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#### **FDITORIAL**

#### By David Tingley, Editor

The more eagle-eyed among you will have noted that this issue brings with it a celebration of reaching two years since we started this humble title.

The vision for Hurst Life was (and is) simple: to become the go-to place for news and information about this wonderful community. As well as creating an effective marketing platform for businesses to connect with local customers, we are also passionate about our monthly pages helping residents engage and develop a sense of belonging with one another too.

We love doing it, and we hope you like it too. More of this feedback opportunity in next month's issue though!

On page 12 Michèle goes on the search to find out how the St George's Millennium Gardens was brought into existence, as she talks to **David Brown**. It's a great story of community spirit.

Page 24 sees the monthly catch-up from Rupert Bates about this year's Hurstpierpoint Village Fair.

On our centre spread Michèle talks to **Paul Simpson** who is the conductor of a popular local group The Hurstpierpoint Singers. If you want to find out more about what leads a man to take on such a role then turn to **page 26**.

Belle Amatt shares this month's tasty treat – a healthy burger no less! Find out how on page 30. On page 36 there's a book review by Clair Stanton, and on page 43 local shop owner Mukesh Umbach takes our 5 Mins With quiz – just for fun! Do give it a go yourself and email your answers to editor@hurstlife.co.uk

For those of you with a penchant for either sport and/or local history **Rob Sawyer** brings us a fascinating article about the long association of cricket with the village on **page 34**. We hope to keep updated with the club's progress over the coming months – in particular with a special celebration in the summer. Thanks Rob for getting involved and sharing your passion with all of us.

That's it for now, more, as ever, next month!

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#### **Hurst Life**

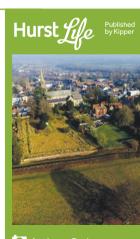
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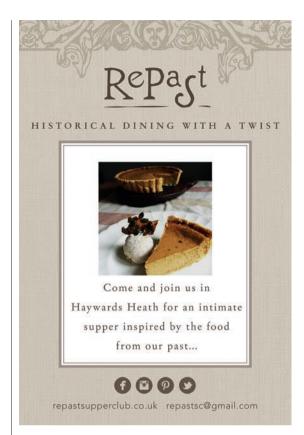
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We love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to editor@hurstlife.co.uk

# Bargain Plant Sale & Horticultural Show

Later this month the annual Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society Spring Show and Plant Sale will take place at the Village Centre,

The event will, as ever, feature entries of spring flowers, cookery, floral arrangements, children's exhibits, photography and a novice section too. A schedule and full details of all categories can be obtained from Gibsons on the High Street.

Of course tea and home made cake will also be part of the event, which takes place on 25th March at 2.15pm, as will a bargain plant stall and a raffle and auction of produce at end of show.

Exhibiting is free and open to all. Pop into Gibsons for more information.



### Red Nose Day is back

Red Nose Day has become somewhat of a British institution since its launch in 1988.

Every two years, it's a day when people from all walks of life across the UK can get together to do something amusing to raise money at home, school or at work. This year it is on Friday 24th March.

There's a night of television organised by the BBC, with comedy and entertainment to inspire the nation to give generously.

Comic Relief will then spend the money collected to help those who are living in poverty across the UK and in Africa. If you fancy organising a bake sale there are loads of resources and recipes from rednoseday.com/recipes – so why not get involved and do something amazing?

Hurst Life would love to hear your stories of fundraising events that you have been involved in on Red Nose Day. Email us with your photos and amounts raised to editor@hurstlife.co.uk

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# Locals run for hospice

Two local 40-somethings, Louise Payne and Lisa Stafford, are taking on the challenge of running the Brighton Marathon this 9th April in aid of St Peter & St James Hospice. "We are very much looking forward to this challenge, but with the usual 'Maranoia' that goes with it. We want to raise as much as we possibly can for this wonderful charity and are hoping that people's generosity will help us reach our target and beyond. We thank all our friends and family who have donated so generously already."

Louise has worked for the hospice for the last five years as a physiotherapist, so it made complete sense to support the hospice. "We want to make our Marathon count, and what better motivation could you have than supporting such a local and worthy charity. St Peter & St James Hospice is a vital service to our local community but only receives 17% government funding. Therefore, they must raise 2.6 million pounds a year to run the hospice and their community services in East and West Sussex. If you wish to make a donation, then please visit our fundraising page by following the link provided. To all who donate please accept our grateful thanks in advance for your wonderful generosity."

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# Year 11s enjoy fashion show

#### By Nicki Burtson

Year 11 students at nearby Downlands Community College are now fully engaged in preparing for the GCSEs in the summer and are, as you read this, taking their Mock examinations. Back in January, however, they had a lovely evening – it was the 2017 Prom Show Fashion Show.

With sequins and bow ties everywhere, the first half showcased stunning dresses from Walk in Wardrobe (Hove) and Mayfair (Hassocks) with super smart male attire by Moss Bros (Hove), whilst the second half was a blaze of colour and sequins from Emily Grace Bridal (formerly known as Weddings & Special Occasions) of East Grinstead and suave and sophisticated outfits from Broadbridges (Burgess Hill). Our girls looked beautiful, with wonderful hair styles by stylists from Hair Emporium and Reflex Hair Design (both from Hassocks), and our female staff were treated to a makeover by Profiles (Hassocks). Ex-student Cam McBain and Year 9 Student Archie Henderson together did wonders with the lighting and music as the models hit the catwalk.

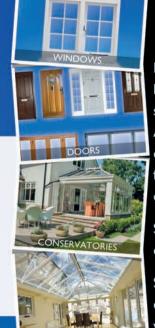
It was all captured on film by Year 11 student Tom Wright.

Thank you to all the stalls and organisations who supported our evening, including Freedom Leisure, Sussex Lovebug, Glamlife Brighton, Couture & Tiaras, Kristy Westwood Flowers and our very fantastic Downlands School Association.

Our models from Year 11 were Owen Tucker, Archie Hill, Joe Gant, Josh Freestone, Ben Gaston, Alex Smith, Beth Dalgleish, Leah Fernandez, Louie Garnett, Adam Scott, Joe Holland-Villa, Ben Miller, Theo Dadswell, Kam Carey, Sam Barker, Meg Dobson, Poppy Griffiths, Phoebe Campbell, Izzy Scorer, Beth Coffey, Poppy Haward, Jemima Edwards, Jo Goad, Georgina Burnett, Ellie Finch, Charlotte Hodge, Chloe Lean, Hana Smith and Aleigha James.

Staff on the catwalk were Mr Calvert, Ms Chalmers, Ms Palmer, Mr Fergany, Ms Groves, Mrs Cutress and Mr Urwin. We know you weren't born yesterday

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My name is Roseanna Leach and I am a local Hurst girl. As I write this I am sat in my room in my host home in the Upper East Region of Ghana. I am working with the charity International Service for the next three months as part of a government funded scheme for young people called International Citizen Service (ICS). ICS aims to bring young people from different nations together to fight poverty and tackle global issues.

Myself, five other UK volunteers and six Ghanaian volunteers are working with International Service's

partner organisation, the Presbyterian Community Based Rehabilitation (PCBR) charity, on their LIFE Project in Sandema. Our focus will be working with those who suffer human rights abuses as young people living with disabilities, aiding their integration into mainstream education and participation in their communities in general. I'm so grateful and very excited for everything that this opportunity is going to involve over the next months. My plan is to write a more detailed article for Hurst Life in a future issue – so do look out for that!

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Divorced, beheaded, died. Divorced, beheaded, survived. There's more to this little phrase than meets the eye as Hurstpierpoint Players' next production, The Regina Monologues by Rebecca Russell and Jenny Wafer, proves!

The writers transplant the stories of the six wives of Henry VIII into the 21st century and by doing so show that their lives are not that far removed from those of modern women. Cleverly constructed, this is not a series of six monologues spoken one after the other. Each wife takes a turn to reveal another bit of their story, which serves to hold the audience's interest as all the tales reach their climax at once.

The Regina Monologues is both extremely funny and poignant, changing in the space of seconds, done

with as much skill as Alan Bennett shows in his ability to find humour in the minutiae of life as well as in the big relationships! Coincidentally the show is accompanied by some of Bennett's Talking Heads plays: Hand of God, Miss Fozzard finds her Feet and Soldiering On. At The Players Theatre, High Street, Hurstpierpoint from 28th March until 1st April, starting at 8pm.

Tickets are £10 Tuesday and Wednesday and £11 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They can be purchased from Richwards, 133 High Street, call 01273 834506, or buy online with a 65p booking fee per transaction (not per ticket) and can be posted to you for an extra £1 per transaction. Visit www.hurstplayers.org.uk for details. Unfortunately Hurst Players are not able to offer price concessions for this production.

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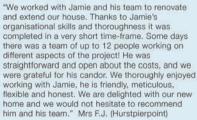
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#### by Michèle Copeland

Do you sometimes feel the urge to walk somewhere exceptional and quiet, at dusk, where the sky blends with the surrounding fields and environment?

