

# 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. 92**

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

**September 2004**

## **Award for HVS Web site !**

Earlier this year St Nicholas Hurst entered the Calor Village of the Year competition. We are delighted to announce that Hurst Village Society's efforts in the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) arena have been recognised and we will be representing the Royal County in the next stage of the competition in the ICT Category.

In their summary, the Berkshire judges said: *"The winner of the ICT section of the competition is the village of St Nicholas Hurst. The village particularly impressed judges with its website, set up by the village society, which is user-friendly, and which provides lots of positive information on the village."*

The award, along with a cheque for £100, was presented to Duncan Kendall, the designer and author of the web site, at a meeting of Berkshire villages on 13th September. Chairman Nick Willson presented an account of the society's ICT achievements, in an evening with the theme *"The Village MOT"*.

HVS would like the prize money to be spent on further improving ICT within the Parish.

## **Sandford Farm - Builders Withdraw Housing Plan for Tip**

Hicks Persimmon, the developer aiming to build hundreds of homes on the old Sandford Farm landfill site has admitted defeat and is withdrawing the plan. Phil Challis, who chairs the Loddon Valley Action Group (LVAG) was delighted at the news. He said *"The decision to withdraw the applications shows that the efforts of residents can make a difference."*

## **HVS Skills Register**

Do you live in Hurst and have a skill that you would like to be included in the skills register? The register is open to members (new members always welcome) and is published on the HVS website. We also plan to issue a copy of the skills register in the new issue of the newsletter.

Please contact **Wayne Smith** on **0118 934 0840** to register or for more information.

## \*\*\* News Bites \*\*\*

### **Fund raising Hog Roast and Barn Dance**

St Nicholas Pre-School Playgroup are having a fund raising Hog Roast and Barn Dance on **Saturday 2nd October at 8pm** in the Large Village Hall. Live music and a licensed bar should make for an entertaining evening.

Tickets are £17.50 and include Hog Roast, salad and a pudding. For more information contact any pre-school committee member or call **0118 934 1131**.

### **St Nicholas Church East Wall - Grant application 2**

**Phase 1 revisited!** There was a meeting with English Heritage on 15th June and they are happy to support a 2nd application for a grant towards the cost of the work on the wall. English Heritage have advised on the development work they wish to see carried out in Phase 1 of this new application so as to firm up on the specification and cost for Phase 2. The Parochial Church Council agreed to go forward with this and the grant application was delivered to English Heritage on 30th June; the closing day.

It is expected that, if this application is successful, Phase 1 of this grant contract will re-commence early in 2005 and the results of the development work should be quicker with the main work commencing within a year. The latter will depend on the approval in principle of the Phase 2 grant offering by English Heritage for this follow up work, as was the case in the original grant. However, this time the level of funding breaches the regional limit and will need to be assessed at national level. The first hurdle was cleared in August and the papers have now been sent on for the national assessment.

### **The History of Wokingham**

On **Friday 8th October** the local historian Ken Goatley is giving an illustrated talk spanning 100 years of Wokingham, its building and history. Using two screens the show demonstrates many of the changes that have taken place. The show will be held in the Small Village Hall at 7:30pm and will last 2 hours. Wine and nibbles will be available during the interval.

Tickets: Adults £6, Concessions £4 and are available from either **Rita Bunyard** on **0118 934 5253** or **Jo Penney** on **0118 934 1498**.

### **HVS Christmas Dinner Dance**

This year's HVS Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday 4th December in the Large Village Hall. There will be live entertainment accompanied by a delicious dinner from Penny Curry. **Tickets** can be purchased from **15th October** by contacting **Jane Tweddle** on **0118 934 2487**. Please note that, due to last year's overwhelming demand, priority will be given to members and we may have to limit allocations.

### **Welcome to the new Post Office owners**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Debbie, Jit and Harry who moved into the Post Office on August 28th. Debbie and her family have been very pleased with the welcome they have been given by village residents so far and look forward to meeting many more of you. The Post Office now has extended opening hours: **Monday-Friday 6:30am to 8pm, Saturdays 7am to 8pm and Sundays/Bank Holidays 8am-6pm.**

*Hurst PANTO 2005*

# SNOW WHITE

## *PERFORMANCES*

*Hurst Village Hall*

**Thursday 13th January at 7:30**

**Friday 14th January at 7:30**

**Saturday 15th January at 2:00 and 7:30**

## *TICKETS*

*Adult £8 Child/Senior £5*

**Available from Rita Bunyard on 0118 934 5253  
from 1st November**

Auditions are currently underway for adult and children's roles, please visit **[www.hurstpanto.org.uk](http://www.hurstpanto.org.uk)** for more information, or contact:

**Jo Penney on 0118 934 1498 or Judith Boulton on 0118 934 0838.**

**Rehearsals** will be held in the Large Village Hall/Committee Room every **Monday from 20th September at 7.30pm.** **Children's Chorus rehearsals** will be held in the Large Village Hall on **Sunday afternoons from 1.00pm to 2.30pm.**

# Parish Council News

## Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

The Parish Council is very concerned about speeding traffic through our village. Back in December last year the Highways Board agreed to assess Broadwater Lane, A321 Wokingham Road, Davis Street, Hinton Road, Lodge Road and School Road.

