

New committee member needed !

Would you like to take on the role of Planning on the HVS committee?

This is a challenging but immensely rewarding role.

See page 2 for further details.

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	
Liz Cossey	Lea Farm, Lodge Road lcossey@chocolates-for-chocoholics.co.uk	0118 932 1043	
David Fraser	1 Aylesford Villas davidfraser4@sky.com	0118 934 9301	
Maria Land	Cadomin, Wards Cross maria.land@virgin.net	0118 934 1131	
Derek Jackson	8, Dorndon House, School Road djnsgeo@yahoo.co.uk	0118 934 1939	Membership
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	Kestrels, Kiln Green wayne.smith@britishgas.co.uk	0118 940 1190	Chairman & Skills Register
Robin West	Darvells Farm, Dunt Avenue robin.n.west@googlemail.com	0118 934 9752	Communication
Ex-officio:			
Annette Drake	Walden Acres, Wokingham Rd anndrk@dsl.pipex.com	0118 934 1036	WBC Councillor

Chair: Wayne Smith, Kestrels, Scarletts Lane, Kiln Green, RG10 9XD

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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

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www.hvs.org.uk

December 2010

NO LONGER A SECRET



Our cricket ground has come out of hiding and we are able to see what a beautiful space it is. This has been made possible because membership of the Hurst Village Society reached a record high in 2009. With your continued support, the Society will be able to do more good things in the future.

Wayne Smith, Chairman of the HVS, said, 'I am so pleased with the positive response we have received. Phone calls, e-mails, text messages have come in from villagers, congratulating us on the improvement to the village by opening up the view of the cricket ground.'

'I would like to thank Fencing Products of Winnersh for carrying out such a tidy job, which fits in so well with the surrounding green space. Also many thanks to Hurst Cricket Club, in particular Steve Rumble and John Jewell, who not only allowed us to carry out this work, but have given us their active support.'

Are you a member of the Hurst Village Society?

The Village Society aims to provide an independent voice for Hurst residents. If you are not a member already, please do join us and contribute to activities in the village. You can find the membership form on page 6. The annual subscription is still only £5 per household.

If you are already a member, may we remind you that it is time to renew your subscription. Thank you. We value your support.

SCHOOL ROAD PLAY EQUIPMENT

I would like to thank all those who took the time to join us at our Open Afternoon for the consultation on the play equipment at the School Road site. Over 130 people completed our questionnaire. The result was 70% in favour and 30% against. That said, the residents who live around the park were very much against the project and the Parish Council had to take their concerns seriously in coming to a decision not to allow the project to go ahead.

We are now in communication with Wokingham Borough Council. We have looked at other sites in Hurst. The one that looks most favourable at the moment is Dinton Pastures, which, as you may all be aware, is still within our parish.

We hope that discussions with WBC will lead us to making some major improvements to the football pitch in School Road, where we want to level the land and put in new goal posts and nets. We shall also be making improvements to the large swing that already exists.

The Parish Council feel very let down by the way WBC has conducted this matter. This is the reason why we are trying to get some modifications done to the existing site and to find a solution as to where the new equipment should be sited.

I am very sorry for the 70% who were in favour of installing the new equipment. I must apologise to everybody for any inconvenience caused. I am sure that you will understand that it wasn't on the part of the Parish Council. We have done everything we could to make the best out of a difficult situation.

Wayne Smith, Chairman of Hurst Parish Council, Tel: 0118 940 1190

HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY NEWS

Committee vacancy

Jonathan Norris has stepped down from the committee. Since 2008, he has filled the key role of Planning. He fought tirelessly on the village's behalf in such important matters as Luff Farms, the Sandford Farm development and the threat to our roads by the proposed North Wokingham Development Plan. He is going to be a hard act to follow.

If anyone would like to take on this vital role in the HVS, we would love to hear from you. The work involves analysing the impact of planning applications on the village, corresponding with Wokingham Borough Council about planning issues and speaking on behalf of the village at public hearings.

Have a word with any of our committee members if you relish the challenge!

HVS Dinner Dance

All tickets for the Dinner Dance on 11th December have now been sold. As always, this promises to be a highly enjoyable evening, with a delicious menu and music provided by the band Hidden Agenda. A waiting list has been opened in case any tickets become available closer to the event. Contact Jennie Roxburgh-Smith on 0118 940 1190.

