

# Hurst Life

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Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #47 : Feb. 2019

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yourself!

Rob is Artist of the Month

**p. 16**

Movie magic in Hurst Village Cinema

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Village People: Mrs Cottis

**p. 22**





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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

February is the month of 'love' and it's certainly true to say that the team and I love to produce this magazine.



Whether it's a **new business** opening on the High Street (p.11) or news of a deliberate **conservation plan** for the local environment (p.15) – this community knows how to celebrate!

Along with the good times, it's also important to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have impacted those around them. It is with great pride that we share the testimonies of folk who knew and loved both **Amanda Geel** (p.21) and **David Murray** (p.31).

Christmas gives many of us occasion to celebrate at that time, but not all are able to, so two Hurst residents **Gail Millar** and **Naomi McBain** organised a special **Christmas Lunch** back in December – something we are pleased to feature on **page 27**.

**Mike Thatcher** gives us the low-down on film choices at **Hurst Village Cinema** on **page 24**. Plus he also talks to village legend **Rose Cottis** about life for her before and after the well-known local preschool. Read all about it on **page 22**.

On **page 37** **Clair Stanton** picks out a book for us to get into and **Colin McFarlin** talks **recycling** on **page 39**. When you've earned a break, head to **page 40 and 41** for some **puzzle pleasure**.

Hopefully you know we love to hear **what's going on** in the village. On this basis, if you hear of something you think we should know about, do please tell us about it to [editor@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@hurstlife.co.uk). Whether that's someone fantastic we should talk to, an event taking place here or just that you'd like to do the '**5 mins with...**'!

Finally, I must mention that the **St Lawrence Fair Committee** are after your help. On **page 35** we have printed the Voting Slip it has provided, as the team ask Hurst to decide on the theme for this year's Fair.

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### Hurst Life

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## Christmas Tree collection raises record amount

For the third year running, Hurst resident Paul Wilkinson collected and disposed of Christmas trees in return for a donation to charity. This year he raised an amazing total of well over £6,500 for Chestnut Tree House children's hospice, a charity that provides hospice care services and community support for children and young people throughout Sussex with progressive life-shortening conditions.

Paul said: "Chestnut Tree House looked after the Bushnell family from Hurstpierpoint when their beautiful Daisy was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Daisy very sadly lost her battle last year, but if it was not for the care and help that this hospice gave, their last precious moments would have been so much more difficult."

Paul was overwhelmed by the support this year and was busier than ever. "This is over £1,000 more than was raised last year, and I'm delighted it can go to such a good cause and one which is so close to the heart of many in the village."

[www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk](http://www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk)

## Hurst gets new social group

By Ann Tranter

Hurst Monthly Social Group is a new group starting this month at the Guide Hut on Trinity Road. The afternoon WI Group closed down in December and we have decided to start a new social group open to both men and women. Meetings will be on the first Wednesday of each month between 2-4pm.

The first two meetings, on 6th February and 6th March, will be free of charge. From April there will be an annual membership fee of £30.

The speaker for our first meeting in February will be Mak Norman on Anglo Saxon History. At the second meeting, on 6th March, Ian Gledhill will be speaking on Art Deco.

We would like to thank the Hurst Community Charity Shop for their grant covering the costs of these first two meetings, thus enabling this exciting project to get off the ground.



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# Medal success for Hurst skiers

By Gillian Luis-Ravelo

The Hurst College ski team performed well and brought home a whole host of medals from the Independent Schools Ski and Snowboard Championships in December at Les Deux Alpes, which attracted more than 400 racers from 21 schools.

With exceptional conditions on arrival, the Hurst team of 30 racers, from Year 7 to Upper Sixth, went straight into training. The programme was tight, with just two days of training before three days of racing, but, with a handful of seasoned racers to help with training, progress was good.

The first day of slalom racing was called off due to the conditions - too much snow! On the second day of racing, the giant slalom competition got underway on time in blue sky conditions and proved very fruitful for the Hurst skiers. Harvey Vans Agnew and Lucy Bingle-Williams completed the double, with Harvey winning the senior boys and U18 boys titles and Lucy winning the senior girls and U18 girls gold medals. In addition, the senior boys took team silver and the senior girls took team bronze.

With more blue sky conditions set for the final day, the decision was made to rerun the slalom



competition. Once again, Harvey and Lucy managed to complete the gold medal double in both of their individual races, as Tom Spurin and Toby Vans Agnew took bronze medals in the U18 and U14 boys' categories respectively. In addition, the senior boys took team gold and the senior girls took team bronze.

In the overall senior mixed competition, Hurst took team bronze.

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# Hub building project making progress

Local residents had their first chance to see how work is progressing on the new Hurstpierpoint Community Hub in mid-December. The former Ex Serviceman's Club at Court Buses Recreation Ground has been empty since December 2017, and later that month a serious fire destroyed the interior of the building. Mid Sussex District Council is working with Hurstpierpoint Parish Council and local community groups to bring the building back into use as a community facility.

The new community building will be a flexible space that can be used in different ways by local community groups. A large hall area will be available for social functions like wedding receptions and birthday parties, as a space for social groups to meet or as a venue for positive activities like exercise classes. An area will be provided for community meetings to be held and it is hoped that a nursery provider will use the space to provide local childcare for nearby families.



Councillor Colin Trumble said: "Since November last year we've been working hard to bring this community centre back to life. We are hoping that by the middle of February it will be ready to use, with an opening probably sometime around Easter."

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# A UK first at Holy Trinity

By Mike Clemens

On 9th March Brighton Consort, under director James Dixon, will present a programme in Hurstpierpoint entitled 'Victoria with a Twist'. The concert will feature several glorious choral works from the late 16th century, including the much loved Requiem by the Spanish composer Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611). Brighton Consort will also be including a UK first performance of three pieces based on the music of Victoria by the contemporary Australian composer Joseph Twist. His work crosses genres ranging from ancient vocal music, opera and contemporary orchestral music to jazz, cabaret and film music. In 2011, Joe wrote his Victoria Triptych for the 400th anniversary of Victoria's death and the work was performed by the Consort of Melbourne, St James' King Street Sydney Choir and St Mary's Cathedral Sydney Choir in that year.

