



Welcome to the 2nd edition of [HCO News](#)

A COMMUNITY ORGANISATION FOR HASSOCKS

Following the official launch of HCO on the 27th April this year, we have been progressing our formal application to register HCO as a charity. With help from a London based specialist lawyer we resubmitted our 're-tuned' application on the 4th July and were then given an estimated turnaround time of 16 weeks from allocation to a specialist. This is the latest from the Charity Commission on 19th November: "As a guideline, our team is currently working on applications in this category which were initially assessed in May 2018. Please accept our apologies for the delays this will incur. We are working to address this situation, but this will unfortunately take time."

We understand the Charity Commission is seriously understaffed but this timescale could make Brexit look like a quick process!

Our earlier decision to continue to operate as HCO with our previous HAA activities being actively pursued turned out to be the right approach!

RAIL GROUP UPDATE

Catherine Cassidy writes: At the time of the last Rail Group news in the Spring Newsletter there was great hope and anticipation for the new rail timetable coming in on 20 May 2018. It was to be the start of a new era of more frequent and reliable trains. How hopes can be suddenly shattered! Trains didn't run, were cancelled or were late running and commuters from Hassocks to Clapham Junction no longer had a direct train. Something had gone terribly wrong. Within two weeks a revised timetable with much fewer trains was brought in to try and provide a service which was reliable. What was supposed to be a step change in train services was a disaster. Big mistakes had been made and the whole matter is now the subject of a government inquiry.

Gradually stability was regained and more train services were reintroduced; by the end of August the train service was becoming more reliable with most peak time trains now running. In December 2018 most of the weekday off peak services that were scheduled for the May 2018 timetable should be running and then by May 2019 all the weekend scheduled services and further off peak services should be running with 20 trains per hour running through Blackfriars. The next phase after then will be to introduce further services until eventually there are 24 trains per hour running through Blackfriars.

Hassocks now has 4 trains per hour off peak during the week including hourly trains running through to Cambridge. However, there are often cancellations due to infrastructure problems and

old signalling. To underpin the reliability of the train service a huge programme of maintenance and improvement works on the Brighton mainline is now underway. This mainly affects weekend travel and every weekend in October 2018 the line was closed between Brighton and Three Bridges and trains replaced by buses. There are 2 weekend line closures 24/25 November 2018 and 9/10 February 2019 and a Sunday closure on 6 January 2019 with bus replacements. Then there is the big blockade to coincide with February half-term when there are no trains running between Brighton and Three Bridges for 9 days from 16 to 24 February 2019. There will be bus replacements and the rail company is planning carefully to do all they can to ensure the bus services will transport people to their destinations. However, they hope with advance warning there will be suppression in demand for that week. It will be important to plan your journeys in advance for the blockade period.

The Rail Group with local commuters and the assistance of our MP, Nick Herbert, has been campaigning to get the Clapham Junction commuter trains reinstated and we are waiting to hear with hopefully positive news in the next few weeks.

At Hassocks Station the ticket office is now open mornings and afternoons at the advertised times for 7 days a week which is very good news. The gate-line is also now manned from early morning to late at night. One disappointment is the lack of cleaning at the station. However, I have been raising this issue with the train company managers and at a recent stakeholder meeting I have

been advised that the train company are looking at scheduling a deep clean at Hassocks Station during the February blockade and thereafter they are looking at introducing a regular cleaning programme to keep the station looking clean and well kept. In the meantime I have asked if some surface cleaning can be done before then. Hopefully, by the time of the next Newsletter in 2019 the planned improvements mentioned here will have come to fruition!

THE PARISH WAR MEMORIAL



Like many villagers we had walked past this modest war memorial with barely a glance. The recent news that this important memorial was given Grade II listed status made us stop and look a little more closely.

The backdrop to the memorial is, of course, the wonderful St Cosmas and St Damian Church, also Grade II listed and rebuilt in 1866 over a much earlier Saxon church. The setting of the memorial is however, somewhat diminished by the overgrown slope to the rear just below the flint and brick wall. A conversation with Father Alex ensued in which he praised the work of the

volunteers who maintain the church grounds but accepted that the immediate memorial surrounds and in particular the sloping areas were very difficult to maintain regularly. Father Alex had quotes for the work in the past which were far beyond the very limited budget available. We suggested that perhaps it might be possible to raise some funds, given that this is about the War Memorial grounds rather than the Church, in order to have some hard landscaping undertaken together with new planted areas on the slope. Following discussions with his team it was advised that his group were very pleased HCO wanted to get involved and looked forward to hearing our ideas and seeing some drawings. Finding a willing pro-bono landscape artist proved somewhat less easy, so your ham-fisted Editor came up with this:



Essentially, we are proposing that a dwarf brick wall is constructed at the foot of the slope having cleared the couch grass and other weeds in preparation for planting low maintenance shrubs and flowers, leaving existing shrubs/bulbs in situ. A wide footpath will lead from the existing path to the memorial providing a stable access route for disabled visitors. Your committee felt that this was a very suitable project for this year, marking as it does the

Centennial of the end of the First World War. We hope that villagers will feel motivated to support this special project for which we are currently waiting on the various approvals required before we can start fundraising. We'd love to hear from you if you think this is a good idea...or not!

