

Hurst Village Society Committee Members

Val Bowman	Little Farm, Hogmoor Lane vbowman51@aol.com	0118 932 1420	
Liz Chaderton	2 Laburnum Cottages Lodge Road liz@chaderton.com	0118 934 3127	
Eddie Coe	4 Lodge Road eddiecoe@talk21.com	0118 934 5103	Membership
Liz Cossey	Lea Farm, Lodge Road lcossey@chocolates-for-chocoholics.co.uk	0118 932 1043	Entertainment
David Fraser	1 Aylesford Villas davidfraser4@sky.com	0118 934 9301	
Maria Land	Cadomin, Wards Cross maria.land@virgin.net	0118 934 1131	
Jonathan Norris	36 Martineau Lane jcnorris@btinternet.com	0118 932 1133	Planning
Gisela Sharpe	48 Martineau Lane gissharpe@btconnect.com	0118 934 3334	Treasurer
Carol Sheasby	8 Almshouses, Church Hill carolsheasby@hotmail.co.uk	0118 932 1647	Editor & Secretary
Wayne Smith	Woodville, Wokingham Road wayne.smith@britishgas.co.uk	0118 934 0840	Chairman & Skills Register
Ex-officio: Annette Drake	Walden Acres, Wokingham Rd anndrk@dsl.pipex.com	0118 934 1036	WBC Councillor

Chair: Wayne Smith, Woodville, Wokingham Road, Hurst, RG10 0RU
Published by the Hurst Village Society
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. 112

www.hvs.org.uk

February 2010

TURNING POINT FOR HURST

Development of Sandford Farm has been granted outline planning permission. This will mean over 600 dwellings being built to the west of Hurst. In addition, consultation is now taking place regarding the North Wokingham urban development opposite Cantley Park. This entails the building of 1,500 dwellings and the creation of a major junction on the crossroads of Forest Road and A321.

There will potentially be 2,000 new houses on either side of the village.

Building work at Cantley Park will probably start in March 2011 – in about a year's time. Crucially, we are at the centre point for through traffic from both the Sandford Farm development and the North Wokingham development.

Hurst could end up by being little more than a through road and we will lose all of the spirit and character of the village.

Have your say

The Hurst Parish Council and Hurst Village Society are watching the situation at Cantley Park closely and will send their comments to the Wokingham Borough Council. But we need your help as well. For further details, see inside. We really value your support.

Numbers count!

HVS Annual General Meeting

Friday, 30th April 2010, 7.30pm

New format and fantastic venue for the Annual General Meeting this year! We shall be meeting at Stanlake Park and after the meeting, there will be a wine-tasting session. See page 5 for full details.

Village Spring Clean Up

Saturday, 27th March 2010

Starting 9.00am, from the village hall car park

Skips will be made available for the event along with safety tabards, litter pickers and rubbish sacks. For those of you who are not available but would like to help, you can do so by cleaning up your own road/lane etc. Please let me know beforehand and we can provide you with sacks and collect the rubbish on the day.

For more information, contact Wayne Smith on 0118 934 0840.

SANDFORD FARM

Inspector Recommends Approval

Loddon Valley Action Group report as follows.

The Planning Inspector has recommended to the Secretary of State that outline planning permission be granted for the development of Sandford Farm.

We now await the Secretary of State's decision on or before 31st March 2010, pending agreement of a Section 106 Condition between the developer and Wokingham Borough Council. However, as the Secretary of State is 'minded to agree with the Inspector', it is almost inevitable that outline planning permission will be granted to excavate the landfill site and build over 500 urban-style residences in this rural location.

Dangers in excavating toxic waste

The Loddon Valley Action Group are extremely disappointed that grave concerns regarding the excavation of toxic waste and its processing, by unproven methods and so close to homes, hardly merit a mention in the Inspector's report. LVAG gave evidence that the amount of waste infill to be excavated and 'sorted' on site is **three** times the quantity reported by the developer and accepted by WBC. In other words, rather than the proposed four-year scheme, residents would have to endure the process for more than 12 years. The alternative would be to 'speed up' the remediation, which would impose greater environmental health and safety risks. Clearly, the developer will be motivated by cost savings and a faster return on investment.

LVAG approached WBC to ask who would be liable for any shortcomings in the remediation of the land (in particular the health and safety of the public during and after the remediation). Their response was that it is the developer who has a duty of care in the implementation of the development. As the developer and current landowner are both registered outside the legal jurisdiction of the UK, it is amazing that WBC have not insisted on a bond or insurance scheme to cover the risks of environmental disaster or the site being left part-remediated.

What happens next?

LVAG have written to the Secretary of State reiterating the public's extreme concern that the planning process has not been adequately addressed.

In anticipation of the Secretary of State allowing the Appeal and granting outline planning consent, LVAG will continue to engage with local communities and remain fully involved in the planning process via contact with the Environment Agency and WBC.

The HVS are actively liaising with LVAG and will continue to support them in the campaign against the development of Sandford Farm. It is important that we all continue to register our concerns with WBC Councillors, Parish Councils, MPs, and the Environment Agency.