Brighton Consort's concert will take place in Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 9th March at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.brightonconsort.org.uk](http://www.brightonconsort.org.uk) or by ringing 01273 833746 or on the door.

If you can't make it to the event in Hurstpierpoint, the choir will also be presenting the same programme in St Paul's Church, West Street, Brighton the following day at 6pm.



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## Shoeboxes bring much hope

By Caz Richards

A big thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox full of Christmas gifts. A total of 92 shoeboxes were collected in 2018, beating the year before by 12. This coming year I reckon, with a bit of planning, we can do over 150. I have enlisted the shop Hurstpierpoint Alterations to take in boxes so we can collect all year round as I know a few people missed the deadline.

As Mother Teresa once said: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

Link to Hope's mission is to rebuild lives and communities in Eastern Europe through Education and Social Care, helping in particular the elderly and children regardless of race, colour or creed, with no qualifying criteria other than that they are poor and marginalised.

The Link to Hope team deliver to some of the poorest people in Eastern Europe. They live in overwhelming conditions, with little heating, no sanitation, no access to clean drinking water and very limited electricity supply.

When the shoebox delivery team goes out in the early winter the conditions are appalling with thick deep mud, and later the winter temperatures can drop to -20C. The team takes shoeboxes to schools, preschools, churches,

community centres, shanty villages and many homes out of reach and they are all gratefully received. Link to Hope works with these communities all year round and the shoeboxes allows relationships to be built in order to tackle education and social care.

In the Ukraine the team was taken to an old hotel where there were refugee families with disabled children escaping from the war in the east. These families were forced into poverty just because they have a disabled child. Unable to survive without government support, the families are forced to leave their homes and become refugees in the west. Here the shoeboxes are gratefully received.

At the end of October this year, I will be collecting shoeboxes again on behalf of the village for Link to Hope, please get on board. I am sure a few of the shops in the village will act again as collection points for me, and I will appeal to collect on behalf of the school.

There are many other ways to help; the website is [www.linktohope.co.uk](http://www.linktohope.co.uk). Check it out. They are always looking for volunteers, packing boxes, delivery drivers, working in one of their shops, challenge events, donation etc.

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# Working close to home

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Hurstpierpoint welcomes a new business venture this month with the opening of Desk Village on the High Street. It has been established by Hurst residents Matt Rosine and Danny Chadburn who, between them, currently have five children at St Lawrence School. The pair have already had a lot of interest from business professionals in the village who are looking to work in a shared space, rather than working from home.

"Hurstpierpoint has an incredibly high concentration of professionals and business owners," said Matt. "Many who work for global brands, television and record producers, for example, and we are looking to build

a business community for those looking for human interaction during their working day."

Matt has recently returned from 13 years in the USA working within professional football. Danny's background is in web architecture and design, and he was responsible for the logo adorning the shop front.

The space will include a conference area, and the option for a permanent desk space will be available after three months as well as 24-hour access for those dealing with global time differences. Guest speakers and special events have also been planned.

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## Shopping helps to support others

Hurst residents are reminded of the benefits to local good causes of joining the Co-op Membership scheme. St Lawrence School received a donation of over £2,800 last year, and three new good causes have been nominated for this year.

1% of the cost of all Co-op branded goods, including milk, bread and most fruit, purchased with a membership card, is given to a local charity. The three for this year are: Cancervive, Independent Lives and Friends of Sheddingdean School Association.

By registering your card online you can choose which one of the three you want your donation to go to, otherwise it will be split equally between the three. Assistant Manager Angel Houghton-Knapp thinks the potential is huge: "We have just under 20% of our customers using the membership card, so if that was doubled the benefits to the local charities would be massive."

The membership scheme can be joined quickly at the Co-op for £1, and instantly become a member and donations start.

For further details ask in store or go to [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership)

## Co-op to the rescue

'Bunty the Trishaw' is back on the road after a very timely donation from Co-op in Hurstpierpoint. A new throttle was required and the £150 donation paid for it in full. "Cycling without Age," said chapter captain Bridget Hamilton, "gives elderly people the right to the wind in their hair, making friends and sharing stories."

Angel Houghton-Knapp, Assistant Manager from Hurstpierpoint Co-op, presented the cheque to Paul Mulley, a Cycling without Age volunteer pilot, with passengers Marlene Ryder (left) Joyce Hall (right).

"When I heard that Bunty was out of action I wanted to help," Angel said. "It's such a worthy cause and is true to the values at Co-op by helping to reduce social isolation while bringing together different generations, which led it to be a perfect match to get the much-needed funds from Co-op Community Donation Fund."



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# Reverse Advent Calendar Scheme success

By Margaret Carey

The idea of putting something into a box for a needy family throughout Advent succeeded wonderfully well this year. Holy Trinity Church coordinated the effort to think about the needs of other people in the winter months, and the community responded magnificently!

More than 40 kind and generous families contributed to this heart-warming project to put something into a box throughout Advent. They provided basic needs such as tinned and packaged food, toiletries and also chocolates, woolly hats and notebooks. The total number of gifts was something like a 1000! Many families told me how much their children had gained from thinking about other less fortunate children at this time of year, so there's another benefit.

The local charity Family Support Work (FSW)

provides help to families in need throughout the year, including help with food, counselling, relationship advice and so forth.

The Director of FSW, Martin Auton-Lloyd, tells us about one of the families supported this year. Their newborn child was in intensive care in London for a number of months before being allowed home. The mother was unable to work. The self-employed father had to look after the other children as well as supporting his wife and new child in hospital in London. The family income was therefore drastically reduced. Financial support from church collections, particularly from the carol and crib services attended by hundreds of people in Hurstpierpoint, food from the Food Bank operated by FSW, and, after Christmas, gifts from the Reverse Advent Calendar Scheme, have made life possible for this family. This is the sort of thing that your generosity allowed.

Ian Nelson edited a book some years ago with the title 'Hurstpierpoint: Kind and Charitable'. This scheme underlines the fact that the people in our village are exactly that. Thank you all.

Thanks to everyone who contributed so generously. For more information, see the website: [www.familysupportwork.org](http://www.familysupportwork.org)

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## Tree conservation here in Hurst

By David Clarke, The Hurstpierpoint Society

Throughout the world there is concern about the vast number of trees being felled, especially in the rain forests. In Hurstpierpoint we have been planting and conserving trees.

