

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. 108

www.hvs.org.uk

November 2008

~~ CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION ~~

Throughout the year we have had so many exciting and successful events, which enhance the life of our village.

This edition of the Newsletter reports on a number of activities in the parish to end the year such as the traditional celebrations of Christmas, the annual Dinner Dance, the Pantomime, campaigns to calm traffic speeds, and improvements to the playing fields in the village and in Davis Street.

Volunteers willingly put in many hours of hard work into all these activities and I think they all deserve a vote of thanks for the excellent results they achieve.

Parish Council

Not least, the Parish Council work continuously behind the scenes to improve the village. The Council is made up of volunteers, many of whom still work full-time. Recently they have been out in the evening two or three times a week to monitor speeds on Lodge Road and together with other helpers, they have been clearing the playing field in Davis Street. Their next project is the Autumn Village Clean-Up where help from villagers will be much appreciated. To end the year on a high note, let's not forget the lighting up of the Village Christmas Tree on Sunday, 7th December!

For all these matters and more, see inside:

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***** What's On *****

Hurst Horticultural Society & Cottage Garden Society

Hurst Cricket Club Pavilion Tuesday, 5th February 2009 8.00pm

Please note the date for the first meeting of the year.

Veteran Tree Archaeology

Talk by Ted Green, Ancient Tree Forum

Wednesday, 19th November 2008 7.30-9.30pm (doors open 7.10pm)

St Mary's Church Centre, Station Road, Twyford

Old trees that were once working trees can still be found in the countryside. They are an important part of our cultural and environmental heritage. What do they tell us about how people used the land in the past? This talk by an acknowledged expert is given under the auspices of the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association.

Hurst Morris People

Hurst Village Hall, School Road, Hurst Thursday evenings, 8.00pm-10.00pm

HuMP welcomes anyone who'd like to have a go at dancing or music. Men and women welcome. It's free of charge and you'll enjoy it. For more information, contact: Mary Esslemont (Squire) 0118 987 4346 or Sheila Cook (Secretary) sheila@gr8-productions.co.uk The website address is www.HuMP.org.uk

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

Vege Barter

News from the Green Man! We have started a fruit and vegetable swap. Any excess or unwanted home-grown fruit or vegetables can be brought to the Green Man. We'll weigh it and give a market value price in the form of a voucher to use in the pub against purchases. It's already proving popular with allotment holders and we would like the wider community to be aware of the scheme.

For more information on this and other activities, contact Simon Guile at simon@thegreenman.uk.com.

Bus route changes

Information has just been received on changes to the bus routes.

Service 128 will have a regular hourly off-peak timetable [two-hourly on Saturdays].

Between Winnersh and Wokingham, most buses will run direct via Reading Road instead of via Emmbrook village.

There will be an additional bus from Reading [at 18.20] and Twyford [18.52] Monday to Friday.

Wokingham Borough Council is considering installing bus stops and timetables in the village in response to comments from residents. If you agree, please let me have your views on this proposal.

Cllr Annette Drake Contact numbers 0118 934 1036 and 07753 861 961

TRAFFIC MATTERS

THERE were three car accidents in Lodge Road in just one September week. Luckily no one was hurt – but it is a timely reminder that we need to keep up the pressure to try and make Hurst safer.

Traffic petition

Cllr Annette Drake presented the traffic petition to Wokingham Borough Council on 25th September and their response is reported in this Newsletter in *The View from Shute End* and *Parish Council News*. Thank you to all who signed or who collected signatures. Of course, we do not think this is the immediate solution to our problem.

More can be done

To move things along, there are a few things you can help with. First of all, we want to collect ideas about how road safety can be improved in Hurst – where extra signs are needed, which speed limits need changing, where a pavement could be improved. We want to have a road-by-road wish list of constructive ideas to take forward to the Council. Please either visit the village forum (www.WoodedHill.org) to post your ideas or email them to liz@chaderton.com.

The second thing is to drive slowly through the village. Apparently a number of years ago, a speed check was carried out and 60% of those stopped were from Hurst. If we all drive at the right speed, we will act as a fleet of road bumps, slowing down the vehicles behind who might want to go a tad faster. I know this sometimes means you get overtaken in a 30 zone or gestured at with a few digits, but on the whole, we can damp down the speed by our own driving style.