The Millennium Garden is one such place. Initially, St George's Millennium Garden in Hurstpierpoint was part of the former residential St George's Estate belonging to the Hannington family, owners of the Hannington departmental stores based in Brighton in the 1870s. Bought by the Mid Sussex County Council in 1949, it housed an old people's home for 30 years. This in turn was converted into new flats around 2000.

Susanne Kemp, a district councillor at the time, had the idea to keep some of the existing gardens back from West Sussex Council. £6,500 was raised in a matter of weeks, to purchase a long lease of 125 years, from private contributions within the village.

The gardens were then a jungle and has since been mainly maintained by volunteers to be kept as a Nature Reserve. They were officially opened in 2001 by the grand-daughter and great-granddaughter of Bishop Hannington. Nine other members were also present. (Peter Wilkinson, retired from West Sussex Records Office, will be giving a talk about Bishop Hannington, this most colourful gentleman of the family, to The Hurstpierpoint Geographical & Historical Society on 28th April at 8pm at the Hurstpierpoint Guide Hall - £3 for non members).

Subsequently, Susanna Kemp stepped down from her duties as Trust Chairman and was replaced by Anne Cole.

Members of the St George's Millennium Gardens Trust decided to plan the route of a footpath, through the Gardens, to provide an attractive and safe link between the residential area, the medical centre and St Lawrence primary school.

In 2007, the footpath was replaced by a hard path.

The garden itself is divided into three different areas. The church end is home to snowdrops and native British daffodils, the central area houses bramble apple trees, which were planted in the 1940s as part of the 'war effort' and still crop abundantly.

A wild flower meadow is encouraged, but sadly challenging as the soil is too rich.

The third and last area backs on to the Scouts hut. This is a dense laurel, wooded area and a small grassed area where spring flowers such as cowslips have naturalised very successfully.

The Trust's work is mainly to maintain, with minimum intervention, the area bordering Trinity Court and along the path. Although not a public right of way, it allows a permitted access of pedestrians and dogs on leads.

Recently, the Trust has had to fell one of the Millennium Gardens trees and this has been converted, helped by a grant from the parish council, into the stunning sculptured owls by a young Hove tree sculptor, Alasdair Craig (Sussex Chainsaw).

So far the sculpture fund has reached £465. David Brown, who's been Chair since 2010, says: "We shall be definitely asking Alasdair to create some more sculptures, as the gardens are a natural lung to the centre of the village and we'd like to keep it as such."

For those of us who would like to get more involved, the group is looking for more local, younger, volunteers and they will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 8th March at 7pm in the Bowls Club Pavilion, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint. After a short meeting, there will be an illustrated talk by Fred Maillardet on 'The History and Restoration of Oldland Windmill, Hassocks'. Fred is a retired Dean of Science and Engineering at Brighton University, where his speciality was Mechanical Engineering. Living in Hassocks, he has been deeply involved in the restoration of this 300 year old Mill, and it promises to be a fascinating talk. Members and visitors welcome. Enquiries: Secretary 01273 832756



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# Do you like to swim and raise money?

The Haywards Heath Lions Club's Swimarathon, now in its 34th year, is an annual charity fundraising event held at the Dolphin Leisure Centre on Good Friday 14th April 2017. Teams of six swimmers are invited to swim in a 55-minute-long relay to raise money for a good cause of their own choice and for the Lions' selected good cause.

In 2017, the Lions have chosen to support Chailey Heritage Foundation in their new project - the D.R.E.A.M. Centre.

The D.R.E.A.M. Centre Appeal is an ambitious plan to create a modern and vibrant indoor activity space large enough for children and young people aged 3-25 with very complex disabilities to participate in a mixture of arts and physical activities.

The D.R.E.A.M. Centre will feature a leaguerecognised sports court for wheelchair football and power chair driving, a raised stage for drama and dance, a built-in trampoline for rebound therapy, a space for celebrations and awards as well as a 4-dimensional immersive sensory learning environment. More information can be found on http://www. thedreamcentreappeal.org.uk/about

To enter the Swimarathon, please visit the website www.hhlionsswim.co.uk and complete the online application form.

Teams can be from an organised group or just a group of friends. Previously, teams have included families, schools, guides, brownies, sports clubs, churches, youth clubs, special needs groups and luncheon clubs. Hurstpierpoint has its own band of supporters from previous years. Starfish Swimmers enter a team each year, and Kathy Bidnall, who lives in the village, was part of a team that won the category for most lengths that have been swum by a team with a combined age of more than 300 years! Just Add Water managed an incredible 175 lengths in just 55 minutes.

Swimarathon teams always find the event well organised and enjoyable. So why not enter a team and raise funds for your own special good cause and help raise much needed funds for the Lions chosen good cause at the same time. Come and join us! It's great fun!

### Treat your mother to 'smellies'!

#### By Michèle Copeland

Has anyone felt that spring could soon be upon us, with the heady smell of winter jasmine or hyacinths?

The word 'perfume' is used today to describe scented mixtures, but historically goes back to the Roman, Persian and Arabian times.

Most of us have heard that scents were used daily in Louis XIV day, as a substitute for washing. However, they are better known nowadays because of the growing Grasse industry of aromatic plants going back to the 18th century. France still remains to this day one of the main centres for perfumes.

England knew a similar historical fate, as during the reigns of Henry VIII and subsequently Queen Elizabeth I, neither could tolerate 'bad smells' (bodily odours and so forth). Consequently, both her ladies-in-waiting and public places were heavily scented.

Today's market has so much more to offer in the way of fragrances and scents that cover not only perfumes, but a wide range of fragrances and essences for the home, body and mind. So, on National Fragrance Day (21st March), why not treat yourself or your partner to a favourite perfume, or even discover something totally new, or for your mother on Mothering Sunday (26th March) as an alternative to flowers.

Mothering Sunday as most of us know, originates from Victorian times, when people returned to the church where they were baptised or attended services when they were children, to enable families to be reunited as adults. It became customary for young people, who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday, when they often took a gift home.

I'm sure our Hurst residents will find something to stimulate the senses right on their doorstep on the High Street.









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#### By Michèle Copeland

1st Hurst Scout group is one of the oldest around. It started in 1909, two years after the Scout movement was initially founded. Over the years it has known many changes, from its previously known locality, which now houses the Co-op, to the HQ in Brown Twins Road in 1994, which has been kept in mint condition to this day.

The groups of boys and girls are split into four, according to their age groups and meet in the evenings during the week. The Beavers (6 to 8 years old), the Cubs (8 to  $10\frac{1}{2}$ ), the Scouts ( $10\frac{1}{2}$  to 14) and the Explorers (14 to 18).

Currently their membership runs at about 160 youngsters to about 20 adults, including the Leaders.

Activities vary and are tailored to age and ability. These range from craft, cooking, outdoor games and hiking to archery, rifle shooting, canoeing and raft building, amongst others.

The Scouts are offered a week long Summer Camp. Some are even offered the possibility of joining an International trip once a year, which involves the whole district. The next scheduled one will be to Denmark at the end of July 2017.

Currently, the group is looking at expanding their outdoor facilities to include the extension of a patio and landscaping of the surrounding area and are organising fundraising events.

If you have a Co-op membership card, 1% of what you spend on eligible purchases goes to the Co-op Local Community Fund. You can go online to choose which of the current local causes you want your 1% to go to. New causes are chosen every six months.



Steven, a local Hurst resident, started in the previous location as a Beaver, way back in 1992. He has moved on to being Cub and then Scout. He eventually became a Leader after doing his bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh awards. Then was only one of three to complete the Queen's Scout award.

Steve is obviously enthusiastic about this new project and says: "It would be marvellous to have the extra space for all the outdoor activities that we have on offer for our members."

If you do have a Co-op card, do bear this project in mind.

1st Hurst Scout group is equally looking for more enthusiastic Leaders. Also a secretary to deal with admin and a Chair. Both of these could be a job share.

If you'd like to get more involved and support the existing team, please contact Rodney rodneythjackson@btinternet.com or the Scout email address hppscouts@btinternet.com















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# Stories from the church

#### By Miriam Patrick

Our beautiful parish church has many interesting stories to tell through its architecture, memorials and artefacts, and recently a small group of us have been thinking of ways to make these more widely known and enjoyed. This year we have begun to put together a programme of talks and workshops which will look at different aspects of the building in order to understand what it meant to those who built and have worshipped in it and what it has to say to those who worship there today and to the wider village community.

Local historian Ian Nelson, and Captain of the Bell Ringers and author of the church guide John Norris began the programme in January with an introductory talk called 'How to Read a Church'.

On 25th March at 10.30am John plans to introduce us to the church's stained glass windows and some of the stories they tell.

