

Hurst Life

Including Sayers Common & Albourne

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #33 : Dec. 2017

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yourself!



Film award for David Saitch

p. 15

Christmas services listing

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

It's December and Christmastime finally! As ever there is plenty to do in Hurst at this festive time of year – we can point you to the local churches (p.22) and what they are doing as well as other events taking place in December (p.42). Do take a look and get your tickets, write it on the calendar or speak to those around you to spread the word.

I should just point out the **Hurstpierpoint Players'** pantos which opens on 28th December. Get there if you can!

On **page 8** we have a write-up of the time of remembrance from last month. I'm grateful to **Trevor Evans** and **Jackie Eke** for providing this info for us to share.

On **page 12** the **Hurst Traders** share shopping poetry and some news – and, yes, the Co-op is now open again! And the Where am I? competition is on this spread too.

We welcome **Hurst Village Cinema** here regularly and this month it is on **page 24**. However, on **page 15** **Mike Thatcher** shares the brilliant story of the night **David Saitch** was awarded the Roebuck Cup for his contribution to independent cinema in this country. Well done David!

Hurst resident **Sheila Rance** kindly takes to the stand in our popular Village People feature on **page 26**. As ever, stories like Sheila's are a pleasure to write about, so if you know someone who'd make a great candidate – do please have a word to them and, if appropriate put us in touch. The easiest way is by email: editor@hurstlife.co.uk

Another resident, **Gail Millar**, is featured on **page 30** as we explain more about her newly created charity Befriended. In collaboration with another charity – Hope – the two organisations are planning a special Christmas Day lunch in the village for those who are especially lonely at this time of year.

Three book reviews start on **page 34**, plus we've got a new, Sussex-based recipe book to give away on **page 20**.

Happy Christmas – all the very best to you and yours.

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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

Club to close after 50 years

By Geoff Farmer, president

Sadly the Hurst Afternoon Club will be closing its doors at the end of the year.

The club was established nearly fifty years ago by a group of Hurst residents and launched as the Over 60s club with a view to getting retired folk together for a monthly meeting at the Village Centre where they could be entertained by a speaker and generally socialise over tea and biscuits. A walking group was organised as were regular day trips out by mini bus.

Good times have been had by one and all over many years and I would like to thank everyone associated with the club for their support.

The last Hurst Afternoon Club meeting will be held on 5th December at 2.15pm in the Village Centre.

Food boxes to help those in need

Seasonal food boxes can be a lifeline for those who live in very difficult circumstances. As we near the Christmas festivities please think of leaving your boxes or goods at either Janton News (46 High Street, Hurstpierpoint) or, alternatively, at Budgens Supermarket in Hassocks.



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Downlands students pay tribute to WWI soldier

In October 28 Year 10 students took a day trip to Belgium to explore medicine and surgery used on the Western Front during the First World War.

Students visited the site of a gas attack, dressing station and casualty clearing station. Students were given the opportunity to handle original WWI artefacts including a rifle and medical kit.

They ended the day by paying tribute to Lt Stanley James Peatfield who served in the 9th Royal Berkshire Regiment attached to the Machine Gun Corp for four months before losing his life. Lt Peatfield lived at Willow Brook House in Hassocks. He was the youngest son of Henry and Annie Peatfield and his father was a dentist. Stanley had just started his dentistry course in London when he was called up.

He was 22 years old at the time of his death. A tribute to Lt. Peatfield was read at his graveside and the students laid a wreath in his memory.



England cricket call for George

Former Hurst College pupil George Garton joined the England cricket squad in Australia last week having been called up for the side's final warm-up match before the Ashes series started.

George, who joined Hurst College in the Prep School and left in 2015, is a product of the Sussex Cricket youth programme, first representing the county at under-10 level. After spending two years in the Academy, he signed his first professional contract as an 18-year-old at the end of 2015.

A left-arm seamer, George made his first team debut for Sussex at the beginning of the 2016 season, and since then has played eight first class, ten one-day and twelve T20 matches for Sussex, taking 46 wickets across all formats. He has recently signed a two-year contract extension, which will see him stay with Sussex Cricket until at least the end of the 2020 season.



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Peter Pan flies into Hurst

It's Pantomime time again! Oh - yes it is!

This year's show is a traditional panto based on J.M. Barrie's story of Peter Pan – lots of Pirates, Indians, Lost Boys, Mermaids and a fairy called Tinkerbell. This hilarious version, written by Tracy Rogers, will be a joy for all the family, with a lot of jokes and some great songs. Local singer Sam Nixon will once more be taking on the role of Principal Boy, this time as a thigh-slapping Peter Pan.

There will be evening shows at 7.30pm on 28th & 29th December and January 5th, with matinées at 1pm on 30th & 31st December, 1st, 6th and 7th January and at 5pm on 30th December, 1st and 6th January.

Tickets from £10 adult, £6 Child (under 12), £28 Family (2 adult + 2 children). Available online at www.hurstplayers.org.uk or from Clifford Dann on Hurstpierpoint High Street.

*Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year*



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Hurstpierpoint remembered



Photos: Jackie Eke Photography

By Trevor Evans, Parade Marshal, RBL

On behalf of the Hurstpierpoint & Albourne Branch of the Royal British Legion I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the various organisations who took part in the village Remembrance Parade. The bearing and dress of the participants was a credit to all. I would also like to thank Rev Jane Willis and assistance curate Debbie Beer for the church service, along with Olivia Root of the 2nd Hurstpierpoint Guides who read the 23rd Psalm, John Burns for the Gospel reading and Major Colin Richardson MBE for the address. Once again the names of the fallen from both the first and second world wars were read out by pupils from our local school.

In order for the parade to proceed due to the police being unable to provide cover I was thankful to the

seven marshals who took charge of the road junctions in ensure the safety of the participants. Due to the disbandment of the NTC Band who used to lead our parade some years ago I was very lucky last year and again this year to obtain the services of three members of the Steadfast Band who did us proud. Unfortunately our bugler was unable to attend at short notice but Colin came to the rescue downloading The Last Post and Reveille on his mobile phone and played over the public address system.



