

Join our committee!

If you would like to help in maintaining the character of the village against the threat of encroaching urbanisation, the Hurst Village Society remains an active forum where you can play a part.

Hurst Village Society Committee Members

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www.hvs.org.uk

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. 109

www.hvs.org.uk

May 2009

HVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 15th May 2009, 8.00 pm

The Hurst Village Society Committee invites all Hurst residents, and anyone else associated with the village, to the HVS Annual General Meeting to be held in the **Small Village Hall** on **Friday, 15th May 2009 at 8.00pm**. The meeting will last about an hour and will be followed by a chance to chat over a glass of wine. If you have any issue that you would like to raise at the meeting, please come along. We look forward to hearing what you have to say. The Hurst Village Society is here for you!!

Some committee members will be standing down. If you would like to volunteer or nominate someone to join the committee, you will find a **nomination form** inside this newsletter.

Vote of thanks

Two of our committee members are resigning and deserve a special vote of thanks for the sterling work they have done for the Hurst Village Society over the years. Brian Thomas has been a faithful and meticulous secretary. Barbara Johnson has been in charge of distribution of the newsletter (a hugely important task!), sale of the Dinner Dance tickets, and playing an active part in our various events. We are fortunate to have had such willing people on our committee.

Renew your membership

Also included in the newsletter is an **application/renewal form**. During this past year, the Society was an effective presence at the hearing of planning applications by Luff Farms and Sandford Farm. We have also worked with the Parish Council to present a case to the Wokingham Borough Council about the dangers presented by speeding cars.

But so much can still be done and for this we need your help

SPEEDING ON OUR ROADS

If we in the village observe the speed limits, no matter how impatient other motorists are, we can go a long way towards making our roads safer. Over the past few months, there have been horrible signs of recklessness, with garden fences and hedges wrecked by cars going too fast. In one instance, a child was playing in the front garden minutes before a car swung into the garden wall because it was going too fast round the bend. And following in the wake of the destruction is the annoyance of traffic hold-ups while roads have to be repaired. It's all a bit crazy.

*** What's On ***

Auction of Promises

Village Hall Saturday, 9th May 2009 7.00 for 7.30pm

This is the first event of the year to be given by the Romans Youth Football Club. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible on the night. It's been a long time since the Village hosted an Auction of Promises night and this is shaping up to be a really fun evening.

Come along and listen to our established Auctioneer handle the proceedings. We already have a marvellous list of promises, donated by both local businesses and individuals. A couple of examples to whet those appetites are:

2 tickets to England vs Australia 1 Day International at Lords, September 2009

A stay in a villa in Portugal

A day's worth of painting and decorating.

Entertainment from local band Replic8 and food fresh from the Haweli in Twyford is included in the ticket price of just £12.50.

For tickets, please contact: Tim Drake on 0118 934 5676, Ruth Graesser on 07917 650025 or Deborah Wyatt on 0118 989 2655.

Quiz Night

Scout Headquarters Saturday, 9th May 2009 8.00 pm

Given by 1st Hurst Air Scouts in aid of raising funds for a new roof. At £10.00 per ticket, this event will include a dinner of chilli con carne. There will be a cash bar and raffle. So come and show your support for your local Scout Group and at the same time show off your general knowledge!!

Tickets are on sale in advance for catering purposes. For enquiries, please phone Jane Melizan on 07951 587690.

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SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS, HURST

First Sunday of the month

8.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Second Sunday of the month

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Third Sunday of the month

8.00am Holy Communion

11.00am Family Praise

Fourth Sunday of the month

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Sunday, 31st May PENTECOST (Whitsunday)

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

ST NICHOLAS CHURCHYARD

The Ministry of Justice received no representations following the publication of the notice to close the churchyard for new burials. Following the due process, the Privy Council has issued an Order in Council, which prevents new burials taking place, as the churchyard is full. It will still be possible for burials to take place in existing graves (as long as there is a sufficient depth) and for the interment of ashes.

There was concern from one visitor that the churchyard was to be closed, meaning that there would be no access! This is, obviously, not the case and anyone is very welcome to walk, sit or help maintain the graves in that peaceful place.

SAD NEWS!

The weeping lime tree in the churchyard is a prominent feature of the picturesque area surrounding the church, the Castle Inn and the Almshouses. However, experts have unfortunately discovered that the tree is suffering from a deadly fungus (*Kretzschmaria deusta*). This means that, eventually, it will have to be felled. In the short term, however, for safety reasons it will be reduced in height in order to lessen its resistance to the wind.

The Tree Officer from the Borough Council has seen the reports and inspected the tree and has given her consent for this reduction in height to take place.