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 All-age Eucharist (shorter and more informal)

Fourth Sunday of the month

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Fifth Sunday of the month

11.00am Family Praise

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, 28th November

11.00 *Family Eucharist and Christingle Service*

Sunday, 19th December

8.00 Holy Communion
11.00am All-age Eucharist (shorter and more informal)
6.30pm *Carol Service*

Friday, 24th December

4.00am *Crib Service*
11.30pm *Midnight Eucharist*

Saturday, 25th December

11.00am *Family Eucharist*

First Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day



IN THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, 2nd January

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Eucharist

Sunday, 30th January

11.00am Family Praise

Sunday, 6th February

(60th Anniversary of the Accession of Queen Elizabeth II)

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Second Sunday of Christmas (kept as Epiphany)

Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Fifth Sunday before Lent

For more details about St Nicholas Church in Hurst, please phone the Revd John Coombs on 0118 934 0017 and/or go to www.acny.org.uk/5339.

HURST GOSPEL HALL

Our planned regular activities continue as follows.

Mondays J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) for children of 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. We have various speakers covering many Bible topics

Wednesdays Once a month the Ladies meet, on the First Wednesday.

On **8th December (2nd Wednesday) 9.00pm.** Christmas craft

For more details, please contact Mrs Norah Thomas on 0118 966 7239.

Fridays Parent 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 NEW ARRANGEMENT

On the **1st Sunday of each month, Family Service at 11.15am**

This replaces the 6.30pm meeting on those days.

We would be delighted to see you with children and family members of all ages.

On the **2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday evenings at 6.30pm,** we have a Gospel meeting.

This consists of a time of singing, followed by a message from the Bible.

On the **3rd Sunday** of each month, this is replaced by **CAMEO at 5.00pm.**

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

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Carol Service Sunday, 19th December at 5.00pm, followed by refreshments

Christmas Morning Service Sunday, 26th December, 10.30 until 11.15 am.

As always, you will be given a very warm welcome at any of these meetings.

‘Gospel’ means Good News and we would be pleased to share God’s good news for the world with you.

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>

St Nicholas or Santa Claus?

In Medieval England, Nicholas was just another saint - he had not yet been referred to as Santa Claus and he had nothing to do with Christmas.

St Nicholas was bishop of the Turkish town of Myra in the early fourth century. It was the Dutch who first made him into a Christmas gift-giver, and Dutch settlers brought him to America where his name eventually became the familiar Santa Claus.

ALL THE FUN OF THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Hurst Village Halls

Saturday, 4th December 2010 11.00am – 4.00pm

St Nicholas Church Christmas Fair has become a major community event and should not be missed! Excellent refreshments and snacks will be available throughout the day as well as a range of stalls, tombolas and games for all the family. Buy your Christmas gifts or just have some light-hearted festive fun and take the children to visit Santa in the Grotto.

The Christmas raffle will be drawn with fantastic prizes such as a week in a villa in France, lunch for two people at The New Mill at Eversley, tickets for Sonning Mill Theatre, a wine hamper and much more. There will also be a silent auction with more exciting prizes on offer. During the afternoon, there will be entertainment from local dancing and singing groups on the village hall stage.

This seasonal event not only raises much-needed funds for our community church of St Nicholas but also for local charities, schools and playgroups. So come and support it while having fun!

If any organisation would like a stall, please contact Sue Payne on 0118 977 3466 or e-mail sue.payne90@yahoo.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

St Nicholas Night Celebrations

Sunday, 5th December 2010 at 5pm

Opposite Townsend Pond and the Junction of School Road and A321

Gates to School Road playing field open at 4.45pm.

Car parking will be available at the Hurst Cricket Club opposite.

Mulled wine, mince pies and goodie bags for the children

Grand switching on of the Christmas tree lights at 5.15pm

The lights will be switched on by the winner of the local schools’ competition for the best Christmas picture.

Waltham St Lawrence brass band will accompany the singing of Christmas Carols.

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

For more information contact Wayne Smith on 0118 940 1190.

