



Welcome to the first edition of **HCO News – a regular update for our valued supporters**

A COMMUNITY ORGANISATION FOR HASSOCKS – LAUNCH

On the 27th April, the Green Room at Adastral Hall was the venue for the official launch of HCO. Following a few words from our chairman, Jeremy Wakeham, leaders and volunteers from our various community groups mingled with guests sharing their experiences and plans for the future.

OUR AIMS

We aim to serve the interests of the community and local area by helping to provide recreational and leisure time activities, conserving and improving the environment, enabling social events, and creating opportunities for the gaining of knowledge and skills and improving the quality of life.

In order to live up to these challenging aims we will provide regular opportunities for residents to suggest ideas and hear about what we are doing or planning. We will also engage regularly with the Parish Council and other local community groups, including our amazing schools, to represent the community and also to share information and work with them wherever possible.

Your community – your organisation

SUPPORTERS

Supporters are households that make a regular financial contribution towards the activities undertaken by HCO. We are fortunate to have over 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 attempting to raise the numbers over the coming weeks and months – please do help us spread the word! For our existing supporters please note our bank accounts are unchanged so please continue to renew your subscriptions as normal.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers support our work by helping with projects and receive emailed notices of all of the volunteering opportunities promoted by HCO. Those of you who do not use email can look out for posters on the village notice boards and at the Hassocks Parish office. 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 Paul Mercer **hassocksvolunteers@gmail.com** with your name and email address or give him 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 which will include details of the appropriate person to contact should you wish to help on that occasion.

LIGHT UP HASSOCKS



After several successful years the management of this much loved annual village event has passed to the Sussex Vale Rotary Club (SVRC). So – our heartfelt thanks to those of you who have lead or volunteered over the years and a special mention to Rev Darryl Sinclair and to Michelle Binks for their tireless support. We wish SVRC every success with their first event on **Friday 30th November 2018.**

THE GREEN GROUP



The raised bed outside the dry cleaners in Keymer Road is already looking great. The wild grass 'feature' at one end had its annual haircut at the end of April, done by hand to avoid damaging the wild orchids!

We will be tidying and planting seasonal bedding at the end of Grand Avenue and outside the shops at Keymer during May and as ever, would love to hear from anyone interested in joining us, we usually work on a Sunday morning when the village is quieter and generally for no more than two hours. Contact: **hassocksvolunteers@gmail.com**

HASSOCKS CYCLE HIRE



Like Chaucer's pilgrims who, as March turned into April, longed to go on pilgrimages, so cyclists dust off their well-loved bikes from their winter home in the garden shed and dream about sunny rides on the South Downs. Or they go to our bike hire shop at Hassocks Station and

hire one of our superb Saracen Mantra bikes. Recently we bought four new 2018 Mantras and pensioned off some of our old bikes. And the sun during April has certainly brought in customers from far away - 3 pairs of hirers came independently from the same part of the USA, around Boston. Not to mention the 12 bikes we hired to the Air Training Corps from far off Surrey for a training camp.



PS. We also sell bike spares and undertake servicing!

Colin Wilsdon & the team

NATURAL FLOOD MITIGATION (NFM) IN HASSOCKS



No one wants to see this level of flooding in Hassocks again!

HCO working in partnership with the Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust (OART) and Hassocks Keymer, Ditching Transition (HKD) are together leading initiatives to train, inform and implement local NFM projects. This report by Rachel Paget of OART, celebrates the completion of their partnership Rain Garden project.

Thanks to funding from the players of People's Postcode Lottery, demonstration rain-planters are now installed in four locations in Hassocks as part of an initiative to demonstrate environmentally-friendly solutions to surface water flooding. Built entirely by volunteers, the rain gardens contain a diversity of shrubs and flowering plants which can withstand occasional inundation, whilst enhancing the environment and providing food for birds, bees and other insects. The rain gardens can be seen on Hassocks Parish Council Offices, Adastra Hall, in the Year 7 courtyard at Downlands Community School and in the playgrounds and outside reception at Hassocks Infant School. There is a further rain garden at the United Reformed Church.

Each rain garden captures rainfall from the roof, which is re-directed via a downpipe into a specially lined container and filtered through layers of

soil, sand and gravel, this removes pollutants and improves water quality. Travelling through a rain garden slows the flow of the water, extending the journey time into the drainage system, helping to minimise the flood peak which can overtop streams and flood gardens and properties. This type of intervention, which mimics natural drainage processes, is known as a Sustainable Drainage System or SuDS.

The project's final output is '**Slow the Flow**' a free guide full of SuDS ideas for Hassocks, It will be available shortly on the HCO, HKD and OART websites or immediately by emailing: info@oart.org.uk . Our grateful thanks go to all the volunteers who have helped with this project.

