

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. 107

www.hvs.org.uk

June 2008

SIZZLING SUMMER 2008

To open our summer season, the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre on 28th and 29th June promises to be bigger and better. As usual, it is closely followed by Party in the Park on 5th July, which is the ideal event for a relaxed summer evening. The Horticultural Society is planning the annual Horticultural Show on 16th August and our gardeners are busy growing magnificent plants and vegetables to compete in the various classes.

HURST TAKES ACTION

Roads and traffic

Road traffic and the condition of the roads are growing worse by the day. Hurst Village Society, in collaboration with the Hurst Parish Council, plans to prepare a petition for submission to Wokingham Borough Council. A signatory list, placed in the village shop, has already brought an overwhelming response. In the first two days alone, four pages of signatures were collected.

Have your say ... Let us know how you feel on this issue in a forum which has been created on the Hurst website www.WoodedHill.org. See page 3 for more details.

Luff Farms – Planning Appeal

The deadline for submitting objections to the latest Planning Application has passed. But your support is still needed in objecting to the pending Planning Appeal. The deadline for this is **25th June 2008**. See page 4.

For all these matters and more, see inside:

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HVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hurst Village Society says goodbye to popular Chairman

At the AGM held on 29th February 2008, we regretfully said goodbye to Janet Spiller. For the past year, she was a charming and dedicated chairman. She was a committee member for 15 years and was invaluable with her knowledge of environment matters.

Committee changes

The Committee also lost the services of David Bingham as Treasurer, who had been on the committee for many years, serving as our able Treasurer. David Fraser is to take over his role.

We are fortunate to have four new members joining the committee: John Farrant, Maria Land, Jonathan Norris, and Gisela Sharpe. Congratulations to them and we look forward to their useful contributions. The committee is working vigorously on the most important task of the Village Society, which is to defend the village from the threat of high-density urban development

Jonathan Norris has taken on the role of Planning from Barbara Johnson, who over the past year handled this complicated issue with meticulous efficiency.

‘Hurst - one of the few remaining villages in the Borough’

Keynote address

Councillor Annette Drake was not able to be present - the first AGM she had missed since the 1970s. Wayne Smith gave the keynote address on her behalf.

The most important issue that Councillor Drake raised was the threat to the village from development. ‘We must always bear in mind that we are one of the few remaining villages in the Borough.’ She reminded us that the HVS was formed to work with the Parish Council to counter the threat from development in Hurst.

Among the issues we have to deal with this coming year are:

- Sandford Farm application for 800 housing units and 150 extra care homes
- A strategy for dealing with the planning issues to be discussed by the new committee
- The enforcements on Keyersbridge and Pond View
- Traffic speeds in Lodge Road, Davis Street and Wokingham Road. Councillor Drake said that she was sure that villagers living on those roads would be willing to sign a petition. She could present the petitions at Full Council, which would quickly bring the matter to the attention of the members of the Council.

HURST TAKES ACTION

ROAD SAFETY IN OUR VILLAGE

Urgent action is needed to address our traffic and road problems

A meeting hosted by the Parish Council and Hurst Village Society was held in May with Glyn Wildey of Twyford Police Station (Thames Valley Police) and Annette Drake, Hurst's Councillor at Wokingham Borough Council. Much was discussed, and the following concrete actions were agreed:

- A Speed Indication Device (SID) will be deployed in Hurst sometime over the next couple of weeks (for obvious reasons, date and location will not be publicised). This is a mobile unit to measure speed and although it doesn't lead to prosecution, it is a deterrent.
- We will be gathering a petition, which Annette Drake will present at full Council. The Council will have a duty to consider and report back on the concerns raised and cannot simply ignore it. I shall be contacting people to ask for their help going door to door to collect signatures - please help if you can.
- The Parish Council will be looking at speed related signage in the village and investigating with the Traffic Management Officer of TVP as to what can be done. The effectiveness of the Vehicle Activate Signs is already being addressed.
- Investigations into 20mph speed limits along School Road are being undertaken.

Have your say ...

This is only a small start. If you would like to voice your opinion on this important issue, why not look at the discussion forum on the new website for Hurst, www.WoodedHill.org? There is a discussion forum on traffic and the Parish Council and Hurst Village Society will be using it to collect ideas for action and information about incidents.

It is easy and free to register. Before making your contribution, click on the 'Register' link at the top right of the forum page. There is plenty of assistance, which can be found by clicking the 'FAQ' (frequently asked questions) link.

If you interested in following developments or would like to help, you can e-mail Liz Chaderton on lizchad@lineone.net and she will add your name to the distribution list for further updates.

HURST TAKES ACTION

PLANNING NEWS – LUFF FARMS

The continuing threat from development is ever present, with concerns that tactical and commercially motivated planning applications will result in brownfield development opportunities, which will irreparably transform the character of Hurst.

This is particularly apparent with respect to the Field between Lodge Road, Martineau Lane and Tape Lane, which since 1986 has been more the subject of planning applications and appeals founded on commercial developments and some form of residential requirement than any farming activity. It is therefore hardly surprising that we find ourselves yet again responding to a new planning application (F/2008/1017) and an appeal (F/2007/2154).