Festive activities round and about

Oxford Christmas Market

Oxford Castle, Oxford OX1

26th November–12th December 2010

Come to a German-style Christmas Market which includes decorated wooden stalls offering Christmas gifts, Glühwein, gingerbread, German Bratwurst - to name just a few. Local choirs and brass bands will perform Christmas carols, and there will be a small Victorian carousel for children. Father Christmas will visit at weekends.

Twyford Christmas Fayre

Friday, 3rd December 2010

Sounds of carols and the smell of hot food will be filling the village for an evening of winter fun. The fayre helps locals to raise money and a lot of the shops in London Road stay open late to take advantage of the trade. It helps people to get involved in the community and gives everyone a sense of what's going on here.

Wokingham Winter Carnival

Wokingham Town Centre

Thursday, 25th November 2010 11am - 5.30pm

This free entry community event attracts over 15,000 people each year to the town centre when the roads are closed and market stalls line the three main streets. Street performers, a children's fairground, music, the much loved float procession and carols around the Christmas tree make this event truly magical. A great day out for all the family whilst supporting local charities. The procession leaves Shute End at 4pm.

New Year Opera Concert

Opera at Bearwood - 'The Critics Choice'

Bearwood Theatre, Bearwood College, Sindlesham

Saturday, 8th January 2011 7.30pm

Sunday, 9th January 2011 2.30pm

Join OAB to celebrate the New Year in style with excerpts from operas that critics were wrong to slate initially as they turned into famous and well-loved operas. *La Traviata*, *La Bohème* and Mozart's *Clemenza di Tito* are just a few examples.

Website: www.operaatbearwood.org.uk

For the Birdwatchers

BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Mid-Week walk: Dinton Pastures Country Park

Thursday 20th January 2011

Join us at this location where there will be wildfowl on the lakes and a mixture of finches at the feeders. Views of a water rail or a bittern which are both regular winter visitors are great possibilities. Friendly and knowledgeable birdwatchers available to help beginners.

Meet at Lavell's Lake car park in Sandford Lane at 10am.

Contact Ray Reedman on 0118 986 4338 to check for unexpected cancellations. See website www.berksoc.org.uk for more information.

THE VIEW FROM SHUTE END

Parents!

For children born on or between 1st September 2006 and 31st August 2007, parents need to apply for a school place by **14th January 2011**. To receive an application pack, please register with the Schools Admissions team at Shute End, e-mail: schoolsadmissions@wokingham.gov.uk.

Core Strategy

The Executive has approved that we do not review our housing numbers and has adopted the Masterplans for North and South Wokingham and the Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document. The Executive also agreed the revised Masterplan for South M4 for re-consultation in November/December to come back for adoption January/February. The Arborfield Masterplan is on hold pending clarity of the Army's intentions with regard to the garrison, but meanwhile we will continue dialogue with residents over unresolved issues. The Executive confirmed the current policy position about back gardens, density, parking standards and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pitch provision as per documents brought to the Group.

Martineau Green – the facts

Wokingham District Council (as it was known) sold the field opposite the Village Hall to Bryant Homes in the early 1990s and in 1993 the developer received planning permission for the houses that are now built in Martineau Lane.

As part of the developer's Section 106 obligation, the green in the middle of Martineau Lane was given by Bryant Homes to Wokingham District Council to be used as public open space. The 'green' has never changed ownership since then.

In September this year, a member of the public asked a question about ownership of the green during the public forum part of the Hurst Parish Council's meeting. I was away but the Parish Council asked me to find out from Wokingham Borough Council legal department the exact position regarding the ownership.

The Senior Legal Officer confirmed that Wokingham Borough Council owns the land and the public has permission, albeit general permission, to use the green as public open space. There is no obligation or documented evidence to transfer the land to the Parish Council.

A landowner who fenced off the end of Davis Way in Hurst for personal use has been ordered by the High Court to pay damages and legal costs of at least £19,000 to Wokingham Borough Council. The owners have been warned that if they obstruct or damage Davis Way again, they could be sent to prison.

I am at home each Saturday between 10am and noon to help with any questions or queries that you may have on Borough Council issues. My phone number is 0118 934 1036.

Annette Drake

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst. RG10 0RU

POLICE REPORT

From PCSO Jackie Daniels

Many burglaries can be prevented

Police are warning residents to review their home security after two burglaries took place in Twyford where offenders used the letterbox.