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Marvellous music at Hurst



By Theresa Gilsean

The renowned Chanctonbury Chorus is once again joining with choirs at Hurstpierpoint College, this time to perform Brahms' German Requiem. Many will remember that their joint performance of the Verdi Requiem two years ago was simply tremendous.

The concert takes place in the Chapel of Hurstpierpoint College on Sunday 10th December at 7.30pm.

The soloists will be Lesley Jane Rogers (soprano), who is well known to local audiences for her beautiful and vibrant singing, and James Cleverton (baritone) who is

now making a great name for himself in opera in London and abroad. The Requiem will be conducted by Siobhan Denning.

In addition, Neil Matthews will conduct the College Chamber Choir in Vaughan Williams' Toward the Unknown Region and under his baton the professional orchestra will perform the Organ Concerto by Poulenc, with Kate Bray as the soloist.

Tickets are £12 and will be available from a member of either chorus, or Reception at Hurstpierpoint College or on the door.

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Shopping starts in Hurst

As lights begin to dim and with the fire burning bright
being the 24th December, Christmas Day is well in sight.

With a pat on the back I feel so content
everything is ready with not one lament

why is this year different? I hear you ask
because at Hurst High Street I completed every Christmas task.

My to-do list as always, was rather long
but I couldn't bear the thought of the Brighton throng

So the village it was, and oh my! what I found
Like a man on a mission, I was a hound.

First of the Advent, I needed Christmas cards,
I found so many to choose from to send my regards.

Funny and festive, or really sincere,
A personal way to spread the Christmas cheer

Now the presents were a challenge with so many to please
But shopping in Hurst, I succeeded with ease,

Gifts for young or old, girls, or boys
the village shops had all the best toys

With a handbag for Mum and a mug and candle for sis,
Some port for my partner, wouldn't go amiss!

A gift voucher, for that friend who has it all,
and all without stepping foot in a mall!

I got a stocking for Fluffy - we all deserve a treat,
listening to the carol service in the background, their sound so sweet

Stocking fillers galore, and all my presents were bought,
Christmas shopping complete and my stress levels - nought.

All in time for lunch, a mulled wine and quick bite,
Christmas Shopping at Hurst High Street, what a delight!

For the turkey - the butcher was an obvious choice
and our favourite cheese from the deli - after all it's a time to rejoice

And today was even better, for before the celebrations start
I popped to have my hair and nails done, to be sure I look the part

The flowers and Christmas garlands are all on their way
The local wine is decanted, no time to delay.

So come Christmas next year, where will I shop?
For my vote Hurst village is definitely top!

Time to get your last minute presents from the High Street

Hurstpierpoint shops will be opening their doors into the evening for the annual Late Night Shopping event, this year held on Thursday 21st December.

Enjoy an evening of festive cheer but also bagging some fantastic bargains for your gift list. As always there's free parking, so come and make the most of your local High Street and have a stress-free shopping experience!

Co-op now OPEN!

Residents will be pleased to note that the Co-op has now reopened back in its original High Street location. The site has been fully revamped and expanded since its closure after the fire back in September 2016.



December News



- Sunday opening 10th & 17th December 12-4 pm – **Ashley & Thomas, Raven**
- Late night shopping Thursday 21st December 5-8pm
- **Poponin** Santa Party 21st December (tickets available) – leave the children whilst you shop in the evening
- Christmas Eve Opening (Sunday 24th December) 10- 2pm
- Hurst Traders would like to wish all their customers a Merry Christmas and thank them for their custom throughout the year.

What's New | Offers



- Christmas food orders pre-book by visiting Hurst High Street or phoning; Meat (**Clive Miller**), Fruit (**Gibsons**), Flowers (**Lewisiana**), Deli items (**Hampers**) Wine (**South Down Cellars**).
- **Raven** – Gourmet Chocolate Pizza – adult and children's toppings, yummy! – stocking fillers under £5.
- **Poponin** - Santa's Express Post Box operating 1st December through to 21st December
- **The Fig Tree** – Game season is here - Mallard, Partridge & Venison our A La Carte Menu.
- **Pierpoint Pets** – Barking Bakery cakes for Dogs – treat time!

The prize

50% off a single spend in Raven (up to the value of £50 before discount)



Competition Time

- Look for the 'Where am I?' sticker in shop windows on Hurst High Street
- Go into the shops and find where the photo (left) was taken
- Check with the shop assistant that you're right!
- If you are, message the 'Hurst Open for Business' facebook page with your name, phone number and answer, or leave your details with the shop
- The winner will be selected at random and notified by text message
- The winner will also be published in next month's issue of Hurst Life and posted on the Hurst Open for Business Facebook page

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David scoops the cup

By Mike Thatcher

Here's a tip for you: if you want to travel incognito do not carry a huge silver cup around with you. This is what David Saitch learned after being awarded the prestigious Roebuck Cup at the Film Society of the Year Awards at Sheffield last month. 'Go on my son, champion' shouted one taxi driver out of his window. Others honked their horns. Conversations were struck on up the train home and even on a London escalator at the sight of this huge trophy.

The evening before, we were in our seats at the Sheffield Showrooms having been awarded a distinction for marketing earlier in the ceremony. I was very pleased and David looked pleased, although underneath I could tell he was chuntering about what more he had to do to win the darn thing.

"The Roebuck Cup is awarded to those remarkable individuals..." continued Deborah Parker, the chief exec of Cinema for All. My mind was wandering and David was texting Manon, asking what more he had to win the darn marketing award. *"...names have been engraved upon the Roebuck Cup since 1979 - men and women who have given that extra something to the film society sector..."*

At least we get our photo taken with Danny Leigh and Derek Malcolm for our marketing award, I thought. It then occurred to me that I was wearing the same dark top I had been at the last two awards. Oh well, no one will notice.