As at the time of writing, HVS has already launched a campaign to raise objections to the new planning application and hope that many of you will have made your views known to WBC by the 11 June deadline.

We do however now also need to ensure that we support WBC's refusal of F/2007/2154 *"Proposed erection of stables and barn to form equine treatment centre with ménage, access and horse walkers. Storage building for tree nursery"* by writing to the Planning Inspector and reinforcing the basis of refusal with your own comments.

The basis of the refusal can be found in full on the Wokingham Borough Council website www.wokingham.gov.uk, but in summary the reasons were as follows:

- **Due to its size and scale, the development of the site was considered to have a harmful impact to the visual character and open nature of the countryside.**

HVS comment: *This is a recurrent view that Planning Inspectors have made with regard to 'lesser' proposals that have also been the subject of an appeal. The new planning application is no different and if anything is more extensive with additional buildings.*

- **Unproven need for commercial development in an unsustainable location.**

HVS comment: *One can but presume that the absence of a business plan is testimony to its relevancy to the applicant. History has it that the preferred outcome in 1986 would have been 177 dwellings. Since then, the quest to gain some form of residential status has been ever present in a succession of planning applications. In this instance, why would a tree nursery equipment storage building require an entrance hall with cupboard, WC, kitchen & shower room plus three other rooms?*

The new planning application, whilst supported by a business plan, lacks financial credibility or proven business justification.

LUFF FARMS *continued*

- **Inadequate safe access and impact of increased traffic in Lodge Road.**

HVS comment: *There was no infrastructure impact assessment.*

The new planning application, whilst supported by a traffic assessment, oddly enough agrees that site access is inadequate and suggests that there will be less traffic movement!

- **Increased risk of flooding and water contamination.**

HVS comment: *There was no environmental impact assessment.*

The new planning application is supported by a flood risk assessment but does not adequately address drainage issues. Sewage disposal is also not adequately addressed in the planning application.

- **Impact of development on Crested Newts.**

HVS comment: *There was no ecological or environmental impact assessment.*

The new planning application is supported by a newt assessment but in the absence of stormwater drainage or sewerage details, it does not convey how the habitat of newts will be protected.

In urging you to write now in support of the Council's refusal of F/2007/2154, it is anticipated that the new documentation presented with the latest planning application may be retrospectively presented by Luff Farms in order to counteract the grounds for refusal.

You may therefore wish to consider including your comments on the adequacy of the new documentation presented in support of the latest planning application – notably the impact on the rural scene, the adequacy of the business plan (including financial viability and business justification), transport, neighbourhood and environmental impact. Your comments do not need to be limited to WBC's reason for refusal.

Documents relating to the appeal may be inspected in the Planning Services Department at the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham during normal office hours.

Please support WBC's decision to refuse planning permission by writing to:

**Mr S Rogerson, The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/21, Temple Quay House,
2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN, quoting reference APP/X0360/
A/08/2074612/NWF.**

Your appeal comments must be received by 25 June

*This is a very real opportunity for you to make a difference to the destiny of Hurst –
please write and make your views known – every letter counts.*

Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre

28th and 29th June 2008



Have we got some fun in store for you at this year's Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre. Invite your friends and relatives and come on down to the Willowmead and School Fields in School Road for a fun-packed weekend.

Competitions

Why not try your luck at the **pre-show competition**, which is running in the Wokingham Times a couple of weeks before the show? There are some great prizes to be won, including children's riding lessons at Lands End Riding Centre and wine from Stanlake Park Wine Estate. Or, if you are feeling creative, then why not enter our **scarecrow competition** or create your own **go-cart** to display at the show? Details of these competitions are on our website www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk.

Equestrian events

This year, we have the full range of show jumping and showing classes as well as other equestrian displays, including the popular rehabilitated racehorses. Schedules and entry forms are available on our website www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk.

Country Fayre

At the Country Fayre this year, we have a wonderful country corner with plenty of friendly animals for the children to enjoy. We have many interesting stalls for the shoppers amongst you! The stalls include jewellery, books, toys, plants, crafts and many other items. Our attractions will provide entertainment for the whole family and will include horse and dray rides, archery, birds of prey, ferret racing, flyball dogs, Morris Dancers, face painting, tug-of-war, bouncy castle and a Grand Draw, to mention just a few.

Food and drink

The catering at this year's show offers plenty of choice from hot pork sandwiches to burgers and hot dogs. Our food is supplied locally from P & D Jennings, the Hurst butchers, and The Castle at Hurst. Our fully licensed bar is available as usual to provide sustenance for all!

Come along and soak up the atmosphere with your friends and family, we will see you there!! Ticket prices are **£2.50** for adults and **50p** for children and seniors.

We need your help to get the show on the road and to clear up!

The week before the Horse Show is the crucial time when most preparations to the field take place, we urgently need more people to help this year. Please help us if you can, on the dates listed below:

Saturday, 21st and Sunday 22nd June – Painting the jumps for the Horse Show, Willowmead Field, any time from 10.30am onwards. We suggest old clothes for this painting job!