At the Highways Board meeting on 5th July, Kate Fuller the Traffic Management Team Leader at WDC put forward their recommendations for VAS in the Wokingham District. In her report it was recommended that Davis Street should be monitored for future consideration. At the meeting Councillor Paul Martin made the case for Vehicle Activated Signs in Hurst. Although, thankfully, Hurst does not meet the main criteria, which is a history of personal injury accidents, we do have a proven speeding problem as shown by recent speed surveys.

The Chairman of the Highways Board (Mr David Choppin) has been very supportive of our case and, with the help of District Councillor Annette Drake and the HVS Committee, WDC have agreed to assess Broadwater Lane, A321 Wokingham Road, Davis Street and Lodge Road.

## Maintenance Work

Work on tidying up the playing field in Davis Street is near completion. A number of dead elms have been removed, along with a conifer near the entrance. Now that the vegetation has been cut back, the state of the fencing can be assessed and appropriate action taken.

A contract to paint and tidy up round Townsend Pond has been placed. We hope the work will be completed by the Autumn.

At the Parish Council meeting on 6th September the options to remove the graffiti from the Youth Shelter and reduce further vandalism were discussed.

## Local Nature Reserve

Unfortunately progress on this issue is very slow. The Clerk has sent several letters to the landowner of the main site under consideration, but as yet has not been able to move this project forward.

The Parish Council has been in discussions with the landowner of one of the secondary sites, but it was mutually agreed that this site was not suitable.

## Your New Council

Following the elections in June, your new council is as follows:

Val Bowman

Sylvia Cox

Michael Holstock

Howard Larkin

**Jan Martin (Chairman)**

**Paul Martin (Vice Chairman)**

Wayne Smith

Mac Stephenson

Tim Taylor

The Parish Council says farewell to both Ian McMinn and David Boulton and would like to record their thanks for the many years they have represented Hurst as Councillors and their contribution in this time.

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Wayne Smith to fill one of these vacancies which leaves one vacancy.

If you are interested in joining, please contact **Bob Wardle** at [clerk@hurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hurst-pc.org.uk)

Visit the Parish Council web site at [www.hurst-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurst-pc.org.uk) for full contact details of Parish Councillors and information about the activities of the Council.

## **Come and Explore the Meaning of Life**

St Nicholas Church in Hurst and St Mary's Church in Winnersh are running an Alpha Course, starting September 2004.

What is the point of life, what happens when we die? Is forgiveness possible? What relevance does Jesus have for our lives today?

### **What is Alpha?**

The Alpha Course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. It's relaxed, non-threatening, low key, friendly and fun.

There is supper together at the beginning of each session, which gives you an opportunity to get to know each other.

Listen, learn, discuss and discover. Ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

Alpha is a 10 week course from 8:00pm to 10:15pm. Courses run in both Hurst and Winnersh on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening, beginning 7th and 8th September.

### **Interested?**

Please contact **Rev Paul Parks** on **0118 934 0017**, or email **revpaulparks@tiscali.co.uk**

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## **TinyTalkUK.com - Baby Signing and Singing Classes**

**Babies are Crying Out for This!** No longer do you have to "guess" the cry! (Tired? Hungry? Hot? Cold? Damp nappy? Aargh!). TinyTalk UK, the first and leading Baby Sign Language organisation to appear on UK television, now has classes in Wokingham and will be launching classes in Hurst and Binfield in September.

Baby signing provides a way of introducing language to children before they can speak, enabling them to express their feelings, wishes and needs. Classes are suitable for babies from 0-2 years, in particular from 6-18 months, as this is when most babies traditionally struggle to communicate with their equally frustrated parents and carers.

For more information about baby signing, visit the Tiny Talk UK web site at **www.tinytalkuk.com**. Alternatively, for information about classes in Wokingham, Binfield and Hurst, contact **Louise Derry** on **07990 722884**.

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## **Hurst Beavers, Cubs and Scout Groups**

Hurst has a thriving and active Beaver, Cub and Scout movement in Hurst, achieving much for the children of the village. However, additional help is always welcome to assist in these activities. Cub leaders (for boys age 8 - 10 years) are particularly needed. If you are interested in becoming a leader, or know someone who is, please contact **Barbara Loring** on **0118 934 0650**.

## **View from Shute End Wokingham Unitary Councillor, Annette Drake, reports:**

### **Field between Tape Lane and Lodge Road**

I feel we need to be aware of the fact that developers are offering small plots of agricultural land, outside settlements, for sale. The new owners may attempt to secure planning permission at a later date. I was alerted to this scenario by a reported case in Gloucester where agricultural land was sold in 2 acre parcels in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the local council is concerned that applications will follow to develop the land.

We should be concerned for this field in Hurst, which is presently being marketed by an estate agent in 2+ acre plots. The drawing includes a line of possible housing plots on the edge of the field, fronting on to Tape Lane and adjacent to the new access [recently refused]. This is not an area for development and this has been successfully defended at appeal. However, we should note the similarities with the Gloucester case.

