

Hurst Village Society

The object of the Society shall be to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Hurst as a living community

Newsletter No. 105

www.hvs.org.uk

December 2007

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Here we are again in the Christmas season, as the year comes full circle and we look back on past events and look forward to the future.

Thursday, 6th December, St Nicholas day, marks the lighting of the village Christmas tree, organised by the Parish Council. This was a great success last year and promises to be even better this year.

The annual St Nicholas Christmas Fair takes place on Saturday, 8th December, and will give plenty of opportunities to buy Christmas presents.

St Nicholas Church and the Gospel Hall will be holding the traditional services and you will find full details at the back of the newsletter.

As the year draws to a close, we wish you all a happy festive season.

St Nicholas Night Celebrations

Thursday 6th December, 2007 6.00pm

Opposite Townsend Pond and Junction of School Road and the A321

Gates to School Road Playing field open at 6pm

Mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas goodie bags for the children

Grand switching on of the Christmas tree lights will take place at 6.30pm
by Annette Drake,

our very own local councillor and Mayor of Wokingham Borough Council,
and the Reverend John Coombs

This year, we have the Waltham St Lawrence Brass Band, along with our own village choir to lead the carol service.

Car parking will be provided opposite at the Hurst Cricket Club.

Please come along and join us in what has become a great family occasion ...

For more information, please contact Wayne Smith on 0118 934 0840

HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY NEWS

Quiz Night

What a lot of fun we had. The various teams competed with vigour, but the winners won on the strength of their knowledge of the latest pop music. The questions on Hurst compiled by Janet Spiller proved quite testing, not least in our observation of well-known village landmarks. Roger and Liz Cossey provided a smooth-running quiz with the aid of PowerPoint, aided by a jovial and quick-witted Nick Willson as compère. This proved to be an event well worth repeating.

HVS Dinner Dance

Barbara Johnson advises that all the tickets were sold within the first hour of tickets going on sale!

Committee

We welcome a new member, David Fraser, who is already proving a tremendous help with our local events.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM is scheduled to take place on 29th February. More details will follow in the next Newsletter, due to come out early in February.

Just a reminder that membership of the Hurst Village Society is renewable on 1st January every year. The current annual subscription is £5.00 per household and is reviewed each year at the AGM. If you are not a member already, please consider joining the HVS by filling in the form and contributing to activities in the village.

Support our village shops

OPENING HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

P & D JENNINGS

Tel: 0118 934 1447 (24 hour answerphone) jenningsbutchers@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday, 22nd December 7.00am – 5.00pm

Sunday, 23rd December 6.00am – 5.00pm

Monday, 24th December 6.00am – 5.00pm

Closed over Christmas and re-opens on Friday, 28th December.

Closed on 1st and 2nd January and re-opens on Thursday, 3rd January.

Please would you place your Christmas orders by **Saturday, 1st December.**

HURST VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

Tel: 0118 934 1011

Closed on Christmas Day, Tuesday, 25th December.

Monday, 31st December 6.30am – 8.00pm

New Year's Day, Tuesday, 1st January 8.00am – 6.00pm:

HURST BAKERY & PROVISIONS

Tel: 0118 934 1941

Closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day

ST NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS FAIR

Village Halls, Hurst

Saturday, 8th December 2007 12 noon – 4.00pm

Some things will remain the same

For instance, entrance fee: **50p** for adults, children **free**, and the usual cake, gift, and tombola stalls.

Some things will be different

We hope to have a programme of events to break up the afternoon, including a short auction, a competition for the best Christmas hat and a competition for the best-presented basket.

Best Christmas hat. This will be a chance for the children to parade in a Christmas hat they have designed themselves – so children, start designing now!

Best presented basket. There will also be a competition for adults to provide a filled and decorated basket for the Basket stall. A prize will be given to the winner of the best-presented one. Don't forget to put your name and contact details – to be removed before the fair begins. We have spare baskets at church, so please contact Pat Smith, 0118 978 9453, or Mary Langdown, 0118 934 5751, if you don't have one of your own.

Christmas Raffle

Last, but not least, don't forget to buy your raffle tickets. Once again, the organisers have found some wonderful prizes. Tickets will be on sale from church members and outside the Post Office on two Saturdays preceding the event. There may be some left to sell at the fair itself!

