

# 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. 88**

**[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)**

**November 2003**

## **SANDFORD FARM WASTE REMOVAL DECISION DELAYED**

The campaign by Hurst Village Society and Loddon Valley Action against Hicks Persimmon's Sandford Farm proposals has been successful in delaying the decision-making process.

During the summer and autumn the two groups lobbied the Environment Agency and English Nature - two statutory bodies that give specialist advice to Wokingham Unitary on applications such as these - to make it clear that local residents are very concerned about the potential damage to the environment and wildlife habitat caused by the proposals.

Both the Environment Agency and English Nature have told Wokingham Unitary that the applications are not satisfactory because of the inadequate Environmental Statement provided by the developers.

Wokingham UA is now able to use Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999 to require Hicks Persimmon to provide more detailed information than they have already given in the Environmental Statement.

This will mean that new information about the environmental impact of the proposals has to be researched and submitted in writing to Wokingham Unitary when it will be subject to public consultation in the usual way with planning applications. HVS and LVA will scrutinise it carefully and suggest further questions if we think it is necessary.

Until this happens the process of determining the current applications to remove 300,000 cubic metres of waste from Sandford Farm in Woodley and dump it in Lea Farm and Whistley Court Farm in Hurst so that 450 houses can be built on the re-filled site, is suspended. We can be confident that it will be the New Year before the Development Control Committee considers the revised proposals.

## **Christmas Events and Services at Hurst Gospel Hall**

Wednesday 3 December	8.00pm	A Seasonal Evening - our regular Ladies Evening with a festive flavour
Sunday 21 December	7.00pm	Carol Service followed by light refreshments
Christmas Day Thursday 25 December	10.45 - 11.30am	Christmas morning service

## **Christmas Church Services at St. Nicholas Hurst and St Mary's Winnersh**

Advent 4	9.30am	Eucharist at St. Mary's
Sunday 21 December	11.00am	Holy Eucharist at St. Nicholas
	6.30pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St. Nicholas
Christmas Eve	11.00am	Children's service at St. Nicholas
Wednesday 24 December	2.30pm	Children's service at St. Mary's
	4.00pm	Children's service at St. Nicholas
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass at St. Nicholas
Christmas Day	9.30am	Family Eucharist at St. Mary's
Thursday 25 December	11.00am	Holy Eucharist at St. Nicholas
Holy Innocents	11.00am	United Eucharist at St. Nicholas
Sunday 28 December		

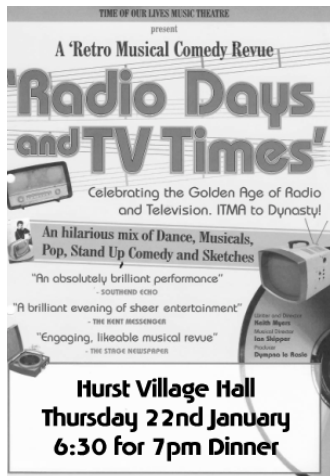
## **New Priest For The Parish**

The Rev. Paul Parks is the new Incumbent of the Parish of St. Nicholas Hurst and St. Mary the Virgin, Winnersh.

Almost exactly 12 months after the Rev. Douglas Loveridge left St. Nicholas, Mr. Parks' Induction Service will be held on 15 January at 8.00pm, and his wife Lois and their children will move into the Vicarage in the New Year.

Mr. Parks is currently part of a team caring for 15 churches in the South Molton area of Devon. He is looking forward to returning to the south-east, where he used to work before he was ordained.

## Musical Comedy Revue at Village Hall



The Village Halls Management Committee is presenting the musical comedy revue 'Radio Days and TV Times' on Thursday 22 January 2004. A group of professional players will perform a mixture of dance, music, pop and stand up comedy routines.

The show is preceded by dinner prepared by Penny Curry. The bar is open from 6.30pm with dinner served at 7.00pm.

This promises to be a popular event and with numbers limited, tickets will be in short supply. Order now from John Edwards on 0118 934 0238 or John Penney on 0118 934 1498. Tickets are priced at £22.50 with proceeds going towards the new roof and upgraded kitchen.

