

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. 106

www.hvs.org.uk

February 2008

HVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 29th February 2008, 7.30pm

All Hurst residents, together with anyone associated with the village, are invited to the Hurst Village Society Annual General Meeting to be held in the **Small Village Hall** on **Friday, 29th February 2008 at 7.30pm**. The meeting will last about an hour.

If you have any issues that you wish to bring to the attention of the committee, please come along to the AGM and have your say. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to have a chat over a glass of wine.

Aims of the Hurst Village Society

The Hurst Village Society plays an important role in preserving the character of the village. There are several ways in which we currently try to achieve this aim:

- We publish a newsletter three times a year that goes to all the households in the parish. This not only publicises HVS events, but also carries contributions from other village clubs and organisations.
- The HVS comments on major planning applications that could adversely affect the character of the village.
- We put on social events such as our popular Christmas Dinner Dance and more recently a quiz night. We also run an archery stand at the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fair and donate half of our profits to the Horse Show committee.

Join the General Committee

Three committee members will be standing down, including Janet Spiller, who over the last year has done a fantastic job as Chair of the HVS. We will have space for up to six new committee members and so we are actively seeking new people to help take the Society forward.

A **nomination form** is included in this newsletter if you would like to volunteer or nominate someone to join us. You can also contact Janet Spiller on 0118 934 2438 for more information.

Membership of the Hurst Village Society

May we remind you that the time has come to renew your membership of the society. See the **application/renewal form** inside.

*** What's on ***

Dads Dinner

Large Village Hall Saturday, 15th March 2008

The theme for 2008 is *Route 66 - The Main Street of America*, but this will be not be an evening of burgers, chilli, hot dogs and fries.

The Dads have been practising their culinary skills since last September and have devised a menu that will delight even the most sophisticated diners.

In addition to the excellent food and range of fine wines, there will be a fund-raising raffle, live music from *Kinkade* and an auction where one of the items will be the Dads Dinner team coming to your house to cook a four-course meal for you and your guests. Tickets go on sale very soon and will be available from any of the St Nicholas Hurst PTA committee members.

Hope to see you at the Large Village Hall on March 15th!

Hurst Pre-School - Bric a Brac Sale

Woodley Saturday, 29 March 2008

The next fundraising event for Hurst Pre-school is a bric a brac sale in Woodley. If you are having a spring clean, please could you save anything saleable for us? We can't sell electrical items or clothing, but anything else goes! Books, videos, toys and household items all help raise funds for the Pre-school.

Fund raising provides the 'extras' for the thirty or so village children who attend during the week, making their pre-school experience even richer. Please contact Vicky Alkin (0118 932 0873) if you have items to donate. Many thanks!

Hurst Horticultural & Cottage Garden Society AGM

Hurst Cricket Club Pavilion Thursday, 10th April 2008 8.00pm

The evening is open to all, so please come along.

Make a note for your diary for the Annual Show at the Hurst Village Hall on ***16th August 2008.***

*** News Bites ***

St Nicholas School Race Night

St Nicholas PTA would like to thank all the local businesses for sponsoring the Race Night on 1st February. The event raised a total of £1600 for the PTA.

Community bus service

At a meeting of members of SCOF and the Wargrave Pop-In Club with the WBC Transport Officers, it was proposed to recommence the weekly service to ASDA, starting in March. There will an additional facility to carry a wheelchair dependent person, together with carer.

The bus route is likely to come via Hinton Road. A Hurst stop could be included if residents show an interest.

Contact Lyn Buddell, Age Concern Twyford & District, for further information.

Tel: 0118 934 4040

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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

St Nicholas Night Celebrations

Once again a great turn out with over 250 villagers supporting our annual event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Green Man for the mulled wine, Waitrose for the mince pies, Chocoholics for the children's goodies, the Scouts for the use of their tents, Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band for the music, the Cricket Club for providing the car parking arrangements, and Beryl Sims for providing the cooking facilities. Without all your support the event would not have been such a success.

Tree destroyed by vandals

Vandals destroyed the tree on Christmas Day night by cutting off the branches and snipping the light cables into pieces. The useless lights were then thrown into the play area. This wanton destruction was a great shame, after all the effort put into the event and the enjoyment it provided for the village. About £700 pounds worth of damage was caused.

If anybody has any information, please contact Jackie Daniels, our local community officer on jacqueline.daniels@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or Thames Valley Police on 0845 8 505 505.