If you have any interests or skills that you think may add to the sessions we can offer, we would be really pleased to hear from you. We would like to get as many people involved in this celebration of the history, art and meaning of our Parish Church as possible, so please get in touch to discuss any ideas you may have.



In view of the high level of interest shown in the talks by lan and John, it would be helpful (though not essential), to aid planning, if you could express your interest in attending particular meetings by contacting: Miriam Patrick by email mim.patrick54@gmail.com or phone 01273 832657.

If you would like to purchase Ian Nelson's DVD or Blue Ray about his historical walks in Hurst, you can do so at our local post office for £10.



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#### By Michael Bonsor

Starting off as usual from Proper Cycling & Coffee in Hassocks, suitably fuelled up for what will be a gently undulating 40 miler.

Turn east down the High Street and straight away turn up Dale Avenue. Right at the end of Dale Avenue into Lodge Lane. Follow this across the B2112, taking care as this can be pretty busy and traffic may be coming quickly. Keep on climbing up to Underhill Lane where you turn left. Along this lane is about the highest you will get on the ride, so it's really quite a gentle one suitable for beginners and intermediate riders.

At the junction with Beacon Road, if you want you could turn right and dash up the bostal for a bit of... errm... fun?... but if not, the route takes you straight across and to the end of Underhill.

Turn right towards Lewes now and follow the B2116, until you get to Allington Lane. Turn left down here. This used to be a bit rough but the worst bits have been resurfaced recently so it's far more pleasant now.

Right at the end of this into Beechwood, then left on the A275, across the level crossing and right past the school up Hamsey Lane. At the end of Hamsey Lane, turn left towards Barcombe. Follow Church Road round to the right, where surprisingly enough it goes past the church. Then left up Mill Lane, another resurfaced rough old road now smooth as silk, and right at the end to head into Barcombe.

Past the Royal Oak pub, and right at the mini roundabout. Follow this along, swoop down towards and across the Ouse, then right down Wellingham Lane. At

the junction at the end, take a left along the main road for a short while, until you turn right for Ringmer at the top of the hill. Keep an eye out for traffic on this bit and mind the drains.

Towards Ringmer, but not into it, left up Norlington Lane. This becomes Green Lane and then left into Harvey's Lane. This pleasant country lane takes you to the A22. More or less straight across and down Eastbourne Road towards Uckfield. A couple of roundabouts and down past the train station brings you into Uckfield. As this is just past halfway, you may need more coffee and cake.

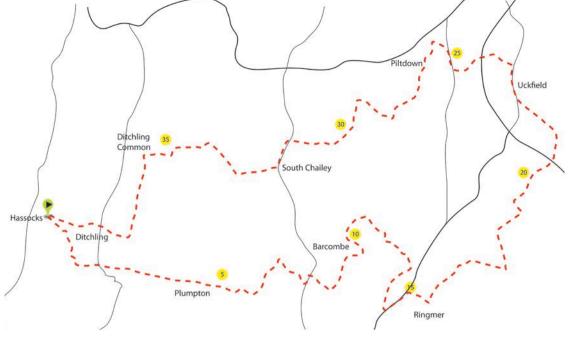
Ride up the deceptive climb of the High Street and left at the lights down Rocks Road. Keep on this through Shortbridge and up to Piltdown pond. Take Sharpsbridge Lane. As you go along here you will cross the Ouse for the second time in the ride. Left at the end into Mackerel's Rocks.

Past the old Newick Park hotel, and then left down Ridgelands Lane, becoming Markstakes Lane.

A short part of the ride now along the A275 and then right at South Chailey past the school down Honeypot Lane.

Nearly home now. Right at the end, past The Plough and then left and left again down Spatham Lane. Right at the foot and along the B2116 back to Hassocks, where I am sure you now have more need of food and drink....!

Download the ride route from here: https://connect.garmin.com/modern/course/14384207







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# Nicola did it!

Hurstpierpoint resident Nicola Stenning recently completed the Brighton Half Marathon in a bid to raise money for St Lawrence School PTA.

She has already raised over £200, but is keen to make that number as large as possible for the school. So here is the giving link if you'd like to support Nicola and the village school:

Nicola commented after the race: "I pulled away ever so slightly on the last stretch along the seafront towards the finish line and came in at 2h 14m 33s - which I was very happy with as I didn't want to push my knee too hard."





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Beyond Wakehurst's world famous botanic gardens and Millennium Seed Bank lies an enchanted world of woodlands – in fact more than 500 acres of both native and managed woods, including the Loder Valley nature reserve – just waiting for you to discover.

In the year of the 30th anniversary of The Great Storm, Wakehurst is celebrating a year of wonderful woodlands. More than 20,000 trees were lost during the storm which seemed devastating at the time but after rigorous replanting the landscape has been completely rejuvenated.

In the managed arboreta, trees are planted out according to the country they are native to. This careful arrangement means you can go on an adventure through the temperate woodlands of the world without having to dust off your passport.

Closer to home, a new woodland trail will wind through one of Wakehurst's

most beautiful oak woodlands.
From charcoal burning and bodging to coppicing and dormice, the trail will help to unlock the woodland's secrets and reveal its hidden charms. Combining elements of sculpture, play, art, music and science.

Wakehurst's woodland highlights\*

Woodland secrets Easter egg trail, 8 – 17 April.

**Stunning bluebell displays** from late April to mid-May.

**Guided woodland walks**, 26 and 29 April.

Friends of Wakehurst evening opening with exclusive access to behind the scenes woodland activities, 28 April.

**Wild Wood festival.** An action packed bank holiday weekend for all the family, 27 - 29 May.

Summer holiday woodland fun. Weekly activities including: bush craft, wild cooking, tree climbing and mini beast hunts.

Adult day tickets: £12.50. Children: FREE (16 and under).

Friends of Wakehurst annual membership from £25.





\*some activities incur extra cost

# Wakehurst

Wakehurst is located between Ardingly and Turners Hill on the B2028 For details visit kew.org/wakehurst





#### **By Rupert Bates**

She mixes dubstep, electro and progressive house into a distinctive Sussex scout hut dance sound and has been hailed as a genre-defining musical entity the world needs more of.

But enough about Rachael Babister, who along with Tara McHale is once again organizing Hurstpierpoint's Hey Mr DJ event in aid of the Village Fair.

Hey Mr DJ will take place on Saturday May 6th from 7.30pm in the Hurstpierpoint Scout Hut and those looking to channel their inner Guetta or Garrix, or even

Sussex's very own Fatboy Slim, can buy tickets and submit their top three tunes.

"Prior to the event we will draw at random the names of 14 DJs who will get the chance to spin the decks to their favourite songs, supervised by our very own professional DJ Emma Warner," says Rachael.

"Emma, the only person I know who mixes DJ with IT, will make sure your mixing matches your magic and the dance floor keeps jumping all night. At the end of the evening we will crown the Superstar DJ – the one who gets the most people on the dance floor."

Emma, or rather DJ-Em-Z, has a love for all genres of music – currently specialising in house and funk. The likes of Madonna, Queen, Blondie, Rick Astley, The Cure, Adam Ant and even opera and folk, have all played their part in making her as she modestly claims 'one of the top ten female DJs in Hurstpierpoint!'

"My love of all things technical probably helps spur my utter obsession with flashing lights and waveforms. This eclectic combination of music means I have a genuine appreciation and understanding of what people want to hear on the dance floor; the sounds they grew up listening to and the sounds that make them want to dance like no one's watching," says DJ-Em-Z, naming Insomnia by Faithless, Heart of Glass by Blondie and Sit Down by James as her three top songs for the evening.

Competition is already hotting up, with Hurstpierpoint Village Fair co-chairs Phil Willoughby and Gary Thomas having also selected their likely tunes. "I've gone for The Killers – Human, Willie Nelson – On The Road Again and Sting – Englishman in New York," says Phil, as opposed to Englishman in New Inn and ignoring the advice of a friend who suggested YMCA, so Phil could wear a Caldywood hard hat to promote his building business.

Gary has chosen N-Trance – Set You Free, Queen – Don't Stop Me Now and, once again, The Killers, this time with Mr Brightside.

You don't have to be a DJ - brilliant, budding, bonkers or bad - and can simply come and dance and party or, if

chosen out of the hat, can let Emma play your chosen tunes.

"You will literally vote with your feet – your dancing feet," says Rachael, who has selected Push It by Salt-n-Pepa, Sexual by NEIKED featuring Dyo and Professional Widow by Tori Amos, but may use the prerogative to change her mind.

Rumour has it that one Hurst resident has sung with both Robert

Plant of Led Zeppelin and rapper 50 Cent. If pulled out of the hat – presumably a back-to-front baseball cap – he is threatening to sing the full 14 minutes and 36 seconds of Rapper's Delight, or what is known in party terms as the interval drinks, allowing revellers to adjourn to the bar while he tries to remember the words.

