

# 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. 97**

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

**September 2005**

## **Summerleaze closes down Lea Farm landfill site**

Summerleaze Waste Management is closing down the landfill operation at Lea Farm, Lodge Road during September.

The last cell has been capped and the remaining work on this will be harrowing, fertilising and seeding the topsoil so that it can be used for grazing sheep. Other remedial work will be done to distribute sub-soil and topsoil around the edges of the small lake and wetland areas that have been created between Lea Farm and the river.

The Bailey bridge over the Loddon river to connect Lea Farm with Sandford Farm was removed early in September. This means that workers are using entrances to the site from Lodge Road, including Lea Farm. Summerleaze reassured HVS that these extra traffic movements would be workers' own vehicles (including caravans). At the end of the work, during October, all the heavy plant will be moved off the site via Lodge Road.

Summerleaze is still working on the Sandford Farm site. This includes removing the equipment and temporary buildings associated with gravel extraction over the last 30 years, and restoring sub-soil and topsoil. Since the mid-1970s more than four million tons of gravel have been removed from the entire site.

The last Summerleaze liaison group meeting was held on 1st September and included a two hour walk around the Sandford Farm and Lea Farm sites to view the restoration work and find out more about the areas that will be managed by Wokingham DC Countryside Services. This includes Lodge Wood, the Site of Special Scientific Interest in Hurst, which has a large population of the rare Loddon Lily. Photos of the walk are on **[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)**

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## **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)**

Hurst will have VAS installed on Broadwater Lane near the Elephant & Castle and on the Wokingham Road just inside the 30mph speed limit; these VAS will be operating by **4th November**.

Well done to the HVS, Hurst Parish Council and Wokingham District Council who have worked hard and donated funds to get these signs onto the road which has the most recorded speeding traffic in the Village. The Highways Board Chairman David Chopping allowed us to give our case to the members, suggesting that a donation towards the cost of the work would put us on to the priority list. Had funds not been agreed we would have had to wait years. Thank you to all involved.

## **Last update and “Farewell” from Sandy Craske**

I would like to sincerely thank all the residents of Hurst for making me feel welcome during my time with you in the village. As of 26<sup>th</sup> September I will officially be based at Wokingham, although I have already begun to spend some of my time working the new beat there. I will not forget my time spent in the village and consider myself privileged to have worked such a lovely area.

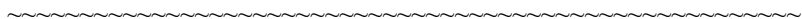
The hot spot of crime in Hurst still continues to be the car parks connected to Dinton Pastures. Unfortunately people still leave their valuables in their vehicles, believing that if they put them in the boot they will be safe. So, a word of warning - please make sure you take all your valuables with you when walking around the Pastures.

We also had the incursion of travellers (twice in different locations in Hurst) and thankfully they were moved on without causing too many problems.

There is still only a low level of reported crime in the Hurst area which is good and very little youth disorder.

I will still come back to visit the village when possible as my new beat borders the Hurst Village and the temptation to chat to old friends will be just too much.

Thank you once again. I will not forget the wonderful time I have had being your area beat officer.



## **Update from the Hurst Horticultural and Cottage Garden Show**

Thanks to all who worked so hard to help keep alive our historic village event in the ideal venue for the 92nd Horticultural and Home Industries Show. This proved to be a huge success on St Nicholas School and Willowmead fields. Since 1983 the show has been held in the Village Hall and grounds. Prior to 1982 the show was recognised as Berkshire's biggest Bank Holiday Show when it was held on the fields at Hatch Gate Farm.

In marquees reminiscent of the earlier shows, over 500 exhibits were displayed leaving the judges with a difficult task to choose the best of many superb creations and high quality produce. The centrally located bandstand gave some 400 visitors the chance to sit and listen to the delightful programme of music from the Woodley based Trinity Concert Band, and to browse amongst the many interesting craft, produce and demonstration stalls.

