

# 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. 95

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

May 2005

## Hurst Village Society - a view from the AGM

The Hurst Village Society AGM took place on Friday 22nd April with an attendance of only 21 people, all of whom are committee or HVS members.

There was a comprehensive update on the activities of the HVS during the last 12 months, including notable successes such as achieving planning refusals on Tape Lane, Sandford Farm and many others, agreement for vehicle activated signs in the village to calm speeding traffic, environmental activities such as the hedge laying in Hogmoor Lane and the planting of new hedging at the church, the youth shelter and regular village newsletter publication.

This is a tremendous achievement from a local “pressure group” and one which costs each household £5 per year - at the most!

If the protecting the environment, safety and design of the village is important to you, then you must already be a member of the HVS. If not, then do these issues really matter to you?

It is going to become more and more difficult for the Society to continue to fight for the best for Hurst without more financial support and involvement from each of you. The cost of the activities we undertake is rising and seriously contesting major planning issues such as Tape Lane can be very expensive once legal counsel is brought in.

**What can you do for Hurst?** As well as committing financial resource in terms of £5 per year membership and other donations you may want to make, you can become involved in the HVS committee, become a newsletter distributor and generally safeguard the well-being of the village.

An interesting point to leave you with: During the recent speed checks in the village, **over 50% of those stopped and issued with fixed penalty tickets for driving faster than the speed limit either live or work in Hurst!** How many of those 50% are also “up in arms” about traffic and safety in the village and the need to implement traffic calming measures? How many of those 50% are also members of the HVS, contributing to the efforts to achieve greater safety on our roads?

Please contact **Nick Willson** on **0118 934 0319**, or any other committee member if you would like more information about the Society or would like to join and make a contribution to Hurst.

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

### Hurst Bowling Club

The season has started again! There is an open day on Sunday 15th May at 3pm. We would be delighted to welcome you all to the club. For more details, please visit [www.hurstbowlingclub.org.uk](http://www.hurstbowlingclub.org.uk)

### Hurst Informal Tennis Club

We meet on Monday evenings at 7pm – 9pm at The Dolphin School courts. Anyone of any standard is welcome. If there is sufficient interest, we will run a Ladies night on another evening. Do dust off your racquets and join us! For more information, call **Pippa** on **0118 934 5034**.

### Village Halls AGM on Wednesday 25th May

The AGM for the Village Halls Management Committee will be held on Wednesday 25th May at 8:00pm in the Halls' Committee Room. Regular Hall users and members of the public are welcome to attend. A number of long-serving current members will be standing down and nominations for new officers will be gratefully received.

### Brownies

Only eight meetings were held last term but much was accomplished. There were outings to the Pantomime at Kenton Theatre and the Thinking Day activities and service at Sonning. We had outside speakers teaching the girls about Talking Books for the Blind, Sign Language and Guide dogs. We had fun on the eve of Red Nose Day and shared the monies raised between Red Nose and Feed the Children.

Along with other 1st Hurst Scout and Guide units we will be going to Chalfont Heights for the Family Camp in May.

Mary Langdown and Caroline Speer will be attending the Guide County AGM on May 14th where they both hope to be present to see Wendy Gribble, Guide Leader, receive her "Service to Guiding" award!

### Dance and Tai Chi classes in the village

Catch the UK dance fever right on your doorstep with a weekly dance workout in Hurst Village Hall. **Dance-Fit** is for everyone and anyone. The class sits nicely before the school run on **Tuesdays (2-3pm)** or after work on **Mondays (8-9pm)** and **Thursdays (6.30-7.30pm)**. To increase your internal strength and enhance your posture, balance and co-ordination, there is **Tai Chi** on **Tuesdays (6-7pm)**. For those interested in partner dancing, enquire about the **Friday dance nights in Ballroom, Latin, Salsa and Tango**. For more information contact **Mary Nondé** at Dancing for Joy on **0118 934 0640** or email [mary@dancingforjoy.go-plus.net](mailto:mary@dancingforjoy.go-plus.net)

### Hurst Bakery and Provisions

The Hurst Baker and Provisions is now open four evenings a week until 6.00pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) for it's full range of treats and essentials. Fresh Sandwich and Buffet Lunch deliveries are also under way to local offices and home-workers. Anything from the bakery's range of snacks, delicacies - even a bottle of wine - can be brought to your door. For more information or to place an order call **John** or **Kelly** on **0118 934 1941**.

### Party in the Park

This year's event will be organised by the Hurst Romans youth football club and will take place on Saturday 25th June. More details to follow.



Plans are already well under way for the annual Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre, which is the highlight of the village calendar. The show weekend this year is **June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**, a week earlier than in previous years.

Fun packed attractions appealing to all age groups are being planned for the show in **Willowmead Field, School Road, Hurst**. There will be a full two-day schedule of horse riding events including jumping and showing classes and a musical ride display.

Adding an authentic rural feel to the show will be the country corner with displays of traditional country crafts including pottery and willow sculptures. Everyone is invited to create an entry for the scarecrow competition!