School Road Playing Field/Pond Area

Work is still scheduled for the End of March/beginning of April.

Dog Fouling

There has been a recent spate of dog fouling on the children's playing field. I would like to remind people that it is a danger to children and is prohibited. Please note that there is a bin provided.

Village Spring Clean Up

Saturday 29th March 2008

Start 9.00am, from the village hall car park

Skips will be made available for the event along with safety tabards, litter pickers and rubbish sacks.

For those of you who are not available but would like to help, you can do so by cleaning up your own road/lane etc. Please let me know beforehand and we can provide you with sacks and collect the rubbish on the day.

Wayne Smith, 0118 934 0840

HURST HORSE SHOW AND COUNTRY FAYRE

28th and 29th June 2008

Willowmead Field, School Road, Hurst

Preparations have already started for this year's Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre and with new members on the committee we look forward to another fantastic weekend. Let's hope the weather is kind to us this year!

The Annual Show is a wonderful village event that gives us all a chance to meet and have plenty of fun together. Friends and family from outside the village are very welcome and really help to make the show a tremendous occasion.

There will be a full two-day schedule of exciting horse riding events including jumping, showing and special riding displays.

We are planning a busy programme of attractions, which will include country crafts, horse and dray rides, dog displays, birds of prey, tug of war, Morris dancing, ferret racing and the infamous terrier racing! Our sideshows and stalls include many activities for the kids including face painting, wooden spoon decorating, archery and a bouncy castle. As usual, the bar and food tent will provide refreshment and a variety of food for all.

4th Annual Scarecrow Competition

Start creating your scarecrow now as the competition is hotting up each year!

You can find further details and entry forms for this competition on our website www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk – you have plenty of time to make your scarecrows and there are some great prizes to be won.

Sponsorship and Trade Stalls

Sponsorship enquires can be made by calling Katie Barton on 0118 934 3166. Pitches are available for hire by trade stallholders which can be booked by calling Richard Hiles on 0118 934 0704.

Horse Show Entries

You can obtain details of the horse show events from Cathy Lochman on 0118 934 1205 or Anne Marie Peries on 0118 989 1945. Schedules will be available soon.

We Need Your Help Towards The 2008 Show

If you would be interested in helping in any way towards the show this year then please contact our chairman Duncan Kendall on 0118 934 2852.

PANTOMIME

The Hurst Pantomime Group are delighted to announce that we will be putting on a production of ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** in January 2009, with auditions being held in **September 2008**. Please look out for details locally.

We will also be holding a fundraising evening on **Saturday, 7th June 2008**. So please save this date in your diary for an evening of good food and entertainment. Details to follow shortly.

HURST ROMANS

Planning for the Future

Hurst Romans FC is a Youth Football Club with more than 120 playing members from Under-15's right down to Under-6's.

During the latter part of last year, we obtained a planning consent to enable the Club and our community to train and play football in the heart of the village in Hinton Road. You can view the details of the approved application on the Council's website – www.wokingham.gov.uk – the reference number is F/2007/1540.

Together with a clubhouse, we will be able to provide the platform for our fledgling club to grow in line with its phenomenal popularity locally.

Fund Raising

We have formed a Fundraising Committee, which will now begin the enormous task of finding the funds to make the plans a reality. We are looking for local people and local companies to support the project with pledges, donations, and sponsorships or even help with developing the site.

We need £40,000 to complete Phase One which would support the next two years' development and enable the field to be used for training with a safe access and "off-road" parking area for all.

Contact Us

To find out how you could help with this fantastic project, please contact us by email at tim.drake@hurstfc.org.uk or call Tim Drake on 07842 117049.

BREAKING NEWS!

At the first meeting of 2008 of the new Fundraising Committee, Greg Neall, Chairman of Hurst Football Club (the Seniors teams) announced that Hurst FC will initially pledge £5,000 to the Hinton Road Project and they had secured a further £1,100 from Wokingham Borough Council.

Well done, and a sincere "Thank You" to Hurst FC.

We're up and running now and moving in the right direction!

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.

Climate Change – Are we doing enough in this community?

The Environment Agency, with the help of experts, has created a list of the **top 50 things** that need to be done to save the planet

Top of the list is: Reduce the amount of power we consume, e.g. switch off items on standby or not being used.