Towards the end of 2018 the Hurstpierpoint Society planted five more trees, two in Chestnut Grove, one in Lynton Close, one in Weald Close and one in St Lawrence Way.

These continue the Tree Scheme started by the Society, on the initiative of Paddy Kehoe, in 2011. Since then 116 trees have been planted, funded by the Society with grants and support from the Parish Council, Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council. We receive requests from residents for either a new tree to improve the street environment or to replace a dying tree. The deal is that the Society will acquire the tree and arrange planting but local residents take on responsibility for watering and caring for the tree near their houses. An oak tree on Albourne Road was funded by the family of a former chairman of the Society. The scheme has obviously been very successful. It was thought that it would end in 2017.

Four Liquidambar trees were planted on the recreation ground. This year we will plant a new oak tree outside St Lawrence School to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the school. Watch out for more details later. If you have a suggestion about further tree planting, contact committee member Stephen Baldey, email: scbaldey@hotmail.com.

In 2003 the Society took action to protect the village. A strip of land called Ladies Walk was once part of the extensive gardens of St George's House, supposedly the route from the house to Little Park Farm to collect milk. The Society purchased this land in order to create a barrier to possible housing development and to conserve the woodland.

The adjoining fields are now fortunately part of the new Hurst Meadows. Ladies Walk itself now has no public access and is a wildlife and nature reserve, managed by the Society. On a five year cycle the undergrowth is coppiced. All the trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order and are regularly inspected.

Please consider joining the Hurstpierpoint Society, if you are not yet a member. The subscription is only £5 per household per year or £40 life membership. In April a new committee will be elected. Would you like to help? Membership forms can be collected at Columbins in the High Street or email [hurstsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hurstsociety@gmail.com) or email Membership Secretary Sue Deane [sgdeane@gmail.com](mailto:sgdeane@gmail.com).



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### ARTIST OF THE MONTH

In this feature Hurst Life highlights an artist based in the village. This month's artist is Rob Lamont...

#### By Rob Lamont

Last weekend I spent six hours in a small wooden hut, sitting on a camping chair, waiting for a sighting of an owl which didn't show up. I bet three turned up within ten minutes of me leaving. I do this for fun!



I became interested in photography in childhood, but my passion for it was reignited when I purchased my first 'proper' digital camera in 2014. Initially I explored different genres of photography, but quickly my fascination with the natural world came to be the focus of my work. My photography now gives me the excuse to experience wild places, and the privilege of being out in nature, observing wildlife on its terms. Watching and waiting for an elusive creature brings with it the excitement of anticipation and sometimes the exhilaration of action and the satisfaction of an image realised, although quite often the frustration of a shot missed or a no-show!

Whilst taking every opportunity I can to make images of animals and birds locally, I have also been lucky enough to have travelled to a number of locations around the world to photograph animals in their natural habitats and environments.

Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming is described as America's Serengeti. When there I was able to photograph Bison, Elk, Moose, and Black and Grizzly Bear. It was a particularly memorable destination. South Africa and Namibia provided amazing photographic opportunities with a wide array of wildlife in all sorts of different habitats. However, some of my most memorable photography experiences have been closer to home in the Sussex countryside.

Today, in an age with pictures everywhere, every photographer tries to create an image of something new or different to capture the attention of the viewer. This challenge keeps me trying to find new ways to show wildlife in its environment.

2018 was my first year of Hurst Open Studios and was also my first ever exhibition. I really enjoyed the opportunity to share my work with so many people, and I hope to do it again this September.

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# Governing Board Vacancy

By Sue Bandy

The governing board of The Windmills Junior School in Hassocks is currently searching for a suitable person to join their friendly team to work alongside the headteacher and staff to ensure the school delivers high quality education.

Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience, but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in the school.

The current vacancy is for a co-opted governor, and the governing board is particularly interested in appointing someone with managerial experience in an HR, legal, education or finance setting.

We are fortunate to have several parents sitting on our governing board. However, under the terms of our constitution we are not able to appoint more parents. We are therefore keen to receive applications from people within the local community; this can include parents of children who attend a school outside Hassocks.

For those of you who are not familiar with The Windmills, we are a three form entry junior school in the village of Hassocks with space for 360 pupils in 12 classes, three in each year group. Over recent years the demographic of the village has changed, and continues to do so, with more young families moving into the area.

You will find more information about the school's community, its aims, vision and values on the school website: [www.windmills.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.windmills.w-sussex.sch.uk)

If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please contact me, Sue Bandy (Clerk to the Governors) by email: [sbandy@windmillsjunior.org.uk](mailto:sbandy@windmillsjunior.org.uk). I will be happy to arrange a suitable time for you to meet the Chair of Governors and Headteacher for an informal chat and to discuss the role in more detail.

# Great photos

At Hurst Life we love to have fantastic images of the village adorning our front covers. Thank you to Elizabeth Bell who provided this month's cover, which was taken at Fairfield Rec on a misty morning.

If you love your village and are often out and about – do please capture those special moments and email a copy of the photo to: [photos@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:photos@hurstlife.co.uk) so we can put it on file.

When your photo is selected for publication on the front of the magazine, you'll also get a £20 shopping voucher to spend on the High Street! So, what's not to like?

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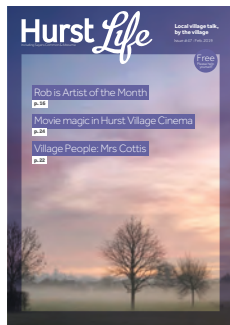


Photo: Elizabeth Bell



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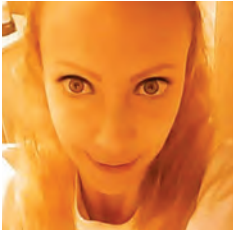
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5 MINUTES WITH...

## Stacey Haylor

Stacey Haylor is a team leader in the kitchen at St Lawrence School and loves music and dance. She currently also manages to consistently get her children to school on time!