A packed programme of arena events will include **Morris dancing, dog displays, birds of prey, tug of war and terrier racing**. Bustling side shows and stalls, **face painting, a bouncy castle, bar and refreshments** will ensure entertainment for all the family.

Last year's show attracted record crowds, particularly on the hot and sunny Sunday, and stallholders reported record takings.

There are still a limited number of **pitches available for hire** by trade stallholders which can be booked by calling **Richard Hiles on 0118 934 0704**. Details of the **horse show events** are available from **Cathy Lochman on 0118 934 1205** or **Anne Marie Peries on 0118 989 1945**. Schedules will be available soon.

The show organisers are keen to hear from **businesses wishing to either sponsor a show jumping event or to become general show sponsors**. Sponsors are listed in the programme which is distributed free to everyone attending the show. Details from **Cathy Lochman on 0118 934 1205**.

# Parish Council News

**From Jan Martin, Chairman of Hurst PC - contactable on 0118 934 2851**

## Vehicle Activated Signs

As reported in the last edition of HVS NEWS the Parish Council and HVS have agreed to jointly fund two Vehicle Activated Signs on the A321, one outside the Elephant and Castle and one outside Woodlands Cottages, on approach to Orchard Road. Kate Fuller, one of the Highways officers for WDC says, the 7 day, 24 hour speed survey at the chosen locations will take place within the next month. Once this assessment is complete a full proposal will be put forward to the Highways Board. Although progress is slow the Parish Council remains optimistic that we will see VAS in Hurst.

## New Member of the Parish Council

We are very pleased to announce that Brian Shults has become the latest member of the Parish Council. Brian trained as a mechanical and electrical engineer and his work within the construction industry will be of great benefit to the Parish Council.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk, **Bob Wardle** on **01628 628485**.

## Young people in Hurst

Debbie Coleman has been running a Tuesday evening club in the large village hall through the winter instead of bringing the outdoor Mobile Youth Facility but will be returning with the Mobile Youth Facility in May.

Debbie, with the support of the Parish Council, is trying to set up a Friday evening Youth Club and any parents interested in helping please contact **Jan Martin** on 0118 934 2851 or **Debbie Coleman** on 07808 143631

## Maintenance Work

Work on tidying up the playing field in Davis Street to clear a number of dead elms and a large conifer near the entrance has now been completed. Now that the vegetation has been cut back the state of the fencing can be assessed and appropriate action taken.

The electricity supply panel that provides electricity to the School Road recreation area has been the subject of criminal damage. Southern Electricity has just carried out the necessary repairs.

The Parish council would like to hear from anyone who is interested in taking on general maintenance projects in the village. These would include maintenance of the Davis Street and School Road playing fields, village pond, Christmas tree and other small maintenance projects. If you are interested please email the **Clerk** at **clerk@hurst-pc.org.uk**

# Planning Matters

HVS continues to monitor the Wokingham District Council planning lists, as well as developments in the parish, in order to protect, maintain and enhance the character of Hurst.

At long last we have *Design for Hurst*, which is the result of work carried out by volunteers, HVS and Hurst Parish Council over the last three years to identify the unique and special characteristics of the built and natural environment in Hurst that we want to keep, and recommend ways in which they can be maintained, even within new developments.

*Design for Hurst* is now adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance, and HVS is using the recommendations in letters to the Development Control Committee. *Design for Hurst* is available to read on **[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)**

## **Summary of recent correspondence**

HVS alerted WDC to the two metre high wooden fence that suddenly appeared without planning permission in the middle of February to screen Rosevale in School Road. The developer has since applied for temporary planning permission.

The Director of Planning Services, Simon Birch visited the ‘garage’ at the Garden House, Wokingham Rd on 20 April as a result of letters from HVS and the Parish Council complaining of the lack of enforcement action here. The developer has not only built a ‘garage’ without planning permission, the ditch at the front has been filled in and a wall built over it, and conifer trees at the rear boundary were felled, although assurances had been given that they would be retained.

We continue to resist development at Fairbrook, Wokingham Rd. While a new house is built in the garden to the south of Fairbrook, and have called for refusal of the development of a ‘three in one’ house to the north.

Hurst Village Society commented on the new planning application for one house to be built at Manor Farm, Binfield Road. We have asked for conditions to be applied to ensure the planting of native species of trees at the boundaries, insertion of owl windows and use of traditional materials to minimise the impact of this new development on the wildlife and countryside.

HVS has called for a traffic assessment of the Binfield Road/Forest Road junction and its ability to cope with increased amount of traffic coming from a proposed development of 220 houses in Plough Lane, Wokingham.

The Oracle Corporation has applied for the extension of its planning permission for a conference and training centre at Sandford Farm, Woodley for a further three years. This is good news, as residents in Hurst and Woodley would like to see this controversial site removed from the reserve list of sites for housing.

## **Christian Aid Coffee Morning has new home**

Thanks to the generosity of Christine Hyatt, Headteacher at St. Nicholas School, Christian Aid has a new home for its annual coffee morning. It was decided that to attract “passing trade”, it would be a good idea to have a more central venue and the school seemed an obvious choice. The date has been set for **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am – 12.00 noon**. Please put this date in your diary now so that we make sure this is the best ever yet.

