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. 99

www.hvs.org.uk

February 2006

Would you like to contribute to the HVS? HVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Friday 17th March, 7:30pm

The HVS Annual General Meeting will be held **on Friday 17th March at 7:30pm** in the Small Village Hall. All Hurst residents, together with anyone associated with the village, are invited. The meeting usually lasts just an hour and is followed by a chance to socialise with the committee and people from the village over a glass (or two) of wine.

The meeting will provide an update on some of the key issues tackled by the Committee over the past year, e.g. Traffic Calming, Planning Applications, preservation of the environment and social activities.

If you have any burning issues or hot topics, please come along to the AGM. We want your ideas as well as your opinions!

The current committee consists of 11 volunteers, all of whom are Hurst residents interested in supporting the aims of the Society. Four of the current Committee will stand down at the AGM, per the Society rules, only one of whom plans to offer themselves for re-election. This means that the Committee needs to have new people involved in the Society, either as Committee members, or simply members. This year we are specifically looking for a **new chairman, planning representative** and **newsletter editor.** There is a nomination form included in this newsletter if you would like to volunteer or nominate someone to join us.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 17th March!

HVS Dinner Dance 2006

This year's Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday 3rd December. This is a very popular event where the Large Village Hall is transformed into an amazing wonderland and much fun and wine is had by all! Make this a date in your diary.

*** News Bites ***

Skills Register

Would you like to be included in the HVS 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 printed copy of the Skills Register in the next issue of the newsletter. Please contact **Wayne Smith** on **0118 934 0840** to register, or for more information.

Sale of Alcohol at the Village Halls

Under the new licensing regulations, the Village Hall is only allowed 12 licences each calendar year where alcohol may be sold. This is seriously inhibiting the Hall's ability to allow functions that require a cash bar. Most of the local societies have already booked one of the 12 licences and our opportunity to support wedding receptions and other parties is compromised. The only long term solution is to apply to have our Premise's Licence varied to include the sale of alcohol. The Halls Committee has now set this action in motion and hopefully I will be able to report a successful outcome in the summer newsletter.

1st Hurst Air Scouts

1st Hurst Air Scouts is a vibrant active group in the village catering to the scouting needs of boys (and girls) from ages 6 through to 14. At present fifty seven boys, involved in Beavers (6-8), Cubs (8-10½) and Scouts (10½-14), are participating in an action packed programme of activities including the district cooking competition, aviation simulation at RAF Benson, Three Towers hike, astronomy and the summer Family Camp at Phasels Wood in Hertfordshire. These are just a few examples of the kinds of activities organized for our children; a tradition that started in Hurst 60 years ago. In October we celebrated this special anniversary with a family party, games, eats and the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate 60 years of scouting in Hurst. If you would like to find out anything more about our group, meeting times and contacts are on the HVS website www.hvs.org.uk or you can call Jane Melizan on 0118 934 9171.

Calling all Mums!!!! Free Coffee!!!

There is now a Mums and Tots at the **Gospel Hall** in Whistley Green open from open from approximately 10am - 11.30am each Friday during term time. Please come along and give us a try, we would be so pleased to see you. For further info please contact:

Tina Colman 0118 969 4240 Jenny Simms 0118 926 1134 Norah Thomas 0118 966 7239

www.hvs.org.uk—What's On in Hurst?

The HVS web site provides information about events in the village and important dates to note, which are posted in a monthly email. There is also a skills register showing all the local skills we can call on within the village. So log on today and register for your regular email updates and find out more about Hurst and what's on.

*** News Bites ***

Mad Academy

The MAD Academy, which is high octane, free spirited classes in music and dance for children from 3 months to 4 years, was launched by Emma Lelliott at Hurst Large Village Hall on 22nd February. The classes are small and strictly separated by age/developmental stage and are designed to give the children and carers (parents/grandparents or childminders) focussed one-on-one sessions - as well as being a good workout!

The hall is an excellent size for really letting go and flying in those "spaceships"!. Emma would really love to try and bring MADness to as many villagers as possible so that they have an opportunity to take part.