Quick guide to what's inside

Brownies, Girl Guides, Air Scouts	16	Skills Register	11
Church Services	22, 23	Snow News	6
Environment	10, 15	Sports Clubs	17
Hurst Village Society	5	View from Shute End	21
Parish Council News	19	Village News	8
Police Report	18	What's On	9

SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS, HURST

First Sunday of the month

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Eucharist and
Sunday Club

Third Sunday of the month

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Praise

Second Sunday of the month

11.00am Family Eucharist and
Sunday Club

Fourth Sunday of the month

11.00am Family Eucharist and
Sunday Club

Sunday, 21st February The First Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Praise

Sunday, 14th March Mothering Sunday

11.00am Family Eucharist for all ages

Sunday, 28th March Palm Sunday

11.00am Family Eucharist and Procession of Palms

Friday, 2nd April Good Friday

3.00pm One Hour before the Cross

Sunday, 4th April Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Eucharist

Sunday, 23rd May Pentecost

11.00pm Family Eucharist

Sunday, 30th May Trinity Sunday

11.00pm Family Eucharist

For 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.

St Nicholas Hurst Youth Club

The church has started a Youth Club for youngsters in school years 7-9. It has been running over the last year and is now open to new members from Hurst.

Each evening there is an organised activity and also plenty of time for informal table tennis, snooker and other games. There is also a popular tuck shop.

This year's programme includes:

Car Jump + Hotdogs, Pictionary Evening, Easter Egg Hunt with a Difference, Quiz Evening, Tournament Night, and a BBQ with 'Its A Knockout'.

We meet monthly on a **Friday evening** from **7 – 8.30pm** at the **Scout Headquarters**. The cost is £2 per evening. The next meeting is **26th February** followed by **26th March**.

If you are interested, please contact Janet Spiller for a registration form:
janetspiller16@aol.com or 0118 934 2438

HURST GOSPEL HALL

Our regular activities for February and March continue as follows.

Mondays J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) for children 5 years upwards.

Quizzes, singing, Bible Stories and lots of fun and games. 6.15–7.15pm during term time.

Tuesday evening is our Bible Study and Prayer evening. From 7.45pm.

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

For more details, please contact Mrs Norah Thomas on 01189 667 239.

Fridays Mother and Toddler Group from 10.00 – 11.30am.

We have a good number of parents and children attending this group regularly. All seem to thoroughly enjoy it. Come and see for yourself. We only operate this group during term time.

Sundays

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

On the third Sunday each month (**21st February, 21st March**), this is replaced by CAMEO at 5.00pm. We begin with a time to chat, then we have tea, some hymn singing and a Bible talk.

Sunday, 25th March

Although this is not Easter Sunday, we plan to have an Easter special at 10.00am.

This is for all ages and we would be delighted to see you

Looking forward in the year

We plan to have special meetings and events from **16th – 26th May**.

There will be things on each day, the object being to show why the message of the Bible is so important, exciting and personal. More details to follow.

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>

Christian Aid

St Nicholas Church Sunday, 9th May 12.30pm

Along with the usual house to house collection, this year St Nicholas Church will be holding a fund raising event to raise further funds for the fantastic work that Christian Aid undertakes in many parts of the world.

On **Sunday, 9th May** at 12.30 after our usual morning service, we will be holding an event in the grounds of the church, which will consist of opportunities for lunch (hot dogs and soup), a glass of wine, buying homemade cakes and a book stall (and probably more besides). Please do support this event for this very worthy cause.

The Castle

The sub-tenants of The Castle in Church Hill vacated the building at the end of the year. They will be missed by many in the village who appreciated The Castle's good food and warm welcome. The trustees are advertising for a new company to take over the tenancy but, in the meantime, Greene King will continue to care for the buildings and is expected to reopen for service shortly.

North Wokingham Development opposite Cantley Park

The future of Hurst

Wokingham is facing a major expansion as plans for four extended communities are finalised. Thousands of new homes will be built in four key locations: north of Wokingham (1,500), south of Wokingham (2,500), Arborfield Garrison (3,500) and south of the M4 (2,500).

In north Wokingham, the 1,500 dwellings will be built on a site opposite Cantley Park. This development will have a huge impact on Hurst.

Outline planning has already been granted for the site to be developed. However, formal consultation is taking place from 9th February to 23rd March to decide how all the sites will evolve. Once the consultation closes on 23rd March, all comments received will be carefully evaluated by council planners who will then draw up the final plans for consideration by the council's decision-making executive on 27th May.

What will this mean for Hurst?

The concern for us is how the volume of traffic will affect Hurst. 1,500 properties in north Wokingham will mean an increase in traffic of up to 4,800 extra vehicles on the roads coming from the new development. Add this to the increased number of vehicles from the Sandford Farm development of over 500 houses. We leave you to imagine the picture. The plans show a proposed relief road with a roundabout on Forest Road and A321, the **Ashridge Interchange**.

Broadly speaking, for vehicles going from Wokingham towards Reading, at present it is possible to take the A329 or to go through Hurst and Twyford via the A321 to the A4. With the proposed roundabout on the Forest Road, there is no road west towards Reading. Vehicles coming from the new development would be faced with the prospect of turning east, going all the way along to the Coppid Beech roundabout and then doubling back onto the motorway. Is this likely to happen? For people working in Reading, the obvious choice would be to go through Hurst and Twyford or the A321, Church Hill and Sandford Lane.