Tuesday, 24th to Friday 27th June - Setting up for the Horse Show, Willowmead and School Fields , from 6.30pm onwards. This includes putting up the tents and marquees, the arenas, the stalls and a host of other jobs that have to be done before Saturday morning!

Saturday, 28th and Sunday 29th June - Helpers for cooking and serving in the food tent at the Show.

Sunday, 29th June - Clearing up the Showground. Following the show, we also require as much help as possible so as to ensure a smooth clearance of the showground in preparation for **Party in the Park**.

Sunday, 6th July - Clearing up after **Party in the Park**.

We ask willing parents from St Nicholas School please to put your names down on the roster that will be going around the school playground at pick up time. Any time that you can spare to help would be gratefully received.

All other volunteers, please either contact Duncan Kendall on tel: *0118 934 2852* or visit our website www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk or the Hurst Romans Football Club website www.hurstfc.org.uk. For helpers in the food tent, please contact Paul Gough on tel: *0118 934 5097*.

At all times when helping, we ask people not to bring children. It's too messy when jumps are being painted and too dangerous when marquees and scaffolding are being erected.

Finally, please do visit our website for more information about the show www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk

*** **News Bites** ***

Hurst Tennis Club

Hurst Tennis Club meets at the Dolphin School on Monday evenings, 7-9pm. The courts can be booked for other evenings by arrangement.

We would love to start a junior section up this year.

Please contact Pippa Boyd for information, tel: 0118 934 5034

Village Hall wins an Award

The Hurst Village Hall is the first in the county of Berkshire to win a Hallmark award as recognition for good practice and good management.

John Edwards, chairman of the Hurst village hall committee, says, "We are delighted to be able to satisfy the requirements of the Hallmark accreditation scheme. Village halls provide an important role in rural areas and are all run by volunteers."

Coming events to note in your diary

PANTOMIME

The Hurst Pantomime Group will be putting on a production of *Jack and the Beanstalk* in January 2009.

Key dates so far are:

Monday, 1st September 2008 - Adult introductory meeting and script read through

Friday, 5th September 2008 - Adult Auditions

Sunday, 7th September 2008 - Children's registration and auditions

Rehearsals for adults will be on Friday evenings and for children on Sunday afternoons

Performances are on **Thursday 15th January, Friday 16th January and Saturday 17th January 2009.**

HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY QUIZ NIGHT

Village Hall Friday, 19th September 2008

Start planning on your team of up to 8 people. The evening will include a light supper. Further details to follow.

HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Village Hall Saturday 6th December 2008

Last year, this event was a sell-out and we have already had enquiries for this year's dinner dance. Don't forget that paid-up members of the Hurst Village Society have priority over other Hurst residents, with a limit of six tickets per person. There will be full details in the next Newsletter.

Party in the Park hosted by Hurst Romans FC

Saturday, 5th July 2008

Willowmead Field, School Road, Hurst

Gates open 6.30pm. Pitch your gazebo/tent/chandeliers from 11am to 5pm

Come rain or shine, don't let the weather deter anyone. Last year, we had the most torrential downpour ALL day and ALL evening. But it was one of the best and most memorable PiP's held ever ... the most fun you can have in wellies! We have never seen so many people dancing and enjoying themselves.

The same bands as last year!

7.30pm The Choppers

8.30pm Kinkade

9.45pm Big Rig

Licensed bar with great prices 'Win the pot' raffle

Tickets £15.00 each – on sale now! Over 16's only

Contacts

Deborah Wyatt 07880 747 279

Tim Drake 07842 117 049

Ruth Graesser 07917 650 025

Liam O'Brien 07770 802 400

Hurst Horticultural and Cottage Garden Society 95th Annual Show

Saturday 16th August 2008

School Road Fields and Hurst Village Hall

Show opens to the Public at 1.30 p.m.

Enjoy a summer afternoon at a traditional village show. People in the village will have the opportunity to display their talents and compete for cups in the various categories. There will be the usual horticultural classes, home industries, art and photography.

The Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band will play a varied programme of music. For refreshments, you can enjoy beer and wine, hot and cold food, as well as cream teas.

Activities will include a music workshop, a children's craft activity area, craft stalls and the dog show.

Produce Auction at approximately 4.45pm

The full programme will be available in the local shops towards the end of July 2008.

Any enquiries can be directed to Terry Bunyard, 0118 934 5253
or Terry Bovis 0118 979 3910.

ROAD SAFETY IN OUR VILLAGE

From a pedestrian's point of view

Please remember that Tape Lane is an access only road - which means you can only use the way to access properties along it, not as a convenient short cut when School Road is busy! The road is part of a 'safer route to school', used by young children walking, scooting and cycling to school.

Please also remember that parking on pavements obstructs the way for pedestrians. It may protect your wing mirrors, but it places the pedestrians at risk from the traffic you are trying to avoid. You really cannot put a price on a life, so please also ask your visitors to park considerately.

Finally, if every resident in Hurst were to stick to the 30 and 40 village speed limits, especially along Lodge Road and the Wokingham Road, we could help slow down through traffic. After all, if we don't stick to these limits, we can hardly be surprised when other traffic ignores them and our village becomes a grand prix circuit.