Hurst Brownies

On October 20th the Brownies took part in the 'Cheeky Monkey Marathon' campaign in aid of the charity Children with Leukaemia. They had to choose a sponsored activity lasting 26 minutes (to link in with the Marathon theme) and decided on non-stop dancing and/or movement. The charity allows the group to keep some of the moneys raised and offers rewards dependant upon how much each individual raises.

We raised a magnificent £616.68, sending the charity £470, not bad for under half-anhour's exercise! Please accept the Leaders' thanks if you were involved in supporting any of the girls (incidentally, the money we kept will go towards our census moneys which are due at Headquarters this term).

Spurred on by this, the Brownies have decided to set themselves a target of £200 which they hope to raise at a Fund Raising evening on **March 16th from 5.00 - 7.00pm**. With the money raised they will sponsor animals for the Third World through the charity 'Send a Cow'.

Please come and support them in their challenge; they are putting a lot of effort into this. Thanking you in anticipation, Mary Langdown (Brownie Guider)

Party in the Park

This year's **Party** in the **Park** will take place on **Saturday 1st July** on School Road (Willowmead). There will be three live bands. **Tickets £11.00** each....more details to follow but please put this very popular event in your diaries - NOW!

Horse Racing in Hurst!

When and where?: Friday 19th May at 7.30pm, Hurst Village Hall

What for?: To raise funds for the 2007 Village Pantomime - Aladdin

How much?: £7.50 which includes hot supper

Betting: Minimum bet £1.00

How many races?: Eight – each with eight horses

Licensed bar: Open between Races!

Why not get a group together, make up a table and have a night at the Races whilst supporting a very worthwhile village event. Even better, sponsor your own race and choose the horses names. For more details and race night tickets please contact **Rita Bunyard 0118 934 5253** or **Christine Bovis 0118 979 3910.**

Planning Matters for February/March 2006

Over the past few months we objected to the commercial and storage development at **Pikes Farm**, Forest Road. The District Council's Development Control Committee unanimously refused this application, which would have brought even more traffic to the notorious crossroads with the A321 Wokingham Road at an accident blackspot, and industrialised the countryside.

The council also refused permission to remove the agricultural occupancy condition on **Grange Farm** House in Nelsons Lane.

Under the **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill**, currently in Parliament, roads used as public paths, and not previously designated as Byways, were in danger of being closed to motor vehicles. This would prevent 'green laning' by people on scramble bikes and in 4x4 vehicles. A consequence of this would be to make it impossible for people with properties accessed from unmade, undesignated tracks to get to their homes, fields and outbuildings. An amendment is being made to the Bill so that people will be able to reach their properties. In Hurst this means that unmade tracks to properties now have to be designated Byways Open to All Traffic, and walkers, cyclists and horse riders will have to contend with lorries and other vehicles on previously quiet and peaceful tracks

Lastly, the District Council seems to have got itself in a tangle at **Dinton Pastures**. An application to erect black polyethylene netting 7 metres high for more than 600 metres alongside the first and second tees at the Black Swan Golf Club was objected to by the Parish Council, Golf Club Manager and HVS. The council has withdrawn the application. It is alleged that a person walking on the Country Park footpath was hit and injured by a golf ball. There are signs along the footpath to warn walkers and cyclists of the dangers of wayward golf balls – so please take care!

If you're interested in planning and its effect on our village, please consider joining the HVS committee. **Wendy Tobitt is resigning**, so we're looking for someone to monitor the planning lists.

From Jackie Daniels - Police Community Support Officer for Hurst

Twyford Police Station is now resourced by volunteers on Mondays 2pm - 6pm and again in Saturdays 10am - 2pm. We are looking to extend these times when more volunteers are trained to use the front counter. Local residents will no longer have to travel to Wokingham or Loddon Valley with enquiries as they will be able to come to Twyford!

As in my last newsletter there have been a number of burglaries where vehicle keys and, subsequently, cars have been stolen. The majority have been overnight, so please make sure windows and doors are locked. These incidents are being investigated, but please don't make it easy for the burglars – take your keys, handbags etc upstairs with you at night!!