**How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?**  
19 years

**What's the best thing about being here?**  
The community spirit and all the friendly faces

**What would you like to see in Hurst that isn't here?**  
More indoor facilities for younger ones or a Youth Club

**How many houses have you lived in?** Four

**Favourite book, film and album?**  
The Hobbit, The Lost Boys and Dua Lipa by Dua Lipa

**Most common New Year's resolution?**  
To get fit. Still hasn't happened yet though!

**Your most enjoyable event in the village?**  
St Lawrence Fair

**Do you share your home with anyone?**  
Husband Wayne and three sons: Brandon 18, Aston 9 and Harvey 7

**Song you play the most?**  
Electricity by Silk City & Dua Lipa

**Which app on your phone do you use the most?**  
YouTube

**Your most frequented village shop?**  
Co-op

**What's your proudest moment?**  
Birth of my sons

**Last present you received?**  
Stereo

**Your advice for life?**  
Always try and show compassion for others, you never know what they might be going through. Live, laugh and, most importantly of all, love.

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

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# Goodbye and thank you Amanda

A tribute from the 'Litter Pickers'

We were very sad to learn that Amanda had died in St Peter and St James Hospice on New Year's Eve.

Amanda wanted to make the world a better place, starting with the community in which she lived. She became a Parish Councillor and was Treasurer of the Hurstpierpoint Historical and Geographical Society. She loved the natural world and cared about the beautiful countryside around Hurstpierpoint. It was through being on the committee of the Woodland, Flora and Fauna Group that she joined the Litter Pickers, a small group that goes out once a week in the summer to clear the rubbish from hedgerows, ditches and verges along the lanes in the north of the parish. This is for the benefit of wildlife as well as to remove the eyesore. It was Amanda's goal to remove every ounce of rubbish, and she would disappear and retrieve cans and bottles that others had not seen. She hated litter and was passionate about picking it up wherever she went.

She was a larger than life character who encouraged others to get up and join in with village life. We will miss her enthusiasm and friendship.



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# Rose Cottis

VILLAGE PEOPLE



Photo: Becky Bartoletti

By Mike Thatcher

To say Mrs Cottis is an institution may not be accurate but it is fair to say she has given her name to one in Hurstpierpoint. Nearly everyone in the village who has had children will be aware of the name, the preschool on Cuckfield Road, but there may still be a few who are not aware how it came to be known as such.

Rose Cottis met her husband Derek at a youth club in Portslade where they were later married. She has fond memories of those times: "My husband liked musicals, and we used to go to all of them before we were married. We could go from Brighton to London on a theatre train on a Saturday afternoon, I think it was about eight and sixpence return. We went to the theatre and then for a meal. We did that once a month, and then every Saturday we'd go to the Theatre Royal, up in the gods for one and sixpence. With nothing left for the bus back to Portslade we walked along the arches on the seafront, which you wouldn't do these days."

They moved to Hurstpierpoint in 1963 and she remembers it very much as a village and very different from Portslade. "When I came here, I had a new baby and people would stop and talk to me because I was a stranger. In fact they knew who I was because I was a stranger. I'd moved into this house and everyone in the village knew about it. I found the pace of life very difficult as it was so slow compared to Portslade; everyone stopped to talk in Hurst, which they didn't in Brighton." However, they soon settled into village life: "My husband, a week after we moved here, said 'I'm just going out to

have a word with the Scouts' and he came back and said 'I'm running it now!'"

She was soon co-opted on to the Scouts fundraising committee, which took up much of her time. "We ran the charity shop for the Scouts. Harry Brown suggested we do some fundraising. We did jumble sales and car boots but we decided that if we ran a charity shop we would make more money. We had several different locations around the village and we worked really hard on that. I was also running the playgroup, so it was hard to find the time. We worked one or two evenings a week and organised some auctions."

Derek was diagnosed with diabetes and his eyesight deteriorated rapidly with retinitis but with the aid of a guide dog he was still fully active with the scouts right up until his early death. This left Rose at the end of the 1960s with two young children to bring up. "The village has been kind to me. My husband had died and they carried me through. The young wives would come in and one would say 'I will stay with the children while you go out' and another would come and take me out. They were good to me." Sam Anthony, the current owner of the Cottis Preschool, has huge admiration for her predecessor. "She's a very strong woman, she's had to be. She's coped with whatever life has thrown at her. She doesn't dwell on bad things and she's always positive."

Her involvement with play groups developed when Mrs Atkinson, who was running a group on Western Road, asked her to stay one day when she brought a

child along. "On her own she could have five children, but when I was there she could have eleven!"

And so began a love affair with the schooling of preschool children. In 1971 she, with the NNEB qualified Elizabeth (Betty) Trott at her side, started the Cottis playgroup from her house on Cuckfield Road. "We built a room on the back and a downstairs loo. Lots of friends came to help work on the house all through the summer. We would order fish and chips from Jupps in Burgess Hill on a Saturday and we were painting the night before we opened. I had very good friends."



They were full from day one with 16 children, a familiar story for any parent trying to find preschool places today. They used the kitchen and the dining room and, with Mrs Trott, helped foster an intimate atmosphere in those less regulated days. "We used to push the sofa and chairs back in the morning and push them back when the children had gone. We were under the health authority in those days. A lady called Nurse Leckey used to come round and if you smelled of disinfectant she'd say 'nice playgroup this'."

I was curious for her view on the age-old question of whether or how children have changed. If you listened to most conversations by older generations throughout the ages, mine included, then you would gather that youngsters these days 'ain't what they used to be'. I was delighted to hear her certainty on the subject. "Children have not changed but they have less freedom now. When my children were little and there was snow we would send them off to Wolstonbury and we didn't worry. Now children can't go anywhere on their own. I don't think things are much different except you hear about it now."

After decades of running the group from her home with Elizabeth Trott, it is perhaps no coincidence that she handed the running and ownership of the group over to Sam when OFSTED came to the fore. "Sam is lovely and runs it beautifully and is much more efficient than I was. There were suddenly so many regulations and after all, it was my home as well." There was an agreed handover period which, as Sam remembers it, got stretched, much to everyone's delight: "I think a reason she stayed on longer than she planned was that she could get back to just being with the children and not be encumbered by the admin. It was lovely to have her experience when I first took it on."