REVAMP FOR DINTON PASTURES

In order to improve the amenities at Dinton Pastures, Wokingham Borough Council have accepted the proposal of refurbishing the existing facilities. This was one of three options put forward for their consideration.

The first option, which was supported by the Hurst Parish Council, was to knock down the existing visitor centre, golf clubhouse and sailing clubhouse and rebuild new state-of-the-art facilities on one of two proposed locations.

The decision was a great disappointment to Wayne Smith, Chairman of Hurst Parish Council, who said that the current facilities are in such small buildings. "Even if they are extended, you are not going to get facilities that go with a country park. For us, option one was the clear winner."

Wooded Hill - A new interactive website forum for Hurst

Duncan Kendall has created a brilliant new website, which is well worth a visit.

www.WoodedHill.org provides an on-line calendar of events and activities in and around Hurst, plus a discussion forum where you can share your opinions, thoughts and ideas. It is a logical extension to the monthly 'What's on in Hurst' e-mail.

Anyone can view the forum. But before you can contribute, you need to go through a simple registration process. Click on the 'Register' link at the top right of the forum page. There is plenty of assistance available which can be found by clicking the 'FAQ' (frequently asked questions) link.

There are plans to extend the site over the coming months and your feedback is welcomed. Visit www.WoodedHill.org today and add it to your bookmarks.

SKILLS REGISTER

Accountant	Maria Land ACMA (CIMA)	Cadomin, Wards Cross	<i>0118 934 1131</i>
Small business accounts, sole traders, partnerships, small-medium limited companies, payrolls, self-assessments. We have a diverse range of clients from builders to hairdressers.			
Beauty Therapist	Liana Neighbour VTCT	Old Cerdic, Lodge Road, Whitley Green	<i>0118 934 1878</i> <i>07789 544067</i>
For all kinds of beauty treatments carried out in a friendly, relaxing environment. Very competitive prices, flexible hours, can do home visits.			
Biodynamic Psychotherapist	Lynne Allen UKCP	Willow Cottage, Wokingham Road	<i>0118 934 2843</i>
Catering	Penny Curry	1 Tape Lane pennycurry3@msn.com	<i>0118 934 0866</i>
Dinner parties, canapés, desserts and buffets.			
Anti-virus, E-mail, Internet problems?	Brendan Crawford	Forge Cottage, Davis Street brendan@forgecottage.co.uk	<i>0118 934 0099</i> <i>07768 044617</i>
Experienced IT consultant works on "No fix, No fee" and provides PC user training in XP, Internet Explorer, Outlook, printing etc.			
Counsellor and Biodynamic Psychotherapist	Chris Allen Member of BACP, ITEC	Willow Cottage, Wokingham Road	<i>0118 934 2843</i>
Mobile Disco	Paul Palmer	Thames Valley Discos 7 Sawpit Road paul@thamesvalleydiscos.co.uk www.thamesvalleydiscos.co.uk	<i>0118 934 5203</i> <i>07980 787106</i>
Music for all occasions and all ages. Special discount for HVS members.			

Mobile Hairdresser	Maureen Klein	3 Bonhomie Court, Broadcommon Road mkgwa@btinternet.com	<i>0118 934 3439</i>
Landscaping	Nigel Neighbour	Old Cerdic, Lodge Road	<i>0118 934 1878 07941 864917</i>
Hedge trimming, patios, decking, pergolas, turfing, treework, groundwork, fencing, water features, timber and garden buildings.			
Independent Mortgage Adviser	Nigel Osgood	Old Place, Lodge Road	<i>0118 903 4119 07768 277413</i>
No brokerage fee charged. Software that contains every mortgage product of every lender that is updated daily.			
Music Teacher	Christine Lambert ALCM, ATM (SMTC), EPTA	Hodge, Pound Lane	<i>0118 934 0705</i>
Pianoforte, Clarinet, Recorder, Saxophone and Musical Theory taught. Beginners a speciality, from age 7 upward.			
Plasterer	Mr Spyros Divanis	1 Broadwater Cottage, Broadwater Lane visualplastering@hotmail.co.uk	<i>07760 426221</i>
Specialising in internal plastering and external rendering. Also coving and decorating.			
Professional Photographer	Jeff Hopkins LBIPP	St Merryn, Lodge Road info@jeffhopkins.net www.jeffhopkins.net	<i>0118 934 1926</i>
Wedding & portrait photography, environmental children's portraits, passports, restoration of old photographs.			
Registered Homeopath	Mrs Barbara Johnson	Little Grange, Hinton Road bhagwash@aol.com	<i>0118 934 9580</i>
Residential Letting and Property Management	Janet Walsh	7 Martineau Lane www.huntersproperty.co.uk	<i>0118 932 1349</i>