Looking forward to seeing you at this village event.

Mary Langdown, for the Social committee.

For the diary in 2008

BARN DANCE

Large Village Hall Saturday, 9th February 8.00pm

When grey February is upon you and you need something to look forward to, don't forget the pre-school's high energy barn dance.

Saturday, 9th February is the time to dust off your dancing shoes, rub straw in your hair and grab a partner. There will be a huge hog roast, bar and live music from the Kick Shins.

Tickets cost **£19.50** and are available from Maria Norton, 0118 932 1921, or Emma Clark, 0118 934 9989. They will also be on sale at the Christmas Fair on 8th December at the Water and Wine stall.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

School Road Playing Field

Work on improvements to the play area by putting up new play equipment and landscaping the A321 junction is due to start in March.

Planning Updates

F/2007/23192	Rose Cottages, Lodge Road, Whistley Green - Approved
F/2007/2374	Mau-Frey, Lodge Road, Whistley Green - Approved
F/2007/2413	Cheltonian, Lodge Road, Whistley Green - Approved
F/2007/2199	Green Acres, Dunt Lane, Hurst – Approved
F/2007/2365	Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre, Nelsons Lane, Hurst – Approved
F/2007/2154	Land at Lodge Road, Whistley Green – Refused
F/2007/2233	Land adjacent to Peacocks, School Road, Hurst - Refused
F/2007/20761	Myrtle Cottages, Hinton Road, Hurst – Approved
O/2007/20912	Wards Cross Cottages, The Street, Hurst -Withdrawn
CLP/2007/1959	The Cottage, Dunt Lane, Hurst – Refused

Anyone wishing to join or who would like further information regarding the Parish Council – please give me a call.

Wayne Smith, Chairman of Hurst PC, Tel: 0118 934 0840

SCOF

SENIOR CITIZENS OPEN FORUM FOR THE NORTHERN PARISHES

Making Decisions about your Health, Welfare and Finances Who decides when you can't?

At a recent meeting, Mike Wooldridge of the Wokingham Borough Social Services talked about the implications of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, which came into effect this year. Presently over 2 million people in England and Wales are affected due to learning disabilities, dementia, mental health difficulties or brain injury. This affects up to 6 million family carers, carers, health and social care staff. Information on the new Act is available from the Public Guardianship Office. Tel: 0845 330 2900 or on the web site at www.guardianship.gov.uk.

Community Care – The future

Earlier this year the Borough Council decided that, owing to the lack of adequate government funding and the continuous growth in the number of older people, the Council would provide adult social care services only for people assessed as having 'critical' needs. Those with 'substantial' and 'moderate' needs would receive support from 'alternative' sources. At the meeting in November, John Ferguson, Chairman of the Voluntary Sector Forum, spoke about the provision of community care in the future.

Meetings of SCOF are held at St Thomas More Church Hall, Loddon Hall Road, Twyford. Contact Lyn Buddell, Age Concern Twyford & District, Tel: 0118 934 4040, for further information.

HURST ROMANS

Planning for a bright new future!

Last summer we shared with everyone at our AGM the details of our proposed new home ground at Stow Bridge Field in Hinton Road. The application was registered with Wokingham Borough Council and the decision that came back was "APPROVED"!

A huge debt of thanks is owed to Tim Drake for his sterling efforts on the planning side.

The benefits to the Club and our local community are endless.

The major ones include:

- * It will be safe and secure, with off-road parking and a "drop-off zone".
- * Its central location in the Village will mean that many will be able to walk to the facility.
- * For matches we will be relying much less on local goodwill and costly over-crowded Council venues.
- * It will be a local training facility for all - currently we have scores of players travelling into Woodley and Wokingham.
- * We are looking to collaborate with Hurst FC, which could give our players a natural progression from the youth ranks.

There are of course many other important benefits. This is one of the most positive community opportunities for many years.

Now the really difficult bit - where are we going to get the funds to make it happen?

We have formed a new committee, which is solely dedicated to the mammoth task of Fundraising for the Hinton Road Project. If anyone out there has any bright ideas on how we might attract new funds, grants, investment or donations to the cause, we are only too happy to hear them.

