

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 68

November/December 1999

Hurst Gets Ready for the Millennium!

Saturday 13th November saw the start of the Millennium celebrations in Hurst. Over 200 children came to the Village Hall to be presented with a specially designed Year 2000 diary. It contains delightful contributions in the way of photographs, drawings, poems and prose from a wide cross section of the community.

The high quality 120 page diary was given free to all children under 16 years and resident in the village. The village H2K Committee has sponsored the diary with funds raised over the last two years.

The diary is one of a series of commemorative projects and celebratory events planned for the next twelve months. Other events include New Year's parties for adults and children, a trip to the Millennium Dome, outings for the over 60's along with the other regular, annual shows.

John Edwards, chairman of the committee, commented:

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Diary

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Children's Party

The children's New Year party will be held in the large village hall on 2nd January.

'Mr Wizard' will arrive at 3:00 p.m. and tea will be served at 4:00 p.m. Other attractions for the little ones include, magic, puppets, mini disco, balloon modelling, games, competitions and lots of fun! The party finishes at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets priced at just £1.00 for children aged between 4 and 10 years are now available from Pauline Foster on 9345138. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Millennium Dome Outing

A day trip by coach has been organised for children accompanied by adults.

The coach will leave Hurst at 9:00 a.m. and return from London at 5:00 p.m.

Discounted ticket prices are £17.50 for adults and £14.50 for children aged 5 – 15 years (under fives go free).

To book please contact John Edwards on 934 0238

HVS News

Annual Dinner Dance

The Editor writes

Once again this year's dance proved to be an extremely popular affair with nearly 120 people attending. It seems that our small incentive scheme worked, as there was an increase in membership of the society and noticeably more Hurst residents at this year's event.

Unfortunately I found my self incapacitated prior to the event and unable to help. I therefore feel that I can, without any form of self congratulation, say a big 'well done' to the many members of the society who gave up their own time to decorate the village hall, dismantle the decorations early on Sunday morning, run the bar and generally made the event the enjoyable success that it was.

Garden Competition

Robina Turner writes..

What was lacking in quantity of entries was more than compensated for by the quality of the gardens. The care and work that had been lavished on plots that, in some cases, had little help from their surroundings in the way of established trees and shrubs, was exemplary. In the end the judges had to choose a winner and in a unanimous but very close decision, first prize went to Mr & Mrs Chambers for their remodelled garden at 'Westward Ho'. Anne Whitby was second with her prolific collection of flowers and third was Mrs Hopkins who has made a varied and imaginative garden out of a site that, not so long ago, was running wild.

We had intended to hold the competition earlier in the season as we are aware that holidays, not to mention the very warm early summer, meant that some of you may have been reluctant to enter gardens, which you felt, were past their best.

NEXT YEAR we really will try to have the competition much earlier so, get your schemes planned and ensure your bulbs are planted **now!**

1st Hurst Air Scouts Group

Did you know that Hurst is home to a thriving scouting group, providing fun and adventure for youngsters from as young as 6 up to the ripe old age of 20?

The starting point is Beavers (age 6-8), ably led by Barbara Loring. Beavers meet every Tuesday from 5.15 to 6.00p.m. with the aim of making new friends, playing games and enjoying lots of craft activities.

Beavers become Cubs (age 8 – 10), who meet on Wednesdays from 6.45 to 8.15p.m. Organised and supported by pack leaders Russel Payne and Andrew Loring, Cubs enjoy working towards their various skills badges, football activities, camps and many inter pack activities.

Following on from Cubs, there is a large Air Scout troop (age 10-15) lead by Malcolm Graves and John Bird. They meet on Mondays from 7.00 to 9.00p.m. to enjoy learning about camping and hiking. There is a special bias towards air activities; for example flying with the RAF a couple of times a year.

1st Hurst is one of only two troops in Berkshire to qualify for such a thrilling activity, all with fully qualified RAF personnel of course!