Sewing	Louise Kendall	6 Tape Lane louise@s-sewing.co.uk www.s-sewing.co.uk	<i>0118 934 2852</i>
Custom made curtains, blinds and soft furnishings. Range of fabrics available. Free home visit for advice and quotation. Alterations also undertaken.			
Sewing	Jane Carr	Hinton Farm House, Hinton Road jane.carr@zen.co.uk	
Curtains, cushions, patchwork quilts and many other soft furnishings made to order or altered. Also clothing alterations undertaken. Free quotations & advice.			
Toastmaster, Master of Ceremonies & Auctioneer	Roy Austin	Acre Wood, 2 School Road royaustin@hotmail.com www.britishtoastmaster.com	<i>0118 934 4422</i> <i>07961 144548</i>
Nationwide & Worldwide Service. Available for Weddings, Dinners, Golf Days, Corporate Hospitality, Fund Raising, etc.			
Web design and Consultancy	Duncan Kendall	6 Tape Lane dk-skills4@bdkso1.co.uk www.yeswhere.co.uk	<i>0118 934 2852</i>
Hosting, e-mail forwarding, domain name management.			

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SKILLS REGISTER ...

The HVS committee have decided to make some changes to the register. As you know, the Society is dependent on membership, fund raising events and donations to support its activities. With that in mind, we have decided to charge a annual fee of £15 per entry into the skills register. For that you will get a yearlong exposure on our award winning website and all activities will be published in our very popular newsletter which goes out 3/4 times a year.

I'm sure you will agree this represents good value for money and will be going towards a very good cause.

For all enquires, please contact Wayne Smith, tel: *0118 934 0840*,
e-mail: *wayne.x.smith@googlemail.com*.

Cheques should be made payable to Hurst Village Society.

We welcome any new skills and services. However, you have to live in the village!

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.

If you choose to pay by Standing Order, please consider making a donation as well, thank you.

Completed forms should be sent to Eddie Coe, HVS Membership Secretary, 4 Lodge Road, Whistley Green, Hurst RG10 0EH, or any other member of the committee.

Section A

Name

Address

.....

Postcode Telephone

E-mail address

Section B

I enclose my cheque/cash for £5.00 being my subscription for 2008. I also enclose a donation for £.....to the Hurst Village Society.

Section C

To: Name of Bank

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 01349706 (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 1st January.

Signature Date

POLICE REPORT

From Jackie Daniels

March/April Crime Figures for Hurst

13 offences in total

- 3 x Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm (School Rd, Martineau Lane and Tape Lane)
- 1 x Exposure (Dinton Pastures)
- 4 x Theft Not Classified Elsewhere (Nelsons Lane and School Rd)
- 1 x Assault without Injury (Broadwater Lane)
- 1 x Burglary other than a Dwelling – Poplar Lane
- 1 x Criminal Damage to Vehicles – Broadcommon Rd
- 1 x Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle – Nelsons Lane
- 1 x Theft from the Person – School Lane

Neighbourhood Action Group

As in previous newsletters I have made mention of our Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) and that we are actively seeking new members. At our next meeting in June we will be electing a new Chairperson and Secretary for 2008-2009, so if you would like to know more about being on your NAG or would be interested in attending that meeting then please contact me and I will pass your details on.

Changes afoot

Sadly, this is my last item for your newsletter as I have now taken over the role as PCSO for Twyford and Ruscombe. Your new PCSO, Chris Caldwell has arrived and below he has supplied a short resume to introduce himself to you. I am currently training Chris, but when you see him out and about, please stop and have a chat!

From Chris Caldwell PCSO for Hurst, Charvil and Sonning

I am very much looking forward to my role as your new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). I have in the past worked in the retail industry where I attained the position of Department Manager for a large retail chain. Prior to my appointment with the Thames Valley Police, I worked in a custody suite for another Police Force.

I have two children, and in my spare time enjoy socialising, travel and most sports. I am aware that I have a hard act to follow in PCSO Jackie Daniels, but very much hope that I can continue with the good work she has done in the past 2-3 years.

CONTACTING THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Thames Valley Police has now only one general purpose number: **0845 8 505 505**

In an emergency, you should always dial **999** or **112** from your mobile.

Activities to enjoy at Dinton Pastures Country Park

Aren't Birds Brilliant!

First Saturday of every month. 9.00am - 12.30am

Join members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for a stroll around the Country Park. Children under 18 must be accompanied.

Meet in main car park (parking £1). Adults £1, accompanied children free (proceeds to RSPB)

Moth Night

Friday, 27th June 2008

Discover some of the amazing moths at Dinton Pastures with members of the British Entomological and Natural History Society (BENHS) and Berkshire Moth Group. Meet at the Loddon Room just after dark. Free. No need to book, just turn up on the evening. <http://www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk/>

Bat Walk and Talk

Friday, 11th July 2008 8.45pm - 10.30pm

Explore the world of bats with Dave Endacott from the Oxfordshire Bat Group. An illustrated slide show with a chance to meet rescued bats up close. Followed by a walk to the lake listening out for wild bats with the help of a bat detector.

£1 per person. Please book in advance by emailing countryside@wokingham.gov.uk or calling 0118 934 2016.

SCOF

SENIOR CITIZENS OPEN FORUM FOR THE NORTHERN PARISHES

Introductory Computer Courses

An Introductory course for mouse and keyboard skills will be available to SCOF members on Wednesdays, 25th June and 2nd July from 10.30am to 12.30pm at the Twyford Youth and Community Centre.

