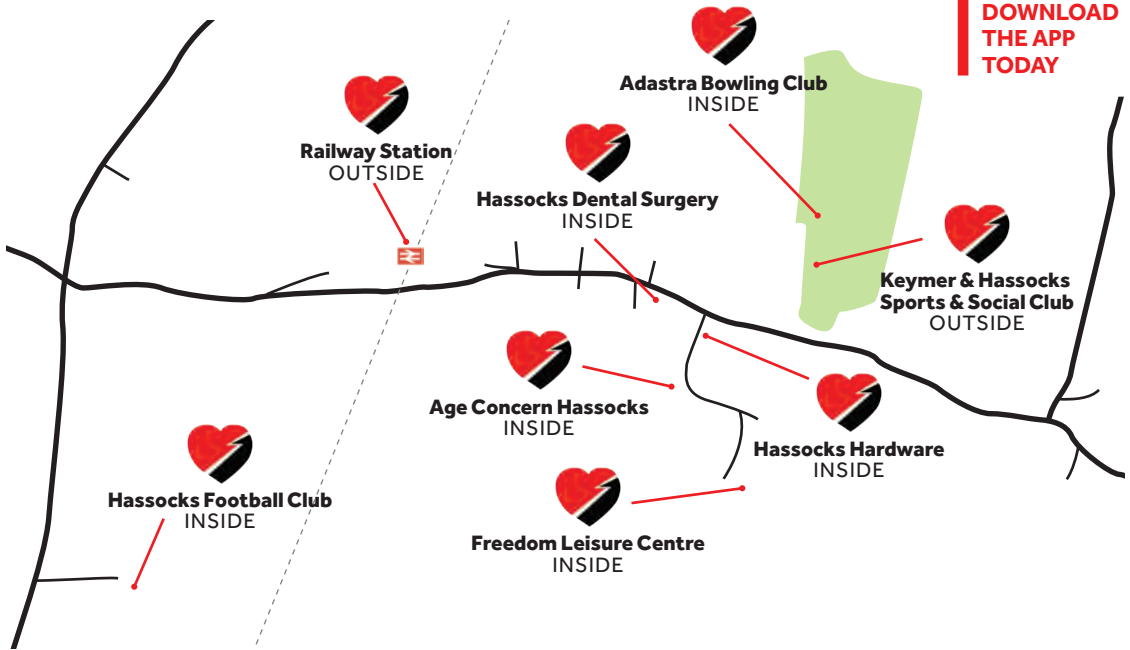
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THEN & NOW

Thanks to Hassocks resident Mary White who sent in this photo which dates back to 1907 and shows the east end of Keymer Road before Grand Avenue was built. You can play spot the difference with the up to date photo to compare!



Photo: Deirdre Huston

Female founders in Hassocks are thriving!

Last November, Ditchling resident and founder of Lock Healthcare Recruitment, Abigail Lock launched the Thrive Meetup in Hassocks with the support of The Thrive Effect - a purpose-led, membership organisation for female founders and women in business in Sussex.

Since then, over 60 women in business have attended the Thrive Meetup in Hassocks to develop their business skills and make new connections. During the first half of the meetup, attendees learn from a female business owner who shares her expertise or experience on a particular topic. So far, the attendees have learnt how to present with confidence, how to create a successful brand and how to develop customer personas. During the second half, members participate in a peer support session where they find practical solutions for each other's business challenges.

The attendees come from a range of industries and include artists, business consultants, hairdressers, marketers, nutritionists, retailers, social entrepreneurs and solicitors.

Abigail explained: "I have really enjoyed building the Hassocks meetup and getting to know other women in business from the local area. Our attendees have told



me that they have found the meetups really inspiring and informative and a great opportunity to meet likeminded women."

The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Talking Hands Coffee Shop in Hassocks. Tickets cost £6 and free drinks and nibbles are provided.

The next Thrive Meetup is on Tuesday 11th February from 6pm to 8pm. To purchase your ticket, go to: www.thethriveeffect.co.uk/our-events

If you would like to talk at a future Thrive Meetup, please email Clare Griffiths, the Founder of The Thrive Effect, at clare@thethriveeffect.co.uk or tweet @TheThriveEffect.



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Indigo

BEHIND THE COUNTER



Deirdre Huston chats with new owner of Indigo, Dawn Madigan, about taking on new challenges and enjoying life to the full.

