



Photograph: Ian Paack

**South Downs Living**

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March 2006



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May 2006

**Editor's Comment**

South Downs Living is now one year old. Over the year it has really improved – thanks to the contributors. However, I must mention all the advertisers, without them this magazine would not be possible. Please support them all.

June sees the start of local summer fairs and fetes. We have an interesting page on the history of Ditchling and St Lawrence Fairs. I'll definitely take my grandsons to these two wonderful events.

Our front cover shows St John the Baptist Church, Clayton, which is almost 1,000 years old – built more than nine centuries ago. Robert Pinnock tells all about its history on page 12.

We have received several emails from readers saying how much they enjoy Les Campbell's walks. On page 16 Les takes us on a two hour circular walk from Hurstpierpoint.

I found the article on Belmont School very interesting. This boys' preparatory boarding school was founded in 1904, moved to Hassocks in 1920 and closed in 1972. Some of you may recognise one or two boys in the photographs.

The advertising/copy deadline for the July issue is 7th June.

**STOP PRESS:**

*excerpt from letter from the Chairman of Hassocks PC*

**Mackie Avenue**

Mid-Sussex District Council's South Area Planning Committee unanimously rejected both applications for the proposed development of the land West of Mackie Avenue in May. The refusals were based on the lack of essential infrastructure necessary to support the development, which include sewage, water, transport, education, and health.

Connie Booth