Have your say

The Hurst Parish Council and the Hurst Village Society are working very closely as to how we respond to this. But it is not enough for just the Hurst PC and the HVS to respond. We need your help. If you would like to add your voice to ours:

- 1) Go to the Wokingham website www.wokingham.gov.uk to see the plans for the development.
- 2) Send your comments to:
Chris Lancaster, Development Management, Wokingham Borough Council,
Council Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, RG40 1WL
or by email to: spd@wokingham.gov.uk
- 3) Also please send copies to us, as we need to know the numbers when we formulate our own official response.
 - Hurst Village Society, website www.hvs.org.uk; and
 - Mrs Maria Bradshaw, Clerk of the Parish Council, The Office, 9 Primrose Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, RG41 5UR, or e-mail to: Clerk@hurst-pc.org.uk

NB The consultation closes at 5pm on 23rd March 2010.

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 2010. 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

THE VIEW FROM SHUTE END

The Design Supplementary Planning Document [SPD]

The SPD will ensure designs of high quality for new residential development in the Borough until 2026.

The Core Strategy

Comments on the four sites chosen for development between now and 2026 will be received until 23rd March 2010. I hope that everyone affected by the proposed changes will comment.

The link to the Community Development Consultation is: www.wokingham.gov.uk/council/news-events/latest-news/community-development-consultation

The maps are exhibited at the Council, the Libraries and on the Internet.

Hurst will be affected by the proposals for North Wokingham. These include a Northern Relief Road. This road will give western access from the A329 at Ashridge via Bell Foundry Lane through to Coppid Beech roundabout towards Bracknell. The Ministry of Transport did not allow other accesses due to the proximity of the A329 to the M4.

The principle underpinning of the Core Strategy is that the majority of new development to 2026 will be located in four Strategic Development locations. This is in order to safeguard existing residential areas, which have suffered from a significant amount of piecemeal back garden development placing a strain on local infrastructure whilst contributing little to improve it. This approach will also protect most of the countryside and ensure that the development provides for high levels of infrastructure.

Problems experienced by the adverse weather

A few facts!

To have kept all the roads in the borough clear during the recent severe weather would have cost an estimated £2.3million.

To have kept all the pavements and walk-ways clear during the recent severe weather would have cost an estimated £1.5million.

To have kept all the car parks clear would have cost an estimated £750,000.

More than 2,000 tonnes of grit/salt were used.

200 miles of road were covered at each gritting across the borough.

Total estimated cost to the taxpayer if these had been done is at least £5million, which equates to a **council tax increase of 7 per cent !!**

Please let me know if you require help with Borough Council issues. I am at home for you all on most Saturday mornings from 10am -12 noon.

My telephone number at home 0118 934 1036

Annette Drake

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst. RG10 ORU

Nomination for Membership of the General Committee 2010 – 2011

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 organises the annual Dinner Dance, works with the Parish and District Councils to protect the character of the village, and organises fund-raising events for the Society. The HVS also 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 all the major events and activities of the village.

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 2010 – 2011

Nominee		Proposed by	
Name	Name	Name	Name
Address	Address	Address	Address
.....
.....
Telephone	Telephone	Telephone	Telephone
E-mail	E-mail	E-mail	E-mail

HVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 30th April 2010, 7.30pm

Stanlake Park Cellar Shop

We have decided this year to meet at the picturesque venue of Stanlake Park. The meeting will be held in the Cellar Shop and should take no more than half an hour. Afterwards, we shall be able to discuss matters further in the cordial atmosphere of a wine-tasting session, courtesy of the HVS. There will be a selection of Stanlake's delicious dry, white and rosé wines, together with lovely cheeses, biscuits and crisps. For catering purposes, please let us know by **Monday, 19th April**, if you wish to attend the meeting. Contact Carol Sheasby, by telephone 0118 932 1647 or e-mail carolsheasby@hotmail.co.uk.

Join the committee

We are actively seeking new people to help take the Society forward.

The committee meets approximately every six weeks and our meetings run from 7.30 to 9.30pm. We usually meet on a Thursday evening.

If you would like to volunteer or nominate someone to join the committee, you will find a nomination form on page 20.

Renew your membership

This is a crucial time when we need the support of our members. The Hurst Village Society was formed over 30 years ago and has successfully campaigned to keep Hurst as rural as possible.

We now face a real threat to the character of our village life. Traffic is already a grave problem and it looks set to increase even more in the future. We have to take all possible steps to manage the approaches to the village. Plans by WBC have still to be finalised. Now is the time when we can make our views felt! So join the Village Society and play a part in this vital process. See application form on the opposite page.

HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY NEWS

Dinner Dance

Thanks for all your feedback, another successful night last December. This year, we tried a new cocktail, using The Castle to provide the food and an external wine expert to run the bar. Along with Maria Land and Liz Cossey leading the team of waitresses, thanks to everyone who helped make this event one of the best ever. Tickets for this year's event will go on sale in the summer – watch out for details in the next edition.

Donation by the Parish Council

Thank you to the Parish Council for the generous donation of £50 towards the cost of the Newsletter. This welcome contribution to our funds is much appreciated.

Advent Fair

The HVS ran the Bran Tub as usual. It was a lot of fun and we were able to give £19.50 to St Nicholas Church



SNOW NEWS . . .



Six inches of snow fell in Berkshire on 6th January, the second time after heavy falls in mid-December. Schools across the region were closed and bus services suspended. Driving conditions were impossible and roads were quiet as people stayed at home.