The mystery musician has asked for anonymity, which is understandable having reputedly toured with 50 Cent, performing under the stage name 40 Pence, which is roughly the price on his head from mixing with the wrong crew. The ticket price for Hey Mr DJ, incidentally, is just £10.

"It is great to have Hey Mr DJ back again and it should be a fantastic, fun night, raising funds for the Fair. It also ties in very nicely with the Fair's Let's Dance theme," says Phil.

If you would information on buying tickets for Hey Mr DJ or would like to help the Village Fair in any way, please email: stlawrencefair@qmail.com



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#### By Michèle Copeland

I first met Paul Simpson at the Christmas Hurst Singers choir concert at the Village Centre in Hurst. I was so impressed that I decided there and then that I wanted to do a village feature about him.

We met at his and his partner Barbara's place over cups of coffee and surrounded by his two friendly Jack Russell dogs.

It turned out that Paul is a very prolific writer of non-fiction books, about 30 of them over a period of 20 years. These include topics as diverse as guides to C.S. Lewis and Stephen King, and histories of spying, prison breaks and air disasters. His latest book, The Serial Killer Files, will be published on May 17th.

Equally, he has contributed to and edited numerous magazines, including the American TV Guide and the official Star Trek Magazine, and he works as a fiction and non-fiction editor for various British and American publishers.

He also runs the genre website www.scifibulletin. com.

Paul started playing the piano, aged 3, and the organ at 11 while a music scholar at St Paul's, London. He has been a choir trainer since the age of 16.

In 1999 he became Director of Music at St John's, Burgess Hill, staying there for 12 years, and has written many arrangements and original pieces for the choirs with which he has been involved, including some of the music Hurst Singers has performed in recent years. He currently also conducts the Burgess Hill based community choir 'All the Right Notes' and assists as organist and conductor at various churches around the area.

Paul was approached by the Hurst Singers' past President, Aileen Gledhill, while he was working at Christ Church, Sayers Common five years ago, to see if he was interested in conducting the choir.

The Hurstpierpoint Singers started in 1950 when a group of ladies from the village W.I. decided to get together to make music, initially meeting in the front room of what is now Ladymead Nursing Home. They managed to encourage a few men to join them and on 21st September 1950 held the first AGM, at which they agreed 'The Hurstpierpoint Singers' as their name. Their first Christmas concert was held in the Parish Hall.

During the 1950s, the choir joined with other choirs in the area to take part in the 'Lewes Music Festival', not only gaining experience but also having the opportunity to sing large choral works. On one occasion the guest conductor was Sir Adrian Boult. Their efforts over the years were rewarded with four credits and a silver cup.

In the 1960s the Singers became affiliated with the Hassocks Evening Institute, and in 1969 the choir became an Evening Class of the Hassocks Adult Education Centre. The following decade, the membership and the choir's repertoire expanded, and they started to give concerts in local churches beyond Hurstpierpoint.

# "All I ask of the singers is that they try their hardest."



In 1974 the Singers were invited to perform a short programme at the opening ceremony of the Hurst Village Centre. That year marked their break with the Lewes Festival due to the breakup of Sussex into 'East' and 'West'. This meant that choirs from West Sussex were no longer eligible to take part.

The St Lawrence School hall became the new rehearsal venue and the choir celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1975 with a concert and dinner. The following year there was a break with the Local Education Authority, which thrust a larger burden of financial responsibility back on to the choir. To raise funds, they put on a marathon nine concerts that year. A Jubilee Concert in collaboration with Mid Sussex Choir was given in 1978. Charity status was granted to the choir in 1980.

In 1983, rehearsals moved to Hurst College Music School. In May 1987, the choir visited Hassocks' twin town, Montmirail, for their twin festival. A further trip was arranged in 1990 to Hassocks' other twin, Wald-Michelbach.

The 50th anniversary concert in December 1990 was a history of the choir narrated by Judy Parfitt, who was introduced as the 'Jewel in the Crown' – a reference to her memorable performance in the TV adaptation of Paul Scott's novels – interspersed with carols (a format that has since been adopted for Christmas concerts.

Stephen Hope took over as conductor from Tim Arnold in 2004. Under Stephen the Singers continued the Christmas carol concert tradition, with the spring concert in 2009 held in St Peter's Church, Henfield due to the re-ordering of Holy Trinity Church. They took part in the Hurst Festival and each year combined with other choirs to form the Sussex Festival Choir, performing a major work in Arundel Cathedral in aid of Sussex Hospices. During this time rehearsals moved to Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church on Monday evenings, where they remain. There are currently around 35 singers meeting between September and Easter each year.

Paul Simpson was appointed to succeed Stephen in 2012, and the choir has sung two concerts annually under his baton – the Christmas Celebration in the Village Centre and a spring concert at the United Reform Church in Hassocks – as well as holding an 'open



rehearsal' for the Hurst Festival. Paul says of the choir: "All I ask of the singers is that they try their hardest."

This year they are returning to Holy Trinity Church for the first time since 2011, for a Spring Concert of music by three British composers: Donald Swann, Ralph Vaughan Williams and John Rutter.

Swann's name is irrevocably linked with that of Michael Flanders for songs such as The Hippopotamus, but he also wrote less comic pieces, including this setting of poems from JRR Tolkien's Middle-earth books – The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings and more – which has been arranged for solos and choir by Paul Simpson.

Vaughan Williams' 5 Mystical Songs are varied settings of poems by George Herbert (1593-1633) and are very atmospheric. They conclude with a triumphant setting of 'Let All the World in Every Corner Sing'.

John Rutter's arrangements of assorted British folk songs The Sprig of Thyme will be recognized by the older generation with nostalgia and hopefully welcomed and appreciated by younger people for their catchy tunes and delightful words. They reflect a bygone age, but the sentiments expressed in them are timeless.

The concert will take place on Saturday 8th April at 7.30pm. Tickets price £10 (including a glass of wine or soft drink) will be available via members of the choir; or from Jan Ton News, Hurstpierpoint and Hassocks Hardware; or on the door. Accompanied under-12s, as always, are free.

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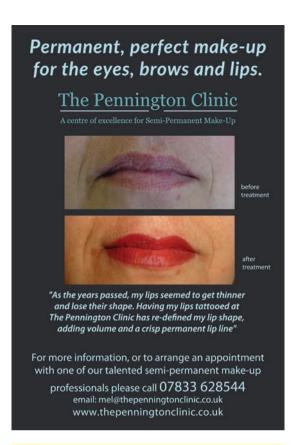


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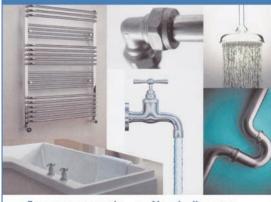
#### Ingredients

#### For the relish

1 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, finely diced
salt and pepper
1 garlic clove, crushed
200g/7oz tinned tomatoes
½ red pepper/½ yellow pepper, diced
1 tbsp red wine vinegar

For the onions 25g/1oz olive oil 2 onions, finely sliced For the rest of the burger 4 large flat mushrooms, stalk trimmed 1 tbsp olive oil 1 ball mozzarella 4 burger buns, sliced in half

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mbtherapy@btinternet.com musclebalancemassage.com Belle Amatt is a Hurst resident and nutrition consultant, author and lecturer in Naturopathic Nutrition. She holds workshops and talks on a variety of healthy eating topics.

March, I hope, will bring us some spring-like weather. But there are often still those chilly grey days in March when comfort food is required. I stumbled upon this vegetarian burger composed of large flat mushrooms and milky mozzarella with home-made tomato relish and felt it ticked lots of boxes: tasty, great textures, a fast food fix with a healthy kick. Hope you like!



#### Method

- 1. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
- 2. For the relish, heat a small frying pan over a low heat and add the olive oil. Fry the onion and a pinch of salt in the oil for 4-5 minutes (add a little water if onions start to brown), cook until the onion is soft and translucent. Add the garlic and peppers and cook for another 4-5 minutes, then stir in the tomatoes and the vinegar. Gently simmer for five minutes or until the mixture has thickened to a relish consistency. Taste and adjust the seasoning as necessary. Black pepper and a few chilli flakes are good at this point. Leave to cool.
- For the onions, heat oil in frying pan over a low heat.
   Add the sliced onion and a pinch of salt. Turn heat to a minimum and leave the onions, stirring now and again, to cook for 25-30 minutes or until golden and limp.
- 4. For the rest of the burger, place the mushrooms with the stalk side facing up on to an oven tray, drizzle with the oil and season with salt and pepper. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes or until beginning to soften. Meanwhile, slice the mozzarella ball into four equal slices. After the mushrooms have cooked for 10 minutes, remove from the oven and place a slice of mozzarella into each of the mushrooms on top of the stalk. Put back into the oven for 5-7 minutes to melt the mozzarella.
- Lightly toast the cut side of the burger buns. Add plenty of relish (towards your 5 a day!). Place the mushrooms on top of the bottom burger bun. Pop on the onions. Sandwich each burger with the remaining halves. Eat.