Please contact Brendan Crawford on 0118 934 0099 or 07768 044 617 or any member of the committee to discuss any queries or suggestions you might have. You can find out more about Hurst Romans by visiting www.hurstfc.org.uk.

1ST HURST BROWNIES

We hope you have enjoyed seeing our African marigolds in the small bed outside the Scout hut. Narcissus bulbs were planted in September, ready for the Spring.

Just five girls took part in the Loddon District swimming gala in October but still managed to achieve a worthy 2nd place. This included the efforts of two 7 year olds, one of whom swam four full lengths and in the deep end despite not having done this before!

We visited the London Eye and Aquarium in half term, which was a great success.

On 15th November, we held a show in aid of the Diane Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre, followed by a discussion about the future of the Pack after Easter.

Mary Langdown

Barn Owls in Hurst

This year has been excellent for Barn Owl breeding as plenty of small mammal prey were available. The artificial nest boxes were opened and the chicks counted for the Hawk and Owl Trust national survey. The total number of chicks hatched in the parish was 20. One hard working pair managed to raise four chicks in a second brood!

Wild flower planting at Townsend Pond

Wild flowers have been planted around Townsend pond as a first step in the Parish Council's plans to enhance the recreation ground and pond area on the School Road.

At the beginning of November, volunteers planted 140 plug plants of native species around the banks and margins of the pond to give more colour and interest throughout the year. The species were chosen to be suitable for the site and help improve biodiversity.

Flowers throughout the year

Cowslips were planted on the top of the banks and will give a Spring display of dainty yellow flowers. Ox eye daisies were planted on the steeper sections of bank for a summer display. Around the damper pond margins, Meadowsweet and Marsh Marigold were planted. Meadowsweet has fragrant cream flowers in summer and Marsh Marigold (or Kingcup) flowers from March to December and resembles a giant buttercup.

Thanks to our kind donors

The wildflower plants were funded by a donation from Beryl Lambert.

Professor Spedding donated some Loddon Lilies from his garden. These were planted at the far end of the pond in the shade of the trees.

Members of the Hurst Horticultural and Cottage Garden Society will be cultivating Yellow Flag Iris from wild seed. This plant is one of only two native irises. If successful, the new plants will boost the small clump found in the pond beside School Road.

Autumn Clean up/ Pond Planting

A big thank you to all those who turned up to help fill the four skips with Village rubbish and who helped plant the new plants in preparation for next Spring.

A special vote of thanks to Mark Etwell and his team from Regency Landscapes, Wokingham Road, for all their help and hard work

Wayne Smith, Chairman of Hurst PC

UK ANCIENT TREE HUNT

The work being done by volunteers in Hurst to identify and record our oldest trees is part of a wider project, which was launched in January 2007 with the formation of the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association. The survey currently being carried out throughout the Wokingham district provides a splendid example of how volunteers can co-operate with local authorities to forward this enterprise. Maggie Sanderson is the co-ordinator for the Hurst effort and would welcome more volunteers. You can contact her on tel. 0118 934 1259.

Rich history

England owes its rich heritage of ancient trees to monarchs from the time of William the Conqueror. Huge areas like Sherwood Forest, the New Forest and our own nearby Windsor Forest were set aside to meet their passion for deer hunting. Forest Law was established to husband these forests.

The next step was the development of medieval parks, attached to the parish boundaries, when local landowners played a role in preserving the trees.

The common people played their part as well, preserving and pollarding trees for fuel and building, and feeding their pigs with the acorns they shed.

As they age, trees become hollow and nurture within them a variety of beetles, fungi and lichen, which also have hundreds of years of history behind them.

Record for posterity

At a meeting of the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association held on Wednesday, 17th October, Jill Butler, Conservation Officer for the Woodland Trust, gave an inspiring talk on Ancient Trees to an audience of over 70 people.

The Woodland Trust's aim is to record every surviving ancient tree right across England. Incredibly, even trees over 1000 years old – mostly oaks – are being discovered and recorded every few months.

The concern for protecting ancient trees is now spreading right across Europe. Some countries, like Sweden, have in place policies of protection much bolder than we as yet have in England.