"...known to many for his attendance at this event, year after year, his continual support of groups all over the country..." Well, it's a man this year, I mused. *"... he has been running his own group for many years, bringing great cinema to his community in West Sussex".*

In true sitcom fashion David and I exchanged a glance. *"...several years ago he set up the UK Film Societies Facebook page to bring you all together..."*

"Oh flip", said David, (I may have misheard), as he realised he would have to go on stage and say something. The tributes continued as he gathered his thoughts: Katie Brandwood of Stanley's Film Club said:

"We are indebted to David for enabling us to get back on our feet after losing access to our equipment, along

with our long-term venue. In response to a plea for help on the UK Film Societies group in May, David arranged for the spare projector at his own film society, the Hurst Village Cinema, to be given to us on extended loan, going out of his way to handover the projector in a matter of hours."

David strode to the stage and modestly accepted the award. "All I did was create a Facebook page, it took 20 minutes."

Back in Hurst, David reflects: "Blimey, it is sinking in. I had some really lovely email messages from Jaq, Abi and Deborah (Cinema for All) all saying in different ways that it was clear I didn't realise what an impact I had had on the whole movement. Before I came along, all film societies and community cinemas worked in isolation and only got together once a year, and I had transformed it into a totally collaborative movement with people sharing ideas, asking for and receiving help, discussing things and helping each other on a virtually a daily basis."

With David and Manon Saitch at the helm, Hurst Village Cinema has been nominated and received awards every year since it started and it now has one of the largest! Something for David and the village to be very proud of.

For the full citation given at the awards and more photos please visit www.hurstfilms.com/news.html



Sayers Common Community Shop break-in

On 1st November there was a break-in at The Community Shop in Sayers Common.

"Two hooded youngsters tried to break into our Community Shop," says Jane Cheshire (pictured, with John Banks), one of the volunteers there.

"CCTV shows that while one was standing guard, the other tried to climb through the window and triggered off the alarm. Panicked, he attempted to get out via the Community Hall, but unsuccessful went out of the window again!" continues Jane.

Thankfully, nothing was taken and minimal damage was made to the window.

The success of the shop means that we are able to expand. Building work is starting at the front. It also means that we can use surplus funds to support local projects and good causes. If you or your organisation has an idea which could get a boost, or even a start, then call in and get an application form, or talk to the team in the shop to find out more.

The recently revamped Community Shop is entirely run by volunteers and is open from Mondays to Fridays from 7.30am to 6.30pm and at weekends from 8am to 2pm. Call 01273 834224 for more information.



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Hurstpierpoint turkey time

Anthony Harris' family has been farming turkeys at the site off Langton Lane in Hurst for over 30 years. In fact it is the only farm in the county to hold the prestigious 'Golden Turkey' quality assurance guarantee. The mark is about the eating quality, welfare standards and environmental responsibility. Anthony and the team have been gearing up for this busy time of year since June, when the day-old turkeys arrive on the farm. "Even the family Golden Retrievers help," Anthony said. "They are often called upon to help round up and then drive the free range birds back into their night shelters, something the dogs love to do and the turkeys become very used to!"

Find out more about ordering your turkey - see page 7.



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Top tips for your tree

Here's some simple tips for keeping your Christmas tree fresh and fragrant all through the festive period from John Main, Oakgates Christmas Tree Farm in Scaynes Hill.

The key to good needle retention and maintaining a healthy looking Christmas tree is freshness. When choosing a tree a good guide is that a heavy tree is still holding moisture whilst a light tree has dried out. Better still choose a tree that is still growing and it's an easier way to judge size and shape.

Before bringing your tree into your home and placing in a stand, cut 1cm off the base of the trunk. This ensures that the tree stem is open and will take up water immediately the tree is secured in its stand. The same should be done if you are displaying the tree outside, but anchor it to a wall approximately half way up the tree with a suitable tie.

Position away from any radiators or open fires.

Trees are very thirsty! They may drink between ½ and two litres every day, so always use a water holding stand with a capacity of two litres.

With your tree watered, remove the netting and start on the business of decoration.

Check the stand daily and fill with fresh water as needed.

A Christmas tree is a natural product cared for by the grower for six to ten years before coming into your home. It is a plantation tree, grown for your enjoyment and not taken from natural woodland. For every tree sold it is common practice to plant a new sapling in its place. Choosing a tree can be great fun for all the family. Some Christmas tree farms operate a 'choose and cut' scheme (you choose, they cut). Trees can be taken away immediately or labelled for collection on a date nearer to Christmas. They are all different, so enquire first.

At the end of the Christmas season recycle your tree. Most Local Authorities operate a chipping scheme. In Hurstpierpoint there is a collection point at Trinity Road Car Park.

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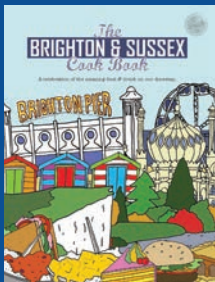


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Stuck for a present idea?

Launched last month, The Brighton and Sussex Cook Book features over 25 recipes and aims to promote diverse and vibrant cuisines, a unique and sometimes quirky approach to catering, and puts focus on the foodies behind the business.



MasterChef winner of 2013, Steven Edwards, features as a familiar face and supplies an exclusive recipe to inspire readers to dust off their apron.

Steven says: "I am really excited to be featured in the Brighton & Sussex Cook Book. To be surrounded by such amazing produce and be part of a dynamic food scene makes me very proud."

Hurst Life has a copy available to GIVE AWAY to one lucky reader, in a random draw. Simply email your name and address to competition@hurstlife.co.uk before 14th December 2017.

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Christmas donations for animals

By Sarah Solomon, Practice Manager

Based in Ringmer, Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare has been caring for animals for over 60 years. As a registered charity they are totally reliant on voluntary donations to finance their work which includes: alleviating animal cruelty, rehoming unwanted and rescued pets, providing long term sanctuary for animals in need and educating people about how to care for animals.