## Christmas Fayre on 29 November

Santa Claus is paying an early seasonal visit to Hurst when he will be one of the attractions at St. Nicholas Christmas Fayre on 29 November in the Village Hall from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

All the usual stalls - Cakes, White Elephant, Crafts, Bric-a-Brac, Tombola, Toys, Decorations, Decorative Stamps, Pickles, Jewellery, and Books - will provide a wonderful opportunity for everyone to start (and possibly finish!) their Christmas shopping. There is also, of course, the Grand Draw with stupendous prizes. The event raises money for St. Nicholas Church and other community groups in the village.

## New Library for St Nicholas School

The new library at the St. Nicholas School was officially opened on 12 November by Prof Sir Colin Spedding. The children now have a non-fiction library with a wide range of reference books to use for research, teaching library skills, and as a lending library.

HVS contributed nearly £2,000 that had been given to the Society by the late Denis Eastwood to maintain his collection of books, which he had bequeathed to the HVS to set up a library. HVS plan to sell the books next year and give the monies raised to St. Nicholas School library.

During the summer holidays there was a major upgrade of facilities at the school to provide a disabled toilet, additional storage space, a new servery, and refurbishment of classroom 6. The work was partly funded by a generous donation from the School Association, and thanks are due to all the parents and friends who contributed directly and indirectly to the fundraising.

## **1st Hurst Brownies Win Swimming Gala, But Not The Cup!**

For the first time in many years Hurst Brownies came first in the recent Loddon District Swimming Gala, *writes Brownie Guider Mary Langdown*. Unfortunately, we shared the same number of points as Charvil and, since they had one more first place than us, they kept the cup.

Particular mention needs to be made of our two 7 year olds, one of whom had to be persuaded to take part in the relay, thus enabling the other to swim in the same race on behalf of Sonning Brownies as they did not have any girls of that age there.

Hurst Brownies have adopted a charity supporting street children in Indonesia. They had a sponsored silence on 23 October, when all twenty-eight girls kept quiet for 40 minutes! Their stall at the Christmas Fayre will be full of little goodies they are busy making which will also be in aid of the school for the Street Children. Brownies are also collecting used stamps, so please give any you have - before or after Christmas!

Guiding in general is very popular in the village with a full Rainbow Unit of eighteen 5-7 year olds, a large Brownie Pack of twenty-eight (most packs have twenty-four maximum) 7-10 year olds, a full Guide Company of thirty-six 10-14 year olds and a popular Ranger Unit of twenty young ladies.

Help is always welcome and it does not necessarily involve getting into uniform or attending courses as Unit Helpers can fulfil very worthwhile support in many ways, especially if they have particular interests or skills they would like to share. If you are interested in giving a hand, please call Mary Langdown on 0118 934 5751 for further details.

## **HVS Dinner Dance Sold Out**

The HVS Dinner Dance on Saturday 6 December was sold out by the end of November, and people making late bookings have been put on a waiting list.

This annual fund-raising event for the Village Society is more popular than ever, and around 150 people will be enjoying a delicious meal created by Penny Curry and musical entertainment from Pete Lincoln.

## **Improvements to Village Halls**

Builders and roofers have been working hard at the Village Hall this autumn improving the structure and facilities, *writes John Edwards*.

With the aid of grants from the Millennium Commission and Hurst Parish Council the leaky flat roof over the kitchen and Committee Room is being replaced, the kitchen upgraded and the floors in both the Large and Small Halls resurfaced.

The work will be finished by the New Year, and I'd like to thank everyone who has supported our various fund raising events over the past year. We look forward to enjoying the new facilities in 2004.

## **East Wall Appeal Needs Another £15,000**

It is with many, many thanks that I am writing to say that, to date, a few thousand pounds has been generously donated as a direct result of the flyer inserted in the last Newsletter, *writes Church Warden Mary Langdown*. This is a wonderful response and those on the Restoration Fund committee are extremely grateful for your generosity.

Since January we have raised £180,000, but we need another £15,000 before the end of this year to fulfil English Heritage's requirements.

There is still time to send in a contribution or ring me on 0118 934 5751 for details. Alternatively, come to the Restoration Fund stall at the Christmas Fayre where you will be able to make a donation, buy a 'Sponsor A Flint' badge and buy a novelty item with St. Nicholas on it.

The investigative work on the East Wall is now complete and the results are with English Heritage awaiting their decision about next year's work. This is an anxious time, as the programme of work needs to be agreed with our Surveyor and English Heritage before we can put it out to tender. We have to deal with responses to the tender before the New Year in order to comply with the agreement with English Heritage for future financial support.