A final thought is that if you witness an accident or incident, please report it to the police on **0845 8 505 505**. It will give a truer picture of the traffic problems in Hurst and add weight to our campaign.

Liz Chaderton

AUTUMN VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Saturday, 25th October 2008

9.00am start from the village hall car park

Skips will be available along with safety tabards, litter pickers and rubbish sacks.

Anyone unable to attend but would like to help out, can do so by cleaning their own road/area. Please let me know beforehand and we can provide you with sacks and collect the rubbish on the day.

Your help is always appreciated.

For more information, please contact Wayne Smith on **118 934 0840**.

ST NICHOLAS ADVENT FAIR

Village Halls, Hurst

Saturday, 15th November 2007 11.00am – 3.30pm

This year, the parish will be running its annual fair earlier than in previous years. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, 15th November from 11.00am until 3.30pm in Hurst Village Halls.

This will be an opportunity for you and the children to have some fun and to do some early shopping in plenty of time for the festive season. There will be the usual array of stalls. Food will be available and entertainment will be provided by the Hurst Morris People and St Nicholas School. There will be a few more surprises besides and we will be drawing our raffle for some very valuable prizes. Please do come along and join us.

If any organization would like a stall at the event, please do contact Sue Payne on 0118 977 3466 or via email on sue.payne@uk.fujitsu.com.

PANTOMIME

Rehearsals are well under way for the Hurst Pantomime Group's production of **Jack and the Beanstalk** (oh yes they are!). This is always a very popular event and we expect tickets to sell out for most performances.

With this in mind, you will want to get in early to book your seats when ticket sales open on **14th November**. Ticket prices are: Adults **£10** and Children/Seniors **£7**.

Performances will be:

Thursday, 15th January 7.30pm
Friday, 16th January 7.30pm
Saturday, 17th January 2.00pm matinée
Sunday, 17th January 7.30pm

The bar will be open before and during the interval for the evening performances. Teas will be available for the matinee show.

Please note that adults and children over 5 will be allowed to the evening performances.

Call Rita Bunyard on 0118 934 5253 for all ticket sales. Further information is on our website www.hurstpanto.org.uk.

HVS Quiz Night

Over 40 people came together to test their wits in a quiz comprising entertainment, geography, sport and music. The team *Tout le Monde* came top in a close context and everyone then settled down to a delicious supper of cottage pie, fish pie and vegetable lasagne. It was a great evening and will definitely be repeated next year.

Hurst Village Society DINNER DANCE

**Saturday, 6th December 2008
7.00 for 7.30pm Large Village Hall**

This eagerly awaited event will take place on Saturday, 6th December 2008, starting at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Music will be provided by the Mark Tait Band. Dress will be Black Tie or Lounge Suit.

Tickets will be **£30.00** for members of the Hurst Village Society and **£35.00** for non-members.

Tickets for members go on sale from 10am on Friday, 7th November from Jennie Roxburgh-Smith on 0118 934 0840. *Payments required by Sunday, 9th November 2008.*

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS St Nicholas Night Celebrations

Sunday, 7th December 2008 5.30pm

Opposite Townsend Pond and Junction of School Road and A321

Gates to School Road Playing field open at 5.00pm. Car parking will be available at the Hurst Cricket Club opposite.

Mulled wine, mince pies, and goodie bags for the children

Grand switching on of the Christmas tree lights 5.30pm

Waltham St Lawrence Brass Band will accompany the singing of Christmas Carols.

Please come along and join us in what has become a great village and family occasion.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Wayne Smith on
0118 934 0840.

HURST HORSE SHOW AND COUNTRY FAYRE

Hurst will be celebrating its 30th Horse Show and Country Fair next year and plans are already afoot for a spectacular weekend. Get the dates down in your new 2009 diary – **27th and 28th June**.

This year's show was a record breaker with around 6000 visitors – beating last year's record total by a massive 50 per cent.

Chair of the show Duncan Kendall said, 'It was a huge amount of work by hundreds of local people. The show committee would like to thank everyone involved. Thousands of pounds were raised for St Nicholas Primary School, the local scout and guide movements, Wokingham Red Diamonds sports for the disabled, Hurst Pre-School, Hurst Village Halls, Berkshire Cancer Scanning Unit at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and many other groups and charities.