To see more of the Environment Agency and **50 ways to save the planet**, compiled from a poll of leading experts, you can go to:

<http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Environment/documents/2007/10/31/50top.pdf>

**Nomination for Membership of the General Committee
2008 – 2009**

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

Hurst Village Society General Committee meets every six weeks to discuss issues associated with planning, the environment, transport and other public services in the village that are related to the aims of the Society given below. The Committee is associated with running the annual Dinner Dance, working with the Parish and District Councils to protect the character of the village and organising fund-raising events such as Archery at the Hurst Horse Show. The HVS produces a Newsletter which is published at least three times a year, manages a village website **www.hvs.org.uk**, and publishes a Skills Register. The newsletter and website contain information about village events and activities other than those of the Village Society.

The aims of the Society include:

- to protect the physical character and rural environment
- to provide an independent focal point for the community
- to improve road safety in the village
- to encourage involvement in village activities
- to promote the use of amenities in the village
- to encourage a spirit of neighbourliness
- to foster communication between members of the community.

The General Committee consists of up to 15 members, who elect their officers including: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Social Secretary. Other responsibilities include Planning, Environment and Newsletter Editor. Each year a third of the committee members stand down and may offer themselves for re-election.

Nomination for Membership of the General Committee 2008 – 2009

Nominee

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Telephone

Proposed by

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Telephone

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

Would you like to be a Governor of St. Nicholas School?

We have a vacancy for a Local Authority Governor - simply put, a willing volunteer from the community to help the Governing Body advise and work with the Head Teacher and her team as they run the school.

The Governing Body meet up to six times each year, and each Governor also has a couple of roles on committees, such as finance, personnel or premises, which meet a further three or four times each year.

It is a hugely rewarding volunteer role, which directly benefits the children of the village by bringing experience from all walks of life to bear on the daily work of the school.

A Local Authority Governor is appointed by the Wokingham Borough Council, so they would formally confirm your appointment, but initial contact should be directly to us at the school.

If you would like to find out more, or feel you have some experience and time to give to the school, I'd be delighted to hear from you. You can contact me via the school on *0118 934 0727*.

Martin Kearsley

Chairman, Board of Governors

St Nicholas Pre-school is on the lookout for an independent Chair

St Nicholas Pre-school is our successful Ofsted registered village pre-school. Operating out of the small village hall, it offers to 3-5 year olds, care and learning opportunities through play. The school is a registered charity, in good financial health. It is run by a voluntary committee of parents and has a full time paid supervisor and a part time staff of four.

Because children only stay at pre-school for two years maximum, the turn-over on the committee is constant. We need longer term continuity and development, so we hope to appoint an independent Chair who can commit to us for at least three years. The Chair's role is to manage the committee, liaise with Ofsted and work with the professional supervisor to constantly improve the pre-school.

What's involved?

Committee meetings are held every six weeks or so. In between, there will be staff issues to resolve, including recruitment, appraisals, and training. You may need to liaise with Wokingham Borough Council or Ofsted about statutory matters. Though work load varies, on average the role requires 2-3 hours per week of your time.

To find out more, please contact Caroline O'Connor, current Chair (*0118 934 2225*)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning Updates

- CLP/2007/2894 - 2 Pykes Farm Cottages, Forest Road - Refused
- F/2007/2917 - Eastwood, Wokingham Road - Approved
- F/2007/2834 - Whistley Green Cottage, Whistley Green - Approved
- CLP/2007/2870 - Caversham Villas, The Street - Approved
- F/2007/2621 - 27 Martineau Lane - Approved
- F/2007/2753 - Ashridge Wood Farm, Warren House Road - Approved
- F/2007/2729 - Bevendene, School Road - Approved
- F/2007/2437 - Lawford, Wokingham Road - Approved
- F/2007/2640 - 31 Martineau Lane - Approved
- F/2007/2254 - West Orchard, Orchard Road - Approved
- F/2007/2610 - 8 Dalby Close - Approved
- F/2007/2426 - Spinningdale, Whistley Green - Approved

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

From Jackie Daniels – Hurst Police Community Support Officer

Crime figures for December 2007 – 8 offences in total

Short & sweet this time as I am pleased to report that Hurst was very quiet!