Even after finally hanging up her boots she was still living next door to the group's current site in the Methodist Church. The children would look over the fence and wave, and Sam would bring them round into

the garden for a picnic. It was, in fact, the garden and, more accurately, the ongoing upkeep of it which finally prompted a move after five decades. With her son in Lewes and her daughter in Heathfield the option of moving further afield was there but determinedly not taken, and she quickly found her ideal home on the High Street in the shadow of the church. "I would never want to leave Hurstpierpoint. My new house was the first one we saw and I loved it. And I haven't got any hills to go up! I can also see Wolstonbury, which has always been very important in my life."

Sam decided very early on to keep the name and build on what Mrs Cottis and Elizabeth Trott had built. "They complemented each other perfectly in their personalities I think. It was highly thought of as a preschool when I first knew it, known as a homely place, and that was due to the two of them. One of the reasons I wanted to keep the name was that it had such a good history behind it; everyone knew the name."

Throughout our time together, whichever decade she was reflecting on, the word friends kept on surfacing time and time again. It is clear that at all stages in her life she has been blessed with good friends, and she still meets up regularly with them. Along with a regular stint at the charity shop and dog-walking in all weathers twice a day these occupy most of her time now. And having little left on her bucket list is a sign of a busy life well led. "I'm quite happy. I potter around. We used to go the Globe and Glyndebourne every year but not any more. I've done all these things."

A card from Canada on her 80th birthday from a former charge indicates the affection she is held in by so many. As this compliment to both her and the village she lives in shows: "I was walking up Cuckfield Road and there was a group of youths hanging around. I was just wondering if I shouldn't cross the road when they shouted 'Hello Mrs Cottis!'"

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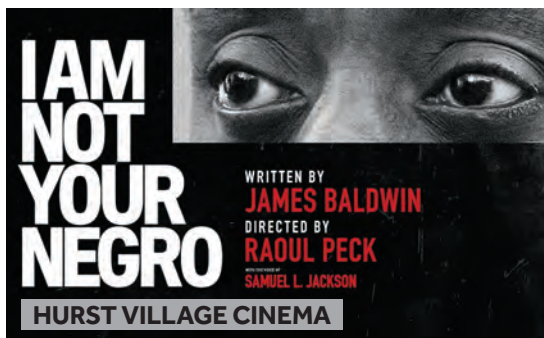
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Hurst Life



By Mike Thatcher

Three films this month and they could hardly be more different. We start on **Friday 15th February at 8pm** with **The Heiress (12A)**. Here is an intriguing, memorable and very powerful film. Chela and Chiquita have been together for over 30 years, but recently their financial situation has worsened and they begin selling off possessions. When Chiquita is imprisoned on fraud charges, Chela is forced to face a new reality.

She begins to provide a local taxi service to a group of elderly wealthy ladies and meets the young and free spirited Angy. Making a connection with her, she finally begins to break out of her shell and engage with the world. It's a performance of tragicomic genius that plays out in arched eyebrows and stabbing side-eye swipes at other women. Terrific.

Then on **Thursday 21st February at 8pm** we show the hugely important **I Am Not Your Negro (12A)**. It is impossible to do justice to this incredibly powerful, poetic, inspiring and deeply relevant, not to say thrilling, documentary in a brief synopsis. James Baldwin was one of the most important, eloquent and sharpest commentators on America, employing beautiful prose to tell his truths.

This film takes his 30-page, unfinished memoir of three assassinated black leaders and spins it out, using archive footage of interviews, newsreels, adverts and film clips to tell the story and connect it to the present. Brilliantly narrated by Samuel L. Jackson.

Three days later on **Sunday 24th February at 3pm** we show **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (12A)**. London, 1946. Juliet, a free-spirited writer, receives a letter from a member of a literary club started in Nazi-occupied Guernsey. Intrigued, she decides to visit the island, and there she meets the eccentric members of the titular Literary Society, including Dawsey, the rugged and intriguing farmer who wrote her the letter.

As the secrets from their wartime past unfold, Juliet's growing attachment to the island, the book club and her affection for Dawsey will change the course of her life.

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# Christmas Lunch is served

By Gail Millar

If you could measure success by smiles then we can say beyond doubt that the Community Christmas Lunch was a huge success. What a joy to have over 87 people of all ages and walks of life come together to spend Christmas Day as a community family. Strangers becoming friends, tears of grief to tears of joy, loneliness to belonging, carers being cared for, kindness from the young to the old, hunger to very full tummies and gifts beyond expectation.

It was wonderful to see everyone to bring some joy and happiness in whatever way they could. Whether it was the Bishop of Lewes pouring gravy or a newcomer to the village, Shaun, preparing starters, Kevin our wine waiter serving wine, generously donated by local people, or John cooking potatoes outside. Everyone played their part.

Kristy Trainer and family, who volunteered on the day, summed it up wonderfully: "Our day has been glorious and everything Christmas should be. Thinking of others, loving each other, cuddles and too much chocolate Yule log! Thank you so much for allowing us to help; Alvie and Ramsey were overcome and didn't want to leave." Margaret and Kevin Carey were equally generous: "It was a privilege to be with you all yesterday. We so much enjoyed being part of it; meeting, talking and listening to new people; eating, drinking and being entertained by each other. The Christmas Dinner was amazing. Thank you all."

The community Christmas Lunch was started by Naomi and myself in 2017. We are both founders of two local charities – Befriended and Hope – and we share a heart, passion and commitment to transform the communities in which we live for the better through showing love, care, kindness and generosity to others. The Community Christmas Lunch is just one day to bring community together but both charities want to make a difference to the lives of people living in our communities every day of the year.

And getting notes like this one from Martin warms the heart: "Dear Gail and Naomi, I would like to thank you both very warmly for welcoming me and including me in your extraordinary Community Christmas lunch on Tuesday.

It was a most heart-warming experience and one that I will remember with great affection for a very long time. You created a tremendous sense of community between you and there must be a great many towns and villages up and down the land who could learn from you in this respect!"

If you want to make a difference, not only at Christmas, contact us on [gail@befriended.org](mailto:gail@befriended.org) or [Naomi@buildinghope.org.uk](mailto:Naomi@buildinghope.org.uk) to find out how you can get involved.