Townsend Pond remained frozen for a record three weeks. Despite the warning by Wokingham Borough Council for people to stay off ponds, the pond acquired a new resident. But even he looked very cold!!

In the village play area, children played in the snow and on Church Hill, parents took their children tobogganing down the normally busy road.



The bad weather brought an unexpected bonus for our local shops as it was impossible to go further afield. The Village Store was crowded with people stocking up. In the Green Man, there was a party atmosphere as local families came in to warm up in front of the roaring fires, after having fun in the snow.

It was also a heart-warming time when people watched out for their neighbours, fetching supplies for elderly people unable to venture forth and shovelling snow from pathways.

Everyone will have a tale to tell about their experiences in the snowy weather. One villager fell victim to the chaos on Church Road, Caversham, and had to abandon his car, only recovering it three days later. An elderly resident sustained a broken wrist and ankle after slipping on the ice. The fence in front of Church Cottages was smashed when a 4X4 vehicle simply slid into it.

Another resident was coming up Broadcommon Lane when she was confronted by a large car with an even larger trailer. In trying to edge out of the way, she ended up in the ditch. Fortunately, the other driver was able to help. 'If you hold on, love, I'll go and fetch my mate and we'll get you out.' So after much pulling and shoving, she was able to go on her way.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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

St Nicholas Night Celebrations

There was a record turnout. Over 350 villagers turned out to support our annual event. 150 mince pies, 100+ sausage rolls, 250 glasses of mulled wine, and 250 kids goodie bags later ... !

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Green Man for the mulled wine, Waitrose for the mince pies, Chocoholics for the children's goodie bags, Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band for providing the wonderful festive music, Hurst Cricket Club for parking facilities and Terry Bovis for the use of the marquees. Without all their support, the event could not have taken place.

Traffic

Entrance gates to the village

I'm afraid to say there's still no progress. It's a similar story to the situation we had with the pond/improvements around the park—we just cannot get any action or commitment from Wokingham Borough Council. Hopefully, I can report good news by the time we print the next edition!!!

Planning Update

F/2009/2690	The Cottage, Green Lane, Hurst - Approved
CLE/2009/2669	The Old Rose Garden, Orchard Road - Refused
F/2009/2611	Fox & Hounds, Forest Road - Approved
F/2009/2642	Targetts Farm, Maidenhead Road - Approved
F/2009/2548	Concorde Garage, Forest Road - Refused
F/2009/2341	Hatch Gate, Farm House, Lines Road - Refused
F/2009/2411	Eastwood, Wokingham Road - Approved

New Councillors

I would like to welcome Ian Smith and Margaret Face, who joined the team in January. They will both bring a broad variety of skills to complement our existing group.

School Road

Work is still on track to start in March with keep fit equipment for all (similar to that at Bearwood Park, Sindlesham) along with four new pieces for the 8 - 13year olds.

Could I please ask residents to be extra vigilant regarding home security.

If you are going out for the evening, take steps to make your home look occupied. Leave a light and radio on. Have you thought about using internal security timer switches? The neighbourhood team have increased patrols in the area and would urge local residents to report any suspicious activities.

Anyone with information about robbery or any other crime should call the Wokingham neighbourhood policing team, via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on **0845 8 505 505**.

PCSO Anne Chalmers

POLICE REPORT

December and January were a busy period for the neighbourhood team, especially as the snow caused some problems. But, as normal, the team worked well together to get around the issues of the snow and ice.

We would like to welcome PC Sarah Bartlett on her Neighbourhood Attachment with us before she joins the response team at Loddon Valley in February.

Incidents in the village

Thames Valley Police officers have arrested a man on suspicion of robbery at Hurst Village Store on Thursday, 28th January. A 34-year-old man from Reading was arrested at 5.30pm on 28th January. He was released on police bail until 26th February.

There was an attempted burglary at Hurst Village Hall. I am pleased to report that nothing was stolen. Working with the Village Hall Caretaker, PCSO Chalmers made an initial building security assessment.

A resident of Hurst came across two men in his bedroom. When discovered, the males ran off empty handed.

Hypodermic needles have been found to the rear of School Road play area in Hurst.

We continue to work with residents and Wokingham Borough Council community wardens to resolve these isolated incidents. We will, of course, continue to maintain high visibility patrols in the area.

Empty Car Campaign

We've also had reports of a theft from a motor vehicle parked in Hurst Village Hall car park. Theft from vehicles is becoming an issue of concern across the Wokingham area. The neighbourhood team are now involved in the Empty Car Campaign. Parked vehicles are being checked and if items are left displayed, the vehicle's details are taken down and the registered owner of the vehicle written to and given some advice. If members of the public see any suspicious activity around a vehicle, such as a person checking if doors are open or looking into car windows, please contact the police immediately.

School Parking

Welcome back to school after an extended snowy Christmas holiday. PCSO Anne Chalmers continues to monitor school parking in Hurst. I'd like to thank all parents for parking respectfully during these busy, cold, possibly slippery times. However, please take care when parking and ensure that you take your personal property with you.