Year on year the amazing team at Raystede and their supporters reach out, across Sussex, to more and more animals in need of help. They currently care for over 2,000 animals a year, have rehomed over 1,000 animals this year and provide sanctuary to many more.

Justine Crookall, a committed supporter, has been running the Raystede Christmas box appeal for the past four years. Our team at Heath Vets are delighted to once again be involved in this worthy appeal and we are asking our clients and the lovely residents of Sussex to add one more gift to their Christmas shopping list.

Quite simply we are asking you to fill a bag or box with treats or toys for your favourite animal. Raystede support all creatures great and small so you can select from dogs, cats, horses, donkeys, birds, chicken, tortoises, rabbits, guinea pigs or even terrapins. We can provide details of a specific wish list but essentially any sealed food, treats and toys would be sincerely appreciated but no fresh food items please.

Heath Vets in Hurstpierpoint (9 High Street) or Burgess Hill (321 Junction Road) are acting as drop off points for your donations. Closing date for drop off's is 14th December. Justine will then be taking all your incredible donations to Raystede so that they are ready for Christmas.



For further information please visit Raystede Mid Sussex Christmas Box Appeal 2017 on Facebook.

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Holy Trinity Parish Church

High Street, Hurstpierpoint
Contact: Rev Jane Willis - 01273 835109
hurstparishoffice@gmail.com
www.hurstpierpointholyltrinity.org.uk

Wednesday 6th December

7.30pm Mothers' Union Advent Service and
Shared Supper

Tickets available from Judy Leech 01273 833954

Sunday 17th December

6pm Candlelit Carol Service followed by
mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December

3pm & 4.30pm Crib Services with All Join In Nativity
– children are invited to dress as a
favourite nativity character

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8am Christmas Eucharist

9.45am Christmas Family Eucharist

Hurstpierpoint Evangelical Church

149 High Street, Hurstpierpoint
Contact: Rev David Lowries
churchoffice@hppevangelical.org.uk
www.hppevangelical.org.uk

Sunday 17th December

10.30am Morning Service

4pm Seasonal Reflections - Carols and Cakes

Sunday 24th December

10.30am Morning Service

Christmas Day

10am Come and celebrate with us our
Saviour's birth

Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church

42 Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint
Contact: Rev Irena Byron – 01444 235033

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Celebration

St Luke's Catholic Church

Meeting at St Edward's, Lodge Lane, Keymer
unless otherwise stated
Contact: Fr Trevor Wellard - 01273 845384

Friday 15th December

7.30pm Advent Service of Reconciliation

Friday 22nd December

7pm Service of Readings and Carols for
Advent and Christmas followed by
mulled wine and mince pies

Saturday 23rd December

6pm Vigil Mass for Fourth Sunday of
Advent (at St Luke's, Cuckfield Road,
Hurstpierpoint)

Sunday 24th December

10.30am Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

7pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord
(Children are invited to come dressed as
a favourite Nativity figure)

Christmas Day

9.30am Mass of the Nativity of the Lord

The Point

Meeting at St Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill
unless otherwise stated
Contact: Rev Will Kemp - 01444 230830
info@thepointchurch.co.uk
www.thepointchurch.co.uk

Sunday 10th December

11am & 2pm The Point Panto - A Great Western
(at Burgess Hill Girls, Keymer Road,
Burgess Hill)

Tickets for the panto are free and available from
www.thepointpanto.eventbrite.co.uk

Sunday 17th December

10.30am All Age Carols

6pm Carols Celebration

Sunday 24 December

10.30am The Point Christmas Worship Party

Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Day Celebration



The Parish of Albourne, Sayers Common and Twineham

Contact: Rev James Foley - 07545 831961
ascat.ad@yahoo.com

Friday 15th December

6.30 - 8.30pm Carol Singing around the Parish
(meeting at Duke of York, Sayers
Common and finishing in Albourne Hall)

Saturday 16th December

10am - 4pm Coffee and Cribs (at Christ Church,
Sayers Common)

Pop up café, carols and an opportunity to visit the
beautiful exhibition of Christmas Nativity sets

7pm A Sussex Christmas Carol Service (at St
Peter's Twineham)

An Evening of Carols, Folk Music, Song and Verse from
Old Sussex. With mulled wine and mince pies too!

Sunday 17th December

4pm Christingle (at Christ Church, Sayers
Common)

Wednesday 20th December

7pm Carols by Candlelight - 9 Lessons and
Carols (at St Bartholomew's, Albourne)

Sunday 24 December

4pm Crib Service (at St Bartholomew's,
Albourne)

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Day Service (at Christ
Church, Sayers Common)



By Mike Thatcher

We have three events for December in the run up to Christmas.

Thursday 14th December 8pm we show **Elle (18)**. The imperious Isabelle Hupert is once again riveting as she plays Michèle Leblanc, a successful Parisian career woman who is determined not to be defined by the men in her life. When she is attacked at home by a masked intruder she appears to shrug it off; she doesn't report it to the police and goes about her business as if nothing has happened. When she is contacted by her attacker a game of cat and mouse ensues and it becomes clear that all has not been forgiven in her mind. Not just a revenge noir, it houses Gallic social satire in a wild, provocative, dark and funny film.

Thursday 7th December 7pm – NT Live: Young Marx. Broadcast live from the Bridge Theatre London and directed by Nicholas Hytner it reunites the team behind the Broadway and West End hit One Man, Two Guvnors. It is 1850 and Europe's most feared terrorist is hiding in Dean Street, Soho. Broke, restless and horny, the revolutionary is a frothing combination of intellect brilliance, invective, wit and childlike emotional illiteracy.

Creditors, spies, rival revolutionary factions and prospective seducers of his beautiful wife all circle like vultures. His writing blocked, his marriage dying, his friend Engels (Oliver Chris, Green Wing, The Office), is in despair. There is still no one in London however, who can give you a better night out than Karl Marx (Rory Kinnear, Threepenny Opera, Othello).