# Councils set to retain more from biz rates

West Sussex councils have successfully applied to take part in a new Government pilot scheme that allows them to reinvest growth in Business Rates to support the local economy.

Under the pilot scheme, councils in West Sussex will be able to retain any increase in Business Rates locally, rather than giving it to the Government. The funding will be held in a joint pool on behalf of the Districts of Adur, Arun, Chichester, Horsham, Mid Sussex, the Boroughs of Crawley and Worthing and West Sussex County Council.

It is forecast that the additional business rates retained for investment locally could be £19million in 2019/20.

The Councils aim to work together and invest the money in infrastructure to support the rollout of Full Fibre digital connectivity across West Sussex.

Councillor Garry Wall, Leader of Mid Sussex District Council, said: "The beauty of this pilot is that it provides Councils with more opportunities to support business growth in their area, something which in turn benefits the whole community.

"We are grateful to our local MP, Sir Nicholas Soames, who has championed our work within Government."

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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](mailto:photos@hurstlife.co.uk)



Henry & William Richards at the Roman Amphitheater in Tunisia



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# Keep look out

## HOGGIE HELP

By Ann Winney

Hurst Hedgehog Haven was set up in 2017 to encourage the lovely folks of Hurstpierpoint and beyond to become a little more hedgehog friendly. We have a busy facebook page and now this little column to keep you up to date on all things hoggie.

You might think that this time of year is quiet on the hedgehog front but there are still later born autumn juveniles struggling to make it through hibernation, so if you see a hog, normally nocturnal, out during day they are not well and need help, especially if they are the size of a mango or smaller. If you find a hog like this put him in a warm box, offer water and call us or take him to a vet, do not wait and see! Keep feeding your hogs with dry food and bowl of water as they break their hibernation every few days to eat. If you are thinking of your gardens, this is a good time to plan a wild life garden. This means keeping an area a little untidy, maybe with a few nettles, look for plants that encourage bees, make a bug hotel ([www.wildlifetrust.org](http://www.wildlifetrust.org) has some brilliant ideas). Why not get the kids involved?

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# David Murray

## OBITUARY

By James Taylor

On 27th December Hurstpierpoint community lost a dear friend, David Murray. He was a much loved and well-known character to most people, new or old, in this village and surrounding areas. He passed away after a long and painful year of battling with cancer, which eventually took our great friend over the Christmas holidays. This horrific disease shows no mercy for the good and kind, despite the fantastic efforts of Brighton and Haywards Heath NHS.

David leaves behind his beloved wife Lee, super son Kieran and, of course, Burt the dog! He will also be greatly missed by his father Alexander, sister Bridget and two brothers Kevin and Michael and his wide span of numerous friends.

Dave grew up and was schooled in Burgess Hill. He was a very well-known lad around the area, and may have been known affectionately as Muzza or in later years as 'Dave The Tree!'. He and Lee later moved to Hurstpierpoint, where they lived for many years and had grown to be a part of the strong community here.

Dave's initial career, before gardening, was as a tailor, working in London for the fashion house Jaeger

(where he met Lee). He decided to give up the stress of commuting and working in London to service local gardens. He was well-known for the iconic pickup truck loaded with mowers, strimmers and leaf blowers, slowly passing through the village a few times a day, unable to get ten yards without someone waving at him to say 'hi'.

That's how well he was known and loved around the area.

He had many clients within his business, all of whom will miss him greatly, not only for the service but for his friendship too.

He enjoyed a Bud or few in the local watering holes. The lads of the Friday Night Beer Club (including myself) will sorely miss him for his great conversation, as will the proprietors too!

Dave had a passion for golf and followed Man United (no-one's perfect!). He was also renowned for his great sense of style and love of clothing, always sporting a shiny pair of new balance shoes and well-pressed attire.

He will be very much missed by the village, not least by his family and close friends, as we said goodbye to him. The funeral took place on 25th January at Woodvale Crematorium, and the wake was fittingly held at the New Inn.



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Feb.

# Prawn & Tomato Stew with Gremolata Topping

FINE FOOD



## Ingredients

- 500g new potato
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 celery sticks, cut into pieces
- Handful of green beans, chopped into thirds
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 anchovy fillets, finely chopped
- pinch chilli flakes
- 400g can chopped tomato
- 250ml white wine
- 200ml vegetable or chicken stock
- 400g raw king prawn, peeled
- half a cup of barley, soaked overnight
- zest and juice 1 lemon
- 1 tsp baby caper, rinsed
- large handful parsley, chopped
- toasted bread, to serve

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**Simply Swim**



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.



No doubt you will have just surfaced from Veganuary, Dry January or some form of health kick, so this recipe will maintain the healthy vibe whilst allowing a nice guilt-free glass of white wine as you cook. The barley gives this recipe a great chewy texture adding to the general heartiness of the combined ingredients, and the gremolata topping offers a wonderful zesty Italian flavour. Perfect for a dreary February day.

### Method

Put the potatoes in a saucepan of cold water and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to medium and simmer for 15-20 minutes or until cooked but still firm. Drain and, when cool enough to handle, thickly slice.

Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large saucepan over a low-medium heat. Add the onion, celery, garlic, anchovy and chilli, season and cook for 8 minutes or until softened. Rinse the previously soaked barley. Increase the heat to

medium-high, add the tomatoes, barley, wine and stock, and cook for 15 minutes. Add the prawns, lemon juice, capers, green beans and potatoes. Cook for 5 minutes more, or until the prawns turn pink and are just cooked. Add a generous grinding of black pepper. Mix together the parsley and lemon zest, then scatter over the stew, then serve with toasted bread, for dunking.

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# Vote for a theme

## ST LAWRENCE FAIR

### By the Fair Committee

Would you like the chance to shape this year's St Lawrence Fair? Well, now is your chance – we are asking the village to vote for this year's theme. Remember this theme governs how the floats and the High Street shop windows are decorated and themes some of the activities over the Fair weekend, so choose wisely.