PCSO Anne Chalmers and PCSO Jackie Daniels held a Police Street Briefing in the Hurst Village Hall Car Park. We fully appreciate that at this time of year, residents may not want to stand out in the cold. I'm currently working to establish a regular inside venue for our police meetings. The dates, times and location of these meetings will be published on our web page. Please come along and meet us – I'll bring the biscuits.

PCSO Anne Chalmers



The aftermath

After the initial thrill at the transformed landscape, day after day followed when there was only a dead white world – rather like a padded cell.

Refuse collections were suspended because of the heavy snow and employees were diverted to help move the snow. Borough Council gritters concentrated on gritting the primary networks, but Hurst remained snowbound.

The melting snow brought new problems. It melted quickly into the fields but in built up areas, it took much longer and ice remained piled up on pavements. Heavy rain on the following Saturday, 9th January, caused flooding in low-lying areas. Sandford Lane and the ford at Lands End were closed. Other roads in the village became large puddles.

If you have some pictures of our village in the snow, why don't you send them to the HVS website? It will make such a good record of how the year 2010 began in Hurst – and the pictures will be in colour! Go to the HVS website www.hvs.org.uk and click on 'Pictures' then 'Around the Village', where you will find the link to contact Duncan Kendall.

Hurst World War Memorial

Local History Project

Over the last few years, Hurst resident, John Terry, spent a huge amount of time researching the lives of the men named on our Village War Memorial at St Nicholas church. Despite his deteriorating health, John compiled a magnificent collection of biographies of the forty local men from the Great War named on the memorial, as well as details of a further sixty men who fought in the conflict. Their stories graphically illustrate the heroism and horror of the First World War and provide a fascinating insight into many of the major campaigns.

With the help of Duncan Kendall, this research has been published on a web site www.warmemorial.org.uk in memory of the soldiers from Hurst who gave their lives.

Looking for a volunteer

We are now looking for a volunteer to research into the soldiers, sailors and airmen who died in the Second World War. A few details are known, but much is left to discover. The only qualifications you need are time, persistence and an inquiring mind. What is guaranteed is a fascinating treasure hunt into our recent past with unexpected results and the risk of serious addiction.

If you would like to take up this challenge, then please contact Duncan, either via the web site www.warmemorial.org.uk or by phone on 0118 934 2852.

*** VILLAGE NEWS ***

Shock robbery at Hurst Village Store

Jit and Debbie Sandhu have suffered a second robbery in a year at the Village Store. On Thursday, 28th January, whilst they were bringing in the newspapers about 4.30am, two men in balaclavas wielding hammers attacked them both. Jit was hit on the back of the head and had to go to Royal Berkshire Hospital. Later that day, a man was arrested in Twyford and released on bail until 26th February. Debbie and Jit have been overwhelmed by all the cards and flowers they received. They would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support. Although they were shaken by the vicious attack, the good news is that they will carry on as normal, providing the village with their friendly and splendid service.

Break-in Concerns

There has been a spate of burglaries recently. Houses in Orchard Road and Barber Close were broken into. The incident in Barber Close occurred in the middle of the day, when a large amount of items were stolen. Cars have been broken into in School Road and the Village Hall car park.

HVS and the Hurst Parish Council are both very concerned about the increase in such incidents. The Parish Council is working with the local police to set up regular surgeries for people to drop in and discuss issues with the local police officers. Please contact PCSO Anne Charmers if you are interested in setting up local neighbour watch schemes.

HVS can also help by facilitating the circulation of emails to the village. If you are an HVS member, you can send your e-mail to the HVS website. This will get the information out quickly and to a wide circulation.

HURST HORSE SHOW AND COUNTRY FAIR

26th and 27th June 2010

Work is well under way to make this year's Hurst Horse Show and Country Fair an even better bumper weekend of family fun than in previous years.

The dates for your diaries are **26th and 27th June**. The show will be at its familiar home on the fields in School Road.

Last year's show raised thousands of pounds for village good causes.

This was all possible because hundreds of village people helped organise the show. 'We will be asking everyone to give a hand again,' said show chairman, Duncan Kendall. 'Hurst people are known for getting stuck in, to create a lot of fun and also to fundraise.'

'We are already looking for someone to fill a new role, which would make the whole show run more smoothly. We need someone to organise the car park and car parking. He or she would have lots of back up. If you could help, please ring me on 0118 934 2852.'

Keep an eye on the show website hursthorseshow.org.uk, Facebook and Twitter for news of this year's attractions and how you can help.

HURST ROMANS FOOTBALL CLUB

After a very snowy start to the new year, with many matches across all age groups being postponed, the season is finally back in business! We are looking forward to an exciting season with our new sponsor, the Haweli Restaurant in Twyford.

If you don't already support our teams on the pitch, please join us at a couple of our fundraising events throughout the year:

- **FOOTBALL CLUB QUIZ NIGHT** at the Elephant and Castle.
6th March from 7.30pm. £2 per head, teams of 2-6.
Prize money is: 1st prize – half the takings; 2nd prize – 30% of takings; 3rd prize – 20% of takings.
- The 2010 **PARTY IN THE PARK!** Traditionally held the weekend after the Horse Show, this event continues to grow ever more successful each year. Remember to bookmark the date in your diary for a great evening of music and dancing.