- * *Keep doors and windows locked at all times.*
- * *UPVC doors where the letterbox is central are more at risk than doors where letterboxes are located at the bottom.*
- * *Remove all keys from the locks and keep them in a safe place and out of view.*
- * *Avoid leaving property like handbags, keys or laptops in hallways, or where they can be seen from outside the house.*

Vehicle crime

We are still receiving reports of vehicles being broken into, mainly in car parks. These areas have been added to our patrol plans but it remains the car owner's responsibility to ensure that no property is on show.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Operation Lion Cub continues to run over the weekends (Friday and Saturday evenings 6pm – 2am) and feedback continues to be good from local residents.

Anti-social behaviour can be groups congregating and causing noise, under-age drinking, drug taking, anti-social use of motor vehicles. Ring **0845 8 505 505**.

Speeding

In September, we sent out a request via the local press and Community Messaging for residents' perceptions of speeding in their areas. As you can appreciate, we received a large volume of requests and the team are currently in the planning process to deal with all of your concerns.

Priority is being given to a number of the locations where we shall be conducting an intelligence gathering process with our new hi-tech Speed Indication Device. The SID is not an enforcement tool, but provides information and intelligence to allow us to plan and prepare for further actions in relation to your concerns.

Your relevant Neighbourhood Action Group will discuss the findings. The process from this stage to enforcement will be approximately 2-3 months.

I don't want to raise your hopes for enforcement in all areas mentioned, but we are heading in the right direction.

The colder weather and dark evenings are now upon us so I would stress to all residents and businesses that as the nights draw in, please be extra vigilant with your security checks.

Next month we will have news on who will be replacing PC Terry Neblett and PCSO Anne Chalmers.

PCSO Jackie Daniels

E-mail: Jacqueline.Daniels@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Raise a glass of Christmas cheer at your local vineyard !

Stanlake Park Wine Estate will be hosting two late shopping evenings on **2nd** and **16th December** when the shop will stay open until **8pm**. Local wine makes an excellent Christmas gift for family, friends and colleagues and keeps the 'food miles' at a minimum. You can enjoy free mulled wine, mince pies, wine tasting and delicious nibbles throughout the evening or just relax with a glass of wine!

A Celebration of Christmas

Annual concert given by Hurst Rangers, Scouts, Guides, and Brownies

Large Village Hall

Thursday, 16th December 2010 7pm

Come and enjoy a concert of short sketches and carols, mulled wine and mince pies.. All are welcome. There is no charge, but there will be a collection for charity.

Santa's Grotto

Emmbrook Room, Dinton Pastures

Sunday 12th December, Tuesday 14th December, Wednesday 15th December, Sunday 19th December, Monday 20th December 2010

Any time between 1pm – 3pm. £4 per child. All ages are welcome, suitable for pushchairs. No need to book, just turn up on the day. Meet Santa and his elf in their natural woodland wildlife grotto and receive a small gift.

HURST PANTOMIME GROUP

Rehearsals are well under way for the Hurst Pantomime Group's production of ***Babes in the Wood*** on 13th, 14th and 15th January, 2011. (Oh yes, they are!) This is always a very popular event and we expect tickets to sell out for most performances. With this in mind, you will want to get in early to book your seats when ticket sales open on **Friday, 12th November**.

Performances will be:

Thursday 13 th January	7.30pm
Friday 14 th January	7.30pm
Saturday 15 th January	2.00pm matinee
Sunday 15 th January	7.30pm

Tickets are £12 for adults, £8 for children and seniors (payment by cash or cheque only).

The bar will be open before and during the interval for the evening performances.

Teas will available for the matinee show.

Please note that the recommended minimum age is 5 years for the evening performances and 3 years for the matinee performance.

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

HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY

Membership Application / Renewal

Please complete **Section A**.

Please complete **Section B**, or **Section C** if you wish to pay by Standing Order.

If you choose to pay by standing order, please feel free to make a donation as well.

Completed form to be sent to:

HVS Membership Secretary, Derek Jackson, Flat 8, Dorndon House,
School Road, Hurst. RG10 0GD

A Name
Address
.....
.....
Tel: E-mail:

B I enclose a cheque (to Hurst Village Society) / cash for £5.00, as my
subscription for the year.
I also enclose a donation of £ to the Hurst Village Society.