The new single number for The **Thames Valley Police** is **0845 8 505 505**. This can be used to report a non-emergency crime/incident. If you have any issues you wish to discuss with me, please contact me on the above number or you can e-mail on **Jacqueline.daniels@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk**



Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre 24th and 25th June 2006

Planning is already in full swing for this year's Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre. The committee welcomes three new members this year, who bring with them plenty of ideas and skills to ensure that the show will be the best ever. If you would be interested in helping in any way towards the show this year, or if you would like to sponsor an event or send in your ideas, then please do not hesitate to contact us by visiting our website www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk

The annual Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre is the highlight of the village calendar and is a wonderful family event that gives us all a chance to meet and have plenty of fun together. The show is growing in size each year as friends and family outside the village come to visit. The show is being held as usual in the **Willowmead Field, School Road**, Hurst, on **24**th and **25**th June.

Look out for the show logo, seen above, which was designed by Sophie Forrest, aged 11 years, from Year 6, St Nicholas School.

At the show this year there will be a full two-day schedule of horse riding events including jumping, showing and a musical ride display. A packed programme of attractions will include traditional country crafts, horse and dray rides, dog displays, birds of prey, tug of war, Morris dancing, ferret racing and the infamous terrier racing! Bustling side shows and stalls, face painting, a bouncy castle, bar and refreshments will ensure entertainment for all the family. Following the great response to the scarecrow competition last year, we are giving you plenty of notice to create your very best scarecrow for this year's show!

For the football lovers, why not enjoy the World Cup football with other enthusiastic fans in the marquee where there will be television coverage and no doubt an expectant atmosphere!!!

Company sponsorship enquires can be made by calling Maggi Randall on 0118 932 0923 or 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. Details of the horse show events are available from Cathy Lochman on 0118 934 1205 or Anne Marie Peries on 0118 989 1945

"Great North Run" in October 2006

Geoff Thwaites is originally from the North East and has lived in Hurst for about 6 years. His mother, Julie suffers from Dystonia, a neurological movement disorder, and Geoff is running the Great North Run for the Dystonia society ADDER (Action For Dystonia, Diagnosis, Education and Research) which helps Dystonia sufferers in the UK and abroad.

Please visit his fundraising web page at www.justgiving.com/geoff_thwaites to check his progress and help Geoff raise funds for this cause.

You can find out more about Dystonia by visiting www.dystonia.co.uk

Nomination for Membership of the General Committee 2006 – 2007

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 fundraising events such as Archery at the Hurst Horse Show. The HVS produces a Newsletter which is published at least four 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 15 members who elect their officers including: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Social Secretary. Other responsibilities include Planning, Environment, Health 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 2006 – 2007

Nominee Proposed by

Name	Name
	Address
Telephone	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. Please bring this with you to the AGM on 17th March, or send it to Eddie Coe (address below).

If you choose to pay by Standing Order, please consider making a donation as well, thank you. Then, photocopy this form, send the original to your Bank and a copy to Eddie Coe, HVS Membership Secretary, 4 Lodge Road, Whistley Green, Hurst RG10 0EH. Thank you.

Section A
Name
Address
Postcode Telephone
Section B I enclose my cheque/cash for £5.00 being my subscription for 2006. I also enclose a donation for £to the Hurst Village Society.
Section C To: My Bank: Name Address
Sort code
Please debit my account, number
Date of first payment: immediately; and thereafter annually on 1st January
Signature Date

Parish Council News

From Jan Martin—Chairman of Hurst PC - contactable on 0118 934 2851.

Vehicle Activated Signs

As everyone will have noticed, the Vehicle Activated Signs were installed in early December and were all finally put into action as of 28th January. We must thank both HVS for their contribution and District Councillor Annette Drake for her support in helping to make Hurst's roads safer.

Young people in Hurst

Debbie Coleman and her team of Youth Workers continue to visit Hurst each Tuesday evening bringing the outdoor Mobile Youth Facility when it's available. They are now parking the MYF in the lay-by by the School Road recreation ground as the field is too wet during the winter months.

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** 9342851 or **Debbie Coleman on 07808 143631**

A PCSO for Hurst

I'm sure that you are all aware that Hurst now has a Police Community Support Officer, Jackie Daniels, who joined the Twyford team in the Autumn. Her area is Sonning, Charvil and Hurst and she can be contacted on **0118 953 6424** which is the new number for Twyford Police Station. Jackie's role is to compliment the work of police officers, being a uniformed presence within the community and enhancing community safety whilst focusing predominantly on lower-level crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

School Road recreation ground

The Parish Council have employed a handy man to do a weekly litter pick in, and around, the School Road recreation ground. We are also carrying out some general maintenance on the vegetation around the play area.