If you are interested in finding out a little more about the names recorded on our war memorial go to Penny Worth's excellent blog:

<https://keymerclaytonwarmemorials.wordpress.com/>

LIGHT UP HASSOCKS



As we reported in our first edition, Sussex Vale Rotary Club has taken over the running of this much loved village event which this year takes place on **Friday 30th November**. As usual it will begin at 4pm with the Children's Lantern Parade

including the Burgess Hill Marching Band and rumour has it that Santa may be there as well! We wish them every success with this and subsequent events.

THE GREEN GROUP

We have done some tidying of the large raised bed in Keymer Road and have planted seasonal bedding at the end of Grand Avenue and outside the shops at Keymer. Plans are now in place for colourful Spring displays. We will miss Georgia Cheshire's hard work and her flare for horticulture and wish her great good fortune

in whatever she does next. As ever, we would love to hear from anyone interested in joining us, we usually work for four or five Sunday mornings per year when the village is quieter and generally for no more than two hours. hassocksvolunteers@gmail.com

HASSOCKS CYCLE HIRE



Colin Wilsdon writes: It was in 2010 that HCCH started hiring mountain bikes. Since 2015 we have occupied purpose-built premises right on Platform 2 of Hassocks station. Our purpose is to encourage biking as our contribution to green tourism in the area and to provide employment and training for young people. Customers come from far and wide; the majority from London and Brighton, but also from many places abroad, such as Brazil, Utah, Arizona, Colorado and several European countries. We have had large groups of young people through the Air Training Corps and the Scouts and groups of

workplace friends as well as local people who need an extra bike for a visitor.

We also do bike servicing often involving an older bike that is much loved or has not been used for some time. Our mechanics are paid but we are always on the lookout for volunteers to assist with the

management and marketing of the business. Please Contact: **hassocksvolunteers@gmail.com** if you are interested.

NATURAL FLOOD MITIGATION (NFM) IN HAS SOCKS

An update from Fred Maillardet:

1. Adastra Park Rain Garden

After much discussion within the HPC sub-committee regarding the final design, the garden will be installed in the South West corner of the park in the week beginning 5th November 2018.

2. Adastra Park Natural Flood Management

Detailed discussions are ongoing between the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust (OART) and the HPC regarding the final design in the North West corner of the park which needs to complement the evolving 'Adastra Park Master Plan'.

3. Adastra Avenue Rain Garden

Detailed discussions are ongoing between OART and MSDC regarding the detailed design of the garden being proposed for the wide verge between Adastra Avenue and the stream bordering Adastra Park. This is designed to take surface water run-off from the avenue and discharge it into the stream relatively slowly.

4. Awareness Promotion

Hassocks is one of only six villages identified as 'at risk' by MSDC in their Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. There remains the need to make more residents aware of the

practical flood mitigation measures which we could all practice together with the more substantial measures where community action is needed (such as the above three examples). Operation Watershed funding has already been obtained to continue this awareness-raising activity into 2019.

STAR CINEMA



For the past 16 years Liz Warne has been a key figure in one of the most important contributions to our village's social and community life, the Star Cinema. The cinema started out as a response to the Village Action

Plan. Sherrian Guest, Janet Everest and Liz Bellamy had a great idea to start a local cinema for all to enjoy. Liz joined the team and soon the doors of Star Cinema were opened! Over the years Liz (with Sherrian and Paul too of course) has worked tirelessly to organise the cinema and ensure its smooth-running, working with a

fantastic group of volunteers and a number of projectionists. Liz sends her thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers for their tireless support over the years!



Liz handed over the reins at the November showing of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, during the interval she was presented with a Theatre Gift Voucher and a bouquet by the Trustees of HCO. We

had a record audience that evening, in no small part, due to the numbers who turned out to wish Liz well. The cinema provides not only an opportunity to see a great film, but also to appreciate the company of others: helping to combat loneliness, creating the chance to meet new people or to catch up with old friends during the interval while enjoying laid-on refreshments. The new coordinator is Liz Edmunds, 'new Liz', as she was inevitably called, got involved straight away on the night and has been warmly welcomed by all including the loyal volunteers who are delighted to have another Liz on the scene! The cinema normally runs September to March. Looking ahead we have some wonderful films lined up for the rest of the season, including ***Mamma Mia – Here we go again*** (Mamma Mia 2) which is scheduled for January 18th!

Doors open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm- tickets remain at £4.50 for adults and £4 for concessions - Raffle and refreshments available. We look forward to seeing you soon at your community cinema!

Of course schemes like Star Cinema are only possible with the support of volunteers and their enthusiasm. Happily, Liz Warne will continue to help out from time to time but if you think you might like to be involved in volunteering and to receive regular 'no obligation' emails advising of various opportunities including the cinema, then please register using the email address that follows: **hassocksvolunteers@gmail.com**

HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET



The next village market will be on the 15th December, come along and enjoy the seasonal buzz to rival those continental Christmas markets! We aim to provide the widest range of products; bread, meat, fish, vegetables, free range eggs, fresh soups, plants, cake, flowers, pies, chocolate, local crafts, Charlottes Cupboard (don't forget your containers!) and lots, lots more!