'The committee wants to hear Hurst people's views on this year's show and ideas for next year's. We'd also like to hear from everyone who would like to help in the organisation of it. Just contact us through the show website www.hursthorseshow.org.uk '

Barbecue cook Mr Paul Squires said, 'We served 1700 burgers and 800 sausages, covered in 13 litres of tomato ketchup.' About 800 roasted pork sandwiches were sold. St Nicholas Pre-School, Hurst, sold 200 bowls of strawberries in just one day. The bar sold 1500 pints of beer, cider and lager. 1st Hurst Air Scouts served teas and coffees. St Nicholas School PTA sold more than 1000 sticks of candyfloss.

Organisers of the horse and pony events organisers were delighted with their 300 entries, a 30 per cent rise on last year.

There were new attractions such as the farmyard corner where children could stroke the animals and the go-kart derby. Other attractions included St Nicholas School choir, maypole dancers and recorder group, and Hurst Morris People.

Country crafts and pursuits included a demonstration by wheelwright, Mr Ted Fox of Charvil; and beekeeping by Mr Michael Eustace of Hurst.

Dinton Pastures Country Park

Boxing Day Walk *Friday, 26th December 2008 2.00pm – 3.30 pm*

Meet at Hurst Golf Course clubhouse, Sandford Lane. Annual ranger-led stroll around Dinton Pastures Country Park followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Free walk, £1 for car park and £3 for mince pies and mulled wine. No need to book; just turn up. Mobility scooters are available (phone 0118 934 2016 beforehand to check availability).

Star Gazing Talk *Saturday, 27th December 2008 7.00pm*

Are you fascinated with the night sky? Reading Astronomical Society holds

What's been happening to the chestnut trees?

Many of our beautiful horse chestnut trees have been looking very unhappy over the summer, with the leaves turning brown and mottled.

The message from the Forestry Commission is that even though they may appear to be dying, they are probably still healthy.

The premature leaf loss is a result of horse chestnuts being infested with the larvae of *Cameraria ohridella*, or horse chestnut leaf miner, a moth that is spreading its wings across the southern half of England. The larvae mine within the leaves, which eventually shrivel and drop off as early as the middle of August.

Jon Matthews, Tree Officer of Wokingham Borough Council, advises that the situation is being monitored in the region and it is not estimated at this stage that there will be a long-term effect.

However, trees need to be looked after and regularly inspected. In the autumn, once all the leaves have dropped off an infested tree, they can be swept up and composted or burned. Composting is effective if the leaves are covered with a 10cm layer of soil or a 15cm layer of other plant material. This prevents the adult moths emerging the following spring. This is a reasonably effective control in individual gardens.

If you are concerned about your trees, you could have them inspected by a tree surgeon or else a tree consultant from Wokingham Borough Council, contact details: tel. 0118 974 6464 / 6477 or e-mail treesandlandscape@wokingham.gov.uk.

HURST HORTICULTURAL & COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY SHOW

In what has been a rather disappointing year for many outside events, thankfully the sun shone for Hurst Horticultural Show. The quantity of entries in some of the classes was slightly less than in previous years but the quality of produce was congratulated by the judges and drew many visitors to admire during the afternoon. The Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band played lustily throughout the afternoon in the Village Hall grounds among the stalls and some seventy-five dogs entered the dog show in the adjacent field, much to the delight of the organisers.

Well done children; entries were even greater than before and the children's craft area was most popular and many enjoyed the music workshop organised by Waltham St Lawrence band members.

We hope to encourage new exhibitors to enter again in 2009. HH&CGS news and meeting dates will be published in future editions of the HVS Newsletter. The first for 2009 is on 5th February in the Cricket Club.

Good work done in the village

For some time now, St. Nicholas Church has been using Community Workers to cut the grass and keep the churchyard tidy. Offenders of less serious crimes, for whom prison is not appropriate, receive a community sentence. The scheme is called community payback, where small groups of up to 10 offenders, supervised by an expert probation officer, carry out unpaid work for the community. Statistics released by the Probation Service show a 13% drop of re-offending, as a result of community sentences. Before any project is undertaken, a comprehensive assessment is done by the Probation Service, and signed off by the benefactor, to ensure the safety of offenders and the public.