A second application has been registered to move the new access further away from the oak tree. I have listed this application in order that you will have the chance to comment in public about the fact that there is already an access into this field, which is at a safer position in Tape Lane. Surely it makes no sense to allow this proposal.

### **Sandford Lane**

Sandford Lane is currently closed for 6 weeks re-surfacing (from 16th August). It is necessary to close it to traffic due to the narrow width of the road.

### **Fairbrook, Wokingham Road**

The new owner has applied to build a house in the garden on the Eastwood side of the property, using a policy which allows for infilling within a row of houses [even outside the settlement]. The principle of development is acceptable provided that the development is of "High quality and design that respects the local context by virtue of siting, layout, massing, materials, colour and texture.". This particular application has been refused because of the size and massing. The applicant has lodged an appeal, which took place in August, the outcome of which is awaited.

### **Enhanced Landscaping in Davis Way**

The enhanced landscaping planted as a screen for houses in Davis Way, when the fence over the motorway bridge in David Street was removed, has died and will be replaced at the next planting time.

### **Clearing Ditches**

There are now six residents who are interested in having ditches on their property dug out, so I will begin to look for a contractor who will give us a reasonable deal.

### **Contacting Annette Drake**

Telephone **0118 934 1036** or email at **anndrk@dsl.pipex.com**

## Crime Report from Wpc Sandy Craske

Sandy has now clocked up over 1000 miles now on her bike since being at Hurst!

The biggest talking point in Hurst recently has to be the fire in Nelsons Lane. The fire is still being investigated as no conclusive evidence has pinpointed the exact cause of the explosion.

There have been some burglaries during July and August and an attempted burglary at the post office, but no entry was gained. There have been some cases of bricks being thrown from a passing vehicle along the A321, causing damage to three properties.

An attempt to get money from an elderly resident was made by persons claiming to have carried out roof repairs. No repairs had been carried out and, fortunately, no money was handed over.

Sandy is trying to arrange a meeting for all Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in Hurst at the Small Village Hall.

For more information visit the Hurst Parish Council web site ([www.hurst-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurst-pc.org.uk)) or contact Sandy on **0118 953 6257** or email to [sandy.craske@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sandy.craske@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

### **Incident Number:**

Just a reminder that the non-emergency number for police matters is **0845 850 5505**.

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## **Twyford and District Older People's Forum**

The forum is now moving forward quickly and there was a very successful meeting in July with 24 people in attendance.

The **"NHS in Wokingham District"** presentation originally scheduled for July will now be the first one to be held in 2005. On 23rd September the first of the autumn presentations will be about **"The Discharge of Patients from the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals"**.

Meetings are held at St Thomas More's Church Hall, Loddon Hall Road, Twyford, on the fourth Thursday of the month between 2 and 4pm. If you have a question relevant to either of these subjects contact **Janet Potter** on **0118 934 4040** - or come along and raise the questions yourself!

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## **Volunteers to Help Vital Ageing Research**

Researchers at the University of Reading are setting up a clinical database of healthy, older people willing to take part in a wide range of important research projects which could help shape the future of healthcare of senior citizens.

Anyone interested in further details should contact **Professor Margot Gosney** on **0118 963 6720** or email to [m.a.gosney@reading.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.gosney@reading.ac.uk)

# Hurst Village Society Committee Members

Val Bowman	Little Farm, Hogmoor Lane	0118 932 1420
vbowman51@aol.com		
Eddie Coe	4 Lodge Road	0118 934 5103 Membership
eddiecoe@talk21.com		
Brian Colman	1 Aylesford Villas, Wokingham Road	0118 934 5677
Fernando Esteve	Sandford, Lodge Road	0118 934 4364 Treasurer
fernando.esteve@bg-group.com		
Duncan Kendall	6 Tape Lane	0118 934 2852 Website
dk-hvs@bdksol.co.uk		
Wayne Smith	Woodville, Wokingham Road	0118 934 0840 Skills register
wayne.x.smith@centrica.co.uk		
Janet Spiller	3 Hogmoor Lane	0118 934 2438 Environment
janetspiller16@aol.com		
Brian Thomas	The Retreat, Forest Road	01344 453256 Secretary
brian_thomas55@hotmail.com		
Wendy Tobitt	17 Martineau Lane	0118 934 2381 Planning
wendy_tobitt@compuserve.com		
Jane Tweddle	Brer Lodge, Davis Street	0118 934 2487 Editor
cjtweddle@aol.com		
Sheila Whittaker	Apple Tree Cottage, Hogmoor Lane	0118 932 1937
frank.whittaker@lineone.net		
Nick Willson	The Gables, Wards Cross	0118 934 0319 Chairman
nm.willson@virgin.net		
Ex-officio:		
Annette Drake,	Walden Acres, Wokingham Road	0118 934 1036 WDC Councillor
anndrk@dsl.pipex.com		

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*Chairman: Nick Willson, The Gables, Wards Cross, Hurst, RG10 0DS*

*Tel: 0118 934 0319*

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