Working as a partnership has helped generate ideas and a vision for further work on SuDS in Hassocks and HKD have successfully secured funding from WSCC's Operation Watershed for a larger rain garden, which will be attractively planted and double as a play amenity, to be located at the entrance to Adastra Park. Work is due to start this summer, with input from green infrastructure expert Dusty Gedge. HPC have also received funding from Operation Watershed for OART to create some retention areas and undertake natural flood management along the stream on the northern edge of the park, which will be delivered alongside the redevelopment of the park outlined in the draft Adastra Park Master Plan. www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk/news/latest-news/

STAR CINEMA



Liz Warne writes: If you find the munching of popcorn and the rustling of sweet wrappers makes your visit to the cinema less than pleasurable then the Star Cinema is for you !

The cinema emerged in response to the Millennium Village Plan in 2000 and has been running successfully ever since its launch two years later. During this time a lottery grant plus other community funds, enabled us to install an electric screen in Adastra Hall.

Films are shown on six Fridays throughout the winter to cheer up the darker days. We have many regular audience members who enjoy being able to walk to the cinema, support their community and last but not least enjoy a glass of wine before and during the interval! The key to our longevity as a project has been an extremely loyal band of volunteers; Sherriann, Paul, Amanda, Debbie, Nicola, Liz B, Wendy, Sue and Dorothy who ensure not just smooth running but also that there will be plenty of laughter! September 2018 sees a new projectionist Barrie Gilbert starting and we look forward to welcoming him. Forthcoming films will be advertised in the Talkabout, Facebook, the HCO website and via posters around the village. Doors open at 7pm 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!

HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET



The market was established in Spring 2004 and has become a vibrant and successful Village Market for the local community. The market has grown considerably over the past few years with an increasing number of visitors every month. It has developed a real buzz and community feel and often hosts local groups and charities. We are fortunate to have many long standing local stallholders and traders who have a passionate local following; for good reason. The produce is local and of a high quality. Our priority is to have producers that use methods that support the local environment, have high standards of animal welfare and use local products themselves.



The traders and stallholders are always happy to talk about their rearing or production methods. 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 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?

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

We look forward to welcoming you to the next market. 'Like' us on Facebook @hassocksmarket for regular updates.

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



RAIL GROUP UPDATE

Catherine Cassidy writes: The main news from the Rail Group are the major changes to the train timetables that come into effect on 20 May 2018 and then the two separate weeks later in the year when there will be no trains running between Three Bridges and Brighton in order for essential repairs to be completed.

Regarding the new timetables, from Govia Thameslink Railway's (GTR's) website:

“From 20 May, entirely new timetables will be introduced at Great Northern, Thameslink, Southern & Gatwick Express. This means that many passengers who use these services to get to work, school, or anywhere else may be affected as their usual journey time or pattern is likely to change. It is part of the biggest train timetable change in decades and is necessary to help increase capacity and improve reliability on the busiest part of the UK rail network. Check your new timetable at www.railplan2020.com/timetables.”

The May timetable will be a major overhaul of the timetable as part of the Thameslink Programme, whose aim is to deliver massive improvements in capacity and reliability which has involved huge engineering projects at Blackfriars, London Bridge and Farringdon, new trains and a massive overhaul of the timetable coming into operation in May and December 2018 after the timetable consultation over the last 2 years.

The good news is that Hassocks will see the off-peak services increased from 3 to 4 trains per hour, comprising 2 Southern trains to London Victoria and 2 Thameslink trains, one direct to Cambridge changing to both direct to Cambridge from December 2018. There will also be a later

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train from Brighton at 12.04am stopping at Hassocks. However, the news is not so good for peak time travellers to Clapham Junction and East Croydon where the service provision is not as good as at present. From 20 May 2018 there will be no direct trains to/from Clapham Junction in peak times as Hassocks will be served by the Gatwick Express train to London Victoria. In respect of direct trains to East Croydon in the morning peak, which are presently between every 6 to 15/20 minutes, there will be long gaps (although connections can be made at Haywards Heath and Gatwick) and in the evening peak from East Croydon the direct trains to Hassocks have been reduced from between every 6 to 15 minutes to every half hour. This has been taken up by the Rail Group and our County Councillor with the GTR timetable team and we have also contacted our MP Nick Herbert who has taken up the lack of peak time Clapham Junction trains with the CEO of GTR and the Minister of State at the Department for Transport. We are pressing for these stops to be reinstated.