Based on a recipe from bbc.co.uk





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#### By Brenda Mack

Perhaps you don't know about Wolstonbury WI? You will be warmly welcomed at any of our monthly meetings. At this month's meeting, on 21st March, Tony Turner will tell us the true story of Dolly Shepherd who was an Edwardian lady pioneer parachutist who led a very interesting life.

Besides interesting speakers, we have book, walking and sewing groups within our WI. It is rewarding to spend time with members who share an interest, and any member can start another group with likeminded members.

The WI (Women's Institute) is a national organisation which has a voice on the issues of today, so if campaigning inspires you there are opportunities to get involved with issues that might be of interest or concern to you.

So do think about joining us at any meeting; they are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.45pm in the Club suite of the Village Centre, Trinity Road. A programme is pinned up on the Library notice board. Any questions call 01273 834421 or 01273 832784.

### **Appeal for volunteers**

If you enjoy working outdoors, have time to spare and would like to make a real contribution to conservation in Sussex, then why not become one of the growing number of South Downs National Trust Volunteers?

The group, which carries out work on behalf of the National Trust, was founded in 1988 by several volunteers who were already working with other conservation groups.

The first work party gathered at Highdown Hill, near Worthing, to clear damaged trees following the great storm of 1987. Since then, the group has grown but new recruits are always needed to help conserve the precious countryside.

Members of the South Downs National Trust Volunteers come from all walks of life, and mainly work on alternate Sundays and the occasional Saturday. There are also full weekend tasks, once or twice a year. Travel costs are reimbursed.

Volunteers can log their hours over the year on a '50 hour volunteer card' which, when complete, entitles them to free entry at National Trust properties, and discounts in their shops and restaurants. The group also runs social events for members.

The group welcomes students from Plumpton and various other colleges and young people working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Described as 'a



friendly bunch', the volunteers guarantee new recruits a warm welcome and, of course, tea and biscuits!

The National Trust relies upon both contributions and donations from members and the work of volunteers to help maintain its properties and land. If you think you would like to become a volunteer, or would like to find out more, please visit https://southdownsntv.org.uk



By Rob Sawyer, Secretary, Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club It is an extraordinary fact that there is an institution in our village that celebrates its 300th anniversary in 2017 but which is unknown to many of the people who actually live in Hurstpierpoint.

We are incredibly lucky to live in such an attractive place but our village does lack the traditional village green where many cricket teams play their home games. Therefore, unless you actually walk your dog on Fairfield Rec, you would not necessarily know that there is a very active cricket club in the village, let alone one that has been here for hundreds of years.

Hurstpierpoint CC is a thriving club. It fields two senior Saturday teams playing league cricket, a Saturday friendly team that plays home games at Hurst College, a senior women's team and a Sunday friendly side, as well as junior teams ranging from seven to 16 years of age. Summer Wednesday evenings at Fairfield sees around 150 kids of all ages practising their cricket skills, the women's team training for the weekend fixture and various older boys and girls and senior players using the newly installed nets. The BBQ serves Hot Dogs and Burgers and the bar does a roaring trade.

The club boasts a long history and we believe we are one of the oldest cricket clubs in the country. We can trace our roots back to the 18th century, to 1717 in fact. By all accounts the weather in the summer of 1717 was fairly typical, warmish with some rain, which was of great relief to the people of the South of England who had previously endured a winter so severe that the Thames froze at London Bridge for two months!

There is some evidence that a form of cricket was developing in Kent and Sussex in the period after the Norman invasions but by the 18th century the game had developed to something close to the sport that we know today. The game was very popular in Sussex and, although it is certain that the men of Hurstpierpoint

were playing cricket from at least 1770, the first evidence of organised, formal matches occurred in the diaries of Thomas Marchant in 1717. The diary entries made plenty of references to matches played against traditional rivals such as Cowfold, Henfield and Newick, but unfortunately there are no references to an actual victory until 1721!

In the 18th century Hurstpierpoint CC played their home games at Danny House in the 'Danny Sandfield'. Although the game was very much the preserve of the working man it is around this time the British upper classes began to take notice, not necessarily for the love of cricket, although clearly they did adopt and come to dominate the running of the sport. Their main interest came from its endless opportunities for gambling; ironic considering the modern game has been blighted by illegal betting. The great service the upper classes brought to the sport was to create a set of rules that everyone played by and everyone understood. Again, it was gambling that drove this innovation, no bookmaker was going to pay out on a bet unless the rules were clear and understood by all.

As far as Hurst CC is concerned, it seems the years went by without the outside world paying too much attention. There are references to an away game against Chiddingly in 1757, a half hour drive in 2017 but in the 18th century a journey that must have taken quite some planning. In 1771 the Sussex Weekly Advertiser reported on a game due to take place between 'The Gentlemen of Hurstpierpoint vs The Gentleman of Patching and Portslade', evidence perhaps of the upper classes having their influence. Another similar game versus Lindfield is reported the following year and then references in the press seem to dry up until the middle part of the 19th century where match reports started to appear in the Sussex Agricultural Express.

Unfortunately the club has a fairly limited amount of



historical artefacts but one thing we do own is a menu from the club's 1899 end of season dinner held at The New Inn on Wednesday 25th October. It offers a fascinating insight into life in Victorian Britain.

Proceedings began with a toast to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family, then another toast 'To the Bishops and all clergy'.

We also have a document dated 29th March 1906, reporting on the 1905

season when we won a respectable 14 games with eight defeats and three matches drawn. My predecessor as Club Secretary, Mr H Shepherd, reported on an 'adverse balance of £5/1/5d' this was entirely due to increased ground expenses such as rolling and mowing. A comment that would no doubt bring a smile to the face of current club President and groundsman Dave Parsons as he contemplates spending the sum of £1000 on weedkiller to ready the square for the 2017 season.

NEW INN HOTEL

HURST

burst Cricket Club

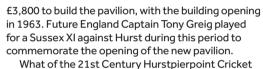
Annual Dinner

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28TH, 1899.

The club received subscriptions from over eighty members that year and it is poignant to consider that in just a few short years many of those men would be called to fight in World War I.

The social side of the club definitely seems to have lapsed after World War II because an article published in a local paper in 1965 reports on the first dinner at Hurst CC for forty years. Happily, we have managed one every year since then.

A key event in the early 1960s was the club's application to build a pavilion together with Hurst FC at Fairfield Rec. The clubs managed to raise the sum of

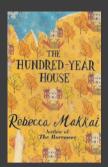


Club? The club has made huge strides in the last decade. From running just a couple of senior sides at the turn of the century, the work that the club has done in the local community has enabled us to greatly expand the club. We are particularly proud of the heritage and history of our club and the fact that the MCC has confirmed the fact that we can be traced back to 1717. Our tricentennial is special for us and we have a series of events planned to commemorate and celebrate Hurst CC. The MCC have granted us a game to be played on 1st June (sadly at Fairfield Rec, not Lords). We have a cricket week planned and this will include a fixture against Henfield CC - our oldest rivals. On Sunday 9th July we return to Danny House, our original home ground, for a match against a Danny House XI. This unique match will be played in period costume, to 18th Century rules which include underarm bowling, and we will be erecting marquees so we can serve refreshments to a crowd which we hope will be guite substantial.

There is so much happening at Hurst CC, and I'll be reporting on the various events to commemorate 1717 as well as matters on the field through the 2017 season in Hurst Life.

If you want to know more about Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club or you'd like to join us, visit our Facebook page or visit www.hurstpierpoint.play-cricket.com. We welcome players of all abilities and ages. We'd also love to hear from you if you fancy umpiring or you would just like to watch cricket at a friendly local club.

We would also be interested to hear from you if you used to play for Hurst CC or if you have any photos, stories or memorabilia relating to the club.



# The Hundred-Year House by Rebecca Makkai

#### **BOOK REVIEW**

#### By Clair Stanton

The hundred-year house is Laurelfield; built in 1900 by Augustus Devohr for his wife, Violet. She died not long after and her unhappy spirit is said to haunt the attic, while her portrait dominates the dining room, unsettling the residents.

For Doug, living in the coach house at Laurelfield brings him closer to his literary hero, the poet Edwin Parfitt, who stayed at the house when it was an artist's colony. He's less thrilled that it also brings him closer to his in-laws, who live in the main house. He is supposed to be writing a scholarly treatise about Parfitt, but his wife Zee is not convinced that he is actually doing so and starts to worry that he is having an affair with her step-brother's wife.

Told in sections, starting in 1999 and working backwards, the novel gradually reveals the secrets of the house and its inhabitants. The unintended consequences of these secrets are the main theme of the book and they are often comic, but just as often tragic. The house seems to bring good or bad luck in extreme measures to those who live there.

There are surprises along the way but Makkai always plays fair with the reader. I'm planning to read this book again; it will be fun to spot the clues I missed first time round!