Free Taster sessions have been arranged for 'Keeping up with the Kids' at Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley during June. Call Liz Williams for information on 01344 401 685.

Over 60s Tai Chi sessions

Over 60s Tai Chi sessions are held at the East Park Farm Pavilion, Charvil, on Tuesday afternoons. Call Andrea Ford on 0118 974 6265 for more information.

If you are interesting in joining the Senior Citizens Open Forum, call Lyn Budell, Age Concern Twyford & District, tel: 0118 934 4040.

1st HURST BROWNIES

Last autumn, the Brownies decided to raise some money to buy gifts for the animals in the Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre. They put on a concert for friends and family, writing their own short plays, choreographing their own dances, writing jokes and interspersing each item with camp fire songs. They raised over £100. The Sixers and Seconders then had fun buying the presents, followed by a visit to the centre to give the presents to the animals. Whilst there, they were entertained by some of the animals, in particular the puppies in residence at the time.

This spring, the Brownies had a sponsored pancake toss and raised a fantastic sum of approximately £550 for Sarah, who is about to go to Ethiopia with Vision Overseas Aid.

Please don't get the impression we spend all our time fund raising. The girls have lots of fun with other activities. For instance, we hope you enjoyed our display of daffodils this spring. By the time you read this, we will have de-headed them, weeded the patch and sown some flower seeds to brighten the spot this coming summer and autumn.

The Pack is currently at its largest with 28 girls on the register. Mary Langdown is still Leader and Annette Dart is beginning her training as Assistant Guider. Claire Guile and Vivienne Young are Unit Helpers; we also run a popular Parent's Rota. However, anyone wishing to share in the fun and take on a role with the Pack is always welcome, so please don't hesitate to contact Mary Langdon on *0118 934 5751*.

RAINBOWS

Hurst Rainbows unit is currently suspended due to the Guider having recently suffered a bout of poor health. We do hope she soon feels well enough to return but in the meantime we would so like to see the unit back up and running. If anyone has any interest in helping with this, please contact Karen Burrows on *0118 935 1341*.

In the meantime, if your daughter was a Rainbow, please contact Mary Langdown (Brownie Guider) to ensure that she is on the Brownie waiting list. If she was on the Rainbow waiting list or if you want to put your daughter's name down again on the Brownie waiting list (from four years old), contact Mary on *0118 934 5751*. It is probably wise to point out that when spaces arise in the Pack, not only does your daughter's date of birth count but also the date her name was added to the list.

HURST FOOTBALL CLUB – THE EARLY YEARS

Greg Neall and Iain Perry have been delving into the history of the Hurst Football Club, which they discovered goes back at least a hundred years.

The records with the Reading League indicate that Hurst Football Club was founded in 1928, although this appears to be when the earliest form of the current local league was established and all original member clubs seem to have this date as their official founding year.

Anecdotal evidence in Hurst would suggest otherwise. A number of other clubs in the area, which regularly battle it out every Saturday afternoon between September and May, have discovered that they have been running for longer than official records.

So our curiosity took us to Reading Library and the archive of the Reading Mercury newspaper that reported diligently on local football for many years.

What the newspapers say

The earliest record of a match we have found was on Saturday, 17th February 1906, when Hurst was beaten 2 goals to 1 by Twyford. Our researches have revealed details of matches with local clubs until the Great War and we are continuing to bring the records up to date. Names of local residents are also starting to make an appearance, which makes the search more exciting.

In a period before widespread radio or television, it seems association football provided not only regular entertainment and competition for young men in the area, but an event worthy of local news coverage and village gossip.

Have you any stories for our records?

If anyone has any memories or stories of the football team in Hurst then we would be pleased to meet you and record them for posterity. Our fond regards and best wishes go out to Mr John Whitfield, who at 83 is thought to be the oldest resident of the village to have taken the field for Hurst Football Club.

We are committed to filling in more of the gaps to the Club's history although this is quite a slow process and it has taken six months just to compile this small record. If there are any keen local historians who would like to help in this project, please get in touch with Greg Neall on 0845 0128 670 (daytime) or 07747 055 518.

Greg Neall & Iain Perry, Hurst Football Club

HURST MORRIS PEOPLE

HuMP spend the summer months performing at village fetes and carnivals, as well as major folk festivals outside the region. They will resume their meetings in the Hurst Village Hall in September, starting with Beginner/Open Workshops.

If you would like information on their summer timetable, you can visit their website at www.HuMP.org.uk

HURST ROMANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Another Winter League season has ended and our children's popular Football Club forward achieved several more large leaps as it finished only its fourth year since its humble beginnings as a "spin off" from the 1st Hurst Air Scouts.

Did you know?

- We had ten teams competing in various local Leagues at numerous local venues in 07/08 and we're still growing in numbers (120 children at the last count).
- We have ten qualified coaches and several administrators who not only give up their Saturday mornings voluntarily but also give time during the week to train our children who are healthier, fitter and representing our great community in a positive manner through teamwork, fun and fair play.
- We have identified courtesy of The Haines Hill Estate and obtained Council approval for a "home" at a four-acre site in Hinton Road. This will enable us to train and establish this great Club for the future, in line with its phenomenal popularity.
- The Club has recently been awarded FA Charter Status.

