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IMPORTANT...*Please support our local independent businesses when you can*

Hello Brighton!!

Welcome to November in Brighton and your regular local magazine literally packed with local news, information and great local businesses ready and willing to service you.

So what have we got for you this month? Plenty of updates of local issues from the council, news of upcoming events as well as a summary of November at the Theatre Royal. You also get to read about a variety of local residents and what they have to say for themselves plus an article about the Asian hornet that has found its way over here and what this means. All in all we think you should find a few items at least worthy of a proper read over a cuppa.

Please remember our advertisers, who are genuinely local businesses, without whose support we would not be able to produce and distribute this magazine.

Have a lovely November in Brighton and enjoy the fireworks!

The Brightonian Team

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Cover Competition

Email us your best photos or paintings of Brighton. We will use the winner as the cover and give you the credit!

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10th NOVEMBER using the
email address opposite.

November winner

Charles M. Wilcox sent in this great photo of waves on the Marina breakwater.

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GENERAL

INDEX



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Our normal price for a standard single Will is £135, or £225 for a couple. Minimum spend for a free home visit is £85.

Fiveways events...

Fireworks

Coles Funfairs will be staging a giant free firework display in Preston Park on Wednesday 1st November.

A funfair, bar and catering will be open from 4-10pm, with fireworks at 8pm.



Crafternoonhove Christmas Wreath Making

A fun and enjoyable festive activity

Come and join Cat and Jo from Crafternoonhove, the loved and trusted Christmas Wreath workshops provider.

To make creating easier they curate full kits with everything you need to make a beautiful wreath. From aromatic eucalyptus, fresh greenery to festive decorations and foraged seed heads. And if you can't make a workshop, just buy a kit to make at home with full instructions.

They are expanding into Fiveways and Seven Dials this year, choosing pubs which offer a great festive atmosphere and excellent food and drink. All you need to bring is an apron, pair of gloves and a large bag to carry your masterpiece home.

Gather friends and family or come solo and make new friends as you bond over some festive crafting. No experience is necessary as Jo and Cat will guide you with support and expertise.

Visit crafternoonhove.co.uk to book your space.

Your local representatives...



Fiveways councillors

The councillors for Fiveways & Hollingdean ward are Mohammed Asaduzzaman, Bruno De Oliveira and Theresa Fowler (all Labour councillors).

Their contact details are:

Mohammed Asaduzzaman:

Mohammed.Asaduzzaman@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Bruno De Oliveira:

Bruno.DeOliveira@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Theresa Fowler:

Theresa.Fowler@brighton-hove.gov.uk / tel: 07562 437605

You can also write to them at:

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Preston Park

Javelin thrower A. Valste in Preston Park
on 29 January 1938.

© Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove



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Meet the Fiveways artist behind the new sculpture on Hove Plinth...

Fiveways Face...

Pierre Diamantopoulos

Pierre Diamantopoulos MRSS, who lives in Fiveways, is the creator of *Flight of the Langoustine*, the new sculpture on Hove Plinth on Hove Promenade, which was inaugurated by the Mayor in September. The sculpture, of four bronze figures flying through a steel grid, was completely funded by voluntary contributions raised by Hove Civic Society.

What work have you done in the past?

I have staged several solo shows and a large number of mixed shows both in London and throughout the UK, also having exhibited in significant venues in the UK on a number of occasions — from Cork Street to the Royal West of England Academy, and was represented in the Cass Sculpture Foundation's New Concept Gallery for Monumental Art since 2001. My art is in many private, corporate and international collections.

I was showcased in the Twenty First Century British Sculpture Exhibition for Monumental Art at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice in 2002, curated by Tim Marlow and Wilfred Cass and 'arguably one of the most comprehensive surveys of contemporary British sculpture ever exhibited'.

In 2007, I was awarded Arts Council England Funding and invited to design and install the landmark "Kandi Sky" Sculpture, a monumental work in painted steel, spanning 22 metres, which stands at the Western Entrance of Middlesbrough College, amongst the "Tees Valley Giants" and Northern Gateway Sculptures.

In 2015, I was awarded the commission to place "Flight of the Langoustine" on the new Hove Plinth - at almost four metres high this sculpture encompasses four life-size figures in bronze.

What was the inspiration behind the sculpture?

The sculpture was inspired by a discarded and mangled lobster pot that I found on the beach after a storm, as I walked to my previous Brighton seafront studio. In my imagination, the washed-up object that had seemingly



helped the lobsters escape, translated itself into a wider story of human exodus and release – a dash for freedom. It was also inspired by the anarchic articulation of modern dance choreography.

Why are there no faces on the figures?

I have been sculpting for over 35 years and have created faceless figures as long as I can remember. It is my signature or hallmark. Essentially, this gives my work or narrative a certain ambiguity that I like, wishing to leave something to the viewer's imagination. Not to identify figures by physiognomy allows for a wider scope for interpretation and association by the onlooker. Also, it transfers your attention away from the distractions of identity to the extremities of the figure – namely, to the expression, not in the face, but in the mannerism of the hands and feet and the delineation of the body which can deliver a powerful message



in themselves. The human body and pose can speak volumes. You may have noticed the figures do not have an overt gender either.

How do you feel about having your work on the plinth?

I said, many years ago, that the Venus de Milo would give her right arm to be on this plinth - not meaning to be at all glib - working as I often do, in the classical sculpting tradition. This location is a rare opportunity for a sculptor to have been given an open brief to place a meaningful work against such a clear and uninterrupted backdrop, with such good light and of course footfall. I would like people to know that, as a sculptor putting my ideas in the public realm, I am very sensitive as to that enormous responsibility. I consider myself to be a craftsman trying to make beautiful and elegant sculpture in a built and cultural environment. The idea was conceived on the seafront and it is a privilege to have had it realised on Hove Promenade.

The idea behind Hove Plinth is that the sculptures will change every few years. The previous (first) sculpture, Constellation, which was installed in 2018, is to be placed on a plinth outside Hove Museum in the next few months.

*More information at
hoveplinth.org.uk/flight-of-the-langoustine*

News from the council...

A23 improvements approved

On 3rd October, members of Brighton & Hove City Council's Transport and Sustainability Committee approved the start of work to improve parts of the A23 near Preston Park - a key Brighton and Hove corridor.

They approved the construction of the first phase of the work, between Argyle Road and the junction of Stanford Avenue.

Funded by the Government's Active Travel Fund, Section 106 funding and money from the council's Local Transport Plan, the work will:

- introduce a new segregated bi-directional cycle lane between Argyle Road and Stanford Avenue
- improve pedestrian crossings near Argyle Road and Springfield Road
- ensure safer, more accessible junctions
- include widening of pavements and improvements for pedestrians
- provide improved connectivity for cyclists joining westbound from Ditchling Rise



Should more funding become available, the scheme will then look to make further improvements between Stanford Avenue and Preston Drove.

A public consultation took place in 2021 and a further consultation on the final design was held earlier this year with key stakeholders.

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Lantern Arts Hub

Thanks to an injection of funding from Innovate UK, the recently launched Lantern Arts Hub is a creative community space where everyone is welcome to come together, develop new skills, meet like-minded people, and explore the arts in a safe and supportive environment.

In response to research showing an increase in loneliness and isolation amongst people over 50, all of our daytime performing arts age-positive classes are designed to be fun and energising.

As an established theatre venue and professional acting school we are well aware of the emotional and physical benefits of engaging in creative play as a group. We've watched our students grow in confidence and emerge from their shells. Age shouldn't be a barrier to these benefits but often it is. We tell ourselves "everyone will be younger than me" or "I'm too old". With the Lantern Arts Hub we want to create a space where you're never too old and everyone is welcome. Whether you want to come and take acting classes, explore your body through movement, free your voice, share stories, or just have some coffee and cake... this is a space for everybody.

"Exploring Your Voice" with Jules Craig is all about freeing the potential of our voices through warm-ups, exercises, voice games, and application to texts, speeches and everyday situations.

"True Story" with Hasan Dixon explores how documentary and verbatim theatre techniques can be used as storytelling tools. Through sharing stories and recording interviews we learn the basics of screen acting, collaboration and filmmaking... all with our smart-phones.