Finally on **Sunday 17th December 3pm** we show **Their Finest (PG)**. The year is 1940 and the British Ministry turns to propaganda films to boost morale at home. In charge of the female dialogue is Catrin Cole (Gemma Arterton) and although her husband does not approve of her job, her natural flair soon gets noticed by the cynical, witty lead scriptwriter Buckley (San Claflin). Soon they set about making an epic feature based on the Dunkirk rescue, starring the gloriously vain, former matinee idol Ambrose Hilliard (Bill Nighy). With bombs falling all around them Catrin, Buckley and the colourful cast and crew work furiously to make a film that will warm the hearts of the nation.

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Sheila Rance

VILLAGE PEOPLE



Photo: Claire Goldsmith Photography

By Michèle Copeland

If you want to have a career in writing, you could certainly take a feather from Sheila's hat.

Sheila Rance, a published author, initially moved to the village about 40 years ago with her husband, and then had two daughters, both of whom attended St Lawrence Primary School, before going to Downlands School.

Whilst the girls were schooled at St Lawrence, Sheila and a group of parents decided to help sponsor and build the swimming pool there, aided and designed by her husband David, at the time when Mr Harrison was Head, in the late 1970s.

"The original drawings are probably still there," she says.

"There have been many changes since we've been here. Namely, far fewer shops on the High Street, but one of the long standing ones is the greengrocer's shop, which is a family run business. However, some things never change, such as the St Lawrence Fair. It remains a constant in Hurstpierpoint!" says Sheila.

Sheila qualified as a teacher in 1966. Initially, she taught at St Wilfred's in Burgess Hill, but decided to give herself a professional break, to bring up both her daughters.

Then she became one of the Downlands' teachers in a team supporting pupils with dyslexia.

"My interest in Dyslexia and Special Needs followed on from some assignments and research on reading and literacy undertaken as part of my BA with the Open University," continues Sheila. "Serendipity rather than a definite career move. When I was looking for a job, I saw

the ad for a peripatetic dyslexia tutor, on a new team set up by West Sussex County Council, to go into secondary schools and it sounded fascinating. I was lucky enough to get the job. And it really was fascinating. General Special Needs, setting up a Literacy Unit and then, much later, becoming a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) seemed a natural progression after that."

Sheila has been a member of the staff at Downlands Community School for many years and still goes there once a week to help assess children with literacy difficulties.

"Many of the children diagnosed with special needs have become very successful indeed," she says.

"Several of them have overcome challenges and worked with their dyslexia to go on to take degrees, and many have established themselves in interesting careers. I had one child who discovered that he could read much more fluently when he turned the book upside-down! Amazing though it was, we thought he should also be able to read the right way up, so that he could read signs etc. without having to stand on his head," she adds with a smile!

"We had many successes with children reading using coloured overlays to minimise wobbly dynamic print, which sometimes happens with black text on a white background."

"I'm practically the longest serving member of staff there and the only author," she continues with a twinkle in her eyes, as we continue to talk at Marram Trading on the High Street.

"I have served under five headmasters there, Mr Pybus, Mr Perkins, Mr Walter Clarke, Mrs Rose Heatherton - the new building is named after her, and currently Mr Mark Wignal."

Asked about how her love of writing came about, Sheila said: "As a child I used to keep notes and write in red note books supplied at the time by Woolworths. I remember them well. And most of the stories."

Thinking of writing a new novel set in Italy, Sheila decided to try her luck in a competition to win a holiday in Italy in Women's Weekly, a magazine famed for its fiction.

She won the first prize on 28th February 1989, which was a computer - an Atari word processing system - and a fortnight's trip for two in Ravello, Italy.

"I thought I might write something historical linked to Italy, but I haven't done it yet! It's still simmering on the back burner."

Nonetheless, Sheila was obviously delighted with her trip and subsequently wrote two further stories for the same magazine: Heron's Reach and Unicorn Summer.

The competition winner, Heron's Reach, subsequently went on to be published in large print for a classic paperback publishing company.

Thereafter, other short stories and a novella were published during the 90s: including Silent Promises for the My Weekly Story Library, which also went into large print.

When Sheila's girls had grown up, she decided to do an MA at Bath Spa University, when most of us would be thinking about retiring!

"I had left an unfinished project in one of my drawers for years and I needed something to spur me on," she said.

So she decided to do a part-time two year MA. The course aims were to cover writing for young adults and finished with writing up a dissertation of 40,000 words (for which she won The United Artist's Literary Agency Prize for the most promising story).

"Over the two year course, I had to travel back and forth from Brighton to Bath Spa, as well as teaching part-time and tutoring a creative writing course to finance my studies - which was a logistical challenge," she continues.

By 2010 Sheila had not only obtained an MA, written and published the first of her trilogy but also become a grandmother.

All three books Sun Catcher, Storm Chaser and Story Singer have been published by Orion.

Her books were launched at Danny House in the village and subsequently in Bath.

"Storm Chaser was probably the most challenging, because I was editing my first for publication while writing it and needing to wait and check that there would be no major changes which would impact on the new story, but I was also aware that I had a tight deadline to work to and yet wanted to develop the story of one of the boy characters Razek, as well as continuing Maia's adventure," she adds.

Sheila enjoys her involvement with 'Loud Literature', which is showcased at the library once a year during the Hurst Festival.

"I do have other interests besides writing," she continues. "I enjoy dabbling in pottery and wood carving. I walk and now have a vegetable plot. And my children, of course! My elder daughter now runs her own design business and my younger is a freelance journalist and an editor in Bath," she says proudly.

Incredibly, Sheila has other projects 'in the tank' with other writing projects still in the pipeline. For those of us who haven't already read her three published books, I would certainly recommend them, not only for youngsters and young adults, but for more mature readers as well.

They would certainly make good bedtime reading over the Christmas holidays.