The committee is always keen to welcome new members to ensure both the continual growth on the junior side, but also help to plan the fundraising for our club home in Hinton Road. For full details see our website: <http://www.hurstfc.org.uk>

HURST CRICKET CLUB

Hurst Cricket Club Colts start their out-net coaching at the club after Easter and welcome any new members. Please contact Tim Manser for further information on 0118 962 8538 / 07866531203 or t.manser@ntlworld.com.

Monday night: U15s 6.30 - 8.00 pm.

Tuesday night: U13s 6.30 - 8.00pm.

Wednesday night: U9s 5.30 - 6.45pm and U11s 6.45 - 8.00pm.

Thursday night U17s and adults from 6.30.

Also, the club is available to hire for private functions (approx 50 adults max) with or without a bar or for children's parties. Please contact Steve Rumble on 0118 978 9582.

HURST BOWLING CLUB

The Club is looking forward to the longer evenings, higher temperatures and the opening of the green at the end of April. Over the winter we have acquired, through the generosity of the Prudential, many new items of playing equipment including jacks, delivery mats, scoreboards and bowls gatherers.

New members are welcome, especially ladies as there is something of an imbalance at present. If you would like to try the game, with no obligation, please come to a Club Night at the green behind The Castle in Church Road any Tuesday evening after 6pm. All you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes (for example, tennis shoes). Any member there will be happy to show you the ropes or guide you to someone who can.

Any queries, please contact Suzanne Hill (Secretary) on 01344 625 828 or Anthony Boddrell (Captain) on 01344 869 264. For more details about the club, visit our website on <http://www.hurstbowlingclub.org.uk/>

HURST BROWNIES

For the Girl Guide Centenary, the Brownies are currently working on the Adventure 100 badge. As part of that, next month we are going on a train and boat trip from Henley. The Brownies have also just finished the Science Investigator badge, which we started last term. This included a trip to the Discovery Centre at Bracknell. We are now working on our World Culture badge.

We are always looking for helpers. You don't need any experience or even have a Guiding connection – just enjoy helping the girls, having fun, and maybe learning a few new things.

Fiona Hallett (Dolphin) 0118 901 7891 or mhalle@globalnet.co.uk.

HURST GUIDES

We are trying to do adventurous activities to celebrate the Centenary of Guiding. Last November, we went on the ferris wheel at Windsor and everyone had a great time.

So far this term, we have been helping some Guides complete their Baden Powell Challenge Award and have been listening to what they have done so far. We have taken part in a patrol cooking competition and a Chinese New Year evening, organised by one of our Guides to complete this badge.

After half term, we intend to have a French evening, to make and fly kites, and to do some traditional outdoor cooking. We may also go swimming.

The last meeting in March should be very special, as we plan to have some presentations. Also there are plans afoot to make this a really memorable evening with ... But that would be telling, as we want the evening to be a real surprise for everyone. Some girls will be attending a district centenary camp and also a festive day at Newbury Showground.

If anyone wants to come and join the fun, you can contact me on 01491 680 552 or doreen@pechey.org. We accept girls from their tenth birthday, and grown-ups as well.

Doreen Pechey

1st HURST AIR SCOUTS

Girls and boys from Hurst and the surrounding area are invited to come and join our thriving Beaver, Cub and Scout meetings. The programmes for our meetings are designed to help young people to achieve their full physical, intellectual and social potential, as well as having fun! We have busy and exciting plans, ahead including hikes, camps, flying, football and dragon boating.

We would also be very keen to hear from any adults who have particular skills or experiences that they would like to discuss with the girls and boys. Alternatively, please let us know if you could offer any other assistance to make the programmes as interesting and as varied as possible.

For further details please contact Simon Young (Group Scout Leader) on 0118 932 0952 or simon.young10@btinternet.com.

*** WHAT'S ON ***

Hurst Morris People

Large Village Hall Thursdays 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. www.hump.org.uk

Stanlake Park Champagne Challenge

2nd – 5th April 2010

Can you taste the difference between our sparkling wine and Champagne? Cost £2.50. Running all through the four day Easter week-end

Hurst Horticultural & Cottage Garden Society

The AGM is to be held on **Thursday, 8th April 2010**, venue still to be fixed.

Show date is **21st August 2010**.

For enquiries, please phone Rita Bunyard on 0118 934 5253 or Jo Penny on 0118 934 1498.

Tippens Wood Alpaca

Saturday, 24th April 2010

Open Day when you can see the alpaca and try your hand at spinning and felting. See page 15 for more details.

Dads' Dinner

Large Village Hall Saturday, 24th April 2010 7.30pm

An annual event in support of St Nicholas School PTA.

Live music from The Choppers. Booking essential.

Contact: Jane Carr.

Wokingham Borough Elections

Thursday, 6th May 2010

Large Village Hall 7.00am – 10.00pm

The First Annual Twyford Beer Festival

Saturday, 5th June – Sunday, 6th June 2010

1st Twyford Scouts HQ, Loddon Hall Road

Opening times:

Saturday, 5 June - Midday to 9.00pm.

Sunday, 6 June - Midday to 5.00pm.

For more details go to www.twyfordbeerfest.co.uk. Contact tel: 07837 271 717.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to Orchid - the Men's Cancer Charity.

www.orchid-cancer.uk

English Wine Week

Stanlake Park 29th May – 6th June 2010 (9 days)

Daily tours at 2pm. Cheese tasting. Free wine tasting. For more information, phone Stanlake Park on 0118 934 0176 or e-mail: info@StanlakePark.com.