Dawn may be a familiar face to many of you because she has worked in Indigo for over seven years. She began by doing odd days and then, as her interest in retail grew, she gradually increased her hours. "The good thing about working here was that the owner, Jemma, gave me a free rein so she might ring up and request that I placed an order for new items or ask me to accompany her to trade shows. We were also encouraged to alter the window displays. All of these activities gave me my training."

Before Indigo, Dawn had worked for a previous co-owner, Nicky, at a shop in Brighton but as she took on extra hours at Indigo, she had to choose between the two. Dawn enjoyed her years working on Hassocks High Street and so, when Jemma decided she wanted to move on to set up new projects, Dawn stepped forward to buy the shop. She explains: "I need to work and I could have carried on being employed but having the chance to buy this shop means I can do as much or as little to change things as I want." She was keen to use all she had learned and make the shop her own: "it's a well-established business. I'm not going to make huge changes because it works. We have a filing cabinet full of successful suppliers."

Dawn has a keen eye for what Indigo customers want so when she attended the recent trade show, Top Drawer, at Olympia, she did place a few select orders with new suppliers. At a trade show, there are hundreds

"It just feels different when it's your own business."

Dawn Madigan

of stands, with people displaying all their stock. Some companies have minimum orders, sometimes you can try a sample. "it's much better to see it at a trade show than in a catalogue because you can pick it up and feel the quality."

Locally, one often hears people saying they're going to pop into Indigo for a gift. There's a wide selection of cards at the front of the shop too. "I like the North Laine style and always love a quirky card but when I'm choosing shop supplies, I am careful to cater for all tastes." Dawn wants the shop to continue having a good range of stock: "we cover most things in here, a few men's items, household plus a range of clothing. The clothing has expanded over the years. We aim to buy little and often so the stock from our tried and tested suppliers is changing all the time. A lot of the clothing is one size which makes it easier for to avoid duplicating the same item as everybody is after a unique look." Dawn tries to avoid suppliers who use too much packaging and did ring one supplier up recently, who had wrapped every individual item, to warn them that she was drowning in plastic.



During her time at Indigo, Dawn has watched how stock evolves almost organically. The baby line originated from stock at the children's gift shop, Hedgehog and Bumble, and Indigo still stock a range of baby gifts today. Dawn is kept busy by her five grandchildren so she not only knows what's in vogue but what's useful and recently sourced a couple of new suppliers, one of which offers a cosy star fleece which is easy to wrap round a baby.

Born in Brighton, Dawn has fond memories of friendships formed at the Margaret Hardy School for Girls, which later became Patcham High. "I've still got friends from school who I see." She has enjoyed a wide range of jobs from office work to working in a holiday camp to temping to driving deliveries for a florist. "And then when I was 39, I trained for hairdressing. I was a latecomer to the profession!" She did hairdressing for fifteen years and then wanted a change and that's when she started work at Brighton shop, Living. A cousin questioned whether retail might become boring but Dawn has never found this to be the case: "As with many jobs, you get out of it what you put in." For her, retail has always been about far more than standing behind a counter. "If you want to get involved in moving stuff round and seeing what the shop could do with, then it's a very satisfying role to have."

Dawn has enjoyed refurbishing the shop: "I wanted to put my own mark on Indigo and I've had a long time to consider ideas because we've been discussing me buying the shop since last summer. 'It started with the colour: Midnight Teal. I'm very pleased with this dark blue because it makes the goods pop off the wall.'" Dawn had admired wood-cladding interiors and to get that look, she opted for a wallpaper with texture to contrast with the painted walls. The clothing area now has an industrial feel with scaffolding poles and boards for shelves. Dawn has ordered some grid walls too to help display items like the baby fleece to customers.

The morning when I was there, the sun slants into the shop and makes the room bright and cheery.



Someone comes in to ask for a particular skirt which she'd admired on a friend and Dawn bustles off to see what they can find. In fact, the whole time, Dawn and I are chatting at the counter, there's a constant stream of customers with queries, items they're seeking or just people wanting to exchange a few friendly words. "I always like to acknowledge when someone comes in with a 'good morning'. Some want a chat, a browse or just to buy a card or two." Dawn has got one of her daughters on board to help with social media: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and hopes to establish an online @IndigoHassocks community too.

