

# HASSRA South East

**HASSRA South East web-site:**  
[www.hassra.org.uk/south-east](http://www.hassra.org.uk/south-east)

**HASSRA South East Email:**  
[hassra.southeast@dwg.gov.uk](mailto:hassra.southeast@dwg.gov.uk)

## November 2023

### Competitions

- ◆ **HASSRA South East's Annual Advent Calendar!** The competition to get on the annual Advent Calendar is now on! Prizes for this competition start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December when the first window is opened to reveal the winner of a £10 Love2Shop voucher. The prize increases by £10 every day as each window is opened up until the 24<sup>th</sup>, where the winner will win a brilliant £240 Love2Shop voucher! To join in go to HASSRA LIVE / Competitions / '[Advent Calendar](#)' and tick 'yes' to the question 'Do you want to be included in the South East Advent Calendar 2023 draw?' The competition closes Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Good luck!

**Please note:** The HASSRA South East web site can be accessed without a password and is therefore openly accessible via the Internet. By entering this competition you are agreeing for your name and office to be used on the site.

- ◆ **Elf Race:** There is still time to register your elf on [HASSRA Live 'events' Elf Race](#). Prizes include one \* £100 Love2Shop voucher, 2 \* £50 Love2Shop vouchers and 4 \* £25 Love2Shop vouchers. Registration closes midnight Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> November.



- ◆ **Winners:** To see the 2023 Winners so far [click here](#).

### Sports and Social Events

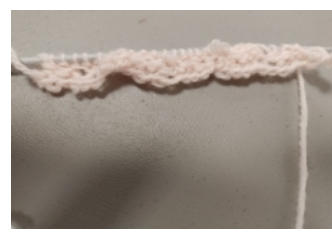
- ◆ **Sports Day: The 2024 'HASSRA Day' at Teddington will be on:** Wednesday, 5th June 2024. Make sure you book this date off now for a great day! Special Leave can be available for HASSRA members taking part in the day but be aware, it is always at the discretion of the office managers and business needs will be taken into account. It would be a good idea to book annual leave/flexi at this point and then ask for it to be changed to Special leave later on. A message from the HASSRA South East Chair will be going out to Senior Managers in the near future which hopefully will allow them to plan ahead and reduce diaries for that one day. Read the Departments policy on special leave [HERE](#) (please note: this link can only be accessed on a computer with DWP Intranet access).
- ◆ **Golf News:** See what the Golf society has been up to in the later half of 2023 [HERE](#)

### News

- ◆ **Sector Contacts, An introduction from Amanda:** Hi, I am Amanda Church. I am one of the HASSRA Southeast region sector representatives. I have been a HASSRA member for nearly 25 years. During this time I have covered various roles in my local club. Recently I have been re-deployed to Child Maintenance Group based in Southgate Jobcentre (Milton Keynes). I am available if you have need any help, support or advice for your local HASSRA club ([Click here for Amanda's email address](#)). I help to cover the following areas: Didcot, High Wycombe (HASSRA Bucks), Milton Keynes, Newbury, Oxford, Reading, Slough.

### SEView News

- ◆ **Fun at the September Festival:** I attended the recent September HASSRA festival, where I took part in a craft workshop as a beginner knitter. Of course, I wasn't "competing" because it was a workshop and not a competition, so luckily for the Southeast region, who sent me there, there were no groans at my knitting UN-talents (see picture on right!) That was the point, I took part in a weekender, all expenses paid, courtesy of my **TWO POUNDS FORTY A MONTH HASSRA** membership 😊  
The knitting event also catered for non-knitters; the non-knitters having their own table, and there were some ladies there trying to teach them. Eventually a Scots lady, called Michelle took me under her wing, which was just as well coz even though it's the taking part that counts, I might not have managed even four rows of knitting but in the end, I did. It was a good night: a three-course meal, bar and disco. The South East organisers treated all us to a celebratory drink and when it came to claiming my travel expenses, bless my soul, the money was in there in only three days!  
So huge thanks to **all** the HASSRA team who put it together, it never disappoints!  
See you next year! 😊