From age 15 a now mixed group are able to progress into the Venture Scouts, meeting on Wednesdays between 8.15 and 10.15p.m. Mark Loring heads this group with much enthusiasm and this year they celebrate their 10th anniversary. Ventures organise their own programme of fun, adventures and social activities, including canoeing, climbing, bowling and quizzes. This year they had a great summer camp at Walesby Forest in Nottinghamshire before many of the members headed off for university. This has depleted numbers somewhat, so any budding Ventures out there, Give Mark a call or, come and have a look on a Wednesday evening.

All sessions take place at the Scout HQ situated beside the village halls. An enormous amount of time and effort is put in by the various fully trained group leaders to ensure the youngsters have fun in a safe environment. In these days it would be easy to overlook the simple pleasures of scouting. Summer camps are always hugely popular. Just two of last year's attractions were raft building and hot air ballooning.

So if you have a child who may be interested in joining 1st Hurst Air Scouts call the relevant number listed on the next page.

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As always, we are desperately looking for adults to help our warranted leaders, especially with the Beavers. There must be someone who would enjoy the rewards of helping to organise this successful group of lads. It would not have to be a regular commitment, although of course that would be fantastic. If you would like more details please call Barbara on the number below.

Beavers:	Barbara Loring	9340650
Cubs:	Russel Payne	9541933
Scouts	Malcolm Graves	9341743
	John Bird	9696166
Ventures	Mark Loring	9340650

An Apology

In our last issue, under the heading “Community Skip”, we reminded readers that a skip is delivered to the car park of the Village Halls on the first Monday of every month. We got it wrong – the correct day is the first Wednesday of odd months. So, for the record, the next two dates are 5th January and 1st March.

Our apologies to those of you who made the journey in vain, and to Sue and Harry Scorer who had to deal with your disappointment on the spot.

Royal British Legion

It has been a busy time for the British Legion. Thanks to donations from Hurst Parish Council and Co-op Funeral Services, the war memorial was cleaned in time for the Remembrance day service on 14 November and the fund raising ‘Dug Out’ supper proved as popular as ever.

The British Legion are always looking for new members; you do not need to be an ex- service man and once a card carrying member you will have access to any British Legion in the world!

If you are interested in joining, contact George Claridge on 9340135.

Twyford and District Age Concern

Sandy Adderley writes

In the last three and a half years the Day Centre at Twyford has expanded considerably. We now offer three full day sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. A coffee morning and or lunch on Wednesday is followed by the original afternoon session, Luncheon Club offer lunch on Thursdays and once a month there is Scrabble on a Wednesday afternoon and a Whist drive on a Thursday afternoon.

The upstairs and the bathroom have been completed, we have set up a chiropody service, and the Princess Royal Trust have set up a carers' group which meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon. This is open to anyone who is in the role of carer of a family member of any age. Those who attend find it very supportive. The Mobile Information Centre (MICE) parks outside the Centre on the first Tuesday in the month from 10:00 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. The staff are very pleased to help any member of the public and would welcome enquiries. We have very recently had a loop system installed and it is making a big difference to our hard of hearing members.

For many, the Centre plays a vital role in improving their quality of life and it is almost like having an extended family. We can take up to 25 people a day, some coming once a week and others, nearly every day. Volunteer drivers and the Redibus transport members in. Referrals for day care come from the Health Centre, Hospitals, Social Services, friends and family – and sometimes the person themselves. We serve several local villages including Hurst.

Monday, Tuesday and Friday have activities planned in advance by each group of helpers. As far as possible we try to give variety but we are always on the look-out for local people who would be willing to give a talk or demonstration or to entertain us in some way. We also have occasional outings.

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The Health Service and Social services originally funded the Centre in a joint finance contract which came to an end in September. During this year we have had talks with Wokingham District Council's Social Services Department and have negotiated a service agreement and have agreed a contract that will last for three and a half years. This means we will be funded for the three full day care sessions but we will need to generate our own income for the other two days. This is a very positive way forward for our Centre and as a result, we are able to create a new post of Centre Assistant.