In the meantime, work on the drains around the tower will hopefully take place before Christmas. Our Insurance Company covers this because there has been structural damage to the pipes.

## **Win a Trip to Rio!**

Hurst Football Club present a fantastic opportunity. You can win two return tickets with 5 nights hotel accommodation in the spectacular city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Tickets cost £1 and can be purchased from either Hurst Post Office or Jennings Butchers in Hurst. The draw takes place on Saturday 13 December 2003.

## **Will The Next Newsletter Be The Last One?**

The next HVS Newsletter (due out in February/March) will be the last one edited by Wendy Tobitt, who has been doing the job for three years. Unless someone comes forward to take on this voluntary role, the next newsletter will be the last one.

"It is not difficult or a chore," said Wendy, "but after three years, I would like to give someone else a chance to enjoy this role in village affairs. There are many contributors, and I am very grateful to everyone who writes articles, phones up and sends me e-mails - the newsletter would be very thin without you!"

"The newsletter is published five times a year, and is currently printed by John Asteraki, Caroline Speer's father. Duncan Kendall is proof-reader, and lay-out designer for this issue, so whoever takes on the role of Editor will have a good support team."

Anyone who would like to have a go at being Editor should contact Wendy on 0118 934 2381 to find out more.

# **The View from Shute End ...Wokingham Unitary Councillor Annette Drake reports**

## **Sandford Farm campaign moves on**

The combined campaign by HVS and Loddon Valley Action (LVA) to oppose the Hicks Persimmon proposal to remove the rubbish from Sandford Farm, Woodley, relocate most of it to Lee Farm and Whistley Court Farm, Hurst and then fill up the voids in Woodley with imported inert materials and aggregate so that they can build 450 houses on the site, has not lost any of its momentum.

On Thursday 30 October, Phil Challis, the spokesman for Loddon Valley Action Group, presented the Full Council with a petition signed by 2,400 residents and the 2 MPs Theresa May and Jane Griffith, objecting to the proposals. Phil explained the scheme to Councillors, and alerted them to the problems associated with the plans. The LVA and HVS feel positive about the campaign, and the level of opposition to the proposals is almost unanimous within both communities. However it should be remembered that at a recent appeal the Government Inspector's report stated that "Local opposition to a proposal is not in itself a reason for refusal".

I am delighted to advise you that during the consultation process the Environment Agency and English Nature, both of which are statutory consultees, have made considerable objections. This opens the way for Wokingham UA to use Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999 to require Hicks Persimmon to provide more information than they have already given in the Environmental Statement.

I am cautiously optimistic that the Council will invoke Regulation 19. This will mean that additional information has to be submitted in writing, and determination of the application is suspended until such time as the supplementary information requested is received. When it is, the new and additional information will be subject to consultation and advertisement in a local newspaper. We can be confident that Hicks Persimmon's applications will not come to the Development Control Committee before Christmas!

## **Beeches Nursery**

The recently refused application at Beeches Nursery for 24 business units, which under an earlier appeal decision for 10 units was allowed with no restriction on working hours, is quite unacceptable in an area surrounded by houses. This will be the subject of a local appeal hearing, so I hope that anyone affected by this proposal will join me there. The date for the hearing has yet to be set, but let me know if you want to come to it.

## **Slowing down the traffic on village roads**

This continues to be a major concern, and I am pleased that Hurst is being considered as one of the pilot areas for Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). If drivers exceed the speed limit, the VAS will alert them. The proposal for bollards to be placed in front of the new cottages in The Street should be going ahead soon, this would also prevent parking on the grass verge at the entrance to Tape Lane. Progress is frustratingly slow, but these schemes are on the list! Should you have comments on either of these proposals I would be grateful if you will let me know and I will pass them to the Highways Board Chairman.

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> January every year.

To join the HVS please 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. Send the completed form to Eddie Coe, Membership Secretary, 4 Lodge Road, Whistley Green, Hurst RG10 0EH.

#### **Section A**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode..... Telephone .....

E-mail .....

#### **Section B**

I enclose £5.00 cash / cheque for £5.00 payable to **Hurst Village Society**, being my subscription for 2004. I also enclose a donation of £ .....

#### **Section C**

To: My Bank:

The Manager, ..... 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 1349706 (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 1<sup>st</sup> January

Signature..... Date.....

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