During the afternoon a group of very enthusiastic dogs and handlers from the Diana Brimblecombe Dog Fly Ball Team demonstrated their skills which allowed a break for the dog show entrants and time to groom for the remaining novelty classes. Dogs from far and wide came to enter the very well attended show.

If you wish to find out more or become involved in HH&CGS activities we meet in January, April and June to plan the show with other horticultural activities included, please refer to What's Happening in Hurst for dates and times.

Pictures and results will be available on the website **[www.hvs.org.uk/hort](http://www.hvs.org.uk/hort)**

# **St Nicholas Church News**

## **East Wall update**

In August we received full approval from the Diocese and English Heritage to proceed with the investigative repair work on the East Wall, as shown on the schedule available in St Nicholas Church. We are currently waiting to reschedule the work as the delay has meant our slot with the builder has been lost. It is expected that this phase of the work will be completed by Christmas.

## **New Priest-in-charge, John Coombs**

Our new Priest-in-charge, John Coombs, who is due to join us in early November, is currently Team Rector for the Hermitage Team Ministry and is responsible for 7 parishes ranging in population from 350 to 3,200 with Electoral Rolls from 22 to 88. He has overall responsibility for all the parishes, but has particular responsibility for the two largest: Hermitage and Cold Ash. These two villages are semi-rural whereas the other five are more of a rural character. John currently works with one Team Vicar, one House for Duty Minister, two licensed Lay Ministers, three Pastoral Assistants and an Ordinand. John is involved with the local church and Community Primary schools and Downe House and has been assistant Area Dean since 2003.

John's wife, Valerie is the Schools Admissions and Admissions Appeals Officer for the Oxford Diocese and they have three children (not really children!), Ruth 31, Susie 29 and David 25, and two grandchildren.

John appreciates working and praying with others, whether ordained or lay. He feels that it is of vital importance to develop lay ministry and is pleased to see that this is happening through our Collaborative Ministry team. He enjoys working with people who are at different stages of their Christian journey and feels that it is important to make the church (both the building and the people) a welcoming place and the worship the best that can be offered whether it is an informal All Age Service or a Eucharist. He hopes that the music can be the best we can offer, again whether it is modern or traditional.

John shares the conviction in our Parish Profile, that the Church exists for the whole parish and feels that some of the ways that we are able to show this is through relationships with local schools, clubs and societies as well as through the opportunities given through baptism, weddings and funerals; to "rejoice with those who rejoice and to mourn with those who mourn".

John and Valerie have asked me to say how much they are looking forward to moving to Hurst and getting to know as many people as possible in the village.

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## **What's on in Hurst ?**

Visit **[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)** for news on forthcoming events and other information about what's happening in Hurst.

# Parish Council News

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

## The village community skip gets one last chance

The Parish Council finances the provision of a community skip on the first Wednesday of every month, positioned in the Village Halls car park. Recently when the skip has been full people have left their rubbish beside the skip which has not been collected when the contractors remove the skip, necessitating a Parish Councillor, with huge community spirit, to load the items into his car and take them to the Longshot Amenity tip. We make one last plea **“if the skip is full please take the rubbish to the Longshot Lane site.”** We would not like to see this service withdrawn but will be left with no alternative if the Village Halls do not allow us to use their car park, therefore no further rubbish left other than in the skip please, and on that note...

## Local Rubbish Tip

WDC pays just under 45% of the running cost of Longshot Lane, Bracknell. It is open from **8.00am - 6.00pm October to March** and **8.00am - 8.00pm April to September**; Closed Christmas Day.

## Litter in the School Road Recreation Ground

Staying on the subject of rubbish, School Road recreation ground has seen an unwelcome increase in litter, so much so that the Parish Council has employed a local handy man to spend one hour per week clearing the site. This has a cost implication so we would urge everyone to put their litter in the bins provided, thus helping us to keep our costs to a minimum which is in everyone's interests.

## Townsend Pond

The Parish Council has commissioned work for two wooden islands to be constructed and floated on the pond. This will give the birds a safe place to roost and breed.