I am sure we all share in the sadness of witnessing such a change to this great tree. We would, however, be even sadder if it were to fall victim to a gale and fall on one of the surrounding buildings or a passing car.

John Coombs

If you would like more details about the church in Hurst, please phone the Revd John Coombs on 0118 934 00107 and/or go to www.acny.org.uk/5339.

The View from Shute End *continued from previous page*

Speed Surveys *continued*

The Parish Council Chairman, two local residents and I met with Highway Officers and we have actually had agreement that some simple measures will be introduced, e.g. roundels painted on the roads to emphasise speed limits. The policeman who was at the meeting agreed to show his presence in uniform around the village, which served to slow the traffic speed down — for a while. Whilst this will not excite you greatly, it is a first step and we continue to negotiate with the Executive Member for Highways looking into other proposals that we put forward. We are not giving up - pressure will continue. There will be some innovative measures put in place as soon as the funds become available.

I continue to be at home from 10am-12 noon on [most] Saturdays. Please call me with your Council queries. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Annette Drake

Borough Council Member for Hurst

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst. RG10 0RU

Contact numbers 0118 934 1036 and 07753 861 961

HURST GOSPEL HALL

Mondays

6.15 – 7.15pm J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) for children of 5 years and upwards.

Tuesdays

7.45pm Bible Study

Wednesday evenings

8.00pm On the first Wednesday of the month, the ladies meet

Fridays

10.00 – 11.30am Mother and Toddler Group

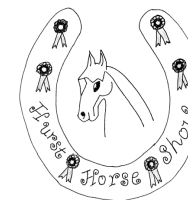
Sundays

6.30pm Gospel meeting

On the third Sunday each month, this is replaced by CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other) at 5.00pm

For more information, please ring Rachel Simms on 0118 977 2071 or e-mail David.Simms2@btinternet.com. Alternatively, you can visit our website at <http://www.hurstgospelhall.org>

Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre



27th and 28th June 2009

This year, the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre are celebrating their 30th anniversary! Everyone is warmly invited to Hurst's big weekend of the year. Plans are under way for a bumper show.

The show, in School Road, is from 9am to around 5.30pm each day. Admission is **£2.50** for adults and **50p** for children and seniors. The show raises thousands of pounds for St Nicholas Primary School and local charities and groups.

Country Fayre

A perfect country weekend, the show offers fun for all. Children will love meeting farm animals in the country corner. Other attractions include birds of prey, horse and dray rides, ferret racing, pony rides, Morris dancing, tug-of-war, search and rescue displays by dogs, Hurst Karate Club and St Nicholas School maypole dancers and choir. There will be a bouncy castle and children's crazy golf.

Cheerleaders are performing for the first time: The Reading Superstar All Star Cheerleading Club promises colour and excitement. Blue Flame Dance, founded by Ruth Noble of Hurst, will perform their 'fun and funky' street dance. In contrast will be the melodious Hurst handbell ringers. Crafts on sale include cakes, glassware, jewellery, soaps, chocolates, quilts and fabrics. Jackie and Malcolm Phillips of Hurst will sell their plants.

Horse and pony events

There is a full range of show jumping and showing classes. We look forward to entries from all ages and abilities, riding Shetlands to ex-racehorses. Our aim is for everyone to enjoy the competition and hopefully go home with a rosette or two! Schedules and entry forms are on our website www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk.

Food and drink

A barbecue of sausages and burgers from P&D Jennings, the village butchers, hot pork rolls from The Castle Inn, a beer tent, ice cream and candy floss will all keep everyone refreshed.

Competitions

Enter our competition in the *Wokingham Times*. Prizes include riding lessons at Lands End Equestrian Centre, Hurst. Have a go at our contests to make a scarecrow, a scarespoon or a go-cart. Entry forms are at www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk.

Many hands make light work - can you help?

We urgently need help with preparations in the School Road fields during the week before the Hurst Horse Show and at the show itself. It really is fun to be part of it all. Please help if you can on the dates below:

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June – Painting the horse show jumps in Willow-mead Field, School Road, from 10.30am onwards. Old clothes recommended! Help for marquee erection on Sunday 21st.

Tuesday 23rd to Friday 26th June – Setting up the show in School and Willow-mead fields, from 6.30pm. This includes putting up tents, marquees, arenas and stalls.

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June – Helpers for the bar, cooking and serving in the food tent.

Sunday 28th June – Clearing up and packing away the showground.

Parents of St Nicholas School children:

We would be grateful if you can sign up on the stalls help roster which will go round the school playgrounds at pick up time.

All other volunteers, please either contact Duncan Kendall on 0118 934 2852 or visit our website www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk. Helpers in the bar and food tent: please contact Paul Gough on 0118 934 5097.