SPRING WATCH IN HURST

In spite of the wintry weather during February, there are many signs that Spring is just around the corner.

Catkins are hanging on hazel bushes, rooks are gathering twigs for their nests, garden birds are foraging for food to build up their energy and rear their broods, and there's early blossom on polum trees and sloe bushes in the hedgerows.

Nest boxes We can all do our bit for the garden birds this year – why not put up a nest box and give a brood a home in your garden? The National Nest Box website www.bto.org/nnbw has lots of information about how to build a nest box, monitor which birds use it and how to record nests in other places such as garages, roof eaves and hedges.

The BBC Breathing Places website bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces also has lots of things we can do to help local wildlife during this year which is the International Year of Biodiversity.

What is Biodiversity? Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It is essential for sustaining the natural living systems that provide us with food, fuel, health, wealth, and other vital services.

We humans are part of this biodiversity too and have the power to protect or destroy it. The Natural History Museum is hosting the UK website of International Year of Biodiversity biodiversityislife.net where you will find lots of information about things we can all do for biodiversity.

Start Spring Cleaning Hurst Now!

Anyone who has walked or cycled around the village since the snow melted will have noticed brightly coloured sweet wrappers, snack packets, fast food boxes and drinks cans bobbing about on the water in flooded ditches and ponds. These colourful objects and plastic carrier bags also 'decorate' hedges and roadside verges.

Litter is dropped deliberately and accidentally by people from cars, and as they walk or cycle.

By the time the scheduled Village Spring Clean takes place in late March, a lot of the litter visible today will have blown or sunk into the growing vegetation, making it difficult to see and remove.

Do we need more litter bins in the village? A bin by the side entrance to the Village Halls in School Road overflows before it's emptied infrequently. There used to be one outside the Post Office.

What is Wokingham Borough Council's policy on emptying litter bins? Do we need to have Village Clean-Up working parties more frequently than twice a year?

Wendy Tobitt, Martineau Lane

DINTON PASTURES COUNTRY PARK

Stars in your Skies

Friday, 12th March – Saturday, 13th March 2010

7.30pm till late, weather permitting

Members of Reading Astronomical Society will be in the Park with telescopes to help you interpret what you see in the night sky. Meet in the main car park. Free.

For more information contact Gerry Bond on 0118 986 4032 or gerry@ryhill.net.

International Dawn Chorus Day

Sunday 2nd May 2010 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 5am. £1 (proceeds to RSPB). Breakfast available at café afterwards from 7.30am onwards. Please pre-book breakfast on 0118 934 2016.

Nordic Walking - S.H.I.N.E. Sports for Older People

Dinton Pastures Thursdays 10am – 11.30am

Nordic Walking uses poles to help propel you along. These add the benefit of using the muscles in the upper body as well as those in your legs. Classes for this fitness technique started in February. Cost: £2.00 per lesson.

SHINE is a fun programme of sports and physical activity for older people. If you are interested, please contact the Physical Activity Co-ordinator on 0118 974 6264 or at shine@wokingham.gov.uk.

TIPPENS WOOD ALPACA

Tippens Wood Alpaca is an established family-owned alpaca farm in Wokingham. Apart from simply breeding alpacas for sale, the owners David and Anila Preston like to share their knowledge with the local community about caring for and enjoying these charming animals. They know people like looking at the animals through the fence and asking questions.

Open Day

There will be an Open Day at the farm on **Saturday, 24th April** for people to visit the farm to learn about the alpacas, their unique fleece and enjoy some light refreshments.

For children – there will be a drawing competition to present their pictures of alpacas.

For adults – there will be spinning and felting demonstrations and an opportunity to try their hand at spinning.

Spinning Classes

Tippens Wood Alpaca will be running spinning, felting and weaving classes at the farm with experienced tutors for small groups once a month for people to learn these crafts. All equipment including spinning wheels and fibre will be provided ... and a glass of wine if you're good!

For more information, please contact Anila Preston on 01344 452 941 or e-mail

info@tippenswood.com. News of forthcoming events will be on the website

www.tippenswood.com.

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 and advice.			
Toastmaster, Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer	Roy Austin	Acre Wood, 2 School Road royaustin@hotmail.com www.britishtoastmaster.com	0118 934 4422 07961 144548
Nationwide and 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. Complete restoration service or simple re-cover for cushions, chairs, sofas. Free home visit for quotation and advice.			
Web design and Consultancy	Duncan Kendall	6 Tape Lane dk-skills4@bdkso1.co.uk www.yeswhere.co.uk	0118 934 2852
Hosting, e-mail forwarding, domain name management.			
Wine Cellar Shop	Peter & Annette Dart	Stanlake Park RG10 0BH www.StanlakePark.com peter@StanlakePark.com	0118 934 0176
A large selection of award-winning wine made from grapes grown at Stanlake Park. Tables outside. Great for gifts. Check website for opening times.			

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 charge an annual fee per entry in the skills register: £15 if you are a member of the Hurst Village Society, £20 if you are a non-member. For that you will get a yearlong exposure on our award-winning website and in our very popular newsletter, which goes out three times a year.

May we remind you that it is time to pay your 2010 subscription.

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!