C To my Bank: Bank
Address
.....
Sort code

Please debit my account no. with the sum of £5.00,
being my subscription to the Hurst Village Society, and credit account
no. 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

Print name

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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

Round the village pond

I would like to thank Julie Easton and the Environmental Club at St Nicholas School for planting winter pansies in the wooden boxes, ready for winter. I understand that they really enjoyed making a difference to the village.

Village Clean Up

There was a disappointing turnout. Only 18 people turned up, instead of the usual 60. But the people who did come did a sterling job and we still managed to fill two skips.

Planning Update

F/2010/1666	Rose Cottage Stables, Binfield Road - Refused
LB/2010/1529	Dunt Cottage, Dunt Lane - Approved
F/2010/1505	Forest Cottage, Carters Hill - Approved
F/2010/1447	Sangaree, Little Hill Road - Approved
F/2010/1848	Peacock Cottage, Davis Street - Approved
F/2010/1816	Tippens Wood Farm, Green Lane - Approved
F/2010/1782	5 Sawpit Road - Approved
F/2010/1578	Old Billingbear Brickworks, Carters Hill - Approved
F/2010/1277	2 Barber Close - Approved
F/2010/1857	1 Nursery Close - Approved

DOLPHIN SCHOOL TODDLER GROUP

Dolphin Nursery ran a series of free coffee mornings for parents and their toddlers this term. Jane Robinson, Head of Dolphin Nursery, reports.

The three toddler groups run so far have been a great success. Typically 15 parents with toddlers have come and several of these for all three weeks. The second and third weeks we saw one or two new faces at each.

The atmosphere has been lovely. In weeks 2 and 3, the current nursery children were enjoying music with instruments as the toddlers came in - and they of course could join in if they wished. The existing children have then gone to the outdoor learning cabin, leaving the full nursery and adjoining outdoor area to the toddlers.

Outside, they have typically enjoyed playing with the sand, leaves, small world animals and habitats. Inside, role-play, puzzles, Montessori practical life pouring, trains and the creative corner have all proved popular. Some of the children have gone home very proud of their painted or collage masterpiece!

Milk, juice, biscuits, Shreddies and raisins have been available for the children to enjoy and coffee with croissants provided for the parents.

There will be more sessions in the New Year on Wednesdays from 10.00 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. You can drop in to any session, and do as many or as few, as you like. For further information on the new parent/toddler group, phone 0118 934 1277.

HURST FOOTBALL CLUB

Hurst Football Club U6s Training - *Calling new recruits!!!!*

Join the coaches for training in the St. Nicholas Primary School field in Hurst at 10am every Sunday.

All children of this age (infant school - year one) are very welcome to come along and have fun.

The children are not eligible to play in a football league until September 2011 so these Sunday training sessions will look to build their first ball skills.

For more details please contact Jon Mcarthy on 0118 934 0801 or Greg Neall on 07747 055518.

1st HURST AIR SCOUTS

Scouting in the village is going from strength to strength, with both Beavers and Cubs at capacity and a thriving Scout Troop. In order to maintain the exciting range of activities we are always looking for additional adult support, so please let me know if you would be happy to help.

Our Beavers have been very busy since the summer break and particularly enjoyed a climbing afternoon followed by a sleepover. The Cubs have continued their action-packed schedule from last term, including a 10-pin bowling evening. The Scouts have also been climbing, as well as pioneering, going on a trip to Thorpe Park and a night hike. Some of the Scouts have been flying at RAF Benson over half term.

Some Scouts also took part in the District Raft race and District Breakfast Chase, which are the first two events in our defence of the 'Murray Plate' – a series of events with the other 12 local Scout groups which we won last year.

In addition to our traditional Christmas Concert with the Guides, the Scouts are planning a winter activity camp in January.

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

1st HURST GUIDES

Be sure to come to our annual concert, which is given by the Hurst Scouts, Guides and Brownies. It takes place on Thursday, 16th December in the Large Village Hall. See page 5 for more details.