We ask parents who are helping not to bring their children when jumps are being painted and when marquees and scaffolding are being erected.

Once these messy and more dangerous jobs are done, children may come, provided they are with their parents who will be responsible for them at all times.

Visit our website for more information on the show www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk

For your diary

Walk the Country

Saturday, 16th May 2009

‘Walk The Country’ this year takes place on Saturday, 16th May. There will be organised walks of 5, 10 and 15 miles in the Chilterns. The event starts at BIX in South Oxfordshire. It is a wonderful opportunity to see and smell the blue bells and enjoy the countryside. If you take a packed lunch you can spend more time taking in the sights. It is a sponsored walk organised by Christian Aid and supported by St John’s Ambulance and The Radio Club. For more details contact Peter Langdown on 0118 934 5751.

English Wine Week

Saturday 23rd May – Sunday, 31st May.

THE VIEW FROM SHUTE END

Day care services for older people

Like many other areas in the country, Wokingham has an ageing population. Wokingham Borough Council is reviewing its day care services for older people who may need some opportunity for social contact and activity during the day. We are trying to think ahead as to what services our residents will need in 5-10 years’ time and to help with this, we are seeking the views from various Forums.

Many older people remain physically well and have good social contact where they live. But a number will become frail and may need assistance with care; others may develop some form of dementia. Some will have carers, some not.

Currently the Community Care Departments spend some £560,000 on services for older people who are physically frail, £135,000 for individuals with dementia and some £50,000 on prevention services. Prevention services include working with individuals in the community who may be isolated or setting up satellite services in areas with few local voluntary services. These services are aimed at older people who do not need to be in a day care setting, but who perhaps need some activity during the day to help them stay healthy or to have some social contact.

The Community Care Services fund exercise classes for older people and employ two Occupational Therapists to give talks to groups about diet, exercise, safety and equipment in the home.

Speed Surveys

After the Council recently carried out speed surveys in Hurst, the officer’s report stated:

‘The speed surveys show that most of the roads have an average speed at approximately the plated speed limit, which is what is expected. However, the A321 does have average speeds slightly above the plated limit. When the average speeds are higher than the plated speed limit, the Personal Injury Accident record is assessed to find out if the higher speeds are causing accidents. The accident database does show that there have been accidents in Hurst village; however, speed was only the listed causation factor in two of them.’

A full accident printout for the last three years for the whole of Hurst was not available at the meeting.

The Council has a traffic calming policy. However, for traffic calming a pattern of speed-related personal injury accidents needs to be identified. In line with Department for Transport [DfT] guidance, four personal injury accidents over the previous three years are the usual criteria. The accident database goes back to 1999.

Continued on next page

POLICE REPORT

From PCSO Anne Chalmers

Changes afoot

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO)

Sadly, PC Glynn Wildey has retired, after 25 years on the beat in Twyford and the surrounding parishes. PC Wildey handed over his duties to former Woodley NSO, PC Terry Neblett.

New PCSO for Hurst, Sonning and Charvil:

Hello! I'm your new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). I'll be supporting Hurst, Sonning and Charvil. I have started to walk around and I'm very much looking forward to meeting you all, so if we haven't met already, please stop me and say Hello.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

We need your help

- Are there community issues affecting your quality of life?
- Do you feel your community could be a safer and better place to live?
- Yes? Then please let us know!

What is a Neighbourhood Action Group? A Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) tackles community safety priorities, identified by the community. It brings together residents, the police, elected local councillors, local authorities, businesses and schools, who plan and agree the actions needed to resolve local issues.

Who can get involved? Any one. We are seeking new members from your community.

Need more information? Call 0845 8 505 505 and ask to speak PCSO Anne Chalmers or a representative from your neighbourhood policing team

January - March Crime figures for Hurst, Sonning and Charvil

Burglary Dwelling	7
Burglary Non Dwelling	19
Robbery	1
Theft from Persons	0
Theft from Vehicle	7
Theft of vehicle	2
Violence against person	11

Data taken from:
<http://crimestats.thamesvalley.police.uk/>

Your Neighbourhood Team

NSO: Terry Neblett
PCSO: Jackie Daniels
PCSO: Anne Chalmers

Find out more about your Neighbourhood Police team at:
<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh.htm>

Contacting Thames Valley Police:

Non emergency **0845 8 505 505**
Emergency: **999** or **112** from your mobile.

Party in the Park hosted by Hurst Romans FC

Saturday, 4th July 2009 6.30pm

Willowmead Field, School Road, Hurst

Don't forget to put this date firmly in your diary. A combination of great music, a well priced bar, good weather (of course) and excellent company makes this a fantastic event for the Village.