ARTIST OF THE MONTH

By Julie Anne Wray

I was born in South London and had an interest in drawing and painting from a young age. Living in relative proximity to the art galleries of London I was introduced to modern art and that of the masters early on. The modernist artist Francis Bacon had a huge influence. His work completely overwhelmed my sense of what art was. His distorted figures reinforced the interest I had in the human soul and what lies beneath the mask we all wear. I studied art at Brighton and continued to develop my love of the human figure and portrait. During my period there I was introduced to other artists such as Egon Schiele and his portrayal of the tortured soul, I spent a great deal of time in the life classes.



Today my style and method have changed somewhat although my love of the human emotion remains the same.

I work in oils and acrylics and have more recently been mixing plaster with other media to achieve a fresco like finish. My work recently has been on the theme of Women of Passion with a loose connection to heroines of the past and I have had some success with this idea including a painting shortlisted for the National Open in 2016.

I have lived in Hurstpierpoint for over thirty years and taught drawing and painting classes for fifteen of those, I have exhibited in the Hurst Open Studios from the beginning and on many following occasions. I remain today as passionate about my work and my subject matter; some of my works are in private collections in Hurstpierpoint and beyond.

It is important for art to be seen and artists, whether amateur or professional, to exhibit their work and for the public to see the diversity of styles. We are lucky to have so many artists in the village.

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New charity reaches lonely over 65s

BEFRIENDED

By Michèle Copeland

Currently, one in six of the UK population is aged 65 and over, by 2050 one in four will be.

According to the results of a poll carried out for Jo Cox, before her untimely death, almost three-quarters of older people in the UK are lonely and more than half of those haven't talked to anyone about how they felt.

Gransnet (the over-50s social networking site) is one of nine organisations - including Age UK and the Alzheimer's Society - working to address the issue of loneliness in older people.

So why did Gail Millar, Hurstpierpoint resident for 20 years, decide to add her charity 'Befriended' to the list and how did it all start?

Gail had worked for the Torch Centre, in the village, for nearly 19 years and decided that it was time to move on. "The last day corresponded not only to my 50th birthday, but equally to my daughter's wedding held at the Centre," she says smiling.

Over the years that people had stayed at Torch for their holidays, Gail recognised that a common factor was loneliness. "Loneliness is an epidemic in this country," continues Gail. "There are large numbers of isolated people living alone, even right here - in our village."

Gail was invited to start a befriending scheme in Eastbourne which led to her meeting with church leaders in the Mid Sussex area only to realise that the need was great locally. Both Gail and her husband have enjoyed living in the village for many years and decided to stay in the village and set up a new charity here with her long-term friend Helen Watkin.

Though the charity has a Christian ethos, it supports people of any faith or none.

Officially launched in October on International People's Day by the Bishop of Lewes, Richard Jackson,

150 elderly people attended a tea party at St Paul's Catholic College in Burgess Hill.

Typical referrals to Befriended come from, among others, community groups, churches, GPs and family members.

"We have already been approached by the local NHS Proactive Care Team, whose main aim is to provide support to the community," says Gail.

Though our dynamic, local Befriended group is relatively new - it is part of a network across the country.

We have contacted churches in Burgess Hill, Hurstpierpoint and Hassocks to give presentations to ask members of the community over 18, to give up one hour a week, on a volunteer basis to visit an elderly person.

"The aim is not to encourage elderly people to become more dependent, rather to be encouraged to eventually go into the community to meet other people," adds Gail.

"All our volunteers are DBS checked and trained and then matched with one of our elderly people to help them engage again with society," continues Gail. "If anyone in Hurstpierpoint has a spare hour a week to visit a lonely person or knows anyone who would benefit, please do get in touch."

Befriended also aims to hold regular monthly events and the next one will be a Community Christmas lunch on Christmas Day from 1-5pm, at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, hosted by two local charities - Befriended and HOPE. If you are, or someone you know is, on your own at Christmas or if Christmas Day is a difficult day for you please call 07900 215600 (or email: admin@befriended.org).

For more general information please get in touch with: helen@befriended.org or gail@befriended.org or visit the website: www.Befriended.org



Cuckfield Christmas Tree Festival 2017

Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield

Friday 8th December
11:30 - 7:30pm
Saturday 9th December
11:30 - 6:30pm
Sunday 10th December
11:30-5pm
Followed by a carol
service at 6pm

Admission: £5
Children: Free

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READER COMPETITION

Holiday on Ice will be returning to The Brighton Centre in January with new spectacular production – TIME – and we have a family ticket to give away to one lucky Hurst Life reader.

Directed and choreographed by David Liu, who is renowned for his innovative and exciting choreography, TIME will open at The Brighton Centre on Friday 5th January and run until Sunday 14th January 2018.

Celebrating 'the best and most memorable times of our lives', the show is described as a photo album filled with 'snapshots' of memories we all share in common - falling in love, a first kiss, dancing 'til dawn, a memorable night on the town, a great vacation, a thrilling adventure, and everyone's wish to slow down time as it goes by too fast!

To win a family ticket (for four) to the opening night, Friday 5th January, just email your name and phone number to competition@hurstlife.co.uk. Entries must be received by 14th December 2017 and the winner will be selected at random and notified by email after this date.

Tickets for Holiday on Ice: TIME at The Brighton Centre are on sale now and are available from www.brightoncentre.co.uk or by contacting the box office on 0844 847 1538. Family and group discounts available.



TERMS & CONDITIONS

Tickets are valid to see Holiday on Ice: TIME at The Brighton Centre on Friday 5th January 2018 at 8pm only. Family ticket can be used by any combination of a total of 4 adults and children. At least one adult must be present. No purchase necessary. Tickets are non-exchangeable. Closing date for entries is 14th December 2017, entries received after this date will not be counted. Winners will be required to collect their tickets from box office on the night of the show. Any travel and accommodation will not be included in the prize.



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Three Wishes by Liane Moriarty

BOOK REVIEW

By Clair Stanton

Like all of Liane Moriarty's work this has a deceptively simple story, but there are darker seams running through the book: it's very funny but also explores the difficult nature of family life and how the roles you are assigned in childhood can define you and hold you back in adult life.