"The Sound of Musicals" with Mark Carroll takes us on an exciting journey into the magic of musicals, looking at a new song and basic movement routine each week. The emphasis is on fun and expression, not performance.

In our baby-friendly "Singing Mamas & Papas" with Hannah Summers we will learn to sing a new song each week. Singing together releases all those lovely feel-good endorphins! Finding vocal confidence starts with singing everything and anything and having fun along the way.



The Sound of Musicals with Mark Carroll

"Age Positive Stage Acting Workshop" with Dan Finlay and/or Sian Webber is a really fun confidence-boosting class, whether you're an absolute beginner or rediscovering a dormant passion.

"Movement & the Imagination" with Mim King uses our bodies as our guides, and works with the imagination and visualisation techniques to discover a sense of fun and freedom in movement.

The cafe is open daily and is the perfect spot to grab some refreshments before or after class, or just have a chat about plays and stuff!

More information at
lanterntheatrebrighton.co.uk/lah

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Rhys Darby: 25 Years

2023 marks Rhys Darby's silver jubilee in stand-up comedy and he's bringing his retrospective show to Kemptown, taking a look at all his favourite material for the past quarter century.

Rhys is one of New Zealand's most successful comedy exports. Starting in Christchurch in the 90s, he has performed his unique style of storytelling all over the world. Ten years into his career North Americans discovered him via *Flight of the Conchords*. He has starred in blockbusters like the *Jumanji* franchise, indie hits like *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* and is currently starring in *Our Flag Means Death* with long-time collaborator Taika Waititi.

In addition to stand-up and acting, Rhys has also written four books and has an irregular podcast, *The Cryptid Factor*, about cryptozoology, the science of hidden animals.

2 November, 8pm, St George's Church

Tickets from seetickets.com



News from Brighton & Hove Methodist Church...

First same sex marriage at Dorset Gardens

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church in Brighton proudly hosted its first same sex marriage on 7th October.

Dariusz Plata and Ben Parrish walked down the aisle after a national vote to allow same sex couples to wed. Ben, who has been with partner Dariusz for over four years, said: "We were thrilled to have a Christian ceremony to celebrate our marriage, that reflects our beliefs. We couldn't be happier."

The Methodist Church in Britain is the largest national Christian denomination to have voted for same-sex marriage. And, at a local level, the Dorset Gardens Church Council voted unanimously in favour of taking this step, which includes its consent for services of blessing for same-sex couples who are already married.

The Reverend Andy Lowe, Minister at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, said he was delighted to lead the wedding and hopes the ceremony will show that the church is open and



inclusive. Rev Lowe said: "I would encourage anyone considering marriage or wishing for a blessing to get in touch with us via phone or email or to come to one of our Sunday services where they would receive a warm welcome and could meet our church community and talk to us after the service over a cup of coffee."

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Barry Silsby tells us about his latest novel...

New book by Kemptown author

Kemptown-based author Barry Silsby has recently published a new novel, "Just Wheatley?", a Victorian detective story based in Brighton.

Tell us about your new book...

Wheatley is a young detective making his way in the Brighton police force of late Victorian times. He is a complex young man with a strong belief that things are either right or wrong. In this book a missing person case develops into a double murder enquiry and an examination of past crimes. His eventual discovery of the perpetrator causes him to question his rigid beliefs as to whether guilt is always black or white.

Which parts of Brighton feature in the story?

The missing woman is spending 'The Season' in a rented house on the Steyne (now Old Steine) with her 'uncle'. Other sites include the beach, North Laine, the West Pier and the Town Hall where the police station is located. An important location is Kemp Town. An invaluable aid for Detective Wheatley is the hard drinking Dr Barbara Buchanan whose 'necroscopy facility' (nowadays we'd call it a pathology lab) is in the cellar of the Royal Sussex County Hospital and whose 'office' is the snug bar of a nearby pub.

Your previous book, "Young Murder?" was based on a family legend about a murder in Hanover and also features Wheatley as the detective. Is there any truth behind this second story?

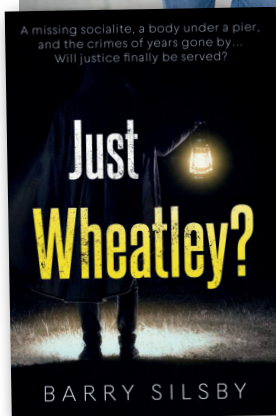
No, but it was my book 'Young Murder?' that spawned him. There was a real detective named Wheatly who investigated my great-grandmother's murder but that is all I could find out about him. In 'Young Murder?' I made him a young inexperienced policeman and was surprised when he was the character that appealed to so many readers. As a result I wrote a fictional short story about him and that story developed into 'Just Wheatley?'

What are you working on now?

I have completed a first draft of Wheatley's next adventure and am working on the second draft. Titled provisionally 'Wheatley Over a Barrel', it concerns a murdered victim discovered in a



Photo by Sarah Ketelears



cask of Tamplin's ale and much of it takes in the original Tamplins brewery in Hanover as well as the Level and throughout Brighton and Hove. In it Wheatley is supported by the usual characters

from 'Just Wheatley' and some new ones too. Whilst crime-solving is his major purpose, Wheatley's love-life causes some distraction.

"Just Wheatley?" by Barry Silsby is published by Pegasus and available direct from the publishers (https://pegasuspublishers.com/books/all/just-wheatley_), bookshops and online retailers including Amazon.

For more information see barrysilsby.org.

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Lina Talbot with the second of a two-part look at what is available for older people in Kemptown...

Group activities for older people

If you go down to the beach today - you'll find group activities like never on Kemptown Beach before!

There are groups for sports, eg volleyball, swimming, running, gymnastics and martial arts/self defence, and for "other" physical activities eg walking, Pilates, barre, yoga, dance and rehabilitation exercises. These can take place at Yellowwave - on the courts or in the Clubhouse - and/or at Sea Lanes - in the pool or in the building next door, which houses over 20 units. People are friendly and keen to explain what takes place in the various locations - so go and ask!

Not for older people? Wrong, many are when performed at the level suited to your bodily state! There is also individual training as well as rehabilitation. Many older people benefit from yoga, Pilates etc, and from appropriate levels of physical exercise. Performing these in a class brings obvious social benefits, with cafés on hand to have a chat over coffee afterwards. And of course being on the shore feels beautiful in itself and boosts one's spirits, which is why so many are now walking between Yellowwave and the Marina along the new boardwalk. Here we see the Pilates class at Yellowwave on Friday morning. The full calendar of activities in the Yellowwave Clubhouse is online with email addresses and phone numbers to contact those running each group: <https://yellowwave.co.uk/clubhouse-class-calendar>

On top of the Sea Lanes building, Luna Wave has a beautiful spot with classes for many varieties of yoga, meditation, myofascial release (for easing muscle stiffness) and relaxation, for all ages including parents with babies, kids and teenagers. Over-65s welcome! The weekly timetable is vast - simply google "Lunawave". At the other end of the top floor is The Studio with a range of physical training: TRX classes, Fitness, Boxing, Pilates and Nutrition consulting. And there's Powerwatts with bikes lined up for "interactive group workouts"... phew! One review states "super-friendly people to meet there". Next to the shore, Paddle People promote kayaking/surf boarding. TG for the Fika café, Bison restaurant and beach bar where you can sit afterwards, chill 'n' chat! Here are also event spaces to hire for groups coming from outside of Sea Lanes.

Finally a quick word for Digital Support helping you with using your laptop, tablet and/or smartphone, now available in the Fitzherbert Community Café in Bristol Road, Thurs 10-12. Richard is the local digital champion. Pop along and chat to him to fix up a time for an individual session - or email: training@realjunkfoodbrighton.co.uk. Classes may well materialize in a few months' time... spread the word!

Reviewed on behalf of Kemptown residents by Lina Talbot



News from St Luke's Church

Winter Fair

Saturday 25 November, 10am-1pm

Come along to our friendly Winter Fair in the church and church hall. Hot and cold refreshments will be on sale before you browse the stalls and buy a ticket for the Grand Prize Draw which will take place at 1pm. Stalls will include bric-a-brac, books, cosmetics, Christmas decorations, electrical, CDs and DVDs, toys, cakes, tombola, bottle stall, hand knitted items etc and of course the free bouncy castle for the kids. Step-free access at the left-hand side of the church.