Bring your own food – order a delivery – whatever you like! For newcomers to the event: just pitch your tables / chairs / mini-marquees / table decorations / chandeliers / picnic rugs, etc from **10am** on the day. Gates open **6.30pm** and then the first of the three bands commences.

Tickets go on sale from June onwards – make sure you order yours from any member of the Football Committee (www.hurstfc.org.uk).

We look forward to seeing you there and would be grateful for all help the following morning (fantastic remedy for a sore head) to assist in the clear up and take down. We can't put this event on each year without you, so your assistance is invaluable.

Thank you!

HURST HORTICULTURAL & COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

Mini Horticultural Show

Thursday, 2nd July 2009 Willowmead Field, School Road 6.30pm

If you are new to gardening and would like to have a go at showing, we hold a very relaxed mini show on **Thursday, 2nd July 2009** on Willowmead field, between the school and village hall. The aim is to encourage exhibitors to have a go at showing in the August event and hopefully taking some of the mystery out of it.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Castle Inn on Thursday, 16th April 2009. Following a short business meeting, a topical quiz was held. It was a good opportunity to find out more about the society's activities and the annual show.

Annual Horticultural Show

Saturday, 22nd August 2009 Willowmead Field, School Road

The annual show for Horticulture, Flower Arranging, Cooking, Photography, Jam Making, Artwork, Needlework, Children's Crafts, Dog Show and lots more.

For schedules and information on any of the above, please call 0118 934 5253 or 0118 934 1498.

*** News Bites ***

Robbery at the village post office

In February this year, three robbers entered the Hurst shop. One man smashed the glass screen of the post office with his ice pick while the other two, armed with an ice pick and a hammer, demanded money. However, our local shopkeeper, Jit Sandhu, flatly refused. The offenders fled empty-handed, with Jit chasing them down the street. The only comment he had to make afterwards was, 'No, people can't come here and do that. They have to work for their money.'

The incident caused a reader to send the following comment to the Newsletter:

'As a resident of Hurst for a number of years now, I was remarking to a neighbour recently how fortunate we are to live in the village. We were particularly struck by the quality of the businesses that provide our local amenities and which make Hurst such a unique and pleasant place to live. This, of course, is down to the hard work of the owners and staff, who are invariably professional, enthusiastic and friendly. An example of the quality and calibre of our local business people was summed up to me by the great way the staff dealt with the recent attempt to rob the Post Office. It's certainly a pleasure to live and work amongst such folks.'

SHINE

A new venture offered by Wokingham Borough Council

The new Over 60s Physical Activity Programme was launched on Friday, 27th March 2009 at the Loddon Valley Leisure Centre, Lower Earley. Refreshments were provided and activities included Salsa Dancing, Tai Chi, Line Dancing, Seated Exercise to Music, Sports Games, Pilates and many others.

For further information please telephone the Sports Development Unit on 0118 974 6265 or e-mail: shine@wokingham.gov.uk

Wildlife Trust

The Local Wildlife Trust, Berkshire Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire, own, lease or manage 88 nature reserves throughout the three counties.

Ask for details and information packs about:

- **Gardeners' Wildlife Challenge** - how to make your garden more wildlife-friendly.
- **Go Wild in Your School Grounds** - projects to get your school involved by pond digging, creating a wildflower meadow or planting trees.
- **Putting Wildlife on the Map** - information pack aimed at encouraging community groups to take up wildlife survey projects of their area.
- **Discovering Wildlife in Berkshire** - places with disabled access.

Contact the Community Conservation Officer at The Local Wildlife Trust, Berkshire Office, Woolley Firs, Cherry Garden Lane, Maidenhead. Tel: 01628 829574. Web-site: www.bbwt.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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

Spring Clean Up

Another village success! We filled three skips. Thanks to the fifty + people who turned up to help.

Davis St Play Area

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the play area will have reopened, thanks to the hard work of the Council, in particular Paul Martin and Michael Holdstock.

School Road junction of A321

No good news to report, I'm afraid. Wokingham Borough Council are still dragging their heels on allowing us to complete the work we started last summer. Hopefully by the next edition the "Jobsworth" at WBC will have agreed to give us permission to tidy up their land...!

Traffic and Speed

During December seven speed/traffic strips were distributed around the village to record the speeds/volume of traffic in the key areas identified by our recent petition to the Council. Initial feedback was received by the action group, which included Annette Drake and myself. Now we are waiting for a meeting with Highways to review the group's areas of concern.

We have discussed improving the junction at School Road/A321 to allow children to cross safely. We have also discussed village entrance signs requesting people to 'Kill their speed', along with making all roads 30mph. As with the School Road issues, WBC does not move fast and I will keep you posted on the results.