Offenders get to see how they can contribute in a positive way and gain some self-respect. This is certainly true of Davis Street, and some of the other projects arranged by the Parish Council. The parking area at the Church Hill Almshouses has been weeded, and a ton of new gravel spread. The same will be done at the Hinton Road Almshouses. Also, work is about to be carried out at the Village Halls to trim back the hedges and tidy up the frontage. In November, the Community Workers will start clearing back the vegetation and painting the fences in the School Road Recreation ground.

Not only will this make the recreation ground look better, but it will also improve the safety of the users by removing hiding places where less desirable activities take place. Without the help of the Probation Service, a lot of these projects would not have been carried out due to the high cost of labour. The Parish Council is delighted with the work that has been carried out, from which the community as a whole will benefit.

Paul Martin, Parish Council

Thistle storm over the Almshouses on Church Hill

During the summer, the air was thick with thistle down, which settled over the grass and plants of the Almshouses like snow. The pernicious fluff found its way into the houses and collected in every nook and cranny.

The culprit was the plot of land adjoining the Almshouses on Church Hill. This is at present being left fallow to allow for the growth of wild flowers, but the only plants to flourish are the thistles. The problem was only solved through the good offices of Paul Martin of the Parish Council who arranged with the Wokingham Borough Council for the thistles to be cut down and removed.

In response to notices posted on the Wooded Hill website, this piece of land is in the land bank of the Wokingham Borough Council. Despite a proposal by the HVS to create a community orchard, Wokingham BC have still to decide how the land should be used.

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, Whistley 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>
Counsellor	Rosemary Sturmer	Rosslare Davis Street	<i>0118 934 1149</i> <i>07950 762875</i>
Member of British Association of Counselling & Psychotherapy and Association of Christian Counsellors			
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.			

Garden Care	Jonathan Lane	Toad Hinton Road	0118 934 0654 07966 627883
Mobile Hairdresser	Maureen Klein	3 Bonhomie Court, Broadcommon Road mkgwa@btinternet.com	0118 934 3439
Landscaping	Nigel Neighbour	Old Cerdic, Lodge Road	0118 934 1878 07941 864917
Hedge trimming, patios, decking, pergolas, turfing, tree work, groundwork, fencing, water features, timber and garden buildings.			
Independent Mortgage Adviser	Nigel Osgood	Old Place, Lodge Road	0118 903 4119 07768 277413
No brokerage fee charged. Software that contains every mortgage product of every lender that is updated daily.			
Music Teacher	Christine Lambert ALCM, ATM (SMTTC), EPTA	Hodge, Pound Lane	0118 934 0705
Pianoforte, Clarinet, Recorder, Saxophone and Musical Theory taught. Beginners a speciality, from age 7 upward.			
Plasterer	Spyros Divanis	1 Broadwater Cottage, Broadwater Lane visualplastering@hotmail.co.uk	07760 426221
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	0118 934 1926
Wedding & portrait photography, environmental children's portraits, passports, restoration of old photographs.			
Registered Homeopath	Mrs Barbara Johnson	Little Grange, Hinton Road bhagwash@aol.com	0118 934 9580
Residential Letting and Property Management	Janet Walsh	7 Martineau Lane www.huntersproperty.co.uk	0118 932 1349
Sewing	Louise Kendall	6 Tape Lane louise@s-sewing.co.uk www.s-sewing.co.uk	0118 934 2852
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.			
Upholsterer	Anna Lockwood	Lockwood Design, Barn Farm, Wokingham Road www.lockwood-design.co.uk	<i>07981 794268</i>
Trained upholsterer specialising in traditional upholstery, offering a complete restoration service or simple re-cover for cushions, chairs, sofas. Also bespoke headboards, screens, footstools, etc. Free home visit for quotation and advice.			
Web design and Consultancy	Duncan Kendall	6 Tape Lane dk-skills4@bdkso.co.uk www.yeswhere.co.uk	<i>0118 934 2852</i>
Hosting, e-mail forwarding, domain name management.			
<p align="center">SUBSCRIBE TO THE SKILLS REGISTER</p> <p>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 in our popular newsletter which goes out 3/4 times a year.</p> <p>I'm sure you will agree this represents good value for money and will be going towards a very good cause.</p> <p><i>Please note that subscriptions are now due if you wish to be included in the next edition of the HVS newsletter.</i></p> <p>For all enquires, please contact Wayne Smith, tel: <i>0118 934 0840</i>, e-mail: <i>wayne.x.smith@googlemail.com</i>.</p> <p>Cheques should be made payable to Hurst Village Society.</p> <p>We welcome any new skills and services. However, you have to live in the village!</p>			

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 PCSO Jonathan Stanley

I open this article with news that PCSO Chris Caldwell is leaving us. PCSO Jackie Daniels and I will be taking responsibility for his area in the interim period until Chris's replacement is in place. Any issues or questions you may have can now be passed to either one of us and we will be happy to assist you in any way we can.