Community Library

Saturdays from 10am-12 noon

The library is open at the back of the church every Saturday morning with a good selection of adult fiction, non-fiction and children's books for all ages. There is also an area for kids to do colouring and for parents to read to the kids in the peace and quiet. Please note it will not be accessible on 25 November.

Dates for the diary

Resound Male Voices and sister choir Rebelles will be performing for two nights on Friday 8

and Saturday 9 December. Full details to follow in next month's edition but in advance tickets will be available from 6 November from www.resoundmalevoices.org.



News from the Local Government Information Unit...

Councillor shortlisted for award

Queen's Park ward councillor Chandni Mistry has been shortlisted for the 2023 LGIU (Local Government Information Unit) and CCLA (Churches, Charities & Local Authorities) annual Cllr Awards for Young Councillor of the Year, in a selection that represents "some of the most dedicated elected representatives in England and Wales".

Competition was extremely tight, with more than 300 nominations received across five categories that celebrate the wide-ranging work of councillors.

Cllr Mistry is shortlisted for Young Councillor of the Year for her dedication to community betterment. Her tangible contributions, from

securing fresh amenities for children's play areas to advocating for positive mental health, showcase her as an inspirational leader who exemplifies the spirit of dedicated public service.

The winners in England and Wales will be announced at the Guildhall in London at 7pm on 16 November 2023.

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Ding Dong Merrily On High...It's Christmas Time in Brighton (and Hove actually).

It's never too early to start thinking about how to celebrate the Festive Season with your friends, family and work colleagues.

We've planned some big parties this year and we've updated the food offering (no Christmas Pudding this year – we'll save that joy for the 25th December).

It's not just about the big party nights, though. Fancy something more sedate and elegant? Our Festive Afternoon Tea is back throughout December. This is the perfect chance to take a break during your Christmas shopping trip or to meet up with friends and family for a chilled glass of prosecco (or 2) with something deliciously festive to eat.



Download the Festive Programme via the QR Code, click onto the website or give the Christmas Elves a call on 01273 321222 events@queenshotelbrighton.com

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Countering broken window theory

I was tempted to substitute my 400-word allocation with some shocking photographs of recent Anti-Social Behaviour, writes Geoffrey Bowden, Chair of the Friends of Queen's Park.

Last month Queen's Park appeared to be under attack from marauding Barbarians.

CASE 1: The door of the clock tower was kicked in and a group of teenagers with an adult in tow were found inside claiming that they were only there to reset the clock.

CASE 2: Not content with daubing the exterior of the play area toilet block with unsightly tags, vandals took it upon themselves to smash every piece of porcelain inside.

CASE 3: Even before children had a chance to enjoy the new equipment in the playground, a tagger, whose handle is BEZZO BOT, but can be identified via Reddit and his Instagram account, broke into the fenced off area to tag the play equipment still under construction.

CASE 4: The broken window theory - visible signs of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) create an environment that encourages further ASB and crime - proved to be correct. The defaced playground led to two males breaking into the fenced off site to rip open crates containing the play equipment awaiting installation.

What's the solution?

Although all this has been reported, along with video evidence, to the police, follow-up action is unlikely to prove effective. A Criminal Protection Order could, if ignored a few times, lead to a custodial sentence. That's only in extreme cases. In the meantime, taggers will continue to mark their territory like dogs cocking their collective legs and peeing on everything in sight.

With the law unlikely to provide an immediate solution, the Friends of Queen's Park has agreed to team up with the Brighton Table Tennis Club (BTTC) to create an alternative positive focus for young people. We'll be



working together to create a junior parkrun. With BTTC we'll be raising the funds to carry out all the necessary risk assessments, purchase a mobile defibrillator and register with parkrun.org.

Both the club and the Friends of Queen's Park are working with local schools and this new initiative will dovetail nicely into our strategy of developing a long-term appreciation by the young of a wonderful local facility.

While a junior parkrun may not eradicate those who think defacing the public realm is acceptable, it will provide young people with a more positive counter-balance to that pervasive and destructive culture.

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New council homes proposed

Brighton & Hove City Council's Housing & New Homes Committee has approved proposals for four developments of new council-rented homes.

One of the council-owned sites is Oakley House, on the junction of Leicester Street and Edward Street. Oakley House currently comprises six council homes and a commercial tenant. Redeveloping the site to provide a new building could deliver a mix of around 23 new one-, two- and three-bedroom homes. The council say that the occupants have been engaged in the proposals and, if the redevelopment is approved, they will support the current tenants to find and move to new homes.



Designs have been developed for all four sites and the next step will be to move towards planning applications.

Oakley House; photo from Wikimedia Commons

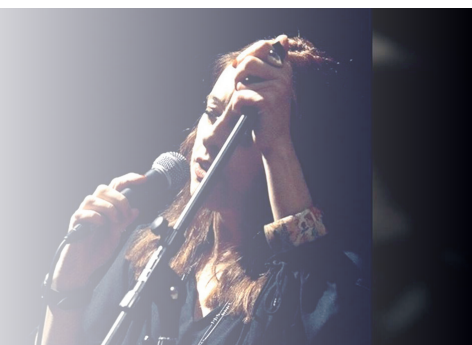
Joanna Eden at The Verdict

On Saturday 11 November (7.30pm), jazz singer-songwriter and pianist Joanna Eden will be performing at The Verdict Jazz Club at 159 Edward Street.

With nine solo albums, Joanna is considered one of the finest singer-pianists in the UK, with a style that covers a broad spectrum, through jazz, soul, Brazil and blues. Her beautifully crafted compositions give life to personal and expressive lyrics, which - like her songwriting hero Joni Mitchell - question and reflect life's changes.

She regularly performs at Ronnie Scott's Club and has supported a stellar list of artists including Sir Van Morrison and Jamie Cullum. She will be performing with Uruguayan bass player Andrés Lafone, one of the pioneers of the UK Latin/jazz scene, Uruguayan guitarist Guillermo Hill and drummer Tristan Banks, who has worked with artists including Steve Winwood and Beverley Knight.

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Queen's Park Councillor News

Queens Park has experienced its share of challenges and triumphs.

To start on a positive note, the selection of mural quotes underwent a thoughtful voting process, resulting in the finalisation of an inspiring quote: "Yesterday I was. Tomorrow I will be. Today I'll take my time and enjoy being me."

This particular quote has been favoured amongst residents, and we anticipate that its positive and affirming message will contribute to a reduction in vandalism, creating a more pleasant park environment.

Excitingly, we are now in the process of seeking a talented mural artist to bring this quote to life. On a different note, concerns about antisocial behaviour persist, with instances of tagging on new playground equipment, the drinking fountain and in the toilets. Collaborating with PCSOs, Cityclean and the Friends of Queens Park, we are actively implementing preventive measures.

The escalating antisocial behaviour has prompted serious consideration, leading us to explore the possibility of installing CCTV cameras. Additionally, Cllr Burden and I are in discussions about organising a Community Summit in Queens Park, offering residents an opportunity to engage with both us and possibly members of the police to address various issues.

Recognising the importance of inclusivity, I've organised a drop-in session at Milner and Kingswood; I am eager to collaborate with residents. Moreover, I have been in contact with the homelessness help team to explore collective efforts in addressing rough sleepers. Our commitment to enhancing Queens Park remains steadfast, and we look forward to positive changes ahead.

Having studied at a non-selective government school, I was delighted to have the privilege of connecting with both the governor and head teacher of Queens Park Primary School, in the heart of our community. I am genuinely pleased with the innovative initiatives implemented to enhance diversity and accessibility. As the youngest member of the current council and having had the privilege to complete A-levels at an earlier age, it was heart-warming to see



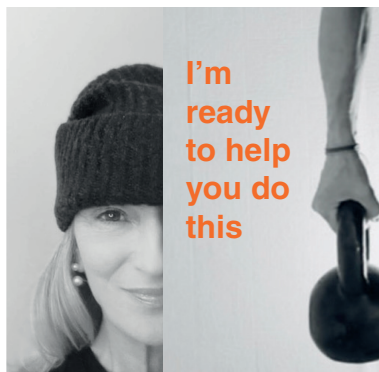
the cohesive supportive environment of staff and parents during my participating in their morning coffee chat sessions, which ultimately fosters an encouraging learning environment.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your local councillors:

Chandni.mistry@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Patch AGM and Winter Warmer

The Friends of William Clarke Park will be holding their AGM in the Brighton Trades and Labour Club on Lewes Road, near the Elm Grove junction.