To relax, Dawn enjoys spending time with her family and, of course, five grandchildren keep her on her toes. If she gets the chance, she likes gardening and going for walks in the countryside or along the seafront and, when time allows, she loves getting away for a long weekend with friends to cities like Barcelona or Nice. It's no wonder she's busy and why not? Dawn is relishing having her own business: "Since I've had the shop, I've been coming in a bit earlier. It's nice to get to work! It just feels different when it's your own business."

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By Scott Mccarthy

Unless you've been living under a very dry rock for the past three months, you'll have noticed that the winter of 2019 has been extremely wet so far. And when there are biblical levels of rainfall, it plays havoc with the grassroots football schedule.

As a result of all that, Hassocks only played twice during December. They lost three games in November to waterlogged pitches. All of which means that the second half of their Southern Combination Premier Division season is going to be very busy.

Which is just as well as the Robins are in a right relegation battle. The first half of their campaign didn't go entirely according to plan. Losing leading striker Phil Johnson to a broken leg was the tip of a pretty big injury iceberg which left manager Mark Dalgleish with a threadbare squad which seemed to change from week to week.

That meant Hassocks struggled to build any momentum. As a result, they won just three league games before Big Ben struck midnight on 31st December. The signs since 2020 rolled around have so far been altogether more promising.

In their first game of the new decade, Hassocks beat fellow strugglers Pagham 2-0. They were then only denied a draw at runaway leaders Lancing by a controversial penalty. With Johnson back in the side and other crucial players such as Will Broomfield and Alex Spinks having returned from injury, the Robins look a different proposition in these early days of the 20s.

Now they need to carry that on. Your support can help do that. In February, there are games at the Beacon against Langney Wanderers on Saturday 15th, Little Common on Tuesday 18th and Broadbridge Heath on Saturday 29th. Three fixtures against three struggling opponents which could go a long way towards deciding if Hassocks' 26 year stay in the top flight of Sussex Non-League football comes to an end.

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RECYCLE THIS...

Colin McFarlin is a Volunteer Waste Prevention Advisor with West Sussex County Council. If you have a question for him, email: editor@hassockslife.co.uk

Are you a 'recycling champion'?

Our recycling guru Colin McFarlin is looking for Recycling Champions from the village. Is it you or someone you know?

What does it take to become a Recycling Champion?

Are you someone who has lots of questions on recycling? Someone who wants to improve their recycling but is not sure if they are doing the right thing, and does not want to make mistakes. Looking for help and guidance?

Colin is offering to give you the help and guidance you are looking for and make you a Recycling Champion.

And you will receive a very special goody bag for taking part, and feature in this magazine with your recycling journey and the tips you have picked up.

We can only include one champion a month, so email me today if you want to be included and want to find out how you can improve your recycling.

Email us via editor@hassockslife.co.uk and we'll put you in touch with Colin.

I went along to meet Terisa and find out about her recycling.

Terisa, daughter Tarlie and son Gabriel (even Yanko the cat!) wanted to recycle more but needed more information and realised their knowledge was not up to date, and they did not want to get it wrong. They do not have time to look everything up!



Terisa tells me her wake-up call was the Blue Planet programme. As a busy family they use convenience food. Their black kerbside bin was full every two weeks!

She was delighted when I went to talk to her church group. She tells me she learned so much. "I now use my compost bin and I bought a second-hand wormery after the talk. You buy the worms from Amazon (Tiger Worms) and they arrive in the post!

"The family now collects all our stretchy plastic and takes it to the supermarket. A simple routine of a bag to pop it into and drop it off before you start shopping.

"We don't think everyone is aware of this fabulous information!"

Carrier bag bins can recycle so many more plastic items, such as:

- Plastic carrier bags
- Plastic bread bags (shake out)
- Plastic cereal bags (like porridge oats bags, but not inners from boxes of cereals although some are recyclable, check the label)
- Plastic wrappers and ring joiners from multipacks of cans
- Toilet roll and kitchen roll plastic wrappers
- Plastic freezer bags
- Plastic magazine and newspaper wrappers (from your letterbox post)
- Fruit and veg supermarket bags
- Bubble wrap

Please make sure these are all clean so they can be recycled!

"We take our milk bottle tops to a local collection point, no longer in my black bin," said Terisa who works in a nursery school and now collects crisp packets from the children's lunch boxes and plastic pens. These go to her local Terracycle point.

Top tip from Terisa: Buy a big bag of crisps and put a handful in each lunch box – have what they want, no waste!

"With a bit of effort and a bit of time, my black rubbish bin has only one small plastic bag every two weeks – before it was full," she said.