The following themes were put forward at our AGM. Please vote for ONE by either circling in it the list below, tearing it out of your Hurst Life (once you have read everything else!) and taking it into/posting through the door of Ashley & Thomas (both 121 and 54a High Street), Janton News or Hurst Community Charity Shop, all on the High Street. Alternatively, email us with your choice at [stlawrencefair@gmail.com](mailto:stlawrencefair@gmail.com). Entries close on Thursday 28th Feb 2019. Once we have counted all the votes, we will select one entry from the winning 'People's Choice' and that person will win a £50 food voucher from Morleys Bistro.



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- Inventions
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## Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff

### BOOK REVIEW

By Clair Stanton

Named by Barack Obama as his book of the year for 2015, this is a novel of two halves, telling the story of a marriage from both sides. The first section is told from the point of view of Lotto (short for Lancelot). Born in the eye of a hurricane to a mermaid, he is a theatrical figure and his career as an actor and playwright keeps him at the centre of attention.

Mathilde is a more enigmatic character. In Lotto's half of the novel the reader is given hints that all is not quite as he thinks, in fact his romantic view of their life together seems to have been sustained by an effort of will on his part. When Mathilde's side of the story is finally told the reader learns the secrets that have been kept from him and why, showing Mathilde in a new light.

This was Lauren Groff's third novel but she is still not very well-known. Each of her novels is a complete departure from the last, which makes her hard to classify. Her first book 'The Monsters of Templeton' was set in a town dominated by the legacy of a famous writer for whom the town was named, (Groff herself grew up in Coopertown, named for James Fenimore Cooper the author of 'Last of the Mohicans') and her second book 'Arcadia' was set in a 1970s commune, so if you enjoy this novel you could go back to her earlier works to see how her style has developed.



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# Misrepresentation in property transactions

## LISTEN TO THE LAWYER

By Martyn Gooch, partner Rohan Solicitors

**Question:** I am in the process of selling my property. I have an ongoing dispute with a neighbour regarding shared use of a septic tank. Do I need to tell the buyer about this?

**Answer:** There is a principle in law known as caveat emptor, or 'let the buyer beware'. This places a burden on the buyer to find out everything he wants or needs to know about the property before buying it. However, the seller is obliged to bring to the buyer's attention details of any serious issues with the property which the buyer could not have discovered by a reasonable inspection of the property. Additionally, when selling a property you will be asked by your solicitor to complete several forms, one of which is the Property Information Form (PIF) within which you will be asked to provide details about the property and, specifically, to confirm whether there have been any disputes or complaints regarding the property or if you are aware of anything which might lead to a dispute. The issue you highlight between you and your current neighbour regarding the septic tank is one that should be disclosed to the buyer as it is, by your own admission, a 'dispute' and one that would not be easily discoverable by the buyer when inspecting the property.

The repercussions of giving inaccurate information to the buyer on the PIF, or in response to any additional enquiries made by the buyer, can be catastrophic. A seller that intentionally provides a buyer with an untrue statement about the property (which subsequently induces that buyer to enter into a contract) is likely to be liable to the buyer in 'misrepresentation' should that buyer suffer financial loss as a result. The legal remedies available to a buyer in these circumstances are dependent on the nature of the misrepresentation. A buyer may be able to withdraw entirely from the sale or be entitled to financial compensation, known as damages. If the misrepresentation is uncovered after the sale completes, the buyer may be able to rescind the contract and recover from the seller the full price paid for the property, and any additional costs they incurred, and return the property to the seller.

There is tension between the principle of 'buyer beware' and the legal action of misrepresentation. It is often difficult to strike the right balance between what the buyer should be told and what he should be left to find out for himself. For example, does the buyer need to know that the garage roof occasionally leaks water in heavy rain or is that a matter he should find out for himself? Expert legal advice should be sought if you have concerns regarding what information to tell your buyer.

Martyn can be contacted by email: [mgooch@rohansolicitors.co.uk](mailto:mgooch@rohansolicitors.co.uk) or by telephone: 01444 450901.

# Is everything sorted?



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Chocolates



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## RECYCLE THIS...

WSSC Recycling Ambassador Colin McFarlin sheds some light on what can and can't be recycled in our domestic blue bins. If you have a question for him, email: [editor@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@hurstlife.co.uk)



## Green top waste

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

Last month we had the competition for you, and thank you for your wonderful response. I will have the answers and the winner for you in the next edition.

During 2018 I have kept you up to date with what to recycle in your blue top bin, so I thought I would start the year off with information on garden waste.

Many of you use the garden waste collection service with a green top bin provided by MSDC at a cost of €65 a year.

### What CAN be put in the garden waste bin?

- Leaves
- Hedge trimmings
- Grass cuttings
- Prunings from plants and shrubs
- Twigs and small branches – no larger than the width of your wrist
- Old and used compost
- Weeds

### What CANNOT be put in the garden waste bin?


- Pet bedding and waste
- Any kitchen waste such as fruit and vegetable peelings or egg shells – however these can be composted in a home compost bin
- Non-native invasive plants
- Large amounts of soil
- Household waste

If you are interested in home composting there is a discounted offer from WSSC for a compost bin (made out of recycled plastic of course). Go to [www.getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com) and enter your post code and you will be guided to the discounted offer, black compost bin £15 plus £5.99 delivery. You'll also receive a very helpful leaflet with lots of tips on composting.




Would you like me to give a talk on recycling to your local group? Do keep your individual questions coming on specific items you are not sure can be recycled. One email to the editor, with a picture if possible, and I can let you know.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Keep recycling!