It takes place on Tuesday 14th November from 7pm until 10pm. Invites are open to all to attend, with free food and a drink from the bar. We encourage folk to join in, get involved and perhaps join the committee itself. A review of the year will be carried out with a presentation.

Folk should also be prepared for our annual Patch Winter Warmer, where there will be live music, lights and lantern making in William Clarke Park (The Patch). It's on Sunday 3rd December, from 3pm till 6pm. There will be a bar, with hot food and fires to keep folk cosy. A festive family event, coinciding with the Hanover Advent Calendar on Picton Street the same day. Suggested donation £5.

www.williamclarkepark.org

HANOVER

Sad news from a local group..

Hanover Queens WI to close

Hanover Queens WI have taken the sad decision to suspend their WI group due to low membership.

Their last meeting will take place on Thursday 9th November at 7.30pm at The Church of the Annunciation in Washington Street, when there will be a talk by Geoffrey Mead on "Backstage Brighton – Brighton's theatre history".

Hanover & Elm Grove

Councillor News

Earlier this month, the first stage of work on Elm Grove was approved by the Transport & Sustainability Committee which will see improved crossings at Bonchurch Road and Hampden Road, as well as safety measures at the junction with Queen's Park Road.

We are now organising more conversations with local residents to find consensus on what further improvements are needed, and we are particularly focussed on improving air quality in the area, as well as tackling speeding traffic coming down the hill from the Racecourse. We are also beginning to work with officers to reduce the risk of flooding at the bottom of Elm Grove and around the Level. Heavy rain and flooding is becoming a more regular occurrence and is causing a great deal of anxiety among residents in the area.

Having successfully supported residents in and around Lincoln Cottages with their objections to an inappropriate housing development, we are now looking closely at the proposals for an extremely dense development on Melbourne Street, which seeks to house hundreds of people in a very small area. We are very mindful of the housing crisis facing the city, but it is critically important that we build the right kind of housing: family homes where people can live with dignity, not tightly packed bedsits that maximise profits for wealthy property developers.

As part of this proposed development, a community of property guardians living at Enterprise Point were recently given just 30 days' notice to vacate. Anyone in the private rental sector in the city knows only too well how hard it is to find affordable housing, and to do so in only four weeks is not realistic. Having been in contact with the guardians, we helped to secure a longer notice period of 90 days so that they have a fighting chance of finding suitable homes.

Sadly, this month we learned that new playground equipment at Queen's Park was vandalised by taggers before installation was even complete. This

followed one of the toilets being violently destroyed just days earlier. Having worked so hard to get the city's public toilets reopened this summer, it was heart-breaking to have to close it again so soon. The incident took place between 5pm and 7pm on Tuesday 26th September and if anybody has any information, we ask that they report it to police via the 101 phone service or online.

This forms part of a wider antisocial behaviour picture around the city with which we have all become too familiar, including criminal activity – particularly drug dealing – happening in plain sight. We as councillors will be working with police and public health professionals to develop a better strategy for tackling the issue.

Please get in touch with us if we can help with anything via the details below.

maureen.winder@brighton-hove.gov.uk

tim.rowkins@brighton-hove.gov.uk

ty.galvin@brighton-hove.gov.uk





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Work to improve Elm Grove

New, safer crossings for a busy road in Brighton & Hove have been given the go-ahead.

Members of Brighton & Hove City Council's Transport and Sustainability Committee approved the proposals for Elm Grove when they met on 3 October.

The committee were asked to bring forward work to:

- improve crossing facilities near the junctions with Hampden Road / de Montfort Road and at the junction with Bonchurch Road
- upgrade the Elm Grove / Queen's Park Road traffic signal junction.

The crossing facilities were identified in the city's top 10 sites last year while the traffic signals needs replacing because of their age.

Liveable Neighbourhood Pilot will not progress

The committee also approved a recommendation that work on the Hanover and Tarnar Liveable Neighbourhood pilot stops as the proposals did not have the full support of local residents. It also agreed to reallocate £400,000 of funding from the £1 million previously allocated for the pilot project to fund the crossing and junction improvements.

A public consultation on proposals for a Liveable Neighbourhood Pilot Project in the Hanover and Tarnar area was held over a nine-week period last summer. Information was sent

to more than 17,000 addresses in and around the proposed area and received more than 1200 responses.

The feedback highlighted a range of issues and concerns about the proposals and did not show overriding support for the scheme.

Safer roads for our residents

Councillor Trevor Muten, Chair of the Transport and Sustainability Committee, said: "I'm pleased to see that measures in this area to improve crossings and upgrade a junction will mean safer roads and crossings for residents of Elm Grove and those who use it. It's a very busy part of the city, especially during the school run, and these changes would make the area safer for children, parents and carers. The changes will also benefit road users with safer junctions for cyclists, motorists and their passengers.

"We've looked at the consultation feedback the council received last year and listened carefully to the feedback we received from residents, and it's clear people in the Elm Grove and Tarnar area comprehensively rejected the Liveable Neighbourhood Pilot. However, safety measures in this area will benefit the local community and I'm sure better, safer crossings and junctions will be welcomed."



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Celebrating the Victoria Fountain renovation

A celebration to mark the completion of the Victoria Fountain restoration project and its return to the Old Steine was held on 12 October.

Councillors, community groups, local historians and specialists involved with the restoration project gathered at the Old Steine to celebrate the historic milestone and see the working fountain restored to its former glory. Brighton & Hove Mayor Cllr Jackie O'Quinn cut the ribbon. Experts who have skilfully restored the cast iron fountain and council officers who managed the project were on hand to talk about it.

Dismantling and reassembling the fountain

Work on the £400k restoration project began in December 2022 when, following significant structural problems, the fountain was switched off, dismantled and transported to Leicester, where specialist restoration work was been carried out. This has included cleaning and repairing the large cast iron dolphins and fountain pool and decorative 'egg-and-dart' moulding ring, using the innovative 'Fusion Cast' process which involves welding cast iron.

The fountain returned to the Old Steine in April to be carefully reassembled on a new reinforced concrete base and fitted with new electrics, pumps and water pipes and a new lighting scheme which provides red, green, blue and white lighting which can be controlled to mark special occasions.

Heritage restored in Brighton & Hove

Council leader Bella Sankey said: "It's wonderful to see another piece of Brighton's unique heritage has been restored and given a new lease of life; it looks more exquisite today than ever. I'm delighted that our residents will be able to take pleasure in this impressive sculpture with its cascading water that so delighted our Victorian predecessors. We are committed to making Brighton & Hove as beautiful as possible and this restoration project will play an important role in that."



Commemorating Queen Victoria

The Victoria Fountain owes its existence to the efforts of John Cordy Burrows. After the commissioners of the town of Brighton decided against erecting a fountain to commemorate Queen Victoria's accession to the throne in 1837, Burrows placed a private commission with British architect Amon Henry Wilds. The project was financed by Burrows and a public subscription, along with the proceeds of a bazaar, concert and night at the theatre.

The dolphins were sculpted by William Pepper and the castings were made at the Eagle Foundry on Gloucester Road in Brighton, who also installed the fountain.

A citywide celebration

The inauguration of the fountain on 25 May 1846, to mark the 27th birthday of Queen Victoria, was a spectacular citywide celebration. The ceremony featured a royal salute fired from the pier head at noon, co-ordinated with the starting of the fountain. Music specially commissioned for the event included "Fountain Quadrilles" by Charles Coote, Burrows' son-in-law. Local businesses closed at 3pm that afternoon and the day's festivities concluded with fireworks.

Have your say on plans to improve private rented homes

We want to hear from residents, landlords and letting agents about 2 proposed licensing schemes for privately rented homes in the city.

Both licensing schemes would run for a period of 5 years.

Additional HMO Licensing

A proposed city wide additional licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) that are 2 or more storeys and occupied by 3 or 4 people who are not related and share kitchen, bathroom or toilet facilities.