How can you help?

- Support our Annual Community fundraiser **Party in the Park on Saturday, 5th July**. We guarantee you will hear how good it is from our regulars.
- Check out our website www.hurstfc.org.uk. We need individuals, businesses and community minded people to help, support, donate and sponsor us.
- Volunteer either for our Club Committee and be involved with the month to month running of the teams; or join our separate fundraising Committee for the exciting Hinton Road project. You don't have to be a Football person for either.

Finally, may I thank our main sponsors, parents, committee members and coaches who already do so much to help us with our fast growing, fun Village Club. Our **AGM** is on **Sunday, 13th July** at the **Scout Hut**, which will include a presentation for the children and free BBQ.

Tim Drake

The Old Lodge, Lodge Road, Hurst RG10 0SG

Contact tim.drake@hurstfc.org.uk for any of the above

Stanlake Park celebrates English Wine Week

During English Wine Week in May this year, there were tours of the winery and tasting of the new wines. Special activities included the Hurst Morris People and a photographic exhibition by Alan Bostock.

We still have to wait for a few months before the wine awards for this year are announced. In the meantime, we can judge for ourselves!

FLY-TIPPING AND DUMPED RUBBISH

Get rid of that bulky waste

According to a recent report on Thames Valley Tonight, clearing away dumped material is costing the region £5 million a year. And it can be avoided ... There is no need to fly-tip because 70% of fly-tipping material will be collected by the local Council free of charge.

If you have waste material you want removed, the telephone number to ring at Wokingham Borough Council is 0118 974 6339 or 0118 974 6307.

Free-cycle your rubbish

There is also another free service to take any unwanted rubbish, such as rubble, IT equipment, toys, furniture, clothes. Simply log onto <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WokinghamFreecycle/>

PENALTIES FOR FLY-TIPPING

Information from the website of the Wokingham Borough Council

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and can lead to prosecution with fines of up to £20,000 or six months' imprisonment. The sentence may be more severe if the case is considered at Crown Court or the waste is hazardous.

Report it

Fly-tipped rubbish can be dangerous as a hazard to the public and the environment if it enters the water courses. If you see any dumped rubbish in Wokingham Borough, use the online fly-tipping report form to let us know the location so that we can clean up the area. <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/community-living/community-safety/fly-tipping-share>

If you see any person fly-tipping, report it. Do not approach the rubbish or any individuals carrying out fly-tipping. Make a note of:

Date, time and place

The amount of rubbish and what it looks like

Description of any vehicles involved and their registration numbers

Descriptions of any person or people carrying out the act

Then contact our Waste Services on 0118 974 6339 / 6307 and we will take action, including contacting our colleagues at the Environment Agency.

Handyman Wanted

General duties will include litter picking, painting and general maintenance of our playing areas/pond. Hours flexible and salary by negotiation. If you are interested in finding out more, please give me a call.

Wayne Smith, Chairman of Hurst PC, Tel: 0118 934 0840

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

New Clerk for the Parish Council

I would like to make the parish aware that we have a new clerk. After nine years, Bob Wardle has decided to retire. I would like to send a vote of thanks to Bob for all the support and help he has given Hurst over that time. Our new clerk, Jane Haines, has taken up the challenge of looking after us. I welcome Jane and hope she enjoys working for the parish. Jane can be contacted on 01628 773 767.

Village Spring Clean Up

A big thank you to all those who turned up. We had a record turn-out, with over 70 residents. Special thanks to Andrew Butler who spent hours clearing the duck weed that has formed across the pond this year.

Traffic and Speed

The Council are working with the new action group, which has been set up to fight the problem of speed and traffic levels in the village. Once again, we have written to Wokingham Borough Council to point out the ineffectiveness of the two vehicle-activated signs that the Parish Council and Hurst Village Society jointly funded. We hope that, by the next edition, we have a response and possible solution!

We must point out that the last round of speed checking carried out in Hinton Road identified over 60% of those driving above the limit were residents of the village - so you know what to do!!

We are investigating the possibility of signs being placed as you approach the village requesting people to reduce their speed whilst driving through the village.

School Road Playing Field/Pond Area

Work is finally due to start on 16th June. For a period of two weeks, the play area will be closed. We are sorry for any inconvenience, although hopefully the improvements made by the new equipment will make up for it!

Play Area, Davis Street

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we regret that the play area in Davis Street has been temporarily closed. The erection of a barbed wire fence next to the area has left the site dangerous. The Council is doing everything possible to find a suitable solution to the problem

Dog Fouling

Again I must report dog fouling on the children's playing field. Please note that there are two bins provided. I would like to remind people that dog fouling is prohibited, as well as a danger to the children.

Anyone wishing to join or who would like further information regarding the Parish Council – please give me a call.