Pick up a copy on your next visit to Hurst Library. There will be copies on display throughout March.

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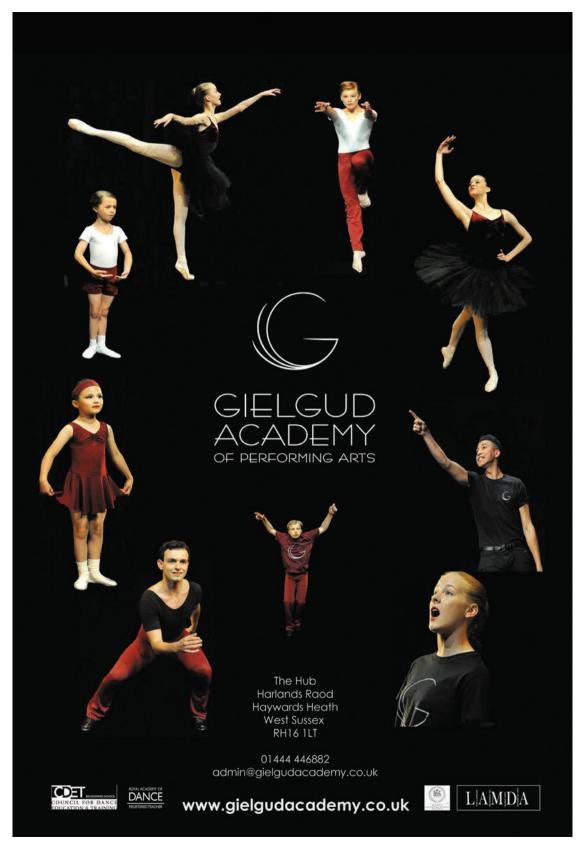
### Downlands Community School Dale Avenue, Hassocks, BN6 8LP

### An Outstanding School! Ofsted January 2017

- Pupils benefit from exceptionally strong teaching which is leading to outstanding outcomes for nearly all pupils.
- A culture of care and community pervades the school.



Downlands Community School, Dale Avenue, Hassocks BN6 8LP Call 01273 845892 for more information or visit www.downlands.w-sussex



## Walking therapy

#### MID SUSSEX RAMBLERS



There's nothing quite like getting out in the fresh air for a walk in the stunning Sussex countryside – it's the perfect way to help banish any winter blues.

And walking alongside fellow enthusiasts can make the experience even more enjoyable.

The Mid Sussex Ramblers always welcomes new members to enjoy its varied programme of walks.

Whether you're an experienced walker looking for new routes to explore, or a beginner keen to get started, then the Ramblers has something to offer.

Formed in 1973 the group is part of the national Ramblers, Britain's leading walking charity, and currently has more than 480 members.

Walks are arranged every Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday throughout the year, on Bank Holidays, and occasionally other days in the week.

There are leisurely half day walks of three to six miles and, for the more energetic, all day walks of nine to 11 miles. During the summer months there are also Wednesday evening walks (three to four miles) and weekend walking breaks and coach outings with walks.

During the winter months the group holds indoor meetings in King Edward Hall, with illustrated talks, and social evenings in local pubs in the Mid Sussex area.

#### Why walk?

Former Ramblers' Chief Executive Tom Franklin writes: "Imagine if a pharmaceutical company invented a new 'wonder drug' which, if taken by the whole population, would cut coronary heart disease by over a third. People would be clamouring for it to be provided free on the NHS.

"But imagine if that drug could also reduce cases of osteoarthritis; dramatically cut rates of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease; halve the rates of colon cancer among those most at risk; reduce levels of breast cancer and aid recovery among cancer suffers; reduce high blood pressure and cholesterol; cut by two-thirds the risk of strokes among highest-risk middle-aged

men; and cut by a quarter the risk of dying of a heart attack among those who've already survived one attack.

"That drug already exists - it's called walking. If everyone did it, frequently and fast enough, people would live longer and happier lives."

One in four people in the UK now experiences mental health problems in the course of a year. But regular walking can reduce depression, stress and anxiety and aid sleep.



Walks organised in March include a six mile 'Jack & Jill Circular' taking in Keymer Post, Lower Standean and Ditchling Common on Sunday 5th March, meeting at 10.30am in the windmills car park (BN6 9PG), Sussex Ouse Valley Way walk in four stages throughout the month and a ten mile moderate walk around Shermanbury and the Adur on 14th March.

For further details and contacts for all these walks, and for more information about Mid Sussex Ramblers visit: www.midsussexramblers.co.uk

## THE ALTERNATIVE HEALTHCARE



## If you choose health, we can help...

"I had never tried yoga before, and couldn't understand what all the fuss was about. I was uncoordinated, with zero flexibility and the thought of attending a class with a room full of people who looked like they knew what they were doing was very unappealing. Then I went to India. I was out there to help my son get better from his arthritis. I had Sciatica myself and could barely walk, the last thing I wanted to do was a 'fitness class'. But Louie needed to attend yoga sessions as part of his healing programme, so I thought I would try this yoga thing too and join him in class.

Shine Babu was the yoga instructor at the Ayurvedic hospital we were at. His yoga truly is a therapy in itself! Within days both myself and my son were feeling much better, we were in less pain and within just a couple of weeks we were both able to walk properly again. Shine's understanding of each and every person and their limitations, in his studio is incredible. He doesn't just 'run' a class, he keeps a watchful eye, he tutors, he ensures



accurate postures to minimise injury, and adapts postures to encourage healing of old injuries to every single participant, all whilst keeping a natural flow to the class.

People choose to practice yoga for so many reasons from getting fit, toning up, gaining mental clarity, attaining flexibility, healing physical disorders to achieving a sense of peace. Every person has a different goal, and that is why yoga is for everyone."

Melissa Toleman - Founder of the Centre

Shine is also a Naturopathic Doctor, an Acupuncturist, a Physiotherapist, and an Ayurvedic Therapist. His knowledge of the human body is astounding combined with his kind, gentle heart makes him a true healer. He runs several classes at The Alternative Healthcare in Haywards Heath, of all levels each day at the centre from Beginners Hatha, Traditional Hatha, Restorative Hatha, Dynamic Hatha and even a Hatha Backcare class to focus on the back if there are back issues.

Shine also runs **1-2-1 Yoga Therapy** sessions for those who would benefit from more concentrated guidance and support. For those who have a specific goal, who feel a class is too daunting or perhaps think they would feel out of place in a class. His sessions run for 60 or 90 minutes.

The Alternative Healthcare
70, Oathall Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3EN
www.thealternativehealthcare.com 01444 474447

## Ladies' events from Holy Trinity Church

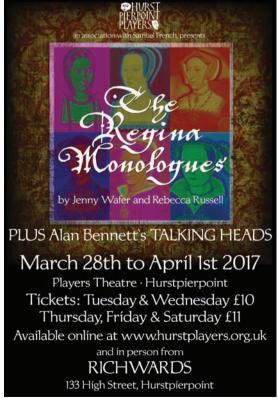
This month sees a series of special events taking place for women in the community. It all starts with the Women's World Day of Prayer – an internationally celebrated event – on Friday 3rd March. Please look out for posters around the village to find out more information on this inspiring event.

On Wednesday 8th March at 2.30pm there will be a Mothers' Union meeting taking place at 9 Park Close in Hurstpierpoint. Entitled: 'The story behind your Bible' will give all who come along the chance to bring their own bible and share its history and why it is special to them. Home made cakes and tea included in £2 entrance fee for visitors. All welcome.

Then, on Wednesday 15th March at 8pm there will be another opportunity to experience 'Prayer Stations' – which has been led by Rev Debbie Beer in the past at Holy Trinity Church. Visitors will be most welcome, and entrance is only £2 which includes tea/coffee and more delicious home made cakes.

Finally, in another Mothers' Union event, on Saturday 25th March there will be a Ladies' Breakfast at the Methodist Church, Cuckfield Road. Starting at 8.30am ladies will enjoy a scrumptious full English breakfast, prepared, cooked and served by a wonderful group of men. This is the day before Mothering Sunday, so ladies - come and prepare to be thoroughly spoilt! Breakfast will be followed by a talk by Rev Debbie Beer. Tickets from Judy Leech 01273 833954 - only £6 pp. As ever, everyone is welcome.





## MP: Planning Inspector's proposals 'totally unrealistic'

Commenting on the Inspector's interim conclusions on the housing requirement for the Mid Sussex District Plan, published on 20th February, Arundel & South Downs MP Nick Herbert said: "I am astonished that the Inspector can conclude that this housing number is sustainable. The increase is far too great and fails to take into account local infrastructure constraints and the impact on the countryside, both of which should be considered. I simply cannot see how this level of new housing can be supported when we already have acute pressure on local public services, including a totally inadequate rail service.

"I am also deeply concerned about the impact on village neighbourhood plans, and I question whether housing numbers on this scale can actually be delivered. The Inspector should reconsider these numbers and properly take into account the genuine constraints on development.