Selective Licensing

A proposed licensing scheme for homes rented to single households (or two sharers) for 4 wards in the city.

- Kempdown
- Moulsecoomb & Bevendean
- Queens Park
- Whitehawk & Marina

The proposal also covers the option of introducing a further Selective Licensing Scheme covering 13 wards in the city.

Your opinion matters

To find out more about the proposed schemes and share your views, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/property-licensing-scheme-proposals

The consultation closes at midnight on Wednesday 3 January 2024.

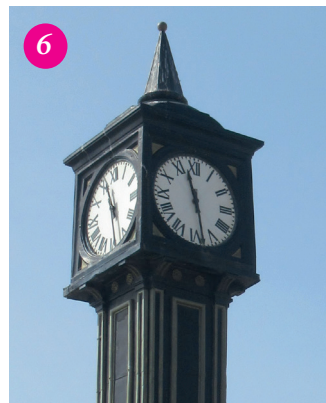



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10-19 November 2023

This annual celebration of cinema and the big screen experience features the very best in international cinema, with a diverse programme of premieres and previews.

Main cinema venues are the Duke of York's Picturehouse and Depot, Lewes, with further screenings and events at Fabrica, Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, Duke's at Komedia, Horatio's Bar, Lord Nelson, East Street Tap and Dead Wax Social.

CINECITY opens and closes with previews of two eagerly awaited films both tipped for success in the awards season. The festival opens on Friday 10 November (Duke of York's) with **Poor Things** directed by Yorgos Lanthimos. Winner of the Golden Lion at the recent Venice Film Festival, it has been described as a steampunk black comedy fantasy film and stars Emma Stone, Willem Dafoe and Mark Ruffalo.

The festival closes on Sunday 19 November (Duke of York's) with **All of Us Strangers**,



Emma Stone and Mark Ruffalo in *Poor Things*

directed by Andrew Haigh. Paul Mescal and Andrew Scott star in what The Guardian described as a 'mysterious, beautiful and sentimental film ... a fantasy-supernatural romance about loneliness and love'.

Full programme details at www.cine-city.co.uk

Local news...

Brighton beach clean

Local volunteers gathered at Brighton beach in October to take part in the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and Aldi UK's Brighton beach clean.

The beach clean was part of the MCS's annual Beachwatch programme – backed by its biggest funder, Aldi, with a £50,000 donation. Brighton was the first city to kick off the programme, with 25 volunteers from the area successfully clearing 100m of Brighton beach and removing approximately 768 pieces of rubbish along the way. The MCS's latest programme will see more than 13,500 volunteers participate in 1,200 local beach cleans over the next year.

Liz Fox of Aldi UK said: "We're committed to keeping waste out of our seas, so events like this are a great way for our communities and colleagues to bring about real change and protect our surroundings."

Katherine Stephenson of the Marine Conservation Society added: "We'd like to say a huge thank you to all the members of the public who came to join the team for our beach clean in Brighton - we wouldn't be able to continue carrying out our vital work without you."



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Help increase recycling

Brighton & Hove City Council know we need to improve our recycling service but we need your help to make positive change.

Recycling rates in the city have sat at around 30% for the last couple of years and we can all be doing more to increase recycling. On average, 8% of kerbside waste and almost 20% of communal waste should have been recycled.

Reduce and reuse

We can all do our bit to have a positive effect on the environment. By recycling more, you're helping to reduce waste, protect natural resources, save energy, and reduce air and water pollution, but the biggest impact is made by reducing consumption and reusing items to prevent them from going to waste. Evidence shows that Brighton & Hove residents are producing less waste, with the amount of waste collected per household lower over the past two years, but we should all be doing more.

Getting recycling right

Make sure you're recycling everything you can. We collect paper and cardboard, cans, tins and aerosols, and all plastic bottles, including shampoo bottles. We also collect glass bottles and jars separately and can now accept metal lids as part of the glass collections. Please wash the glass bottle or jar and replace the lid. These are all materials we know will actually be recycled.

Reducing contamination

A major issue is 'contaminated' recycling, which happens when non-recyclable waste is mixed with recyclable materials. Popping an item that isn't recyclable in your recycling bin and hoping it'll be recycled is known as 'wishcycling' and contaminates recyclable waste.

We can't currently process soft plastics, such as carrier bags, bread packaging and pots, tubs and trays, but we're working on plans to expand the range of items we collect. For now, we ask residents to put these items in their general waste.

Our recycling is sent to the Materials Recovery Facility in Hollingdean where it is handpicked



and separated by paper and cardboard, aluminium and plastic. While we do our best to remove items that aren't recyclable, it isn't always possible and the reality is that wrong items can spoil the bunch, and make whole lorry loads un-recyclable.

For information on what to do with other materials, visit our A-Z guide to recycling: brighton-hove.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-streets/recycling/recycling-z

Looking ahead for service improvement

Councillors recently visited the Materials Recovery Facility, as well as the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in Newhaven and the composting facility in Whitesmith. Councillor Tim Rowkins, Chair of the City Environment, South Downs and The Sea Committee, said: "It was fantastic to see where and how our waste is managed. It really helped to inform plans to improve the service in the long term, and how we might increase recycling rates and reduce contamination. We only want to collect what we know we can actually recycle, and we're really keen to remind residents what they can and can't recycle in their kerbside and communal recycling bins. Non-recyclable waste thrown into recycling sometimes contaminates recycling, which must then be sent to the ERF in Newhaven. We want to send as little waste as possible to the ERF and we can do this by reducing, reusing and recycling correctly."

To find out more about reducing and reusing, visit the council's climate action webpages: brighton-hove.gov.uk/climate-action/get-involved-climate-action



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Comedian Dom Joly tells us about his upcoming visit to Komedia Brighton...

Dom Joly...The Conspiracy Tour

Multi-award-winning comedian and travel writer Dom Joly is best known for his practical joke comedy series Trigger Happy TV.

He's coming to Komedia Brighton on 28th February with The Conspiracy Tour, based on his book *The Conspiracy Tourist* which is published on 2nd November.

Tell us about the book...

I used to spend a lot of time arguing online with conspiracy theorists. In my opinion, they are like a dangerous cult and they greatly annoy me. But the more I argued with them, the more entrenched they got in their belief and so I thought there must be a different way to approach the issue. So I set off round the world to hang out with conspiracy theorists of all kinds while trying to keep an open mind. I became...a Conspiracy Tourist and it was quite the ride.

Which was the most interesting group you met on your travels?

Denver, Colorado was a conspiracy hotbed with a lot of the focus on Denver International Airport which is rumoured to be the panic room for the Illuminati when the rapture comes, but I think it might have something to do with the vast amount of legal marijuana consumed in the city. But it's tricky to beat going on a road trip with a Flat Earther to one of the four corners of the flat earth ...that was seriously interesting.

Do you ever find yourself drawn to conspiracy theories?

Conspiracy theories used to be fun, silly... now they are borderline dangerous and have infected the body politic. I have always been fascinated by the assassination of JFK and have been to Dallas several times, including for this book, but – spoiler - I don't think there was a second shooter.



Photo by Spencer McPherson

GENERAL

How does the show reflect the book?

The show is in two parts - I take the destinations in my book as a way to begin a wider, funny dissection of the whole world of conspiracy theories. Then, in the name of balance, I have a very well-known conspiracy theorist, Dr Julian Northcote who has written a fascinating book "Cows!! Britain's Secret Killers", take over the show. Expect the unexpected.

Have you been to Brighton before?

Many many times. It's one of my favourite cities in England. I filmed a lot of new Trigger Happy there and starred in the Rocky Horror Show there for a month. I know it very well.

Tickets for The Conspiracy Tour are available from komedia.co.uk/brighton/comedy.