SKILLS REGISTER			
Accountant	Maria Land ACMA (CIMA)	Cadomin Wards Cross	0118 934 1131
Small business accounts, sole traders, partnerships, small/medium limited companies, payrolls, self-assessments. We have a diverse range of clients from builders to hairdressers.			
Accountant	Gisela Sharpe FCCA	48 Martineau Lane	0118 934 3334
Chartered Certified			0776 5707642
Accounting and taxation requirements for sole traders, partnerships, small/medium sized companies, including starting in business, VAT, payroll and CIS services. All types of businesses dealt with.			
Alpaca Farm	Anila Preston	Tippens Wood Farm Green Lane, Forest Road Wokingham info@tippenswood.com	01344 452 941
Alpaca farm with 40 alpacas.			
Architect, Chartered	David Noble Dip.Arch (Oxford) RIBA	Folly Cottage Dunt Avenue dn@sedgman-noble.co.uk	0118 934 1200
Free initial consultation. House extensions, all buildings. Plans for planning permission, building regulations. Full service. PI insurance cover.			
Beauty Salon/Day Spa	Karen Eden	West Orchard Orchard Road www.halcyon-brw.co.uk	(Home) 0118 932 1792 (Salon) 0118 934 0355 07768 342481
Halycon			
Local salon, with good parking, offering a range of beauty and wellbeing services for women and men. 10% discount to Hurst residents quoting HVS001 when booking.			
Builder	Martin May	Pound Cottage, Forest Road	01344 306 214 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, Dunt Lane sandkconstruction@hotmail.co.uk	0118 932 0245 07957 303 658
General building works, extensions and alterations, painting and decorating.			
Charismatic Cars	James Strugnell	Ashridge Wood House Forest Road, Wokingham www.charismaticcars.co.uk james@charismaticcars.co.uk	0118 978 7308
Fine collection of chauffeur-driven vintage and classic cars for special occasions.			

Caring Southview Elderly Care	Debra Morley	1 Southview Whistley Green debra@live.be	0118 934 1389 07702 536733
Elderly day / respite care in our family home in Whistley Green. Over 10 years' experience, fully insured, CRB checked, members of NAAPS.			
Caring T & S Support Service	Tracey Williams	West Hope Wards Cross gtmanning@btinternet.com	07786 931 060
	Shelagh Robinson	shelaghrobinson@btinternet.com	07525 211 568
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.			
Catering	Penny Curry	1 Tape Lane pennycurry3@msn.com	0118 934 0866
Dinner parties, canapés, desserts and buffets.			
Chiropractor 21st Chiropractic Clinic	Rachel Ackroyd	Fairings Davis Way Rachel-ackroyd@hotmail.com www.21stchiropractic.co.uk	0118 932 0051 07903 046475
Sports massage therapist. Member of McTimoney Chiropractic Association and General Chiropractic Council.			
Counsellor	Rosemary Sturmer	Rosslare Davis Street	0118 934 1149 07950 762875
Member of British Association of Counselling & Psychotherapy and Association of Christian Counsellors			
Blue Flame Dance	Ruth Noble	Folly Cottage Dunt Avenue info@blueflamedance.com www.blueflamedance.com	0118 934 1200 07834 900451
Dance Teacher. Group or private lessons. Street Dance, Tap, Jazz, Modern. Adults / Children. Birthday parties available.			
KW Electrics	Pauline O'Brien	Unit 40, Grange Farm Nelsons Road landpobrien@aol.co.uk	0118 934 4133
Electrical contractors. All types of work undertaken, domestic and commercial.			
Financial Advice and Mortgages Advanced Financial Advice	Nigel Osgood	Old Place Lodge Road nigel@advancedfinancialadvice.co.uk www.advancedfinancialadvice.co.uk	01628 594 433 07768 277413
An alliance of professional financial advisers who have attained advanced qualifications in their respective areas of expertise.			

Garden Care	Jonathan Lane	Toad, Hinton Road	0118 934 0654 07966 627883
Graphic and web design, branding, e-mail marketing	David Hasler	West Orchard Orchard Road www.ocular.co.uk	(Home) 0118 932 1792 (Studio) 0118 958 9815 07768 342479
Marketing solutions for local, national and international brands and businesses, in English and all European languages. Referral scheme for Hurst residents - £25 Halcyon vouchers			
Groundwork R and J Services	Barbara Kent	Rhoda Ryde Dunt Lane	0118 934 0079 07802 839571
Complete groundwork services. Landscaping, site clearance. Digger and dumper hire.			
Hairdresser	Daniel Buggy	Laburnums Davis Street	07875 844875
Local hairdresser. Trained and worked in large local salons. Regional Finalist in Wella Trend Vision, 2008. Weddings and group bookings welcome.			
Piano Teacher	Christine Lambert	Hodge ALCM, ATM (SMTC) EPTA Pound Lane	0118 934 0705
Pianoforte, Clarinet, and Flute tuition. Beginners a speciality, from the age of 8. Adults welcome as beginners for all the above instruments. Over 25 years' experience teaching in Hurst. Portfolio of exam successes.			
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.			
Plumbing Services	Ray Williams	6 Forest Road Wokingham	
Bath to walk-in shower conversions. Easy clean wall surfaces. Cabinets made to match, also purpose-made joinery. See our website www.brooksjoinery.co.uk		Plumbing: 01344 422775 Joinery: 07713 482614	
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.			