- 2 x Theft from vehicles (Castle)
- 1 x Theft from vehicle (Lodge Road)
- 1 x Theft in a dwelling (Broadcommon Road)
- 1 x Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle (The Street)
- 1 x Criminal Damage (School Road)
- 1 x Domestic
- 1 x Burglary, aggravated in dwelling (Davis Way)

Zig zags

St Nicholas Primary School has asked me to bring to the attention of ‘school-run’ parents that parking or dropping off at the zig zags is contravening the school controlled area and is not permitted. Anyone seen by me or my colleagues committing this offence, will receive a £30 Fixed Penalty Notice on the spot. **No** excuses will be taken into consideration (unless it is a matter of life and death!).

Remember the zig zags are there for your children’s safety. They are not a convenient parking space if you are running late!

Changes afoot

Sadly, this may well be my last item for the newsletter as I have now taken over the role as PCSO for Twyford & Ruscombe. Your new PCSO will be arriving in a few months, and when the date of arrival is confirmed you will be informed. In the interim, I will continue to cover Hurst together with PCSO Jonathan Stanley who covers Wargrave & Remenham.

Don’t forget that if you have any issues you wish to discuss with me, you can e-mail me on jacqueline.daniels@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The View from Shute End

Council Tax

The Borough Council is in the process of setting the budget and the Council Tax for 2008-2009.

The Leader of the Borough Council, Cllr Frank Browne, went to Westminster early in January to discuss with a senior Government Minister what Frank describes as the 'paltry increase' in Government funding of Wokingham Borough. The settlement is only 2% above the current year, half the national average.

The new Chief Executive of the Borough Council, Susan Law, accompanied Frank Browne when they met Baroness Andrews, the Parliamentary Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Frank stated, 'We are the second worst funded authority in the country - we have to raise 80p from residents via the Council Tax for every £1 that is spent on services - against an average of 53p for other Councils. We are not seeking special treatment for Wokingham, but a fair deal for our residents and recognition of the efforts we have made in keeping Council Tax increases in line or below the rate of inflation.'

Susan Law told the Minister, 'We want a fair deal for our residents.'

Flooding

Everyone is concerned about the amount of flooding in the area. If your home could be affected, the advice from the Council is to register with Environment Agency's 'Flood Alert Scheme', via their website. The Council is responsible for cleaning the highway gullies, which lead into the Thames Water gully grates. If you see grates that are overflowing, contact the Council on 0118 974 6303, or via the website.

Cllr Annette Drake

Borough Council Member for Hurst

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst. RG10 ORU

Telephone 0118 934 1036, mobile 07753 861 961

SCOF

SENIOR CITIZENS OPEN FORUM FOR THE NORTHERN PARISHES

The next meeting of SCOF will be *28th February 2008* at St Thomas More Church Hall, Loddon Hall Road, Twyford.

WBC Community Conference – Friday, 7th March 2008

This conference will be about community services. Older people can give their views on changes to the WBC priorities. Book your place by 29th February.

Contact Lyn Buddell, Age Concern Twyford & District, for further information.

Tel: 0118 934 4040

ST NICHOLAS HURST

Services

Services are held at 11.00am every Sunday, and in addition, Holy Communion at 8.00am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Sunday 2nd March Mothering Sunday - The Fourth Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

11.00am All-age Worship for Mothering Sunday

Sunday 16th March Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Praise – beginning with Palm Sunday Procession from the Vicarage

Sunday 23rd March EASTER DAY

11.00am Family Eucharist & Sunday Club

Thursday 1st May Ascension Day

8.00pm Eucharist

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 GOSPEL HALL

Our regular activities continue as follows:

Mondays J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)

6.15 – 7.15pm For children 5yrs upwards

Quizzes, singing, Bible stories and lots of fun and games

Tuesday evenings are our Bible Study and Prayer evenings.

From 7.45pm

Wednesday evenings

8.00pm First Wednesday of the month the ladies meet

Fridays

10.00 – 11.30am Mother and Toddler Group

We have a good number of parents and children attending this group regularly.

All seem to enjoy it thoroughly - come and see for yourself

Sundays

Each Sunday evening at 6.30pm, we have a Gospel meeting.

On the third Sunday each month, this is replaced by CAMEO at 5.00p.m.

We begin with a time to chat and then we have tea, some hymn singing and a Bible talk.

For more information, please ring Rachel Simms on *0118 977 2071* or e-mail *David.Simms2@btinternet.com*

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

Published by the Hurst Village Society

www.hvs.org.uk