Wayne Smith, Chairman of Hurst PC, Tel: 0118 934 0840

The View from Shute End

Local Elections

The local elections took place on May 1st 2008 when one third of the Council Seats were contested.

The new Council year begins on May 22nd with an evening meeting and this will start with the Mayoral chain passing on to the new mayor before the Full Council of 54 elected members.

The election has brought a slight alteration to the political balance, which is now made up of 44 Conservative Councillors and 10 Liberal Democrat Councillors.

There will also be an announcement of a new Political Leader of the Council. Frank Browne decided to leave the Council where he has been the political leader for the past six years. He did not divulge what he will be doing next!

A new leader will inevitably bring about changes in keeping with his style. There are two contenders for this post. I do not know, at the time of writing, who will be successful but the newspapers will announce the name of the new Leader after the meeting on 22nd May.

Saturday surgeries

I shall be resuming [more] regular Saturday morning surgeries 10-12 noon once the chain is around someone else's neck! It has been a great honour and privilege to be Mayor, but I am content to pass on the duties to my successor.

My contact numbers are, as before, 0118 934 1036 and 07753 861 961.

Cllr Annette Drake

Borough Council Member for Hurst

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst. RG10 0RU

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS *continued*

Planning Updates

F/2008/0677	- Tobago House, Hogmoor Lane - Refused
F/2008/05163	- Whistley Court Farm, Lodge Road - Refused
F/2008/04782	- Gloster Cottage, Whistley Green - Approved
F/2007/2940	- Eastwood, Wokingham Road - Refused
F/2008/0148	- The Paddocks, Lodge Road - Approved
F/2008/0561	- Billingbear Brickworks, Carters Hill - Refused
CLE/2008/0536	- Bridleway Farm, Islandstone Lane - Approved
CLE/2008/0423	- Spring Meadows, Islandstone Lane - Refused
CLE/2008/0149	- Alma Cottage, Lodge Road - Approved
F/2008/0330	- Camelia Cottage, 4 Orchard Chase - Approved
F/2008/0223	- 24-30 Martineau Lane - Approved
F/2008/0002	- Magpies, Nelsons Lane - Refused

SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS, HURST

On the first Sunday of the month:

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Morning Worship & Sunday Club

On the second and fourth Sundays of the month:

11.00am Family Eucharist & Sunday Club

On the third Sunday of the month:

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Praise

If there is a fifth Sunday in the month, the service will be:

11.00am Family Eucharist & Sunday Club

If you would like more details about the church in Hurst, please phone the Revd John Coombs on 0118 934 0017 and/or go to www.acny.org.uk/5339.

HURST GOSPEL HALL

Our regular activities continue as follows:

Mondays J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)

6.15 – 7.15pm For children of 5 years upwards
Quizzes, singing, Bible stories and lots of fun and games

Tuesday evenings are our Bible Study and Prayer evenings.
From 7.45pm

Wednesday evenings

8.00pm First Wednesday of the month the ladies meet

Fridays

10.00 – 11.30am Mother and Toddler Group

We have a good number of parents and children attending this group regularly.
All seem to enjoy it thoroughly - come and see for yourself

Sundays

Each Sunday evening at 6.30pm, we have a Gospel meeting.

On the third Sunday each month, this is replaced by CAMEO at 5.00pm

We begin with a time to chat and then we have tea, some hymn singing and a Bible talk.

For more information, please ring Rachel Simms on 0118 977 2071 or e-mail David.Simms2@btinternet.com

Hurst Village Society Committee Members

Val Bowman	Little Farm, Hogmoor Lane	0118 932 1420 vbowman51@aol.com	
Melanie Brown	2 Elliot's Green Cottage Broadcommon Road	07833 566 715 greenwellingtons@jhotmail.com	
Eddie Coe	4 Lodge Road	0118 934 5103 eddiecoe@talk21.com	Membership
Liz Cossey	Lea Farm, Lodge Road	0118 932 1043 lcossey@chocolates-for-chocoholics.co.uk	Entertainment
John Farrant	Flat 9, Dorndon House School Road	0118 934 9220 marandjon@btinternet.com	
David Fraser	1 Aylesford Villas	0118 934 9301 d.fraser3@btinternet.com	Treasurer
Barbara Johnson	Little Grange, Hinton Road	0118 934 5104 bajlittlegrange@hotmail.co.uk	
Maria Land	Cadomin, Wards Cross	0118 934 1131 maria.land@virgin.net	
Jonathan Norris	36 Martineau Lane	0118 932 1133 jcnorris@btinternet.com	Planning
Gisela Sharpe	48 Martineau Lane	0118 934 3334 gissharpe@btconnect.com	
Carol Sheasby	8 Almshouses, Church Hill	0118 932 1647 carolsheasby@hotmail.co.uk	Editor
Wayne Smith	Woodville, Wokingham Road	0118 934 0840 wayne.x.smith@centrica.co.uk	Skills Register
Brian Thomas	The Retreat, Forest Road	01344 453 256 brian_thomas55@hotmail.com	Secretary
Ex-officio: Annette Drake	Walden Acres, Wokingham Rd	0118 934 1036 anndrk@dsl.pipex.com	WBC Councillor