## Vacancy on the Council

Is anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor? If so please contact the Clerk, **Bob Wardle** on **01628 628485** or if you would like to have an informal chat with regard the role please contact **Jan Martin** on **0118 9342 851**

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## Planning Matters

We continue to monitor Wokingham DC planning applications and object to proposals that we believe would harm the village environment, and are contrary to the Village Design Statement and Wokingham DC policies.

One of these was at **1 Talbot Cottages** on Forest Road where the applicant had applied for conversion of a garage into living space, and a small conservatory to his house. Together they would have increased the living space of the property by 263%. HVS felt that this was too much on a house in the countryside, outside the settlement boundaries, and it was contrary to WDC policies. However, in spite of objections from HVS, the Parish Council,

Cllr Drake and neighbours, the WDC Development Control Committee approved the application.

We are also concerned about the revised plans for a new house at **Walnut Tree Cottage** on Wokingham Road, and have objected to the height and massing of the amended design, as well as a proposal to take a paddock field into the garden. Part of this site is in the countryside (outside the settlement) and part inside the settlement. This application is listed for the Development Control meeting on 21st September where HVS is likely to speak against it.

The appeal hearing for the 'new' entrance gate from **Tape Lane** into the field between Lodge Road and Tape Lane will be held on 20th September at WDC offices. HVS will be speaking at the appeal hearing.

In 2003, and without seeking planning permission, the applicant destroyed part of the hedge in Tape Lane and bulldozed the remaining hedge to create a splay before installing double five-bar gates set back from the road. This splay is immediately next to a veteran oak tree. HVS and Wokingham District Council agree that this work and the new entrance to the field is damaging the roots of the oak tree, which is of great value to the landscape and character in this part of Hurst.

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## **View from Shute End**

### **Wokingham District Councillor, Annette Drake, reports:**

#### **Speed Indicator device (SID)**

The roads identified by us as subjected to the greatest number of speeding vehicles have been monitored using SID. The highest speeds were recorded on the A321/ Broadwater area, the A321/Orchard Road area, and Hinton Road near the Green Man. Where excessive speeds were recorded our local WPC was informed. The monitoring of the Broadwater area will continue since this area has been identified with the highest recorded speeds.

#### **Travellers**

Travellers are now classified under the European Union's 'Human Rights Act,' as ethnic minorities. I thought you should know how the Council's policy operates. The general policy is to remove travellers from Council owned sites as quickly as possible using the 'Public Order Act 1994,' which is for landowners rather than the police. An eviction notice can be obtained within a week. On privately owned sites the council will liaise with the landowner and ask them to remove travellers through the same or similar legal process. The Council feel that they cannot possibly take action on these sites as the cost would be prohibitive, although there have been exceptions where the landlord has not been located. The result of the latest 4 invasions locally has prompted the Council to strengthen their response to future illegal encampments through the employment of a second part time traveller co-ordinator financed through Home Office funding.

# Environment News

## **Barn Owls**

The artificial nest boxes that were part-funded by the Parish Council have proved to be “des res” for our Barn Owls. This year seven chicks were hatched and it seems likely that the adults will have a second brood because there is plenty of prey available. The Hurst seven brings the Wokingham District total to 18 chicks. These excellent results are reflected in the national figures that show Barn Owls to be doing very well this year.

## **Living Churchyard**

In 1989 the Berks Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) set up a project to provide advice and guidance on the management of churchyards and cemeteries for wildlife. This was part of a national initiative called the Living Churchyards and Cemeteries Project.

A representative of the wildlife trust recently visited St Nicholas church’s graveyard at the invitation of the Parochial Church Council. Various ways of managing the churchyard for wildlife were discussed and a management plan will be drawn up.

The grassland surrounding the church is species-rich because it is very ancient (a church has been on this site for over 920 years) and has not been altered by artificial pesticides and herbicides. The plan is to encourage meadow flowers by allowing some sections of the churchyard to grow longer. The mosaic of grassland at different heights will also encourage different types of insects and butterflies. The grass on the frontage and around tended graves will be kept shorter. There will be information to let people know about the management and what wildlife to look out for.