Dog fouling - School Road playing field

I have raised this issue in the last three editions. We still have a problem with dogs fouling in the play area and adjacent field used by our children. Two doggy waste bins are especially provided and paid for by the Parish Council. If this continues, the Council will have no choice but to BAN DOGS from the park. We will continue to monitor the situation and take the necessary action.

'Lollypop' person required (School Crossing patroller)

Subject to Wokingham Borough Council agreement, we are hoping to employ a 'Lollypop' person at the above-mentioned junction of the A321 and School Road. The person will be paid directly by WBC 1-1.5 hrs per day at £11.11 per hour.

Anyone interested in helping us to help our children get to school safely?

Please give Wayne Smith a call on 0118 934 0840.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

New Member of the Parish Council

We are pleased to announce that the latest member to join the parish council is Rosemary Dry who lives in the heart of the village and brings a broad range of skills to complement the Council.

We are still looking for a replacement for Mac Stephenson who stepped down in December after 15 years on the council. Mac represented the Davis Street ward for that period and we were sorry to see him leave. Anybody living in the Davis St area that would like join the parish in this area please give Wayne Smith a call on 0118 934 0840.

New Parish Clerk

We would like to thank Jane Haines who has been our Parish Clerk for the past year and welcome Maria Bradshaw to the role of Clerk. Maria comes to us with a wealth of local knowledge and will be an asset to the parish.

If you need to contact Maria, her details are as follows: Mrs Maria Bradshaw, The Office, 6 Primrose Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, RG41 5UR.

E-mail: Clerk@hurst-pc.org.uk. Tel: 0118 979 8914.

Planning Update

F/2009/0229	2 and 3 Pikes Farm Cottages, Forest Road – Approved
F/2008/2779	Warren Farm, Maidenhead Road – Refused
F/2008/2498	Ruston's Farm, Warren House Road – Refused
F/2008/2540	6 The Briars, Orchard Chase – Approved
F/2008/2381	5 Coronation Cottages, Davis Way – Approved
F/2008/2188	Little Targetts, Maidenhead Road – Refused

PLASTIC BAGS

According to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, shoppers in the UK get through 13,000 carrier bags in their lifetime. In 2008 alone, 9.9 billion carrier bags were distributed -- enough to fill 188 Olympic swimming pools. If laid end to end, they would reach to the moon and back seven times.

Whatever the statistics, plastic bags cause serious pollution of the environment.

Plastic shopping bags are made from polyethylene: a thermoplastic made from oil.

The BBC has announced that China will be banning shops from handing out free plastic bags from June this year in a bid to curb pollution. Instead, people will be encouraged to use baskets or reusable cloth bags for their shopping. Due to the ban on free plastic bags, it is estimated that China will save 37 million barrels of oil per year.

It makes you think ...

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION ...

An attractive open setting to Hurst ...

Luff Farms

In dismissing Luff Farms' appeal with respect to their planning applications to establish an equine treatment centre and a mobile home for an equine worker in the field between Lodge Road and Tape Lane, the Planning Inspector stated:

'It is part of a larger area of undeveloped land which provides an attractive open setting to Hurst and maintains the rural character of the wider area. Whilst not designated as a gap between settlements, this area of undeveloped, open land retains a particularly attractive pastoral appearance and provides visual separation between loose knit areas of housing which surround it to the north, east and south.' – S J Turner RIBA MRTPI IHBC

It is pleasing to note that these words reinforce and transcend the basis of refusing a succession of planning applications. With your continuing support, long may they continue to be acknowledged and acted upon by WBC.

Sandford Farm

Not surprisingly, WBC's refusal in December to grant outline planning approval for the development of Sandford Farm is now the subject of a planning appeal. Despite publicly veiled threats of alternative developments within Hurst as a consequence of supporting the refusal of this planning application, HVS remains undeterred in supporting this refusal.

To be clear, this pending planning appeal is not just a Woodley issue, it is a very real threat to the infrastructure, environment and community of Hurst.

In acknowledging your support and our collective successes to date, in order to influence planning outcomes we cannot afford to become complacent ... please continue with that support!

Jonathan Norris

We need your help

One of our aims is to foster communication in the village, in which the newsletter plays a vital role. However, printing costs are rising (like everything else) and it now costs well over £300 to bring out a single edition.

Our local events bring in some revenue, but most of all we rely on our membership subscriptions. So please renew your membership. It really is a vital contribution.

You will notice that we are also charging an annual fee of £15 for inclusion on the Skills Register. This is a useful directory of services offered by Hurst residents.

Last, but by no means least, we would greatly appreciate it if holders of fund-raising events would consider the Hurst Village Society when making donations.