If your journey will be affected by these changes please get in contact with Catherine Cassidy by email with the details that affect you. (rccass1dy@aol.com)

The other major news is that the line between Brighton and Three Bridges will be closed for two whole weeks in October 2018 and February 2019 for engineering works, with bus replacements planned. GTR have announced that there is engineering work: From Saturday 20 to Sunday 28 October 2018 and from Saturday 16 to Sunday 24 February 2019, no trains will run between Three Bridges and Brighton or between Three Bridges and Lewes. The unprecedented access provided by these planned closures will allow Network Rail engineers to renew and upgrade a stretch of railway that is responsible

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for more delays to passengers than any other section in the south east of England.

The improvement work will focus on four Victorian-era tunnels – Balcombe, Clayton, Patcham and Haywards Heath – and the railway which runs through them. A major programme to stem leaks into the tunnels and provide reliable drainage away from the tracks will take place, while the track, third rail power system and signalling will all be replaced or upgraded. Elsewhere, track will be renewed, sets of points, which enable trains to switch between tracks, will be replaced and fencing and other security will be improved to deter trespassers. Without this programme of work, reliability on the Brighton Main Line will deteriorate in the months and years ahead, leading to more delays for passengers travelling between London and the south coast. The works will reduce delays and provide a better, more reliable rail service to the 300,000 passengers who travel on the Brighton Main Line each day.

The main message therefore is that it will be very important to **check the timetable** before travelling and to plan ahead regarding the line closures in October 2018 and February 2019.



MAY DAY EVENT



The photo says it all! Superb weather and lots of happy people! Another great event that took hours to organise but was over in an afternoon! Well done indeed to all of the volunteers who lead, organised and took part in yet another brilliant Hassocks community event!

500 HOMES FOR HASSOCKS – OCKLEY LANE



You will probably be aware, that following the final review of MSDC's District Plan by a government appointed Inspector on the 5th February 2018, the plan was found to be sound. What does this mean? The Strategic Site for 500 homes north of

Clayton Mill and accessed via Ockley Lane is now part of the approved District Plan.

Mr Peter Rayner, Ockley Lane resident and leader of the 'Save Hassocks' opposition group states the Inspector *"did make some useful comments around the need for Master Planning for the next phase. Master planning is a process that should involve a connection between planned development, social settings and surrounding environments (e.g. rural scene). However, Master Planning can progress through either private discussion between the developer and the local council via pre-application meetings, or it can be held in a more open, consultative forum. MSDC have said they will involve Hassocks Parish Council in discussions over the site."* Mr Rayner goes on to say.. *"In (the Inspector's)*

report he was also very clear on the need to preserve existing character and maintain views, with the development site being used to create visual buffers for all the affected housing - both Ockley Lane and Mackie Avenue. That opinion will have to be taken in to account by MSDC at planning, or the scheme is open to judicial review at that stage. This is a simpler legal planning matter - if an inspector sets out actions that a planning authority needs to take, and the planners fail to do so, they are in breach. We can keep them firmly on their toes in this regard - they will push back on the developers to do more work in this regard if we push hard on to them..." Mr Rayner also commented ...*"At the hearing in February Gleeson spoke about the site being around 1.5 times the size required for 500 homes, so there is plenty of scope for the design to be as kind as possible to Ockley Lane and the existing buildings - that was a key point that they traded on hard at the Hearing in February. There is no requirement for Ockley Lane to become urbanised in order for the land to the Western side of the development to be built out. These are areas we can bring a lot of pressure to bear, and ultimately the decision-making by the council in this regard can be tested "*

HCO understand that the local residents have already been invited by representatives of Gleeson Strategic Land to a public consultation at Adastra Hall on the 16th May.

It now sadly seems to us at HCO that the development of this site is inevitable. Nevertheless, if we are keen to preserve the rural nature of our village and its surroundings we should all do what we can to follow progress and make our feelings clear, to both our Parish and District councilors.

Our Parish Council has made very clear its opposition to this

development and we are sure will be equally firm in their resolve to ensure that the future development accords with the majority views of the community and the ‘need to preserve existing character and maintain views’.

Finally, our Chair reminds us that, despite the potentially negative impacts that many envisage this new housing may bring, there will no doubt be positive benefits too, including economic benefit for both local business and village initiatives. In that vein:

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.

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, because “thriving communities have thriving local shops “!

As ever your comments and feedback are warmly welcomed.

Your HCO team:

Jeremy Wakeham: Chair

Erika Woodhurst-Trueman: Hon Secretary

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

Bob Kenhard: Treasurer & News editor hcotreasurerbk@btinternet.com
(01273 844920)

General contact email : enquiries@hassockscommunity.org.uk

¹ UK census data 2011