Congratulations, Terisa. You are this month's Recycling Champion.

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11/25/19 11/19

Sonnet of Hassocks

By David Hammond

Oh, hamlet of Hassocks, you cradle me like a doting Mother;
Luring me in with your grace, and beguiling surrogate ways,
Those surrounding Downs that nurture and protect you,
Reminder of an idyllic past, extant, and still relevant today,
Why is your influence so alluring, so magnetic, so enthralling,
Is it the quaint mysticism belying the curious name of Hassocks?
'Hassocks', grassy hillock, where prayers and worship were said,
Before churches were built, where residents knelt to their Creator,
How I long to remain in your arms, until I wither and fade away,
Hold in my soul the imprint of a stay in the most precious of jewels.
A place that is like heaven on earth, an enchanting temporary abode,
I could ever imagine, could ever create, even conjure up and make.
My stay with you is too short a time to know you more intimately so;
But, I must transcend now towards my eternal Father's home.

Have a go?

A traditional sonnet has 14 lines with an underlying iambic pentameter and pattern of end-rhymes. The form has modernised away from mechanical rules to a pursuit of the basic spirit of the sonnet. Why not have a go at writing a 14-line free-verse poem with the first eight lines presenting an idea and the last six taking it in unexpected directions?

Send yours to us:
editor@hassockslife.co.uk

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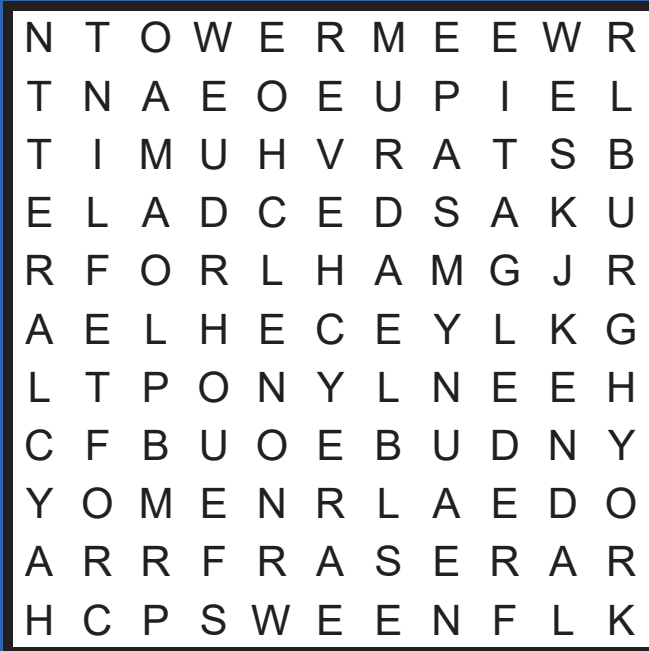
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Wordsearch



Can you find 32 British castles hidden in this wordsearch?

The answers can be found running backwards or forwards, horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| Auchen | Kendal |
| Bere | Leod |
| Burgh | Maol |
| Clare | Mey |
| Croft | Moy |
| Deal | Muncaster |
| Delgatie | Oer |
| Drum | Piel |
| Elcho | Raby |
| Flint | Rait |
| Floors | Red |
| Fraser | Star |
| Gylen | Sween |
| Hay | Tower |
| Hever | Udny |
| Holt | York |

Answers on p.38

IT help for over 60s

There are new, free technology help sessions for the over 60s at Hurstpierpoint College on Tuesdays, in collaboration with Mid Sussex Older People's Council.

The friendly students at the college will be on hand to help you with any technology-related questions you may have, every Tuesday during term time from 2.30 until 3.30pm with time for a coffee and chat afterwards. The Tuesdays in January are the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.

Any questions you like, big or small, from turning on your device, to using Skype or looking things up. Bring your laptop, iPad or any other devices you have questions about. The college also has PCs to use if needed.

There will be a minibus available to pick people up from Trinity Road car park at 2.15pm before every session, and drop back around 4pm. For everyone else, please just go to the college reception and you will be shown where to go. There are a few steps up in both the minibus and the college.

No need to book, just turn up. For any questions, please leave a message on our answerphone 01444 242760 or email: nicola6@msopc.org.uk.



Do you own an electric or hybrid car?

In 2019, a total of 37,850 electric cars were registered in the UK. This was a rise in demand of 144% and some areas have seen a far greater growth. At the current time, when there is much concern about climate change, many people are considering making the switch away from petrol and are wondering what it's like to drive an electric or hybrid car.