Councillor Angus Ross, representing the Mayor of Wokingham Borough, stressed how important it was that members of the public should draw the attention of the authority's tree officers to any instances where they thought a notable tree was under threat.

Full details about the work of the Veteran Tree Association can be had from the secretary, Barbara Stagles, on 0118 9784013 or e-mail jrstagles@btinternet.com.

Our forests are equivalent to the rain forest – they are important for the environment and must be preserved for the future.

Hurst Village Society

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Hurst Village Society was formed in 1971 to preserve and enhance the rural character of the parish. The current annual subscription is £5.00 per household. Membership of the Hurst Village Society is renewable on 1st January every year.

Complete Section A, then **either** Section B, **or** Section C.

If you choose to pay by Standing Order, please consider making a donation as well, thank you.

Completed forms should be sent to Eddie Coe, HVS Membership Secretary,
4 Lodge Road, Whistley Green, Hurst RG10 0EH, or any other member of the committee.

Section A

Name

Address

.....

Postcode Telephone

E-mail address

Section B

I enclose my cheque/cash for £5.00 being my subscription for 2008. I also enclose a donation for £.....to the Hurst Village Society.

Section C

To: Name of Bank

Bank Address

.....

Sort code

Please debit my account, number.....

with the sum of £5.00, being my subscription to the Hurst Village Society, and credit
Account Number 01349706 (Hurst Village Society No 1 Account) at Lloyds Bank
plc, High Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1BT. Sort Code 30-91-11.

Date of first payment: immediately; and thereafter annually on 1st January.

Signature Date

HURST HORSE SHOW AND COUNTRY FAYRE

A True Village Event - Can you help us make it the best ever in 2008?

The Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre will take place on the weekend of 28th/29th June 2008. Planning begins with the first committee meeting in January 2008. We are looking for new committee members to help us prepare for the show. This is your chance to put forward your ideas to ensure that we feature the attractions that villagers really want for their families and friends to enjoy.

If you would be interested in helping in any way towards the show, please contact our chairman Duncan Kendall on 0118 934 2852, or you can visit our website at www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk.

If you or your business would like to sponsor or support the show in 2008, please call Katie Barton on 0118 934 3166.

Pitches are available for hire by trade stallholders and can be booked by calling Richard Hiles on 0118 934 0704.

Enquiries for the horse show events can be made to Cathy Lochman on 0118 934 1205 or Anne Marie Peries on 0118 989 1945.

SPONSORED RUN

On 30th September 2007, I completed the BUPA Great North Run from Newcastle to South Shields to raise money for the Dystonia charity ADDER.

Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder dominated by involuntary, sustained muscle spasms. These spasms can affect various parts of the body and be extremely painful. Despite recent developments in treatment, there is still no cure.

If anyone in Hurst would like to sponsor my run and find out more about Dystonia, they can do so via my fundraising page at http://www.justgiving.com/geoff_thwaites.

Thank you very much for your support.

Geoff Thwaites

1, Caversham Villas, Hurst. RG10 0DF

LOST CAT, PUFF

Morag Ward writes about her missing Siamese cat:

I know it isn't the usual sort of thing that goes in the newsletter, but everyone in the village has been so kind and helpful. Puff still hasn't been found, although there have been a few unconfirmed sightings in the Tape Lane area (just not by me!).

I just want to say thank you to those who have been on the look out for her, and that if she is seen, please ring me on 07904 207 306. I would rather have several phone calls all saying the same thing, than none!

The View from Shute End

Dinton Pastures

The first consultation about the future of Dinton Pastures Country Park was completed this month. Details of the information are being collated at present, but what I can tell you is that 93% of the visitors filled out the consultation form. I hope to be able to tell you about the Council's reaction to the consultation soon.

Beverley Ruddock

Sad news this month was the death of Beverley Ruddock, who was our senior Child Psychologist for the Borough

Beverley was a remarkable lady and a considerable force for good. She was our Senior Educational Psychologist with a particular concern for the psychological and educational needs of our looked after children, as well as an expert in relation to children on the autistic spectrum. The parents will miss her.

Please remember that I am at home most Saturday mornings from 10am -12 noon if you want to contact me about Council business.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Annette Drake

Borough Council Member for Hurst

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst. RG10 0RU

Telephone 0118 934 1036, mobile 07753 861 961.

