



Photography: Angelika Hajdecka

**South Downs Living**

48 Keymer Road, Hassocks  
West Sussex BN6 8AR  
Telephone: 01273 842550  
Facsimile: 01273 842246

Email: editor@southdownsliving.com

**Advertising:**

Roger Booth

**Editorial:**

Connie Booth, Roger Booth

**Production and Design:**

Olga Forster

**Artwork/Repro:**

Roger Booth Studio Limited

**Contributors:**

Sharon Ballard, Les Campbell,  
Marina Cosham, Matthew James,  
Dee Jones, Sarah Lessacher,  
John Lloyd, Chris Clennett,  
Claire Elford, Michelle Ellel, Phil Mead,  
Sally-Ann Murray, Alec Pelham,  
Sandy Peters, David Robinson,  
Sophie Smith, Jane Standing,  
Vincent Tipper

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**Editor's Comment**

New Year means something different and exciting... so we decided to change the design of *South Downs Living*. I'm sure it will meet with your approval!

In case Christmas went by far too fast for you – we have printed a few photographs of some of the festive celebrations.

If you think January might be the time to diet, see our Food and Drink Section – you may change your mind. Also in this section is an interesting experiment on shopping locally.

Thankfully, the trees on Hassocks high street are not to be cut down. See the letter to *South Downs Living* from Vincent Tipper, West Sussex County Council.

However, I have heard that Hassocks Parish Council do not agree that seats should be placed around the trees (this was suggested by some local traders). Apparently, they think seats would encourage teenagers to sit on them in the evenings. Personally, I think seats would be wonderful, especially in the summer. Somewhere for people of ALL ages to rest and chat to other residents. The roots of the trees do have to be covered by something. Perhaps you could let Hassocks Parish Council know your views.

Several readers have written to say they'd like to see a regular sports page. A local sports journalist has agreed to write for us (see the Youth Section). Please write or email us with ideas or the name of your sports club.

How about a children's page? Let us know about your play-group or activities for children.

As always, we are grateful to all the advertisers and contributors in this magazine.

Connie Booth