We are interested in finding out what it's like to drive an electric or hybrid car in 2020 and are interested in speaking with local car owners who might want to share their experiences.

Anybody interested should get in touch with editor@hassockslife.co.uk.

Sudoku

Find the solution on p.38

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

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

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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**

February

- 7th **Heading for Extinction** – 7.30pm
Event by HKD Transition Group on climate concerns. A group talk and slide show with guest speakers from Extinction Rebellion (Tickets from Eventbrite)
- 12th **Gardening for Wildlife** – 8pm
An illustrated talk by Adrian Thomas, wildlife expert, author and gardener (All welcome, £2. Tel: Derek Swaine 01273 842516)
- 14th **HHD U3A** – 2pm
British Humour in the Forgotten Art of the Picture Post Card with James Taylor
- 21st **Judy (12A)** – Doors 7pm
Film show by Star Cinema (Tickets (£4.50/£4) on door. Wine, tea, coffee, soft drinks available)
- 24th **Hassocks Field Society** – 7.45 pm
Adastra Hall, Hassocks - 'Why was the Shepherd Delighted?' a talk by Bill Avenell (Members £1.50, Visitors £2, Beryl Varley 01273 832351)

March

- 28th **Paws & Claws Spring Fair** – 10am-12noon
Home-made cakes for sale and a variety of stalls, including jewellery, gifts, toiletries, bric à brac, accessories, cat items, cards, books, toys, DVDs, CDs and more. Tombola and bumper raffle. Refreshments (Entrance 50p)

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What's on...

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- 4th **Firle Beacon Ramble** – 10am
Meet at Firle Bostal car park (BN8 6LR) - 6 mile moderate circular walk by Mid Sussex Ramblers (Erica, 07885 595131)
- 5th **Hurst Monthly Social Group** – 2pm
Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurst - Fish & Chip Lunch (pre-ordered) & AGM (Dianne 01273 835284)
- 6th **Dementia Café** – 2pm
Court Bushes Community Hub, Hurst
- 8th **Dad La Soul** – 10am
Court Bushes Community Hub, Hurst
- 8th **Pop up Charity Shop** – 10am-4pm
40 High Street, Hurst - in aid of Sussex Sea Turtles channel swim (All donations welcome, call Cath on 07816 932 559 for more info)
- 10th **Hassocks Field Society** – 7.45 pm
Adastra Hall, Hassocks - 'The History of Morris' a talk by Melanie Gibson Barton (Members £1.50, Visitors £2, Beryl Varley 01273 832351)
- 11th **Mid Sussex Ramblers** – 10.30am
Meet outside King's Head (BN8 6DR) - 8 mile moderate walk by East Hoathly, Frith's Farm, Laughton & Park Farm. Pub lunch (Brian 07985 201335)
- 12th **Music Club** – 4-6pm
Court Bushes Community Hub - Free music club for 12-17 year olds, everything provided
- 12th **Mid Sussex Franco-British Society** – 8pm
Clair Hall - An illustrated talk in French by Professor Brian Stimpson on the subject of the French painter, Cézanne (£5, Barbara Stevens 01444 452385)
- 13th **HH Ceramics Group** – 10am
Clair Hall - Dr Michael Signy will give a talk on 'Rivets, Repairs and Replacement Handles' (Free entry on first visit, otherwise £8, call 01444 483372 or 452804)
- 13th **Mid Sussex National Trust** – 2.30pm
Clair Hall - Talk on Preston Manor, Brighton by Jackie Marsh-Hobbs (David Waite, 01444 453954)
- 13th **The Chambermaid (15)** – 8pm
The Players Theatre – Hurst Village Cinema showing (www.hurstfilms.com)
- 15th **Music Concert** – 7.30pm
Methodist Church, Haywards Heath - Jonathon Radford plays works by Debussy and Gershwin (Tickets £15/£5, www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk)
- 16th **Plumpton Ramble** – 10.30am
Meet at Railway Station (BN7 3BW) - 3.5 mile leisurely walk around Plumpton by Mid Sussex Ramblers (Phil, 01273 835931)
- 16th **Jazz Before Lunch** – 11.30am
The Hassocks Hotel - Julie Roberts (vocals), Michael Hinton (piano) and Terry Pack (double bass) (tickets £6, www.WeGotTickets.com)
- 17th **Sussex Family History Society** – 7.30pm
Bridge Cottage, High Street, Uckfield TN22 1AZ - Steven Homewood talks on 'Uckfield Breweries'
- 19th **The Arts Society Mid Sussex** – 10am
Clair Hall - The Great Exhibition of 1851 by Prassanajit de Silva (Non-members welcome, £7)
- 20th **NT Live Cyrano de Bergerac** – 7pm
The Players Theatre – Hurst Village Cinema showing (www.hurstfilms.com)
- 20th **Shakers Re-Stirred Again** – 8-10pm
-21st Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks - A Comedy by Gin Palace Productions in aid of Coco's Foundation (Tickets through Eventbrite)
- 22nd **Mid Sussex Meeples** – 9.45am-5.45pm
Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill - Board gaming group (£5 entry all ages and levels welcome. Paul Lamprey 0788 407 0465)
- 23rd **Fighting with my Family (12A)** – 3pm
The Players Theatre – Hurst Village Cinema
- 26th **IT Help for over 60s** – 2.30pm
Hurst College – FREE, just turn up.
- 29th **DIY Framing Course** – 10am
Court Bushes Community Hub
- 29th **Dominic Ferris - Live in Hurst** – 7.30pm
New Bury Theatre, Hurst College - Dom Ferris plus special guests (call 01273 470027 or visit <https://bit.ly/35XBGox>)
- ### March
- 3rd **Cissbury Walk** – 10am
Meet at layby off A283 (BN44 3TU) - Mid Sussex Ramblers 11.3 mile downland walk above Upper Beeding with return via Steyning. Bring picnic lunch (Judith: 07899 992261)
- 7th **Ashdown Forest Ramble** – 10am
Meet at Gills Lap CP (TN7 4EU) - 8.5mile walk by Mid Sussex Ramblers taking in Hartfield, Pooh Bridge. Bring a picnic! (Sue, 07905 225711)
- 10th **Cissbury Ring Walk** – 10am
Meet at The Gallops CP (BN14 0EX) - 7.5mile moderate by Mid Sussex Ramblers taking in High Salvington and Findon Church (Brian, 07985 201335)