HURST CRICKET CLUB

The season for the Cricket Club has started. The club meets every Saturday and quite a few Sundays. Anybody is welcome to come along. There are practice nets going on during the week in the evenings and teams for different age groups from 7 – 17 years.

If you would like details of how to become a member, please call Steve Rumble on 0118 978 9582 (Adults) or Christine Smith on 0118 969 0039 (Boys Juniors), or Ken Orford on 07747 842022 (Girls Juniors).

1st HURST AIR SCOUTS

1st Hurst Air Scouts will be hosting a Quiz Night on **Saturday, 9th May at 8.00pm** in aid of raising funds for a new roof. This event will take place at the Scout Headquarters and at £10.00 per ticket will include a dinner of chilli con carne. There will be a cash bar and raffle. So come and show your support for your local Scout Group and at the same time show off your general knowledge!!

Family camp will take place this year from **Friday 5th June – Sunday 7th June** at Walton Firs Camp Site.

Congratulations to all those who took part in the Three Towers Hike on 4th April. Well done!

Jane Melizan, Tel: 07951 587690
Chair, 1st Hurst Air Scouts

1ST HURST BROWNIES

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Fiona Hallett as an Assistant Guider with the Brownie Pack. She has been a warranted Brownie Guider for about fifteen years and has recently been helping 2nd Twyford pack. However, as they have three other Guiders and Fiona knows some of our Mums through activities with their respective children, she felt she would like to move over to us.

Fiona and her daughter have problems with Thursdays, so we are changing our meeting night to Mondays, 5.45 - 7.15pm. This will mean we will see the Rangers, who meet at 7.30pm, to inspire the girls to stay on with Guiding!! Hopefully, by the time you read this we will have begun to invite girls on our waiting list to join us - but be warned, it is extremely long!

For further details, please contact Mary Langdown, tel: 0118 934 5751.

At the beginning of 1946 we had been working in Belsen Concentration Camp for three months when I was given some leave. We were flown back in a bare Dakota and it was very uncomfortable.

Well, finally I arrived at Twyford Station, complete with the ridiculous gas mask and appalling tin hat. There was Mr Huggins, the Station Master who always wore a rose in his buttonhole, and we nearly fell on each other's necks. It was a lovely fine day and as I walked up the little passageway to the bridge I thought, 'This is remarkable, nothing has changed.'

I walked on down to Stanlake and it all looked beautiful. A funny thing used to happen on the hill at Stanlake. By June or July, every year there used to be a sort of plague of little, itty-bitsy frogs who would go across the hill in waves like lemmings. Sure enough, there they were, my little friends, and I thought, 'Well, this is really it. I am going back to find nothing has changed.'

But of course I was very wrong for things had changed. We had all changed and Stanlake most certainly had. Life during the 'austerity years' was difficult but we struggled on until my father's death. Stanlake was sold and we left the much-loved place to its new owners. The end of an era for me but the beginning of a new one, which has been just as happy and full of fun and laughter.

HURST PANTOMIME GROUP JACK AND THE BEANSTALK January 15th-17th 2009

The fourth Hurst pantomime was a huge success and congratulations are due to everyone involved for their hard work and great performances.

The cast provided a high standard of acting and singing, and the inclusion of so many children, especially boys, was a bonus. Director, Kathy Reid, and Assistant Director/ Choreographer, Deborah Heath, did a marvellous job getting the best out of every cast member. The songs were well chosen by the Musical Director, Steve Randall, with 'Walking in the Air', 'Yesterday' and 'Hello Daisy' deserving particular mention. It was also lovely to have a live harpist playing.

Of course the work onstage was supported by a dedicated back stage and front of house crew. Many thanks are due to everyone who turned out to transform the village hall into a theatre and who helped in any capacity during the week of the show. Scenery, props (especially the superb Giant's Head), sound and lighting effects, beautiful costumes, hair and makeup all contributed to a memorable production.

In total, a record-breaking £4000 was raised, which has been dispersed among the following charities: Help for Heroes, Cancer Research UK, Hurst Village Halls, St Nicholas C of E Primary School, 1st Hurst Air Scouts, St Nicholas Church, Hurst Horticultural Society, Park United Reform Church.

Please visit www.hurstpanto.org.uk for full credits.

Effie Barker recalls Stanlake

Excerpts from a talk given by Miss Barker in 1978 and reproduced with the kind permission of the Twyford & Ruscombe Local History Society

My very first memories of Twyford were its smells; the burning hooves at Mr Bill Burton's smithy; the waxed leather thread at Mr Seymour's saddlery and harness-maker's shop; the cough mixture at Mr Brooker's that seemed to pervade the whole village street and last, but not least, I remember the things called 'gob stoppers' from Miss Trewin, who had a shop which could produce anything from an elephant to a pin.