HURST GOSPEL HALL

We had a lot of visitors in from the village in October and November, and would love to welcome more of you.

December Activities

Our usual activities continue through November and into December.

Both JAM, the activity for children on Monday evenings, 6.15 – 7.15, and Mother and Toddler Group – Fridays 10.00 – 11.30 are closed for the school holidays.

Christmas Arrangements

Wednesday 5th December

Ladies Evening

Making a Christmas Table Decoration

Sunday 16th December 5.00pm

CAMEO and Christmas Carols

Sunday 23rd December

Carols for all the Family

Tuesday 25th December 10.30-11.15am Celebration of Christmas Morning

Please be assured of a very warm welcome if you are able to join us for any of these services. For more information, please ring Rachel Simms on 0118 977 2071 or email David.Simms2@btinternet.com.

St Nicholas Church Hurst

Services in December

Sunday 2nd December

8.00am

11.00am

First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Christingle Service

Sunday 9th December

11.00am

Second Sunday of Advent

Family Eucharist & Sunday Club

Sunday 16th December

8.00am

11.00am

6.30pm

Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Family Praise

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 23rd December

11.00am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Family Eucharist & Sunday Club

Monday 24th December

4.00pm

11.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

Crib Service (*for the young and young at heart!*)

Midnight Eucharist (*with carols and sermon*)

Tuesday 25th December

11.00am

CHRISTMAS DAY

Family Eucharist (*with carols and informal address*)

Sunday 30th December

11.00am

First Sunday of Christmas

Family Eucharist

We wish everyone in the village a very Happy Christmas.

Revd John Coombes

Christingle Service—2nd December

There will be a special collection for The Children's Society. For children who wish to make a Christingle for the service, packs containing instructions, a candle and red sticky tape, will be available at the back of the church from 11th November. Alternatively, you can contact Mary Langdown on 0118 934 5751 in order to receive your pack.

Services in January

Sunday 6th January

8.00am

11.00am

The Epiphany of Our Lord

Holy Communion

Morning Worship and Sunday Club

Sunday 13th January

11.00am

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Family Eucharist & Sunday Club

Sunday 20th January

8.00am

11.00am

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Holy Communion

Family Praise

Sunday 27th January

11.00am

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Family Eucharist & Sunday Club

If you would like more details about the church in Hurst, please phone the Revd John Coombs on 0118 934 0017 and/or go to www.acny.org.uk/5339.

Hurst Village Society Committee Members

David Bingham	3 Whistley Court Farm	0118 932 1267 david.bingham@wolseley.com	Treasurer
Val Bowman	Little Farm, Hogmoor Lane	0118 932 1420 vbowman51@aol.com	
Melanie Brown	2 Elliot's Green Cottage Broadcommon Road	07833 566 715 greenwellingtons@jhotmail.com	
Eddie Coe	4 Lodge Road	0118 934 5103 eddiecoe@talk21.com	Membership
Liz Cossey	Lea Farm, Lodge Road	0118 932 1043 lcossey@chocolates-for-chocoholics.co.uk	Entertainment
David Fraser	1 Aylesford Villas	0118 934 9301 d.fraser3@btinternet.com	
Barbara Johnson	Little Grange, Hinton Road	0118 934 5104 bajlittlegrange@hotmail.co.uk	Planning
Carol Sheasby	8 Almshouses, Church Hill	0118 932 1647 carolsheasby@hotmail.co.uk	Editor
Wayne Smith	Woodville, Wokingham Road	0118 934 0840 wayne.x.smith@centrica.co.uk	Skills Register
Janet Spiller	3 Hogmoor Lane	0118 934 2438 janetspiller16@aol.com	Chairman Environment
Brian Thomas	The Retreat, Forest Road	01344 453 256 brian_thomas55@hotmail.com	Secretary
Nick Willson	The Gables, Wards Cross	0118 934 0319 nm.willson@virgin.net	
Ex-officio: Annette Drake	Walden Acres, Wokingham Rd	0118 934 1036 anndrk@dsl.pipex.com	WBC Councillor

Chair: Janet Spiller, 3 Hogmoor Lane, Hurst, RG10 0DH

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www.hvs.org.uk