Townsend Pond

With the very low water levels over the summer months it was apparent that rats had taken up residence but were swiftly dealt with as soon as the council had been informed of their presence. It is very helpful if incidences like this are reported to the council so that we can deal with any problem quickly.

Village Litter Pick

This year the village clean-up, organised by the Parish Council, will take place on **Saturday March 25**th, so please come and support this worthwhile event.

As usual, please report to the Village Hall car park between 9am and 12 noon to collect safety tabards, litter pickers and rubbish sacks. Please provide your own gloves and stout waterproof footwear. All help will be welcomed. Many hands make light work. For further information please contact **Jan Martin on 0118 934 2851.**

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

Fly tipping

There are reports of 3 piece suites and other furniture dumped in hedgerows, ditches, footpaths or streams. Their removal adds to the burden of the Council Tax payer and therefore we need to be aware of the regulations with regard to correct disposal.

The Council's Contractor SITA offers an excellent value collection scheme for bulky items of furniture. They will collect up to five items from one site at a cost of £17. Fridges, which need to have special disposal treatment to comply with government regulations, are charged separately at £27 per item. The service is free to senior citizens. There is no charge if items are taken to a licensed tip. **SITA** can be contacted on **0800 838878**

In order to keep our District free from unsightly rubbish, the Council needs your cooperation in ensuring that any builder or contractor employed to work on your property is going to dispose of the waste correctly. Small traders should take waste to a licensed tip where they will be charged based on its weight. They will be asked to complete waste transfer documentation and are required to keep copies of this for at least 2 years. Failure to produce documentation is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act. Such waste may not be disposed of as part of household rubbish.

Wherever possible, please let the Council know the location, vehicle number and a brief description of anyone seen fly-tipping. The information can be phoned through to the **Waste Services team**, via the customer call desk on **0118 974 6000**.

Health Walks

These are short walks where you are encouraged to walk at a brisk pace to increase fitness levels. The Countryside Service has been awarded the top 3 Heart Kite mark by the Countryside Agency & the British Heart Foundation for its programme of 16 free Health Walks. These start at different venues across the district. For for a free programme or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer leader please call **Graham Smith on 0118 973 0540.**

Biodiversity Forum. Barn Owl Project

2006 will be the fourth year for monitoring the custom built barn owl nest boxes installed by the Countryside Services. In 2004 only 2 chicks were recorded in the district, however last year the owl population bounced back with a bumper 18 chicks being found.

Wokingham District Council's Countryside Service fulfils the role of secretariat to the Wokingham Biodiversity Forum. If you would like to get involved in monitoring the district's barn owl population please contact andy.glencross@wokingham.gov.uk

Annette Drake

I am available (nearly) every Saturday morning between 10am -12noon:

0118 934 1036 or by email at Anndrk@dsl.pipex.com

Hurst Pantomime Group

Can it really be over a year since the Village Hall stage was set alight by the sparkling performances and magnificent production from the cast and crew of Snow White? Well, with the roar of the crowd still ringing in their ears, plans are already underway for the next biennial Hurst pantomime scheduled to run from **January 11**th to 13th 2007. In what promises to be the most colourful and ambitious project yet, the committee agreed at a recent meeting to stage a production of **Aladdin** in 2007.

So to all the aspiring actors and singers out there, you are most warmly invited, indeed encouraged to come along to an **initial meeting** and script read through provisionally scheduled for **Monday 4th September** with **auditions** due to take place on **Friday 8th September.** These dates will be confirmed nearer the time. In addition to the main characters, enthusiastic volunteers with a fancy for singing and dancing are needed for both the adult and children's' choruses. The commitment will involve rehearsals most Fridays and several Sundays between September and January.

For those who would like to be involved but who do not quite see their name in lights, there is always a need for willing volunteers to help backstage particularly with stage and set building. Offers of help will be most welcome.

More details regarding registering your interest will be available in due course but in the meantime anyone requiring more information can contact **Judith Boulton** on **01344 752672**.

Can we afford to loose St Nicholas church?