Lyn, Cat, and Gemma are very different from one another but are indivisibly bound together – they are triplets and share all of their secrets and hopes, or so they believe...

As the book unfolds the main story is interspersed with Sydney residents and their memories of the Kettle sisters, they live their lives on full beam and attract attention whenever they are together as a threesome and are unaware of the effect they have on bystanders.

All three of the sisters are likeable characters and the interplay and shifting allegiances between them power the novel. This book starts with the sisters celebrating their birthday at a popular restaurant and is told by the fascinated onlookers who witness their behaviour as laughter turns to bitter recriminations and a trip to the hospital.

This was Moriarty's debut novel, but the themes she developed in her later books are already present and if you enjoy this, you will probably enjoy all of her other books too.

Pick up a copy on your next visit to Hurst Library, there will be copies on display throughout December.



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5 MINUTES WITH...

Jane Willis

Jane Willis is the Rector of Hurstpierpoint at Holy Trinity Church and in her spare time she enjoys spending time with her growing family (three daughter and four grandchildren at the last count), photography, walking and exploring new places.

How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?

Three years this September gone.

What's the best thing about being here?

Being part of such a friendly, caring and lively community.

Favourite ice cream flavour?

Ginger.

How many houses have you lived in?

19

Favorite holiday destination?

Oh so hard to say – we love Cornwall – perhaps our best ever holiday was on the Greek island of Patmos.

Your most enjoyable event in the village?

Hurst Festival – with the Fair coming a close second.

Do you share your home with anyone?

Husband Gerry and chocolate lab Daisy.

Song you play the most?

It varies – currently listening to Roddy Williams singing Britten, and Stuart Townend's Vagabonds.

Mac or PC?

Both.

Your most frequented village shop?

Love them all – but probably the Co-op. Will be delighted for them to back in their building.

What's your proudest moment?

Seeing our daughters growing into amazing adults.

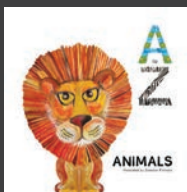
Coke, juice or water?

Juice.

Your advice for life?

Travel light, seize the moment, be kind to others and to yourself, keep short accounts.

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!



A-Z Animals by Creative Florence

BOOK REVIEW

By Claire Nash

I purchased three copies of this book when I first came across it. I'm always on the lookout for fun, interesting and visually inspiring children's books, and when I saw A-Z Animals I wanted to take it home and share it with my children, stepchildren and their friends.

The illustrations are what captivated me – Flo's use of colour, texture and form make for truly wonderful characters which make children want to pick up their own paintbrush, as well as enjoy the book itself. My favourite character is Barrington the Bear!

My children love this book, and I would wholeheartedly recommend it for any child. It makes for a unique and inspiring stocking-filler at this time of year!

Ed: This book is by a Brighton-based artist who was seeking to create an inclusive alphabet book using the easy-to-read font Dyslexie. For more information or to buy a copy, contact her directly: creativeflorence@icloud.com

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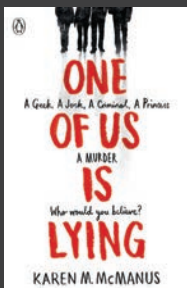
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One of us is lying by Karen M. McManus

BOOK REVIEW

By Ella Tingley, Year 8

'One of us is Lying' is one of the best murder mystery books I've ever read. It follows the lives of four ordinary teenagers who have been dragged into a world of stares and whispers when they're accused of a murder, committed in detention.

Simon, the unfortunate victim, was the creator of About That - a gossip app at Bayview High which spilt people's darkest secrets and made him unpopular with many students at the school.

Bronwyn - a star student - has a secret that could change her life completely; Nate is used to police investigations, having a drug-dealing business in his spare time; Prom Queen Addy is holding together her perfect life and Co-oper, only known for his brilliant baseball, is hiding himself from his expectant father.

Between school, police investigations and deep secrets, the four murder suspects form unlikely friendships and a puzzle-solving team.

It is written from the points of view of all four suspects, which gave me an interesting perspective of the story. If I had to rate it, the book would achieve five out of five stars. I would recommend this book to anyone aged 11 and over - it is a brilliant read full of action and suspense. I couldn't put it down! The question that kept going round my head was - who killed him?



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Prosecco, Chicken and Shallots

FINE FOOD

Ingredients (Serves 4)

3 tbsp flour, lightly seasoned with salt, freshly ground black pepper and 1 tbsp orange zest (cornflour can be used for a gluten free option)
1.5kg of chicken, mixture of thighs & drumsticks
150g pancetta, diced
12 small shallots, peeled and halved
1 red chilli, finely chopped

2 tsp chopped rosemary
500ml Prosecco or any dry sparkling wine
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Rosemary sprigs, to garnish

Tip – measure out your cooking Prosecco before your drinking quota as the dish takes a surprisingly large share of the fizz!

The Kitchen People

As seen in Real Homes Magazine and
winner of Second Nature's Real Kitchen of the Year Award.



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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.



In true Nigella style, I decided to get a touch indulgent with this festive December recipe. A wonderful excuse to crack open a bottle of Prosecco as you cook and the end result will taste all the better with a slight level of merriment! The Prosecco in this dish is added to increase the flavour and produces a syrupy and fragrant sauce. To note, alcohol evaporates after 20-30 seconds of cooking so this dish is suitable for all ages.

In addition to being a tasty and nutritional, well-rounded dish, the cooking process is very straightforward and all the ingredients can be sourced locally with a short stride from Gibson's, stopping in at Hartley's and ending your journey at Clive Miller's.