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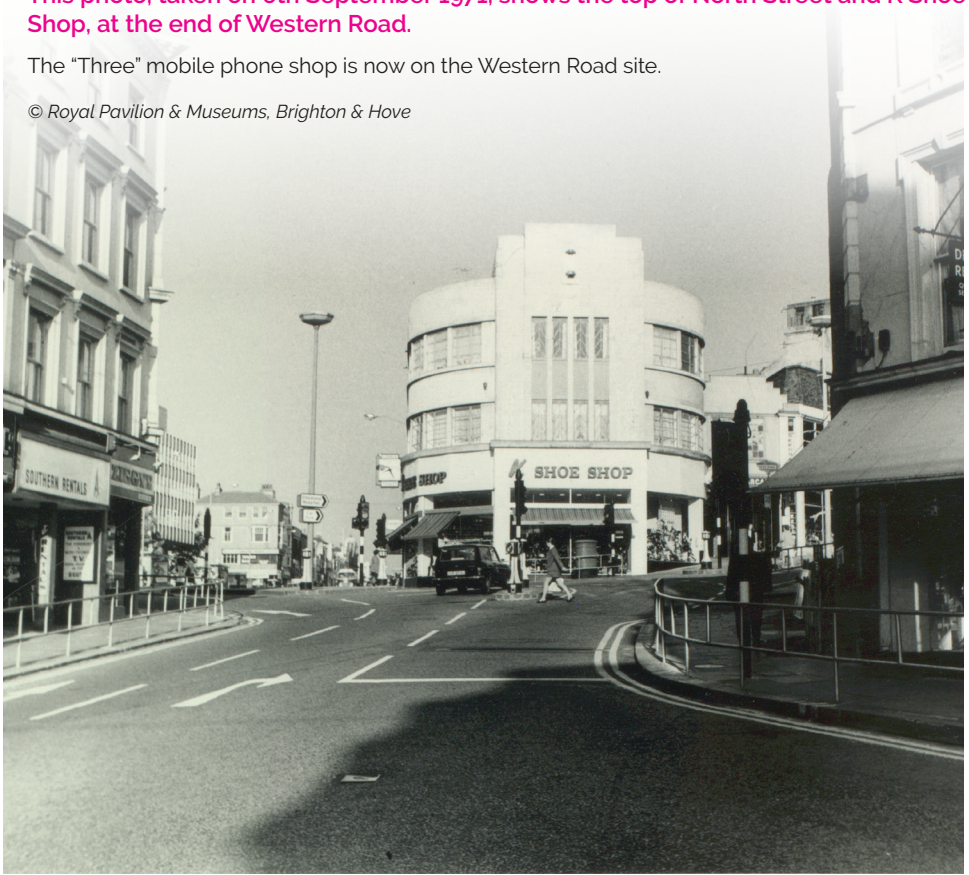
Brighton Bygones...

North Street

This photo, taken on 6th September 1971, shows the top of North Street and K Shoe Shop, at the end of Western Road.

The "Three" mobile phone shop is now on the Western Road site.

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GENERAL

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Local tour guide...Bonny Holland

Bonny Holland lives in Hove and is a tour guide who runs a MeetUp group called London and Sussex Walking Tours offering tours in and around Brighton.

How did you become interested in local history?

I grew up in Hove but then at 19 I left to go to university; 40 years later I returned 'home' to retire. Growing up I wasn't very interested in history, as I was very good at maths and science, plus I liked socialising in Brighton quite a lot. Being away from Brighton however I developed more of an interest and started to research the area from afar.

I was planning to return to my home town for over five years before it actually happened and during this time I joined the Brighton Past Facebook group to get in touch with what I'd missed over the many intervening years. So I was researching the local history plus organising to downsize our home near Guildford plus researching where my husband and I might live. We finally arrived 'home' in November 2017... to a modern flat next to Hove Park and just yards from where I'd attended school.

Tell us about your tours...

During the pandemic I started giving online virtual tours for people who felt uncomfortable going out. I would walk around the city talking about the history (using my mobile phone camera plus a stabilising 'gimbal' and microphone), and so people were able to watch LIVE from their armchairs whilst keeping safe at home. I did this for 18 months and it taught me the ropes of tour guiding. For 40 years I'd been a school teacher and then a trainer so I had many transferable skills. Then just this year in April I was fortunate to be offered the chance to take over a well-established MeetUp group when Nick Richmond moved to London to be a guide for the Houses of Parliament. I have managed to grow the group to well over 8,000 members.

What's your most popular tour?

Well, I offer quite different tours to the more serious guides who mostly serve the tourists, as my main aim is to entertain locals and to have fun, so I share many rather odd stories that I've discovered during my research. Participants pay me in tips which I then use to buy more



old books about the area, so it's become a self-funding hobby. My best attended tour is 'A Fast History of Brighton - the Weird Stuff!' I put into the tour snippets of stories from all my other tours, so it's like a tasting menu, and I also share 300 years of Brighton's history in just one hour. My funniest tour is the 'Smelly Brighton' Walking Tour, which gets the best reviews! Participants find it hilarious.

Do you have any other hobbies?

During Covid I found my son's old long-discarded alto saxophone in the spare room and started to have lessons via Zoom with a local musician, Charlotte Glasson. Now three years later I'm part of 'Saxshop', a group of 29 sax players who meet weekly at BHASVIC and put on free concerts in the city three times a year. I have also just started to volunteer at the Brighton Toy and Model Museum which is fascinating and gives me the opportunity to learn even more about our local history.

I'm 65 this month and still learning new things about our wonderful city and enjoying sharing those stories with anyone who will listen.

Find out more at meetup.com/londonandsussexwalkingtours

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Lizzie Mole...The Original Poet

Lizzie Mole lives in Brighton and runs a business, The Original Poet, writing bespoke poems for special occasions. She also has a selection of poem prints which are available to buy.



Have you always enjoyed writing poetry?

Yes, definitely. I remember winning a number of competitions as a child, it's something that comes naturally to me. My mum writes poetry too, so it definitely runs in the family.

When did you decide to make a living out of your poems?

It's been an organic process really. I first had the idea of offering a bespoke poetry writing service over 18 years ago. I became known for writing rhymes at work and was always called upon to write for the significant occasions being celebrated by my colleagues. This led to being asked to write for people I didn't know. The first I wrote was for four retiring lifeboatmen and I was paid in Quality Street! In 2018 I decided to give it a go and have now written numerous poems for customers from all over the world!



What sort of occasions have you written poems for?

I've written poems marking almost any occasion you can think of, from weddings, engagements and birthdays, to retirements, births and eulogies. I recently wrote an ode to a much-loved horse that had passed away.

Give us an example of a short poem...

You & Me

a smile that's as wide as the ocean,
a kiss that's as deep as the sea,
a hug that's wrapped up in duvets,
as snug as a bug and a flea.
a laugh that could ward away monsters,
a voice that could lullaby snails,
a word that's as gentle as snowflakes,
a love that I know never fails.
a mirror that holds two reflections,
a constant as friendly as tea,
a friend who's as needed as sunshine,
and where there's a you, there's a me.

Who are your own favourite poets?

I'm a big fan of nonsense poems, so I've always had a soft spot for John Hegley, Spike Milligan and Edward Lear. I was brought up listening to my mum reading Pam Ayres poems, so I will always have a fondness for her work too. I love Rudy Francisco the spoken word poet, Pablo Neruda, Walt Whitman, Raymond Carver and Simon Armitage and I always love finding new work to explore.

For more information, visit theoriginalpoet.com, email hello@theoriginalpoet.com or phone 01273 242383.



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Coming up at Theatre Royal Brighton...

Everybody's Talking About Jamie

This smash-hit musical returns to Theatre Royal for two weeks from 31 October to 11 November, after a sell-out Christmas season in 2021, starring Ivano Turco as Jamie.

Jamie New is 16 and lives on a council estate in Sheffield. Jamie doesn't quite fit in. Jamie is terrified about the future. Jamie is going to be a sensation. Supported by his brilliant loving mum and surrounded by his friends, Jamie overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness, into the spotlight.



The Enfield Haunting

Catherine Tate (Doctor Who, Queen of Oz) and David Threlfall (Funny Woman, Shameless) star in the world premiere of major new play The Enfield Haunting by Paul Unwin, immediately prior to a West End season.

It's the true story of what happened when a dedicated single mother tried to protect her three children from something incomprehensible and deeply disturbing. Catherine Tate plays the single mother, Peggy Hodgson, and David Threlfall is ghost hunter Maurice Grosse, who was determined to help the Hodgsons.