Over the years inflation has affected us all and the Church of England is no exception but unlike individuals it has also lost most of its central support from the Church Commissioners (now only 3% of the Diocese Budget). This means parishes now have to pay for all the costs of ministry, pensions, housing, training, etc., as well as the costs of operation of our facilities and their maintenance.

Reducing numbers has meant the financial load falls heavily on those who do attend church regularly so this trend must be reversed or it will ultimately mean that unless these costs are met churches will close, and reduced numbers of ministers will be distributed sparsely amongst communities.

In recent years, with its 2 churches, our parish has been eroding its reserves in order to pay for the costs of ministry in the parish, for which we are expected to contribute £43,593 in 2006. The major source of income is through regular giving from the congregation, which for 2005 was £14,000 plus £4,000 in Tax recovered from the Inland Revenue for the previous year. £18,000 is well short of that required to provide the service to the community, let alone operational costs.

A simple analysis of this sort does not begin to tell the whole story, but could the community exist without its church? It is after all named after it, has strong links with St Nicholas school and offers the rites of passage to the community, as well as the prayers and worship, care and support offered week by week.

We welcomed over 400 people of all ages to the 3 services at St Nicholas during Christmas Eve and Day and consequently income rose healthily for those days, but for a normal Sunday service the average is only 40.

If you would like to know more about the church or about how you can support it please do speak to the Vicar, the **Revd John Coombs 0118 934 0017**, the churchwardens of St. Nicholas, **Mary Langdown 0118 934 5751** and **Caroline Speer 0118 934 3886**, or the Treasurer, **Tony Pouncey 0118 978 3477**.

Services at St Nicholas and St Mary's Churches

Services at St Nicholas and St Wary's Churches	
26 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent	8.00am Holy Communion. St Nicholas
(MOTHERING SUNDAY)	9.30am Family Praise. St Mary's *
	11.00am Family Eucharist. St Nicholas *
2 nd April Fifth Sunday of Lent	9.30am Family Eucharist. St Mary's
	11.00am Morning Worship. St Nicholas
9 th April Palm Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion. St Mary's
	9.25am Procession & Morning Worship.
	St Mary's
	10.55am Procession & Family Eucharist.
	St Nicholas*
14 th April Good Friday	10.30am Good Friday Service for all ages.
	St Mary's
	2.00pm The Last Hour before the Cross.
	St Nicholas
16 th April Easter Sunday	9.30am Family Eucharist. St Mary's*
	11.00am Family Eucharist. St Nicholas*
23 rd April Second Sunday of Easter	8.00am Holy Communion. St Nicholas
	9.30am Family Praise. St Mary's *
d.	11.00am Family Eucharist. St Nicholas
30 th April Third Sunday of Easter	9.30am Family Eucharist. St Mary's
	11.00am Family Praise*. St Nicholas

The Sunday School usually meets during the services not marked *. If you would like more details about any of the services or would like to speak to the Vicar, please phone the **Revd John Coombs on 1008 934 0017.**

Hurst Gospel Hall

Jesus and Me (JAM) Mondays 6.15-7.15pm. Children of 5 yrs and up are very welcome to join us for this hour of quizzes, games, Bible stories, singing. Term time only.

Bible Study or Bible Teaching Tuesdays at 7.45pm, followed by a prayer meeting. We would be pleased to welcome visitors.

1st Wednesday in each month at 8.00pm all ladies are invited to join us for an interesting, challenging and friendly evening.

Sundays Christians meet together at 11.15am to remember the Lord Jesus in the "Breaking of Bread". **6.30 in the evening** we meet for singing and a gospel message.

3rd Sunday in the month we have C.A.M.E.O. This is at 5.00pm when we meet to chat then share tea. This is followed by some hymn singing and a Bible message. We are pleased that a good number of people from the village attend regularly. You would be very welcome to join us. Please see www.hurstgospelhall.org for more information

Hurst Village Society Committee Members

David Bingham 3 Whistley Court Farm 0118 932 1267 Treasurer 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 Web site dk-hvs@bdksol.co.uk Wavne 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 The Retreat, Forest Road Brian Thomas 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 citweddle@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: Walden Acres, Wokingham Road 0118 934 1036 WDC Councillor Annette Drake, anndrk@dsl.pipex.com