Method

1. Heat a large casserole pan with the olive oil over a medium heat. Put the seasoned flour (including the orange peel) and chicken portions into a clear plastic bag and toss until the chicken is well coated. Remove the chicken portions and brown them in batches by placing them skin side down into the pan. Transfer to plate.
2. Add the pancetta to the pan and cook until crisp. Lower the heat and add the shallots, chilli and rosemary and sauté for about 4 minutes.
3. Return the chicken to the pan, pour over the Prosecco and allow to simmer for 20–25 minutes, until a fragrant syrupy sauce begins to form. Season to taste.
4. Check that the chicken is cooked by inserting a skewer into the thickest part of the thigh – the juices should run clear.

I served this dish alongside roasted red, yellow and orange peppers and new potatoes – roasted with garlic and garnished with rosemary sprigs. A Merry Christmas to you all!

Based on a recipe from Eat like an Italian, by Catherine Fulvio

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Stories of Holy Trinity

By Miriam Patrick

On 28th October, in the final session in the Stories of Holy Trinity series, Stewart Hall gave a talk, illustrated with slides, about some of the soldiers whose names can be seen on Hurstpierpoint's War Memorials.

He began by explaining some of the processes involved in researching the lives of individuals who, contrary to many people's expectations, were not all born and brought up in Hurstpierpoint and did not therefore necessarily appear on all the relevant local census returns. Several of the men he spoke about had moved into the village from other areas and a few had already been away from home in the forces, before WWI began. Only by combing through a range of sources, including birth and death certificates, census returns, army and navy records and newspaper reports was Stewart able to build the stories of individual's lives.

The image we often have of WWI is so bound up with the trenches, that it was surprising to learn about soldiers who died in other zones of the conflict or at sea. Stewart had set out to offer some alternatives to expectations and I, for one, found that this broadened my awareness of WWI's wider impact in the world. Some of the figures for deaths of sailors when vessels were sunk were truly shocking.

Throughout his talk Stewart stayed clearly focused on the lives of the men he had researched. What he told us brought home once again, the human cost of World War I. Appropriately, especially in view of the time of year, we were led in a brief reflection and short silence by Trevor Evans from the British Legion before the talk began.

It was clear from what Stewart said, that he is really enthusiastic about his subject and that his research is an ongoing process. It began in 2014 when, along with Claire Richard (who unfortunately due to ill health could not join him on this occasion) Stewart prepared posters to mark the centenary of the start of WWI and displayed them in various places in the High Street. The talk offered an update and a different approach to the information. Though Stories of Holy Trinity is at an end for now, I hope we will be able to hear more about Stewart's research in future talks.

THANK YOU

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have made this series of talks possible. These include Stewart Hall, Claire Richard, Ian Nelson, John Norris, June Ward, Joan Booker, Liz Young. I would also like to thank Peter and Veronica Aldridge for serving hot drinks after each session and the many people who have helped to ensure the church was available and welcoming.

Sudoku #17

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

Find the solution to #17 in next month's magazine

#16 Solution

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

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

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Holiday snaps

As ever, Hurstpierpoint residents have taken their copy of the magazine away with them. Do send yours in to photos@hurstlife.co.uk



Elsie Norman 2,000m up on The Dolomites, Italy

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

December

- 5th **Hurst Afternoon Club** – 2.15pm
Final farewell and Christmas party with the children of St Lawrence School. NOTE: This is the last meeting of this club.
- 9th **Patients Participation Group Coffee Morning**
- 9th **Look Sussex Christmas Party**
- 10th **Christmas Extravaganza** – 2.30pm
Hurstpierpoint Singers provide a great way of starting the countdown to Christmas, with carols and Christmas songs for everyone to join in, as well as pieces sung by the choir. (Tickets £8 - including a glass of wine and a mince pie - from Janton News and Hassocks Hardware and will be available on the door. David 01273 831801)
- 12th **Wolstonbury WI** – 7.45pm
A Christmas Theme with Katharine Collett (Visitors welcomed. 01273 834421)
- 15th **Twinning Association Christmas Party**
- 16th **Christmas Wishes**
- 25th **Community Christmas Lunch** – 1pm
Village Centre – a four course Christmas lunch with entertainment and a gift. (More info page 30 or call Gail 07900 215600)

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

AND ELSEWHERE

December

- 6th **Mid-Sussex Ramblers Social** – 7.30pm
The Duke of York, Sayers Common (01273 835931)
- 6th **Mothers' Union Advent Service** – 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church. Includes Shared Supper. Everyone welcome. (Tickets are £5 from Judy Leech 01273 833954)
- 7th **Village Cinema Young Marx (NT LIVE)** – 7pm
The Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint
- 8th-10th **Cuckfield Christmas Tree Festival** – from 11.30am
Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield – Over 75 decorated trees adorn the church. Entry for charity.
- 9th **Coffee Morning** – 10am-12noon
Holy Trinity Church – The village Handbell Group will play carols throughout the morning. Various stalls selling jams, jewellery, knitted gifts, coloured glass decorations, home-made cakes and good as new items. Everyone welcome (Free admission)
- 9th **Burgess Hill Choral Society Concert** – 7.30pm
St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG – Haydn, Bach plus carols for choir and audience (Tickets £13 available on the door)
- 13th **The Arts Society Mid Sussex** – 10.45am
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath – 'We Three Kings: music, art poetry and legends lecture'
- 14th **Vivace Christmas Concert** – 7.30pm
Danny House – Concert in aid of St Peter & St James Hospice
- 14th **Village Cinema 'Elle' (18)** – 8pm
The Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint
- 16th **Adur Concert Band Concert** – 7.30pm
King Edward Hall, Lindfield (Tickets may be purchased from Tufnells Home, Lindfield or Jo Stevens 01444 235311)
- 17th **Village Cinema 'Their Finest' (PG)** – 3pm
The Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint
- 21st **Late Night Shopping** – 5-8pm
Shops on the High Street in Hurst
- Until 14th January
The Royal Pavilion Ice Rink – 10am-10.15pm
The Royal Pavilion's East Lawn, Brighton
The rink has an additional beginners' area, and offers penguin skate aids and skate sizes from 'just walking' to adult. There's no charge for spectators

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