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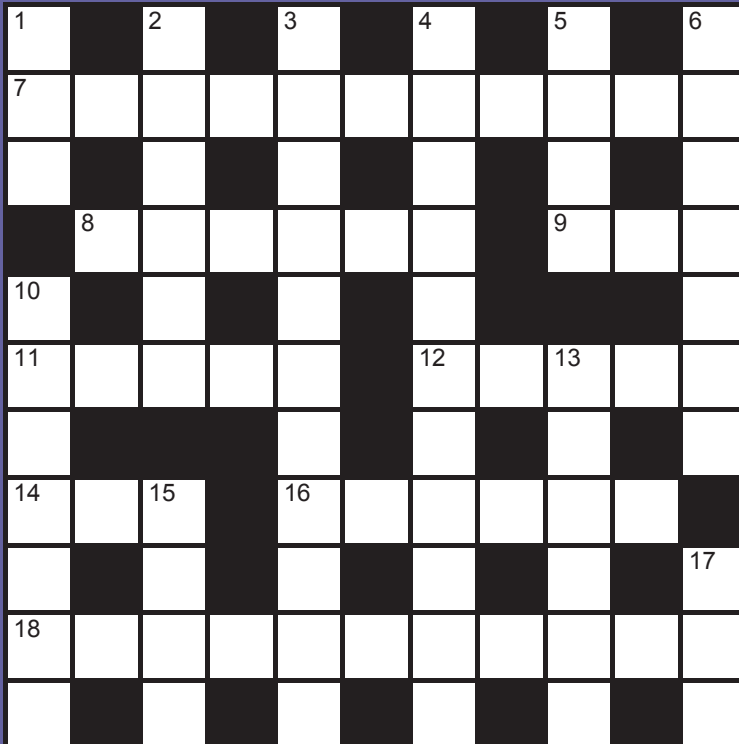


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# Family crossword



Got 20 mins spare?  
Have a go at this crossword - which should be varied enough for all ages to answer some clues.  
Answers listed on p.43

## Across

- 7 Renter (11)
- 8 Pertaining to a nerve (6)
- 9 Doze (3)
- 11 Huge (5)
- 12 Paddled (5)
- 14 Anger (3)
- 16 Child's toy (6)
- 18 Witches (11)

## Down

- 1 Mischievous person (3)
- 2 Image recorder (6)
- 3 Correspondence assistants (11)
- 4 Using obscene language (4-7)
- 5 Yemeni seaport (4)
- 6 Three-legged racks (7)
- 10 Con (7)
- 13 Condiment (6)
- 15 Lugs (4)
- 17 Monmouthshire town on eponymous river (3)

# YOGA

with Rebecca



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Thursdays 7.15 p.m- 8.30 p.m Starts 7th Feb

£9 per class or drop-in £11

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# Sudoku #31

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

Find the solution to #31 in next month's magazine

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

## #30 Solution

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



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# What's on this month

## AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

### Regular events

- Sun **Afternoon Tea Dance**  
2-4.30pm, nearly every Sunday
- Weight Watchers** – 9.30-10.30am, weekly in the Club Suite
- Mon **The Sanctuary** – 9.30-11.30am, weekly during term time – a welcoming place where friendships can form over coffee and cake
- Tues **Yellow Brick Lab** – 3.30-5pm weekly during term time
- Knit and Knatter** – 2-4pm (2nd Tuesday)
- Wolstonbury WI** – 7.45pm Club Suite (3rd Tuesday)
- Fri **Star Dance School** – from 6.45pm, weekly
- Sat **Young Blossoms Dance** – 10.15-10.50am, weekly in the Club Suite (unless specified on website)
- Best of Ballroom** – 7.45pm (1st Saturday)

### February

- 2nd **Table Top Sale** – 12-5pm  
Cheeki Monkeys children & baby table top sale
- 5th **Strategic Policy Working Group** – 8pm
- 7th **New Yoga Class** – 7pm
- 7th **Finance & General Purposes C'tee** – 8pm
- 12th **Knit 'N' Knatter** – 2-4pm
- 12th **Horticultural Society** – 7.45pm  
'From Formal Garden To Nature Reserve' an illustrated talk by Peter Lovett on how he has transformed his formal garden into a wonderful nature reserve bursting with wildlife
- 14th **Planning Committee Meeting** – 8pm
- 19th **Wolstonbury WI** – 7.45pm  
The Women's Land Army by Ian Everest (visitors welcome 01273 834421)
- 22nd **Gong Bath Sound Therapy** – 7pm
- 22nd **First Aid Training** – 9am
- 28th **Parish Council Meeting** – 8pm

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road BN6 9QT  
[www.hurstvillagecentre.org](http://www.hurstvillagecentre.org)

## AND ELSEWHERE

### February

- 6th **Hurst Monthly Social Group** – 2pm  
Guide Hut, Trinity Road - Mak Norman speaking on Anglo Saxon History (Free entry)
- 11th **Hassocks Field Society** – 7.45pm  
Adastra Hall, Hassocks – 'Extinct Birdwatching' a talk by Michael Blencowe (£2, Beryl 01273 832351)
- 13th **Craft Afternoon (MU)** – 2.30pm  
Harvesters, Mossy Mile (visitors £2)
- 13th **Ramblers Talk** – 7.30pm  
HH Methodist Church – 'Charles II and his escape through Sussex in 1651' by Helen Poole (£4 entry)
- 14th **Haywards Heath Ceramics Group** – 10am  
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath – Talk: 'A Mug Chasing Mugs' by Mike Turner (Call 01444 483372)
- 14th **Mid Sussex Ass'n National Trust** – 2.30pm  
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath – Talk: 'Charles Darwin and the Galapagos Islands' by Derek Barton
- 15th **HHD U3A Meeting** – 2pm  
Adastra Hall, Hassocks - Geoff Hutchinson on Mad Jack Fuller - the life of an eccentric Georgian (free)
- 15th **The Heiress (12A)** – 8pm  
Players Theatre – Film ([www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com))
- 16th **Fun & Games Morning** – 10am-12noon  
Holy Trinity Church (free)
- 20th **Craft Evening (MU)** – 8pm  
Holy Trinity Church – Creating story sack for 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' (visitors £2)
- 21st **I Am Not Your Negro (12A)** – 8pm  
Players Theatre – Film show
- 24th **Drawing Workshop** – 10.30am  
Gallery 92, Hurstpierpoint – 'I Wish I Could Draw Workshop' is a relaxed morning of drawing with Jill Iliffe, for complete beginners and those who want to gain drawing confidence (01273 933020)
- 24th **Film Show** – 3pm  
Players Theatre – Showing: The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society (12A)
- 25th **Hassocks Field Society** – 7.45pm  
Adastra Hall, Hassocks – 'Animazing Talk' a talk by Steve Bridger (£2, Beryl Varley: 01273 832351)

### March

- 1st **March World Day of Prayer** – 10.30am  
The Good News Church, 149 High St - Formerly Women's World Day of Prayer this year's service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia and is entitled 'Come – Everything is Ready'

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