Christian Aid has contributed huge sums to the Tsunami disaster in Asia and so it is imperative that we help replenish their coffers to ensure that there is money available for the rebuilding projects which will be going on for many years.

We would be grateful for any offers of help and if you have any suitable items to donate, please let us know or bring them with you on the morning. We will of course be having a cake stall, as well as the ever popular plant stall. The Brownies and Guides will be running children’s games so it is a must for ALL the family. For any further information please ring **Caroline Speer** on **0118 934 3886**.

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## **A view from the bench ~ an update on Hurst’s Youth Football team**

Hurst Romans close their first full season having competed with 6 teams, largely consisting of boys from the village; a really impressive first year!

Through the summer 4 teams will compete in summer leagues and 4 teams will compete in tournaments. Already the plan for next season is to have 8 teams, and this may even stretch to 9.

We are always looking for new football recruits from 5 to 15 years of age, as well as new coaches at all levels (full or part time). If you are interesting in joining or helping out, please look at our website **www.hurstfc.org.uk**

On the social side, Hurst Romans are now the organisers of the **Party in the Park** and this event returns this year on **Saturday 25th June**. More news and details to follow, but please put this date in your diaries now.

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## **St Nicholas Church - Services during the vacancy**

With the departure of Rev. Paul Parks to St Sebastian's Wokingham we now find ourselves in a period of vacancy (Interregnum) again. We are extremely fortunate to have a willing Hon. Retired Priest, Rev. Clifford Smith, to lead the majority of Services. However, we do not wish to overburden him so services will be shared between him, his wife Pat (Our Lay Reader) and David Hurst who is also on our Ministry team. Clifford will lead all Holy Communion and Baptism services.

All Services will be advertised on the Church notice board and we will do our best circulate them on Village notice boards as well. **Revd. Clifford Smith** can be contacted on the Parish Telephone Number: **0118 934 0017** or you can contact Church Warden **Mary Langdown** on **0118 934 5751**.

# Hurst gets the hedge!

## Update on Environmental projects

### Hogmoor Lane

The HVS was successful in obtaining a £3,200 grant to enable the hedge in Hogmoor Lane to be traditionally laid. This represented the culmination of a longer-term biodiversity project that began in 1998 when volunteers replanted the original hedge with mixed native species. The replanting was necessary because the dead elm that made up the majority of the hedge was removed for safety reasons, leaving a rather desolate landscape!

Local hedge layer Richard Girdler, assisted by Ty Bolton, took 3 weeks during November/December last year to lay the 180m stretch of hedge. This traditional management technique encourages new growth, particularly from the base, resulting in a very thick hedge. Historically, the main purpose of hedge laying was to create a stock proof barrier but it also created good habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. This is the reason that conservationists prefer hedge laying to flail cutting. Annual flail cutting promotes re-growth at the top of the hedge. The result is a sparse base that provides less cover and lacks winter food for wildlife.

The HVS would like to thank The Environmental Trust for Berkshire (landfill tax money) and the landowner, The Lady Ingram Trust, for funding the project.

### St Nicholas Church Graveyard

Volunteers turned out on 26<sup>th</sup> February to replant a section of the graveyard hedge that had been destroyed by a car fire. Everyone worked hard digging out the burnt stumps and replanting with native hornbeam shrubs. HVS felt it was particularly important to restore this boundary as it is in the conservation area. Funding was obtained from a campaign called Environment Agency Action Earth. This is supported by the Environment Agency and organised by the charity Community Service Volunteers. The campaign provides small grants of up to £50 for projects of immediate and lasting benefit to the environment. Projects can be registered by calling 0121 328 7455

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## Church News

**St Nicholas Church ~ East Wall:** We would have liked to be telling you that scaffolding would be going up soon and the work is beginning at last. However, there appears to be some confusion with more process we have to go through before being allowed to progress any further. We are still frustrated at having to say "*No further progress yet*". On the other hand, understanding of the situation may happen soon with work beginning before the next HVS newsletter is produced!

**St Mary the Virgin, Winnersh:** While most readers will know that St Nicholas has a "daughter church", St Mary's Winnersh, not everyone may realise that the current church building celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year. There is a series of events planned beginning with a **May Fair in the church grounds on Saturday May 7th at 2 p.m.** and **40 Bible Readings** outside the church on **Saturday 25th June**. Please keep an eye open for other events and remember the connection with Hurst.

## Hurst Village Society Committee Members

David Bingham	3 Whistley Court Farm	0118 932 1267
david.bingham@wolseley.com		
Val Bowman	Little Farm, Hogmoor Lane	0118 932 1420
vbowman51@aol.com		
Eddie Coe	4 Lodge Road	0118 934 5103 Membership
eddiecoe@talk21.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		

*Published by the Hurst Village Society.*

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

*Tel: 0118 934 0319*

**www.hvs.org.uk**