"We accepted that the housing number would go up, and there is a local need which must be met, but these proposals are totally unrealistic and go too far."

In an article for the CPRE Sussex Review this week, Nick Herbert says that he will join a 'battle for the countryside'.

He continues: "In the small towns and villages of my constituency, local infrastructure is already inadequate, reflected for instance by oversubscribed local schools and extended GP waiting lists. Random development has exacerbated these problems, and construction is eroding the green space between villages, leading to the slow suburbanisation of once-rural areas. Yet young people face the unfairness of high rents and property prices that are completely out of their reach.

"One idea is to build new towns rather than extend villages, but these must have local support. The proposed Mayfield new town near Henfield is the worst example of a poorly located scheme that is rightly opposed by every local council. The plan has blighted local properties while its promoters have persistently sought to overturn local plans in an attempt to insinuate their own proposal. It is the wrong way to get the housing we need."

"In the small towns and villages of my constituency, local infrastructure is already inadequate, reflected for instance by oversubscribed local schools and extended GP waiting lists"

Mid Sussex District Council had proposed a housing requirement of 13,600 dwellings, at an average rate of 800 dwellings per annum. However the Inspector said that no environmental or infrastructure constraints would offset the District's housing requirement, which would be added to Crawley's unmet need. He concluded: "I consider that both the full [Objectively Assessed Need] of 876 [dwellings per annum] dpa and 150 [dwellings per annum] of Crawley's unmet need can and should be accommodated in the District Plan, and that this can be achieved sustainably without conflicting with policies in the Framework. The evidence also demonstrates that the market can sustain such figures.

"That leads to a minimum housing requirement for the plan period of 1,026 [dwellings per annum], or 17,442 dwellings over the 17 year life of the plan."

About a quarter of Nick Herbert's Arundel & South Downs constituency falls within the Mid Sussex District, including the villages of Hurstpierpoint and Hassocks.

The full letter from Planning Inspector Jonathan Bore to MSDC can be downloaded here: http://bit.ly/2mudrlZ

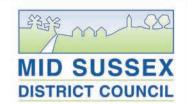
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# Can't keep up with how quickly your garden is growing?

Why not join the Garden Waste Collection Service?

















# Photography before Smartphones

This month sees the Hurstpierpoint Museum, situated in the Village Centre, open a new exhibition.

Starting on 21st March, 'Photography before Smartphones' explores the time when you chose your film (black and white or colour), checked the light, focused the lens and took time composing the picture – all because you had no more than 36 pictures on the film! In those days you may have even developed and printed the image yourself.

Go along and see what gems have been found particularly with Hurstpierpoint in mind. Opening times for the exhibition are usually 9.30am-1.30pm Mon, Tues and Weds, 9am-5pm Thursday and Friday and on Saturdays 9am-1pm. Entry is free. The exhibition is organised by Hurstpierpoint Museum and Heritage Group.

## April Fools' Day Family Concert

Come and hear Ensemble Reza perform a lively April Fools Concert (for strings and typewriter!) and then 'have a go' on a wide selection of instruments including wind, brass and strings with West Sussex Music. Come and also meet the brilliant Kindermusik team.

Ensemble Reza was set up over three years ago with the aim of taking first class music to audiences in Sussex and across the South East. The combination of virtuoso musicians, who are close friends performing together, results in breathtaking performances which have become the unique sound of Ensemble Reza.

This will be Ensemble Reza's fourth Family Concert. These events are always hugely popular, so remember to tell all your friends and book early! Saturday 1st April 2-4pm at The King's Church in Burgess Hill.

Tickets: £10 for adults and children 5-18 years £5 Family tickets: 2 adults and 2 children: £28 and 2 adults and 3 children: £32

Tickets are available online from the website: www.ensemblereza.com

For more information contact Hannah.carter@ensemblereza.com



### **5 MINUTES WITH...**

## Mukesh Umbach

Anybody who's been to the convenience store on Albourne Road next to the car wash, previously known as 'Picket & White', will know Mukesh's ready smile and warm welcome. He says: "All our customers are friendly and treat me as part of the family."

Mukesh sells anything from newspapers to staple foods. He is open for business seven days a week from 8am to 8pm.

How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint? I've worked here for 5 years.

What's the best thing about being here? The customers.

Favorite ice cream flavour? Magnums!

How many houses have you lived in? Two, so far.

Favourite holiday destination? US and India.

Your most enjoyable event in the village? Everyday.

Do you share your home with anyone? My wife.

Song you play the most? Indian music.

Mac or PC?

PC.

Your most frequented village shop? The Convenience store, of course!

What's your proudest moment?
When the children graduated from High School.

Your advice for life? Keep smiling!

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



#### By David Saitch

Hello from the Hurstpierpoint Village Cinema. We have three extraordinary and radically different films and a fantastic Live Broadcast coming up in March.

#### Thursday 9th March - NT Live Hedda Gabler

Ruth Wilson stars in this stunning adaptation of lbsen's masterpiece, directed by Ivo van Hove. Her performance has received rapturous reviews and the productions stark simplicity has been called 'Dark, bold and devastating'. Not to be missed, an absolutely spellbinding triumph.

#### Thursday 16th March - Things to Come (12A)

Isabelle Huppert is simply incredible as a philosophy teacher who finds herself having to soldier on as she loses her job, her mother and her husband leaves her over a short period of time. A poignant, wonderfully funny and elegantly crafted meditation on coping with the surprises that life can spring on you. Filmmaker Mia Hansen-Løve just keeps getting better and better and Things to Come marks her out as one of the most talented and exciting directors working today. French with English Subtitles.

### Sunday 19th March - I, Daniel Blake (15)

Winning the Palme d'Or at Cannes and Best British Film at the Baftas, the Evening Standard Film Awards and Best Film at the European Film Awards, as well as a host of awards for the director and cast, this searingly angry but also very funny and humane polemical film is one everyone should see. This is a charity event and all proceeds from ticket sales will go to the local food bank a fantastically worthy local charity.

#### Friday 24th March - Tale of Tales (15)

Matteo Garrone's Tale of Tales is fabulous in every sense; a stunningly beautiful but freaky portmanteau film. It is gloriously mad, rigorously imagined, visually wonderful, hilarious and internally consistent. It immerses you in a complete created world. It is a masterpiece of black-comic bad taste and a positive carnival of transgression. The secret is the deadpan seriousness with which everything is treated. Tale of Tales is a treat, and Toby Jones is utterly superb as a conceited, melancholy, ridiculous king. It has fantastic performances from Salma Hayek, Vincent Cassel and John C. Reilly.

Tickets from Mishon Mackay or www.hurstfilms.com

## Your library is free!

Did you know that you can join the library using a simple online form? Your application will be processed the next working day and your library card sent through the post. You can find the form: www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries/join-the-library

Of course you can also join in person and receive a card straight away; just pop in to Hurstpierpoint Library (on Trinity Road) and take some ID that has your name and address on.

It's FREE to join the library and your card will be valid in any West Sussex Library. Having a card means that you can borrow 20 items at a time and if they don't have the book you want on the shelf at your local library you can usually order it in. Your library card entitles you to two hours computer time each day and there is free wifi in all West Sussex Libraries.

You can manage your library card using a free app for your smartphone. That will let you check your loans, renew items, search the catalogue and place reservations. Or you can register in the library to receive emails to let you know when your books are due for renewal.

There are also lots of events and activities at West Sussex Libraries. Find out more online or on your next visit.

## Council grant to help businesses grow

Mid Sussex District Council is encouraging micro businesses in Mid Sussex to apply for grant funding of up to £2,000 to help their business grow.

The funding has been provided by West Sussex County Council as part of a £500,000 investment across the whole of West Sussex. The money comes from local Business Rates, and each District and Borough is being provided with £83,000 to reinvest back into the local business community.

The grants of up to £2,000 are available to any Mid Sussex business that has less than 10 employees and an idea for a project that will help their business grow. Up to £1,500 is also available to help micro businesses take on an apprentice.

"The Council is committed to supporting local businesses and sustainable economic growth in the district, and this funding could really help you to take your business to the next level," said Councillor Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Mid Sussex District Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth.

For more information or to apply online visit: www.midsussex.gov.uk/businessgrants





## Hurst's senior netball teams reach national finals

Two senior netball teams from Hurst College successfully negotiated the Sussex round of the National Schools Competition in September and the regional finals in February, to reach the national finals this month.

The first team had a tough draw with Wellington, Beaconsfield High, Oxford High, Portsmouth Grammar and Aylesbury.

Head of Hurst Netball, Bex Jutson said: "The girls were so focused and determined, and this is a true example of what energy, commitment, team work and belief does to a squad. I am delighted to have led the first team girls, alongside our captain Sophie Gardiner, to the national finals."