Stanlake really lived on and for horses. There were horses of all shapes, sizes and descriptions. I remember Mr Saunders, the butcher, had a marvellous cob. Well, I got into the most awful trouble one day because while Mr Saunders was inside delivering the meat, I unhitched the pony from the cart and got on its back and it promptly ran away with me – back to Twyford.

The greatest childhood excitement was when the lake froze. Everybody came and the lake was black with people. We had a lovely time with roasted potatoes and everything. But the great thing was on the 'melt' day, when Father would organise an ice hockey match because he loved to see the first person go splash in the lake. It was perfectly safe, of course, as it was only two feet deep – but it was great, great fun.

The excitement of the entertainments in Twyford was intense – particularly those at the Assembly Rooms which smelt of cheese or drains. There was an orchestra, with Mrs Young playing the piano. The local policemen were also great friends. They had lovely belts with large lamps on them.

About this time – the mid-'Thirties – Stanlake was in its heyday. There was lots of entertaining and games

Then came the 'phoney' war and the arrival of the evacuees. One famous morning we went to Twyford Station with the wagon and horses to meet the evacuees allocated to Stanlake. The whole idea was that we were going to prevent them from being bombed to death, but of course they were just *bored* to death.

I then joined the Land Army. Oh, those breeches ... and that hat! I had the job of running a market garden at Woodley Aerodrome.

As for the Home Guard – you know 'Dad's Army' on television, don't you? Well, we were the original Dad's Army. Do you remember in 'Dad's Army' when they thought there was a German paratrooper coming down and it was only a swan? Well, that actually happened here.

Well, that was really the beginning of the end for Stanlake. The war split the family up. My brothers were away at the war. I joined the Red Cross and went to Europe with a unit known as the Civilian Relief Unit, attached directly to the Army, to help with some of the unpleasant things that they knew were going.

Continued on next page

HURST ROMANS YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

2009 update

Home of Football in Hurst

We have such an exciting year ahead of us in 2009 both on and off the field.

Many of you will have no doubt noticed the new sign in Hinton Road marking the new home of football in Hurst. There has been a Football team in Hurst village for over 100 years and the same piece of land was used for matches for many years in the heart of the Village. In fact, some residents can recall their fathers playing on Stow Bridge Field in Hinton Road. Hurst Football Club continues today with two senior teams and ten junior teams but matches have long ceased in Hinton Road. We are determined to return with your support and our fundraising events this year will be focused on raising money for this fantastic new opportunity.

For more details about our forthcoming exciting events, please see **Auction of Promises** on 9th May 2009 on page 2 and **Party in the Park** on 4th July 2009 on page 5. For tickets, please contact Tim Drake on 0118 934 5676, Ruth Graesser on 07917 650025 or Deborah Wyatt on 0118 989 2655.

Join HURST ROMANS FC

From Sunday, March 8th weekly, we start training for the **Year 1** and **Foundation** stage pupils with a view to forming next seasons Under 7s team in the Berkshire Youth Development League.

This will be held at **St Nicholas School** field between 10am and 11am. It's free and it's about having fun and learning some elementary skills. Please stay with your child to help with any initial doubts they may have about this fun activity.

For more information, contact either Jez Young, 0118 934 4663 (William and Thomas, Year 1) or Tim Drake, 0118 934 5676 (Louis, Year 6).

RESULTS! RESULTS! RESULTS!

We have had so many great results across our teams – too many to mention. Check out all the results on our website: www.hurstfc.org.uk.

As usual, we want to thank all the marvellous coaches, managers and parents who give so much time to help the children and the club become even more successful.

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our summer events.

Hurst Romans Football Committee

<http://www.hurstfc.org.uk/>

A team is a team is a team. Shakespeare said that many times.

Dan Devine, football coach

HURST BOWLING CLUB

Hurst Bowling Club is a small but friendly community of people who share a love of the game, the ambiance and great setting of this historic location (founded 1747). Our membership ranges from a 14 year old to two members approaching 89 who still play regularly (one did not start until he was 83).

Open Day

Tuesday, 12th May 2009 5.30pm onwards

We normally have a specific open day in May, but we are always happy to welcome anyone who wants to come for a taster session and see what the game is all about. All you need to do is come in flat bottomed footwear as we have all the equipment, including spare sets of bowls (called woods in the jargon of the game).

To ensure that someone is there to meet you, please contact Suzanne Hill (Secretary) on 01344 625 828 or Anthony Boddrell (Captain) on 01344 869 264.