The Hodgsons had no idea what a poltergeist was when, in 1977, furniture and toys started moving of their own accord. They were an ordinary family, who lived in a North London council house at 284 Green Street, Enfield, but became the centre of one of the most famous poltergeist events in the world.



The Enfield Haunting is at Theatre Royal Brighton from 14-18 November.

Twelve Angry Men

This gripping knife-edge courtroom thriller, based on the 1957 Academy Award nominated film, follows a jury who have murder on their minds and a life in their hands as they decide the fate of a young delinquent accused of killing his father.

But what appears to be an open and shut case soon becomes a huge dilemma, as prejudices and preconceived ideas turn the tables every which way, until the nail-biting climax...

The play comes to Theatre Royal from 20-25 November and stars Patrick Duffy (Dallas), Gray O'Brien, Tristan Gemmill, Michael Greco, Ben Nealon and Gary Webster.



Cast from a past production

Tickets at [ATGtickets.com](https://www.atgtickets.com) / 0844 871 7615 or in person at the Box Office in New Road.

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News from local cycling campaign group Bricycles...

Families call for better cycling provision

Around 300 cyclists of all ages took to the streets of Brighton & Hove on 23 September, in the city's first major Kidical Mass bike ride.

The event, part of a global campaign inspired by Critical Mass, calls for safe cycling infrastructure, especially for children and families.

Nick Sayers, one of the organisers, said: "We're delighted – we had hoped for 100 riders, so to get three times that number powerfully demonstrates how much people want safe routes for riding on bicycles, not just sitting inside cars."

Almost half of the riders taking part were children. Matteo, aged five, joined on his bright green bicycle. He said: "I loved it because I got to ride on the road for the very first time."

In Brighton & Hove, two feeder rides from The Level and Hove Park joined with more riders at the Peace Statue. The entire mass then looped around the heart of the city and paused for a photo shoot outside Hove Town Hall.



Kidical Mass congregates outside Hove Town Hall; photo by Alex Bamford

The organisers plan to run more Kidical Mass rides next year. For more information, visit bricycles.org.uk

A free group based at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

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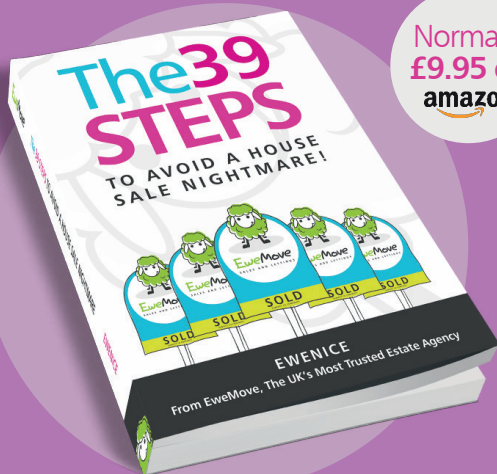
time. Please report to ground floor reception by 4.15pm for a prompt 4.30pm start: ends 6pm.

Chaired by Nurse Consultant Cardiology Sarah Young, we meet quarterly – February, May, August and November – and research patients' concerns, implement solutions and review innovations from their perspectives. We warmly welcome new faces, especially patients who will actively help us improve cardiac services.

To book your FREE taster session at our Monday 13 November meeting please contact the Acting Membership Secretary at: cpig.jack@outlook.com / 07530 051 576.

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News from the council...

Winter opening hours for toilets

The council are keeping most public toilets open throughout winter. This includes Stanmer Village and Queen's Park which were closed over winter last year.

Winter opening hours for public toilets across the city began on 1st October. Most of the city's public toilets will open from 8am to 4pm, except for some of the busier sites.

As in previous years, four sites will be closed over winter, including Daltons, Greenleas, Hollingbury Park and Black Rock. The toilets at Royal Pavilion Gardens and The Level will remain closed while the council consider options for their reopening. However, members of the public can now use the toilets in the foyer of Brighton Dome. They're open 9.45am to 5.15pm, Tuesday to Sunday.

Tackling potholes

Work is underway on a programme to improve the condition, look and feel of the city's roads.

Between now and next spring, miles of road will be either treated or resurfaced to tackle



potholes and wear and tear. Every road in the city is inspected at least once every six months, with busier roads visited more frequently.

The council also runs a 'seek and fix' programme that identifies roads and pavements that are beginning to deteriorate and takes pre-emptive preventative measures that tackle wear and tear sooner.

GENERAL

Classical music...

Brighton Festival Chorus Autumn Concert

Brighton Festival Chorus will be joined by London Mozart Players and the BFC Youth Choir for their autumn concert at All Saints Church in The Drive on Saturday 25th November (7.30pm).

They will be performing beautiful, calming, meditative works by female composers, followed by Puccini's rousing, operatic *Messa di Gloria*.

The first half of the programme showcases the work of five female composers, beginning with Clara Schumann's only set of choral songs, *Drei gemischte Chöre*. Other work to be performed includes Ukrainian composer Natalia Tsupryk's *A Quiet Night*, which sets text by a renowned Ukrainian poet and quotations from President Zelensky into the form of a moving musical expression of solidarity with the people of Ukraine.



More information and tickets (£20-£30) at bfc.org.uk

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Albion to get Freedom of the City

As the city celebrates Brighton & Hove Albion's first season in the UEFA Europa League, the team is due to be honoured with a prestigious award.

A special council meeting at Brighton Town Hall on 28 November 2023 will meet to vote on the award to Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club of the Freedom of the City. The ceremonial award recognises the club's achievements and their contribution to the city.

Councillor Bella Sankey, Leader of the Council, said: "The story of the mighty Albion's success is a source of huge pride for the whole city. From the fiercely loyal fans, who saved our club in the 1990s, but also in the incredible impact the club has had on our whole community and local economy. Brighton & Hove has never underestimated what our team is capable of, and now we can celebrate what they've achieved, and the hope and joy they give to



millions around the world. It's an exciting time to be a Brightonian and an Albion fan. I can't wait to see what they do this season. Up the Albion!"

Freedom of the City for Mary Clarke

A proposal to posthumously recognise suffragette Mary Clarke with the Freedom of the City award will be discussed at Full Council later this year.

The title of Honorary Freewoman or Freeman is awarded to people who have rendered eminent service to the council or the city.

Mary Jane Clarke was a vital figure in the women's suffrage movement, tirelessly campaigning for women's right to vote. She was a co-founder of the National Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) with her older sister Emmeline Pankhurst and served as its organiser for Brighton from 1909 to 1910.

During her time in Brighton, she helped build the WSPU operation in the south-east and organise the campaigns for the general election, often addressing crowds of supporters on the seafront. She was one of the 300 women to demonstrate outside the Houses of Parliament during what is now known as 'Black Friday', where she was injured and beaten by the police.

She was arrested three times and, in Holloway Prison, was subjected to force feeding. She died on Christmas Day in 1910, two days after her



release from Holloway. Mary is widely believed to be the first suffragette to die for women's right to vote.

Brighton & Hove City Council proposes to recognise her legacy, sacrifice and courage with a Freedom of the City award, so that they don't remain overlooked and hidden in history.

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Alternative university turns ten

A pioneering experiment that has transformed lives is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Free University Brighton (FUB) is the brainchild of Ali Ghanimi who launched the initiative after the Coalition Government trebled university tuition fees and slashed funding for adult education. She came up with the idea after visiting Occupy London's Tent City University.

Ali posted a video on social media asking people, 'What do you want to learn? What can you teach?' A year later she and a small group of academics created a degree-level course in Social Science and Humanities.

Unable to legally award a degree, FUB's course was nicknamed the Freegree but was validated through the same process as every

other English university. Since then, FUB has provided hundreds of free courses in all manner of subjects for thousands of people.

Erica left school at 16 and had little academic confidence. She graduated with a Freegree in 2020 and went on to study for a BSc in Occupational Therapy at the University of Brighton. She said: "Without the Free University there is no way I would have studied Occupational Therapy or had the confidence to even consider applying to a university."