Other changes

PC Glyn Wildey is also moving on to pastures new in the next few weeks. After 30 successful years in the police service, Glyn is taking the opportunity to have a slightly more 'relaxed' approach to life and retires in late November. We would like to thank him for all of the help and assistance that he has offered to all of us over many years and wish him all the best in his new endeavours.

Glyn's successor PC Terry Neblett will be joining our team and will now be the Neighbourhood specialist officer for the area. We would like to offer him a big welcome and hopefully most of you will get a chance to meet Terry over the next few months.

Traffic issues

In other news, several speed surveys are being conducted with the assistance of Hurst Parish Council in what are considered some of our more problematic roads. This is in the effort to compile some solid results, which will indicate the extent of the problem.

A precaution

It has been a quiet summer across the entire area which has been good. However, the nights are now getting darker earlier so I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to keep all your doors and windows double locked especially when you are out of the house and at night when you are in bed, also to take as many precautions as possible in securing your property in the run up to Christmas.

Many thanks.

PCSO Jonathan Stanley.

Mobile: 07973526634

Email: Jonathan.stanley2@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

CONTACTING THAMES VALLEY POLICE

For more information about your local neighbourhood team, visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk or to speak to an officer, call 0845 8 505 505.

MORE ABOUT HURST ROMANS FC

Hurst Romans FC kicked off the new season with more playing members than ever. Each year we get stronger despite the influences of other activities at the weekends and school sports. The managers of our older teams (U14, 15 and 16) are starting to comment on the 'vanity' of the boys. Long gone are the pre-match discussions about team tactics. The conversations are more about haircuts, hair gels, the latest Lynx deodorant or which girls are coming to watch them! We had a great end of season, attended many local tournaments and did the village proud.

Party in the Park

Our Party in the Park was a tremendous evening with great bands, well stocked bar and an endless supply of take away food. We were fortunate with better weather this year - not so much rain this time. Thanks go to Brian and Penny Clayden who allowed us to use the field and to the Horse Show Committees for their tents.

Our appreciation must go to our sponsors and the number of spontaneous donors throughout the season. To you all - thank you for your extra-ordinary gestures of goodwill, contributions and continued support.

We will update the village with our progress through the leagues as the weeks go on.

If you have a budding striker, keeper, defender or mid-fielder that wants to join our teams please contact deborah.wyatt2@btinternet.com or visit our website www.hurstfc.org.uk

Finally, if you would like to be part of our flourishing community football club and would like to get involved in coaching, training, kit (not washing!), sponsorship or have fund-raising ideas, please contact tim.drake@hurstfc.org.uk. We have a strong committee which needs more volunteers; including kit distribution, recruitment, manager's coordinator and fund-raising and we are always looking for new members to help at our social/fund-raising times.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Deborah Wyatt, Secretary & Treasurer
Hurst Romans FC

1st HURST BROWNIES

Brownie Waiting List

If you have rung Mary Langdon during the last few months to put the details of your daughter on the Brownie waiting list and she has not replied to you, please accept her apologies. Unfortunately, her husband was over diligent when clearing the messages off the answer machine and wiped your details off before she could contact you. Please ring her again on 0118 934 5751 and she will get back to you quickly.

HURST ROMANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Update on the new home of Hurst Football, Stow Bridge, Hinton Road

If you haven't already done so, visit www.hurstfc.org.uk and click on 'Future plans'. Everything to do with this project is detailed, including the planning permission from WBC.

A committee of volunteers is in place, made up of Hinton Road residents and active Club members. All we need now is YOU.

In July, an army of volunteers responded to our 'appeal for help' at the Club AGM and de-stoned the four-acre site, armed with spade and barrows when the large surface stones were moved to improve the access at the entrance. Enormous projects like this are made all the more worthwhile by all the dozens of people who gave up their Saturday morning that day and may I again say 'Thank you' to the men, women and children, all of whom worked extremely hard all morning in preparation for the mowing.