The final game for the U16s team was against Brighton College, a team Hurst had beaten in the Sussex round, the girls battled well, but having given their all in the previous match had nothing more to give in their only loss of the tournament.

Bex continued: "For both teams to qualify for the nationals finals, by taking second place in the regionals, is an excellent result. The girls represented themselves, their teams and the College at the highest level in the best possible way. Well done to each and every one of them and our fantastic coaching team."



www.extensionsdrivewaysroofing.co.uk

## Tackling elder exploitation in our communities

Katy Bourne, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Sussex, has made tackling elder exploitation one of her top priorities in a bid to protect older people in the county from financial abuse.

She says: "We know that fraud against our older and

more vulnerable residents is a growing issue as our population ages and criminals see that fraud is more profitable and less risky than other crimes. In Sussex, fraud has robbed some older people of their entire life savings and left others destitute.

"I have been lobbying the Government to take account of demographics when calculating the amount of funding that is allocated to each police force and to acknowledge the rise in crimes against our elderly.

"The operational response from Sussex Police has also been excellent. They have developed Operation Signature to help protect and support those most at risk of fraud, and the model has been nationally recognised and is being adopted by other police forces.

"The problem is that many people don't realise that they've been a victim of fraud – they think it's just a

scam, or they feel foolish and don't want to tell anyone. But scams are fraud and fraud is a crime, so I really would urge anyone who's affected by doorstep crime, postal fraud or nuisance calls to report it."

You can call the police on 101 or report fraud by

speaking directly to the advisers at Action Fraud, the national fraud reporting centre, by phoning 0300 123 2040. They will also be able to give you help and advice about fraud and you can remain anonymous if you prefer.

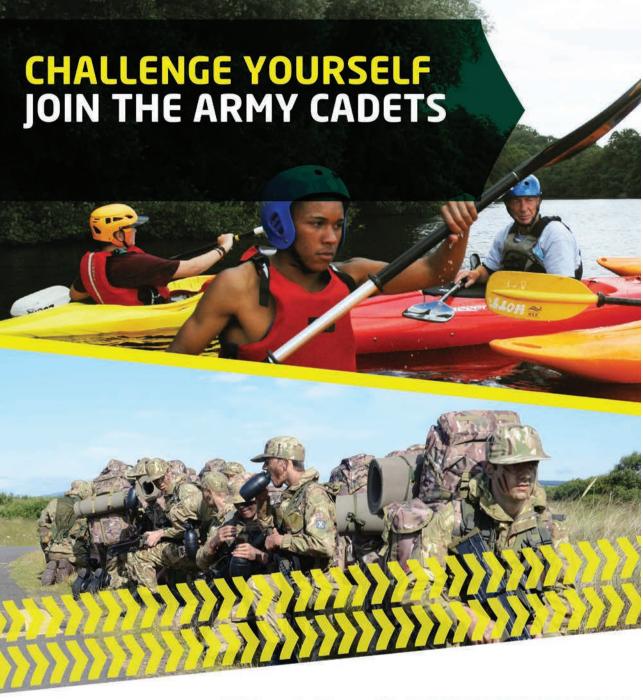
UK-wide charity Action on Elder Abuse operates a confidential helpline on 080 8808 8141 which offers advice and support on all aspects of elder abuse.

Trading Standards also want to know about online fraud or mobile phone scams; any information you share may help them

shut down fraudsters before others fall victim to them. You can report incidents, whether you're a victim or have just been targeted, via the Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline on 0345 404 05 06.

You can sign up for Katy Bourne's weekly newsletter at www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/spcc-newsletter/





## >> Hurstpierpoint RECRUITING NOW!

Calling all young persons from Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Sayers Common and Albourne. If you are

aged 12 to 17 years, want adventure and fun drop in and see us. You can also earn the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

No16 Platoon,

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Tel: 01273 552 222

Email: 9756harve@armvmail.mod.uk



## Sudoku #8

| 2  |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   | 7 |
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Find the solution to #8 in next month's magazine

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

#### #7 Solution

| 3 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
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| 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
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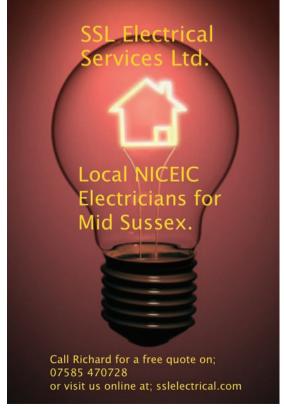
## Car parks retain awards

Local people and visitors can feel safe and secure parking in Mid Sussex after 17 Council run car parks retained the prestigious Police 'Park Mark' award for crime prevention and safety.

The British Parking Association, on behalf of Sussex Police, recently assessed the award-winning car parks. All 17 of the car parks have been recognised as examples of excellent parking design and will proudly display the Park Mark sign of quality for the next 12 months, including the car park in Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint.

Park Mark car parks have clear directional signage and use traffic flow techniques like one-way circulation so drivers are not confused about which way to go. Pedestrian access and exit points are clearly indicated and painted paths highlight the safest places to walk.

"Mid Sussex is already a low crime area but we're committed to doing everything we can to deter crime and make residents feel safe," said Councillor Gary Marsh, Cabinet Member for Service Delivery. "Park Mark car parks offer a safe and welcoming environment for local drivers and visitors to the area and I'm delighted that 17 of our car parks have met the standard again this year."



## What's on this month

#### AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

#### **Regular events**

Sun Sunday Afternoon Cream Tea Dance – 2-4.30pm, nearly every Sunday

Mon The Sanctuary – 9.30-11.30am, weekly (term time only) – a welcoming place where friendships can form over coffee and cake

Tues Afternoon Club – 2-4pm, 1st Tuesday
Wolstonbury WI – 7.45 pm, 3rd Tuesday

Scottish Dancing - 7-10pm, weekly

Fri Star Dance School – from 6.45pm, weekly

Sat Hurstpierpoint Dance Club – 8pm, 3rd Saturday
Ballroom and Latin dance, any skill level welcome

#### March

7th Mid Sussex Health Care PPG – 6.30pm AGM and talk by Simon Chandler on 'Patient Engagement and Developments in Local Healthcare'. All welcome.

14th **Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society** – 7.45pm 'Hardy Geraniums' by Graham Spencer

25th Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society Spring
Show and Plant Sale – 2.15pm
Spring flowers, cookery, floral arrangements,
children's exhibits, photography, novice section.
Tea and home-made cake. Bargain plant stall.
Raffle and Auction of produce at end of show.
Exhibiting is free and open to all. Schedules with
full details from Gibsons in the High Street.

25th RNLI Quiz Night – 7 for 7.30pm Tickets at £10 include a Ploughman's supper and are available from Mishon Mackay.

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road BN6 9QT www.hurstvillagecentre.org

#### **AND ELSEWHERE**

#### March

8th Mothers' Union Meeting – 2.30pm 9 Park Close, Hurstpierpoint

15th Brighton Society – 6-9.30pm
Danny House – An evening of relaxation in aid of the Motor Neuron Disease Association

18th Buffet Dinner and Ceilidh – 7 for 7.30pm
Albourne Village Hall
Dancing to Kate's Kitchen Band and Caller
Licensed Bar. Tickets £18 each with tables
for 8 people available from Sayers Common
Community Shop or (ta.hiqqinson@qmail.com)

18th Musical Coffee Morning – 10-12pm
Holy Trinity Church
Enjoy a morning of relaxing and memorable
music, as Ray Carpenter will be playing. There
will be stalls, including a special stall run by
Hurstpierpoint Community Charity shop. FREE.

24th Charity Jazz Night – 8pm
Evening of Jazz with Sam Nixon & Friends
Danny House, New Way Lane
Tickets, £15, including glass of wine, available
from Marcus Grimes, 151 High St. 01273 835104

25th Ladies' Mothers' Union Breakfast – 8.30am Methodist Church, Cuckfield Road. Enjoy a scrumptious full English breakfast followed by a talk by Rev Debbie Beer. Everyone welcome. (Tickets - £6 - from Judy Leech 01273 833954)

28th- The Regina Monologues – 8pm 1st The Players Theatre (see p.43)

31st Hurst Historical & Geographical Society – 8pm Hurstpierpoint Guide Hall 'The Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton' by John Cooper (£3/£2 entry fee)

#### **April**

8th

1 & 2 Lambing Open Days – 10am-4pm

8 & 9 Saddlescombe Farm, Brighton BN45 7DE (Entry: Family £15, adults £6, children £3 www.camillaandroly.co.uk)

1st Ensemble Reza's Family Concert – 2-4pm The Kings Church, Burgess Hill (see p.40)

Charity Concert – 2.30pm
Ditchling Village Hall. 'Musical Cheers - Songs
to put a Spring in your Step' is a concert in aid of
'The National Brain Appeal' (Tickets, £7, from
Ditchling Post Office or 01273 965036)

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Saturday 13 May 2017

# Hurst

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