Hurst Guides meet in the Scout Hut at 7pm every Tuesday evening. If you would like to know more, please contact Wendy or Amy at wendygribbs@mac.com or amybaatz@hotmail.co.uk.



HURST MORRIS PEOPLE

Hurst Morris People are busy at Hurst Village Hall practising on Thursday evenings for next year's dancing season.

You can catch up with some of their 25 performances last season at their website www.hump.org.uk

HuMP, who follow the Cotswold tradition, were dancing at events including Hurst Horse Show and Country Fair, folk festivals and village fetes.

They will be performing at an event or pub NEAR YOU next season, which starts in the spring. Watch out for details of next year's dance programme on the website.

Squire Ian Brant said: "We are a friendly crowd. The main point of Hurst Morris People, or HuMP as we call ourselves, is to have some fun - and to share that with other people. You might think Morris dancing is a slightly eccentric pastime. But you'd be amazed how quickly it just becomes a lovely way of helping carry on our long rich tradition of English folk music and dance that goes back more than 500 years. Our members, men and women, are from all backgrounds and all ages, starting in their 20s.'

If you would like HuMP to dance at your event, or you are considering joining us as a dancer and would like to talk to someone, contact our Squire Ian Brant on 0118 926 8187 or Hurst member Sue Corcoran on 0118 932 0571 who would be pleased to have a chat with you.

See our website for pictures, news and more information: www.hump.org.uk

HURST HORSE SHOW AND COUNTRY FAIR

Anyone looking for some creative and worthwhile fun could consider joining the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fair committee.

Planning for next summer's show will start at the January committee meeting.

Meetings are informal, new ideas are positively welcome and the existing members are a friendly crowd.

There are meetings about once a month and the preparation work is shared among the committee members – and into every corner of the village, as you probably know already!

The show raises welcome funds for village and other local good causes, including St Nicholas Primary School, the village halls and the guiding and scouting movements. Thousands of pounds have been raised during the history of the show which goes back more than 30 years.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Duncan Kendall on 0118 934 2852 or by email: chair@HurstHorseShow.org.uk.

Queen Victoria's Christmas

Last year, Queen Victoria's beautiful winter sleigh was on show in St George's Hall, Windsor, with the traditional Christmas tree from Windsor Great Park.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert spent many Christmases at the Castle, and the Queen often enjoyed sleigh rides around Windsor during the winter months. The royal sleigh, built by the carriage-makers Hooper & Co, is painted red and gold, and lined with red velvet. The horses pulling it had harnesses decorated with ostrich plumes and silver bells.

An extract from Queen Victoria's journal of 12 February 1855 records a winter outing in the sleigh with Princess Clementine of Orleans.



She wrote: 'Another sharp frost and a fine day - Albert drove Clem and me out in the sledge ... with the exception of two or three little places, we went beautifully and as smoothly as though we were on ice. The sun bright and the sky so blue. We were out for an hour.'

The royal couple are closely associated with Christmas traditions.

Prince Albert is credited with popularising decorated fir trees, dressed with coloured wax candles and artificial snow. Gifts, toys and sweets were heaped around the trees or hung on the branches, to be presented on Christmas Eve when the candles were lit. The royal children made homemade cards to give to members of the household, and the family would go skating or play festive games introduced by Prince Albert.

This year at Windsor Castle

To celebrate the Christmas period, the table in the Castle's magnificent State Dining Room will be dressed with pieces from the Minton 'Victoria' dessert service.

The service was purchased by Queen Victoria at the Great Exhibition of 1851, thereafter taking the monarch's name. It attracted much attention at the time and was described by the influential *Art Journal* as being of 'exceeding beauty'. Porcelain custard cups, bonbon dishes and a centrepiece decorated with seasonal images will be displayed alongside glittering silver-gilt candlesticks and festive fruit and flowers.

It will be on display from 10th December 2010 – 5th January 2011.

A Christmas Carol

Before settling on the name of Tiny Tim for his character in *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens considered three other alliterative names. They were Little Larry, Puny Pete, and Small Sam. Dickens' initial choice for Scrooge's statement 'Bah Humbug' was 'Bah Christmas'.