**Hannah**

**PS** HASSRA expenses do not include ones sundry expenses (bar) bill!

- ◆ **Southampton raise funds for the Mountbatten Hospice:** The HASSRA Plus group of Southampton raise funds for our local hospice, Mountbatten Hampshire. We do obviously help with a few others during the year but our focus is on the Hospice. We tend to have a count up at the end of December and present a cheque with the full amount for the year early the following year. The attached photo shows last years cheque – for £1,354.24. Later on we were invited to an evening event with the Director of nursing to say thank you for everyone's efforts. We do 99% of fund raising in our own time. The total so far total this year from January the Job Centre Plus has raised a whopping **£822.10!** Thank you so much. **But we still have two months to go until the end of the year...**



**Donna**

- ◆ **Colin Meadows swims for the Cancer Trust:** Colin raised a fantastic £400 for the Wessex Cancer Trust who are based on the Isle of Wight. After six weather cancellations and then having to get up at 3 O'clock in the morning to catch the tide Colin swam across to the Isle of Wight and went in the third out of 50 swimmers!



- ◆ **The HASSRA Annual Sponsored Walk:** On Saturday 26th August, Rob Tindall, Janet Gilbert and myself met with trepidation to do the HASSRA Annual Sponsored Walk. The weather forecast was not good and the BBC and Met office couldn't even agree when it was all going to 'kick off' 😊. To begin with it was warm and sunny but on the journey down the A24, the clouds got blacker and blacker and then the heavens opened before we even got to Amberley - our starting point. We decided to change our plans and catch a train to Arundel and walk back to Amberley on the basis that the weather might have improved by then.

The sun came out as soon as we got to Arundel which was all set for a festival. We listened to a drumming band who were very good and walked around several stalls selling fabulous arts, crafts, food and jewellery. There was even an exhibition of some magnificent vintage cars. I booked a table at the Black Rabbit and on the long walk there, it poured with rain. It was good to sit down, get dry and have a delicious light lunch 🍽️.

- ◆ Afterwards, reluctantly, we put on our rain-coats and headed out in the direction of Amberley following the River Arun. Cannon fire startled us, so events were obviously going on in the castle for all the many visitors. Luckily, the sun came out again and we carried on towards our goal. There were several stiles to climb over, some in a better state of repair than others. The cows in the fields were standing around, which was a good sign as an old wives tale says cows sitting down foretells rain! ☀️

The first landmark was reached - the bridge over the Arun near the small village of Stokes. Due to the rain, the path was quite slippery, so we had to watch our step. The next landmark - the Gurkha suspension bridge was very welcome as we



then knew we were more than halfway. Finally we arrived at the Bridge Inn at Amberley where we had a celebratory drink before making our way back home 🏠

This year we are supporting the Crawley Open House. During the cost of living crisis affecting us all, those without a roof over their heads have been hit even harder. We work closely with them so appreciate the help they offer not only with accommodation, but help and advice on finding and keeping work, mental health and well-being and securing more permanent accommodation. £214 has been generously raised by members, friends and colleagues to support them to continue with their vital work.

**Caroline**

### Information

- **Charity Champion** - Send charity details to Tracy by [clicking here!](#)
- **Regional Facebook site:** [Click here](#) Office name / HASSRA Live membership number are required.
- **National Offers:** [click here](#) One cinema ticket could recoup a months membership cost!!
- **The 2023 Calendar of HASSRA South East events:** [Click here](#).
- **HASSRA presentations at local Well Being sessions:** Presentation PowerPoint [Click here](#).
- **To view earlier Newsletters:** [Click Here](#)
- **To view the winners of the SE competitions and Events:** [Click here](#)
- **Sector Contacts:** [click here](#).
- **CPR help:** For mini – Annie CPR pack information [click here](#)

**[Maggie Smith \(Editor\)](#)**

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