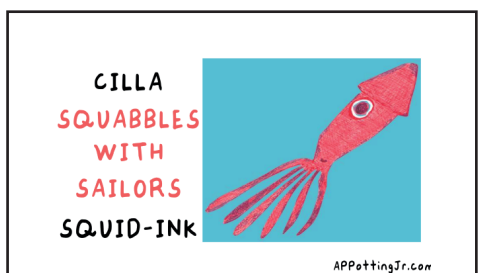
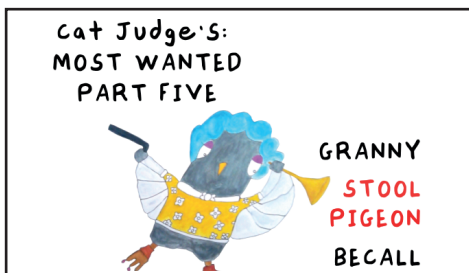
This autumn, Free University Brighton will again be offering a diverse array of free education. For more information visit freeuniversitybrighton.org.



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7810

Asian hornets are here

Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina*) are here, and they're causing havoc.

Once confined to the Far East, their native home where they co-evolved with a whole range of species-specific pathogens, predators and prey, they arrived in France in 2004-5 in a shipment of goods from China. Unspotted for a few years, they had time to establish themselves. Today they're everywhere in France. They've also made it to Belgium, Spain and Portugal.

The hornet problem

Vespa velutina is not just another hornet. Being non-native, they have no barriers to their spread other than geography and climate. Their favourite foods consist of sugary substances at this time of year and other insects, especially honey bees.

Why honey bees? A beehive is a delightfully concentrated source of both protein, which can be transported back to the nest and fed to their larvae, and of sugar – ie honey – which the hornets themselves will consume.

Beekeepers in France have lost some 30% of their colonies to Asian hornets. They hang around outside beehives and grab incoming forager bees. The bees' response is to form a guard at the hive entrance. It stresses the bees, and foraging can slow or even stop. Under heavy predation by Asian hornets, a honey bee colony can starve to death or be overrun by the hornets. So Asian hornets threaten the pollination services that honey bees and other such insects provide.

The situation today

So that's the problem in the round. More specifically, Asian hornets migrated from France onto the island of Jersey. So far this year, they have destroyed well over 200 nests.

In the UK, a handful have been found and destroyed every year since 2016. We've been lucky. But this year, over 50 nests have been found in 44 locations – the majority in Kent. Most sightings have been around the south-eastern coast, which implies that they're either being blown over from France or hitching a lift on cross-Channel traffic.

In Sussex, nests have been found in Newhaven and Eastbourne – and only today, 25 September

as I write this, I received a call from a woman who spotted one in her garden in Ringmer. Local beekeepers are on high alert, with hornet traps now being deployed.

What to do

Download and install the Asian Hornet Watch app on your phone. It helps with identification and guides you through the reporting process. If you see one, don't kill it: a live hornet can be tracked back to its nest. Capture it instead.

Don't be afraid of individual hornets. While they will defend their nests aggressively – so don't get within 5m of a nest – on their own they are no more aggressive than other hornets, which makes them easy to capture using, for example, an upturned glass and a piece of cardboard. Once identification is confirmed, professionals from the National Bee Unit will come and deal with it.

Asian hornets are very distinctive. They have yellow legs, an orange face and a dark, near-black abdomen with just a single orange stripe towards the rear. European hornets on the other hand are slightly bigger, and have dark legs, classic wasp-like black and yellow stripes, with the rest of the body a reddish-brown colour.

Vigilance by everyone is the most important factor for eradication of this pest. If you do see one, please capture and report it, don't kill it. I can also help with identification or other questions you may have.

Manek Dubash

*Asian Hornet Team Co-ordinator,
Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers
07762 312592 / blbka.ahat@gmail.com*



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Aerials & Satellites

Alpine Aerials.....Cover

After School & Holiday Help

Tarner Community Project.....40

Antiques and Collectables

Antiques & Decorative Art.....10

Awnings

SBI Ltd.....14

Bathrooms

LCS Bathrooms.....cover, 20

Blinds

Adrian Robins Interiors.....4

Bella Vista.....60

Builders

AT Construction.....3

Clarkes of Brighton.....48

Drapers Building Services.....43

J.T. Pugh.....30

Oakhelm Construction.....29

Cafe

Nanima Asian Kitchen.....16

Puzzle Bored.....33

Care Provider

Hallifax Care.....14

Home Instead.....42

Carpentry

Rachel Urbach.....22

Chimney Sweep

Andy Sweeps.....cover

Clock Makers

A R Kirk Clockmaker.....43

Computers

Digital Doctors.....33

Conservatories

Countryman Improvements.....29

Damp Proofing

SCDP.....Cover

Dance lessons

Bollymoves.....34

Magic Moves.....34

Dentists

Hove Dental Clinic.....63

Surrenden Dental.....46

Domestic Appliances

Carters.....58

Electrician

Darren Clarke Electrical.....37

Westview Electrical.....38

Estate Agents

Ewe Move.....54

Fencing

Drapers.....43

R.J. Meaker Fencing Ltd.....32

Fishmongers

The Fish Shack.....46

Floor Sanding

The Floor Brighton.....23

Foster Care

Brighton and Hove Council.....60

Funeral Directors.

ARKA Funerals.....56

J Wagstaff.....30

Gardening Services

Drapers.....43

Ozzie the Gardener.....23

Tim the Gardener.....49

Tree & Garden Services.....50

Gas and Heating

Goode Plumbing and Heating.....40

GT Plumbing and Heating.....7

Plum Heating.....22

Yeates.....cover

Groundworks

S & C Groundworks.....56

Hairdressing

Maud Salon.....42

Handyman

Handy-Man Service Co.....43

Hearing

Sussex Audiology.....26

Job opportunity

Allied Healthcare.....16

Coastal Homecare.....38

Home Instead.....42

Kitchens

The Cabinet Door Shop.....12

Lettings

Ewe Move.....54

Licensing Scheme

Brighton and Hove Council.....36

Locksmiths

Lee's Locks.....40

Man with a Van

Dave's Couriers.....37

Mortgage Advice

My Mortgage.....20

Music Lessons/classes

Flute Lessons.....33

Nursery

Orchard Day Nursery.....10

Painting & Decorating

Gilmour Decorating.....33

Performing Arts Classes

Lantern Arts Hub.....3

Personal Trainer

Patdpersonaltrainer.....25

Photo Booth for Hire

Magic Mirror.....34

Pianos

Brighton Piano Warehouse.....38

Plasterer

Lewis Byard Plastering.....45

Pacific Plastering.....34

Plumber

Plum Heating.....22

Brighton and Hove Plumbing.....50

Brightonbased Plumbing.....34

DJ Plumbing & Heating.....34

Goode Plumbing and Heating.....40

GT Plumbing.....7

Yeates.....cover

Restaurant

Bismallah - Spice of Life.....7

Nanima Asian Kitchen.....16

Terre a Terre.....19

Roofing

MB Roofing.....2

M Marchant Roofing.....48

Ridgeline Roofing.....22

Sash Windows Renovation

Dermot Daly.....34

Sashes & Sills.....38

School

King's School Hove.....44

Shows/Fairs/Attractions

Christmas at the Pavilion.....52

Christmas Fair & Makers Market.....34

Christmas Makers Fair...back cover

Extra Topping.....50

Father Christmas at Pavilion.....24

The Treason Show.....14

Shutters

Bella Vista.....60

Skincare

Olive & Joyce.....21

Soft Furnishings

Adrian Robins Interiors.....4

Spreadsheet help

Brian Roberts.....50

Tiling

Pentagon Tiling.....14

Toys

Timeless Toys.....6

Tree Surgeon

Tree & Garden Services.....50

Venues

Queens Hotel.....19

The Annunciation Ballroom.....22

Vets

Coastway Vets.....32

Whisky Tasting and Blending

Cut Your Wolf Loose.....6

Will Writing

Westminster Law.....4

Windows

Countryman Improvements.....29

Youth Activities

Tarner Community Project.....40

Where in Brighton?

answers from page 37

Picture 1: Above Bella Italia restaurant in Market Street (opposite Brighton Town Hall)

Picture 2: Kokoro Brighton restaurant, by Churchill Square

Picture 3: Bus shelter in Ditchling Road

Picture 4: GAK Music Emporium in North Road

Picture 5: St George's Church in St. George's Rd

Picture 6: Brighton Palace Pier



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