The pitch has now been seeded and due to the weather (it has been good for something) has stripy grass lines! The next stage is a car park, which is vital for the safe use of the field together with a new secure access gate. Look out for the new on-site sign courtesy of Hunters Property Services, Twyford.

How can you help?

You can help us in the following ways, please.

- * A donation or pledge towards the car park fund big or small - it matters.
- * Your business sponsorship of the project.
- * Your place of work may wish to help and some have funds for local community projects. Ask.
- * Perhaps you or your company could carry out some of the work and help us to keep costs to a minimum.
- * Parents who have children actively playing for our village teams could spread the word about the benefit to your child to be part of a team, keep fit and active with their friends and how this new site will ensure the future growth and development of this wonderful club.

Finally, the Committee will be announcing some fund raising initiatives soon (Auction of Promises, Village Firework Display, Sponsored Cycle Ride etc, etc). Watch this space.

Please call me on 078 2117049, email me tim.drake@hurstfc.org.uk or write to me at The Old Lodge, Lodge Road, Hurst RG10 0SG. Your thoughts and support are vital and appreciated.

Tim Drake

Chairman, Hurst FC

DAVIS STREET RECREATION GROUND

Yes, there is a recreation ground in Davis Street. It consists of a triangular field, which in area is about the same as the School Road recreation ground. It has a climbing frame, a two-bay junior swing, toddler swing, basketball hoop and a football field.

As some of you may know, the Parish Council had to close the Davis Street Playing Field after receiving notification from WBC that the play equipment and the new fence installed by our neighbour were not safe. Although built in 1970, the old play equipment is very sturdy, and has a rustic charm about it. The Parish Council were therefore reluctant to remove it, which in itself would have been be costly. Quotes for a secondary fence were sought and 'Play Inspection' was recommended by WBC to assess the play equipment.

As it turned out, the biggest problem turned out to be rabbits. Having consulted with a number of experts, it was clear that we could only tackle the rabbit problem once we had cleared the undergrowth that was protecting the burrows.

Following the all clear from 'Play Inspection', Community Workers set to work rubbing down and painting the swings and climbing frame and cutting back the vegetation. Members of the Parish Council, Carlos Martin, Paul Drayton and HVS member, David Noble, chopped some of the bigger trees down. The Community Workers then finished the job, chopping the branches off ready for shredding and clearing the site of old bottles, tyres, bits of concrete, and all the usual stuff you expect to find in a child's recreation ground. We are particularly indebted to Carlos Martin and his chainsaw for all the time he has spent helping us on the mammoth project.

We are now entering the final phase of the work at Davis Street. Hopefully by the time you read this, the play equipment will have been completely renovated, the trees and undergrowth shredded, and a new fence installed.

Paul Martin, Parish Council

Planning update

F/2008/1645	- Old Crown Cottage, Dunt Lane - Approved
C/2008/1961	- Pond View, Wokingham Road - Approved
F/2008/1748	- Land at Lodge Road - Refused
F/2008/0359	- Munfin House, Hogmoor Lane - Approved
F/2008/1427	- Rustons Farm, Warren House Road - Refused
CLE/2008/1626	- Billingbear Brickworks, Carters Hill - Refused
F/2008/1493	- Fernwood, Sawpit Road - Approved
F/2008/1463- 3	- Whistley Court Farm, Lodge Road - Refused
F/2008/0883	- Ravenspring, Davis St - Refused
F/2008/1354	- Elephant and Castle, Lodge Road - Approved
F/2008/1434	- Whistley Green Farmhouse, Whistley Green - Approved

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

School Road Playing Field/Pond Area

I hope you are all enjoying the nearly completed improvements to the play area.

Unfortunately, we've had a few setbacks. Firstly, the green metal fencing that surrounds the play area was stolen and secondly, it has been recently brought to our attention that the surrounding land outside the play area belongs to Highways and not in fact the Parish Council, even though we have been maintaining the area for 20 years. This has caused a few problems with regard to the work we had planned to carry out.

However, we are hoping to come to a suitable compromise within the next six weeks. I am so glad to have received so much positive feedback with regard to the new play equipment.

Play Area, Davis Street

Following on from the previous last newsletter, work is well under way to clean and tidy up the park. Once works have been completed, it would be great to see the park being used again.