Market Loyalty Scheme



We operate a successful loyalty card scheme where customers can enter a quarterly draw to win a fabulous hamper of produce from all of the traders.

When is it?

Except in December, every 4th Saturday of the month: 9am-12.30pm, National Tyres forecourt. We are grateful to National Tyres for their support.

'Like' us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @HassocksMarket for regular updates.

For more information please contact me, Catriona Hawksley at hassocksvillagemarket1@gmail.com

MAY DAY EVENT



Michelle Binks writes: Hassocks May Day, will be taking place on **Monday 6th May 2019, 12-4pm**, at Adastra Park. A family fun day with plenty of entertainment for all. Once again we hope to have our fabulous Dog Show, entertainment from May Pole Dancing, and it would be wonderful if we could entice our Morris Men to dance for us too. We look forward to hosting a variety of community and charity fundraising stalls. Should you like a stall please call me on 07505 123149. Follow us via Facebook 'Celebrate Hassocks' page.

HASSOCKS MUSIC FESTIVAL

A dear friend came to me and said she wanted to put on a Proms in the Park and asked for my help and so was born a new initiative: Hassocks Music Festival. The proposed date for your diaries is Saturday 7th September 2019 and hopefully to be hosted by Downlands Community School. It will be an open air concert as a revival of Proms in the Park which last happened in Hassocks in 2009! The concept is to bring a variety of music under one stage such as pop, rock, classical and opera. HCO, have kindly offered their support. The organisation of this event is very much in the early stages but looking to provide further information early 2019. Ultimately we will be raising funds for St Peter and St James Hospice. Should anyone like to get involved please contact me, Michelle Binks, on 07505 123149.

SUPPORTERS

Supporters are households that make a regular financial contribution towards the activities undertaken by HCO. We are fortunate to have around 200 households who regularly contribute to our work but we would love to encourage more people to do so. Clearly, with a village population likely in excess of 7,667, living in more than 3,300¹ households we would be remiss if we did not convince a greater proportion of residents to join us. So we will be continuing to try and raise the numbers over the coming months – please do help us spread the word!

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers support our work by helping with projects and receive emailed notices of all of the volunteering opportunities promoted by HCO. The continuation of some of our most popular activities is threatened by the lack of volunteers willing to become involved. In response to this challenge, HCO operates the Hassocks Volunteer Register. If you would like to hear more about local volunteering opportunities, contact **hassocksvolunteers@gmail.com** with your name and email address or give Paul a call on 01273 846481. You will not be contacted individually and your email address will not be passed on or used for any other purpose. You can of course unsubscribe at any time. You will receive a regular update of ad hoc local volunteering opportunities including details of the appropriate person to contact should you wish to help on that occasion.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Jonathan Soper has been hard at work canvassing the Hassocks shopkeepers to see if there is any support for a village wide loyalty scheme. Happily more than 30 have declared an interest with incentives ranging from discounts to free drinks for those spending over a set amount. Essentially, a Village Discount card will be made available which can be presented at participating shops and businesses within Hassocks. It remains only to finalise the practical details before we launch the scheme which is of course designed to encourage villagers to support the local shops! Look out for this sticker in participating shops and businesses in the New Year.



AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE (ACV)



You may have noticed that the Greyhound Inn has a For Sale sign outside. This relates to the Lease not the Freehold. However, with developers nibbling away at every corner of Hassocks,

HCO has made an application to Mid Sussex District Council to have the Greyhound Inn in Keymer registered as an ACV. Such listed assets stay on the local authority's list for up to five years. Pubs that are listed as ACVs require a planning application to change their use or demolish them (the same protection applies pending a decision from the point when the pub is nominated for ACV status). If the pub is listed as an ACV, these requirements will be effective for the duration of the listing:

1. During this period, if the owner of the listed asset decides to sell, they must inform the local authority of their intention to do so. The community then have up to six weeks to express an interest in becoming potential bidders to buy the asset.
2. Once an expression of interest has been received, a further four and a half month pause in the sale process is triggered. This gives potential bidders a total of six months to raise the funds required to purchase the asset. At the end of the period, the owner may sell it to whomever and at whatever price they choose.

As ever your comments and feedback are warmly welcomed.

Your HCO team sends Seasons Greetings and many thanks for your continued support.

Jeremy Wakeham: Chair

Erika Woodhurst-Trueeman: Hon Secretary & Deputy Chair

Fred Maillardet: NFM lead

Jonathan Soper: Village commerce liaison

Catherine Cassidy: Chair - The Rail Group

Paul Mercer: Volunteers: hassocksvolunteers@gmail.com

Liz Mercer: Supporters Secretary, (01273 846481)
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Colin Wilsdon: Hassocks Community Cycle Hire (07521 961 909)

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¹ UK census data 2011