HURST BROWNIES

Hurst Brownies have been having lots of fun and excitement during Guiding's 100th Birthday year. We went to the County celebration *Festival 100* at Newbury on 11th June and had a great time in the four areas of Craft; Heritage, Music and Dance - where we were spotted by the new Home Secretary, Theresa May, learning May pole dancing! Trefoil Guild taught the Brownies skills they needed to pass old badges, such as table laying and knots. Finally, the Brownies had fun on an inflatable assault course and slides in the Adventure section.

London highlight



The highlight of our Centenary year so far was our Summer Festival themed *Takeover* when we stayed overnight at ICANDO (at HQ in London). This included a drumming session, making Carnival costumes and watching the Changing of the Guard from inside Buckingham Palace's gates! Several of the officers came over to chat to the girls.

Seventeen Brownies have gained their World Issues badge. Thank you to Waitrose, Twyford, for allowing us to visit to complete this. They showed the girls the compactor that crushes down packaging ready to be recycled into things such as the waterproof benches outside the store and also let them try some of the huge range of Fair Trade food.

Fifties party

At the end of the summer term we had a 1950s themed party, with the girls dressing up in clothes from that era and learning Fifties-style songs and dancing. The party was to say goodbye to Unit helper, Kim Farrell, and the four Brownies moving up to Guides. The girls made fair trade food - Pizza with pineapple, banana splits and chocolate milkshakes - also covering the "Chill out" clause for their Adventure 100 badge. A total of 26 girls have now gained this, completing the 'What a performance' clause by watching the Ice Skating Gala and also a puppet theatre show at Bracknell.

Finale party

We have just had our Finale party at 20:10, 20/10, 2010 at Blue Coat School with lots of fun, dancing and, of course, cake! We congaed outside with our glow necklaces on, and just after the 200 girls renewed their promise, the church bells rang.

On 29th November, the Brownies are putting on a Talent show for their Entertainer badge and also appearing in the Scout and Guide Christmas show in December as usual.

As ever, we are still hopeful of finding someone willing to train as a Guider. Leaders gain as much enjoyment and new skills as the girls they are nurturing. So if you would like to find out more, or if your daughter is 5+ and you want to put her on our waiting list when she turns 7, please contact me on 0118 9017891 or mhalle@globalnet.co.uk.

Fiona Hallett

Sewing	Jane Carr	Hinton Farm House, Hinton Road jane.carr@zen.co.uk	0118 934 1113
Curtains, cushions, patchwork quilts and many other soft furnishings made to order or altered. Also clothing alterations. 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@bdkso.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

May we remind you that it is time to pay your 2011 subscription.

We charge an annual fee per entry in the skills register. As from 2011, the fee is £20 if you are a member of the Hurst Village Society and £25 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 to four times a year.

For all enquires, please contact Wayne Smith, tel: 0118 940 1190.
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 Chartered Certified	Gisela Sharpe FCCA	48 Martineau Lane	0118 934 3334 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
Friendly alpacas for sale and craft classes – spinning and felting alpaca fibre.			
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 Halcyon	Karen Eden	West Orchard Orchard Road www.halcyon-brw.co.uk	(Home) 0118 932 1792 (Salon) 0118 934 0355 07768 342481
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 T & S Support Service	Tracey Williams Shelagh Robinson	West Hope Wards Cross gtmanning@btinternet.com shelaghrobinson@btinternet.com	07786 931 060 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.			
Chiropactor 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.			
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.			

Garden Care	Jonathan Lane	Toad, Hinton Road	0118 934 0654 07966 627883
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 Pound Lane	0118 934 0705
ALCM, ATM (SMTC) EPTA 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	Plumbing: 01344 422775 Joinery: 07713 482614
Bath to walk-in shower conversions. Easy to clean wall surfaces. Cabinets made to match, also purpose-made joinery. See our website www.brooksjoinery.co.uk			
Residential Letting and Property Management	Janet Walsh	7 Martineau Lane www.huntersproperty.co.uk	0118 932 1349
Master Saddler James Turner Saddlery	James Turner	2 Ivy Cottage Hinton Road james.saddlery@yahoo.co.uk www.jamesturnersaddlery.co.uk	07766 102904
Qualified saddler and saddle fitter. Saddle checking and flocking done on site. Ideal, Black Country, Jefferies, Frank Baines, and many more makes available. Repairs undertaken.			
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.			