Traffic and speed update

Since my last update, the Parish Council, together with the police, have organised a total of six speed checking sessions. The areas covered were Lodge Road, Broadwater Lane (opposite Gospel Hall) and Wokingham Road. Based on the results so far, the police have agreed to carry out further enforcement in Lodge Road, which will take place over the next few weeks.

The recent petition was presented to full council at WBC by Annette Drake. As a result the Highways Executive, Keith Baker, has agreed to meet the Parish Council. Many thanks to Annette Drake, Glyn Wildey (Police) Liz Chaderton and Jules Barton for all their help and the hard work they have put in.

New Member of the Parish Council

We are very pleased to announce that the latest member to join the Parish Council is Mr Alistair Lyons. He and his family have lived in the village for the past six years. Alistair will bring a breadth of local knowledge and keenness to the Council. Welcome, Alistair!

Handyman Required

To carry out general duties including litter picking, painting and general maintenance of our play areas/pond etc. Hours flexible and salary by negotiation. If you are interested in finding out more, please give me a call.

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

The View from Shute End

Our new leader of the Borough Council is Cllr David Lee, a chartered accountant from Belfast. His emphasis is on value for money from our services and reminding us that we all have some time to volunteer to help the vulnerable in our Borough. His door is always open; he is both accessible and approachable!

The Council has been through a very hard couple of weeks answering questions from the Audit Commission who will soon be reporting on how WBC is performing!

Traffic matters

At the full Council on 25th September I presented our Petition with 350 signatures and asked the Council to help reduce the speed of traffic on our village roads. I asked for negotiation with our Parish Council and Hurst Village Society with advice from the Police, in order to bring forward innovative ideas to reduce the speed of traffic on our village roads.

I thanked the police for their help in monitoring traffic speeds. Three reports from the Speed Indicator Device [SID] proved that the majority of cars drivers break the law by not adhering to the speed limit. Some of the vehicles were driven by Hurst residents! I think we all must make sure that we keep to the village speed limits.

I suggested to Cllr Keith Baker, Executive member for Highways, that we have a preliminary meeting early in October with the Chairman of the Parish Council. Following that meeting, Cllr Baker has already agreed to attend a Parish Council meeting to hear views and answer questions. So let us all think of innovative ways to reduce the speeding on our village road. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Annette Drake

Borough Council Member for Hurst

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst. RG10 ORU

Contact numbers 0118 934 1036 and 07753 861 961

HURST GOSPEL HALL

Our autumn programme is much as usual.

CAMEO on 19th October, 16th Nov at 5.00pm.

Ladies evenings on 5th November and 3rd December at 8.00pm.

Weekly Monday JAM for children at 6.15pm. during term time

Bible Study and Prayer each Tuesday at 7.45pm.

Other Sundays at 6.30pm.

We hope to start a Sunday afternoon service once a month with parents and young children in mind. Details will be put on the website.

Christmas Carols on Sunday 21st December, time to be confirmed on the website.

Christmas Day service at 10.30am.

For more information, please ring Rachel Simms on 0118 977 2071 or e-mail

SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS, HURST

On the first, second and fourth Sundays of the month:

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

On the third Sunday of the month:

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Praise

Sunday 2nd November ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Sunday 9th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.45am Family Eucharist with Act of Remembrance
The congregation are asked to be in church by 10.45am before moving to the Cenotaph for the Act of Remembrance at 11am.

Sunday 30th November

11.00am **Christingle Service**

Sunday 21st December

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Praise
6.30pm **Carol Service**

Wednesday, 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Thursday, 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00am Family Eucharist

If you would like more details about the church in Hurst, please phone the

ST NICHOLAS CHURCHYARD - *Update on the proposed closure*

A little over two years ago the Vicar and Churchwardens, with the approval of the PCC, applied to the Ministry of Justice to close the churchyard. The application was made on the grounds that there are only two or three spaces left for new burials.

The Ministry of Justice have informed us that the Parish and Borough Councils have raised no objection so they will proceed to the next stage of the process. This will be the publication of a formal notice of closure in the local paper.

When the churchyard is full, it will remain open for burials in existing graves and for the interment of ashes.

Hurst Village Society Committee Members

Val Bowman	Little Farm, Hogmoor Lane	0118 932 1420 vbowman51@aol.com	
Eddie Coe	4 Lodge Road	0118 934 5103 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.smith@britishgas.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