Club matches are normally played on Wednesday evening and Saturday and Sunday afternoons, so we could not accommodate visitors at those times. However, there is plenty of seating available should you want to come and watch when we have a home game.

Please visit our website on <http://www.hurstbowlingclub.org.uk/> for more details about the club.

DINTON PASTURES COUNTRY PARK

International Dawn Chorus Day

Sunday 10th May 2009 5.00am

Get up with the lark and come and hear the dawn chorus with the Wokingham and Bracknell RSPB. Meet at Dinton Pastures main car park at 5.00am. £1.

Breakfast available at café afterwards from 7.30am onwards. Please pre-book on 0118 934 2016.

Friends of Lavell's Lake Bird Walk

Sunday, 10th May 2009 9.00am – 12.00 noon

Morning stroll around Lavell's Reserve. Meet at Sandford Lane car park.

Members free, non-members £1.

Star Gazing Talk

Saturday 23rd May 2009 7.00pm

Are you fascinated with the night sky? Reading Astronomical Society holds a regular series of free informal beginners' talks in the Loddon Room. For more information, contact Gerry Bond on 0118 986 4032.

Nomination for Membership of the General Committee 2009 – 2010

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 fund-raising events such as Archery at the Hurst Horse Show. The HVS produces a Newsletter which is usually published three 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 up to 15 members, who elect their officers including: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Social Secretary. Other responsibilities include Planning, Environment 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 2009 – 2010

Nominee	Proposed by
Name	Name
Address	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.

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 2009. 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

SKILLS REGISTER

Accountant **Maria Land** ACMA Cadomin, Wards Cross 0118 934 1131
(CIMA)

Small business accounts, sole traders, partnerships,
small-medium limited companies, payrolls, self-assessments.
We have a diverse range of clients from builders to hairdressers.

Builder **Martin May** Pound Cottage, 01344 306 214
Forest Road, 07956 412086

Reliable, experienced local builder. Extension, loft and garage
conversions, carpentry, uPVC windows, insurance work undertaken.
Free estimates, testimonials available.

Building contractor **Glyn Crocombe** Furze Covert, 0118 932 0245
Dunt Lane 07957 303658
sandkconstruction@hotmail.co.uk

General building works, extensions
and alterations, painting and decorating.

Catering **Penny Curry** 1 Tape Lane 0118 934 0866
pennycurry3@msn.com

Dinner parties, canapés, desserts and buffets.

Counsellor **Rosemary Sturmer** Rosslare 0118 934 1149
Davis Street 07950 762875

Member of British Association of Counselling
& Psychotherapy and Association of Christian Counsellors

Blue Flame Dance **Ruth Noble** Folly Cottage, 0118 934 1200
Dunt Avenue 07834 900451

Dance Teacher. Group or private
lessons. Street Dance, Tap, Jazz,
Modern. Adults / Children.
Birthday parties available

Garden Care **Jonathan Lane** Toad, 0118 934 0654
Hinton Road 07966 627883

Independent Mortgage & Life Insurance Adviser	Nigel Osgood	Old Place, Lodge Road	0118 903 4119 07768 277413
No brokerage fee charged. Software containing every mortgage product of every lender, which is updated daily.			
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.			
Residential Letting and Property Management	Janet Walsh	7 Martineau Lane www.huntersproperty.co.uk	0118 932 1349
Secretarial services	Carol Sheasby	8 Almshouses, Church Hill carol.sheasby@btinternet.com	0118 932 1647
Correspondence, filing, minutes, editing and proof-reading.			
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.			
T & S Support Service	Tracey Williams	West Hope, Wards Cross gtmanning@btinternet.com	07786 931060
	Shelagh Robinson	shelaghrobinson@btinternet.com	07525 211568
Care and support to people in their own homes. 25 years' experience with all client groups: elderly, dementia, mental health problems, learning disabilities. Transport for appointments, shopping trips, etc.			

Toastmaster, Master of Ceremonies & Auctioneer	Roy Austin	Acre Wood, 2 School Road roy.toastmaster@yahoo.co.uk www.britishtoastmaster.com	0118 934 4422 07961 144548
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	07981 794268
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@bdksoil.co.uk www.yeswhere.co.uk	0118 934 2852
Hosting, e-mail forwarding, domain name management.			

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SKILLS 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 in our popular newsletter which goes out three times a year.

Please note that subscriptions are now due if you wish to be included in the next edition of the HVS newsletter.

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 DINNER DANCE

Saturday, 12th December 2009

Due to feedback from last year, we have decided to hold the event one week closer to Christmas on Saturday, 12th December 2009.

We are planning an event even better than before, so make a note of the date. You can even reserve your tickets in advance at £5 deposit. Please contact Jennie Roxburgh-Smith on 0118 934 0840.