Console wars

TECH HEAD

By Toby Wyithe

At the very end of last year Microsoft shocked the gaming world by revealing their upcoming console to a much-surprised audience at the 2019 Game Awards. In amongst the interviews, trailers and awards, we learnt that the X Box Series X will be released in Holiday 2020.



Historically console reveals are more lavish affairs, usually reserved for the prestigious E3 event held annually in Los Angeles, but Microsoft has managed to control the holiday narrative by ensuring their secret was kept well guarded.

It is no secret that our current console generation has been won by Sony and their PlayStation 4; but with each previous generation there are strong arguments within the gaming community that both Sony and Microsoft have experienced victories in alternate cycles.

Although the Nintendo Wii was actually the most successful console in the last generation from a sales perspective; many believed the Xbox 360 to be the true standout performer. Despite the PlayStation 3 having now sold more units, their botched launch and heavy hitting exclusives only landing towards the end of the lifecycle meant that Microsoft's offering was generally favoured.

Before then the PlayStation 2's inclusion of a DVD player meant that it will likely never be surpassed in terms of sales figures for any console but many believe this next generation could belong once again to Microsoft.

Boasting twice the power of the current Xbox One X hardware, and with a number of new studio acquisitions over the last few years working on expanding their exclusive library, there is an increased sense of optimism for those who favour Microsoft's Green over Sony's Blue.

It wasn't a completely flawless reveal though with executives having to clarify the naming conventions the day after the event. The name they are bringing forward is simply X Box, with 'Series X' indicating the specific model of consoles leaving even the most dedicated of gaming fan still slightly perplexed.

Sony has previously announced new hardware details in February, so we may not have long to wait for our new information but it already seems like 2020 is shaping up to be a very exciting year whichever side of the Console War you find yourself on.

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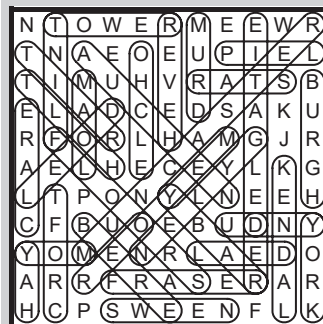


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PUZZLE ANSWERS

From the puzzle fun on page 34

WORDSEARCH:



SUDOKU:

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



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