Contrary to popular belief, managing grasslands for wildlife doesn’t mean a ‘hands off’ approach. The grass needs to be cut at specific times of the year and the clippings must be raked off to lower the fertility of the soil. This will require extra manpower in summer and early autumn. If anyone in the parish is interested in helping with this project, (you don’t have to attend church to get involved!) please contact either **Mary Langdown** (churchwarden) on **0118 934 5751** or **Janet Spiller** on **0118 934 2438**.

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## **University of Reading Student Recruitment & Schools Liaison**

The next general University Open Day will be taking place on **Saturday 24th September**.

The day will run from 10.00am - 3.00pm and will give visitors the opportunity to:

- Meet staff and students
- Find out about the courses on offer and the options available
- Take a tour of the campus and facilities
- See inside a hall of residence
- Get your questions answered.

There is no need to book, unless you are a school or college wishing to bring a group along - you are welcome to just turn up! More information can be found at **[www.rdg.ac.uk/opensdays](http://www.rdg.ac.uk/opensdays)** or by contacting **Carey Singleton** on **0118 378 8618**.

## Hurst Gospel Hall

It was good to meet and speak to a lot of people from the village at our stands at the Horse Show and the Horticultural Show. Many people took invitations and we would like to remind you of various activities:

Each Sunday evening we meet at 6.30pm. At this meeting we have some singing and then a speaker who explains the Christian message. On the third Sunday of the month (September 18th) will be the next C.A.M.E.O. tea at 5.00pm. All are welcome for a time to chat, share tea together then some singing and a Bible message.

Wednesday 14th September is the next Ladies evening at 8.00pm and we are hearing about a visit to Tanzania. J.A.M. for children recommences once the children are back at school. This is on Mondays at 6.15pm.

We also look forward to running the Holiday Bible Club in the October half term. This usually runs from Monday to Friday 10.00am until 12.00pm each day. There are quizzes, singing, games, Bible stories and more. Children from 5 years old are welcome.

For more details about us or any activities, and for contact details please visit our website [www.hurstgospelhall.org.uk](http://www.hurstgospelhall.org.uk)

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### **Breakthrough Breast Cancer - Lunchtime Concert Sunday 18th September**

Hurst residents Elaine Timmins and Tony Ive are taking part in the Breakthrough Breast Cancer walk during the weekend of 23rd - 25th September 2005. To help raise their sponsorship money, a lunchtime concert is being held in the **Village Hall** on **Sunday 18th September**. Doors open at **12:30pm**. Tickets are priced at **£10 for adults** and **£5 for children**. This price includes a delicious buffet lunch and a soft drink. You are very welcome to bring your own alcoholic refreshments to accompany the event.

Rousing entertainment will be provided courtesy of Hurst's very own **Aging Rock Stars** whose repertoire embraces an eclectic mix of rock, pop and jazz from the 60s to the 80s, all performed with their own inimitable style and panache!!!

Hurst Pantomime's Musical Director, Steve Randall, plays keyboard, while Nick Tuggey and Sarah McClean provide vocals and acoustic guitar. Robin Swayle on electric guitar and Rod King on bass complete the star-studded line-up.

Tickets can be obtained from **Maggi Randall** at 2 Barber Close, Hurst. To book, or to make a donation, call Maggi on **0118 932 0923** or **07986 758270**.

**The Weekend to Breakthrough Breast Cancer** is simply this - an unforgettable adventure. During one amazing weekend, 23rd - 25th September 2005, thousands of women and men will unite in London to walk 60 kilometres in a bold display of courage and commitment.

It's a weekend of hope, as we honour those we've lost, celebrate the living and help eradicate breast cancer for good. This extraordinary weekend is about finding the hero in yourself and discovering strength you never knew you had.

## Hurst Village Society Committee Members

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