We are fortunate to be so well supported in the community in so many ways and we are always grateful for the interest shown by so many people. Not only has the number of members using the Centre grown, but also the number of volunteer helpers needed, both in providing transport and to help at the Centre. Some days are adequately covered, but we still need drivers, particularly on Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and help at lunchtime on Wednesdays.

As we move into the next phase of the life of the Centre I know that we will continue to thrive and maintain our level of caring, friendly atmosphere and continue to provide a wonderful facility for our local villages, including Hurst.

If you would like to know more about the Centre, either to join in the activities or as a volunteer, or you would just like to visit us and see the facilities, please call in (we are situated in Polehampton Close, Twyford, opposite the Library in the 'Pay and Display' Car Park).

Alternatively call 9344040 and ask to speak to Janet Potter, the Co-ordinator.

Hurst Riders Club

Between 120 and 160 horses and ponies are kept in the vicinity of Hurst and there are just three short bridleways, all of them intersected by busy roads.

The Hurst Riders Club was set up 10 years ago as a result of the increasing pressure on horse riders from the increase in traffic around the area. The club is open to anyone keeping a horse in this area. The club's primary aim is to provide safe off road riding and secondly to promote riding and road safety awareness to all of its members, many of them young. The club rents and maintains a four-acre field in Green Lane where riders can ride in safety. This facility is kindly provided by Mr Mackenzie-Wallis and thanks to his generosity has been a safe haven for the past 5 years.



However riders still have use the roads to get to the field so all members are encouraged, and subsidised, to take the British Horse Society riding and road safety test. This ensures at the very least, that riders are aware of the rules of the road and have been taught the safest way to cross busy road junctions.

The HRC committee has also been working with local landowners to set up a network of off road routes to lessen the need for riding on the roads, which is a truly hazardous experience these days. Local riders experience quite a lot of anger from drivers whose first reaction is to blame the rider for 'being there'; somehow the mere sight of a rider on a horse seems to antagonise some drivers. As a direct result, the HRC promotes to its members the importance of wearing high visibility clothing and also the value in thanking drivers who show consideration. A driver who is thanked is more likely to give a wide berth at a slower speed the next time they encounter a rider on the road.

The HRC also gets involved in fun events throughout the year, such as the show jumping challenge, which keeps youngster busy through the winter when most horse activities go into hibernation. The fact that Hurst has won this challenge 3 out of the last 4 maybe the reason enthusiasm for this event is maintained. The club also organises an annual BBQ beach ride to Hayling Island and a summer rounders match and BBQ closer to home.

For membership details or further information, contact Cathy Lochman on 9341205

From our District Councillor

Annette Drake writes

We are now 2 years into the new Unitary Authority and beginning, at last, to see some benefits appearing in Hurst. Work on the roads and soon the footway repair programme will start, beginning with the pavements outside the shops. A number of the roads have been repaired and others resurfaced really well.

However, the speeding traffic remains a problem, but the long-awaited report on the findings of the vehicle and speed monitoring equipment, placed in Davis Street for two weeks during October, will finally be submitted to the January meeting of the Highways sub-committee. Members of the committee will be given advice on feasible traffic calming measures for Davis Street and for Sandford Lane width restrictions. Most accidents are recorded in this area. Please let me have your suggestions as soon as possible in order that I can inform the Chairman of Highways of residents' preferences. Consultation will be undertaken prior to any measures being implemented.

The application for an organic farm on the land between Tape Lane and Lodge Road has concerned many residents, as these enterprises tend to grow in size. Although the land is designated as agricultural land, I think there are concerns which the Parish Council and I (*and HVS – Ed*) have voiced to the planning officers. I believe it is obvious that a Farm Shop would need significant amounts of products imported from other farms, significantly increasing the traffic in Lodge Road; furthermore, the proposed new buildings would lead to urbanisation of a rural area. The nature of the activity would not, in my view, necessitate a residential presence on the site. New residential dwellings in the countryside are against the countryside policies. I conclude that this application should be refused. There may well be an appeal by the applicant following a refusal, in which case those who object should write to the Inspector personally. I expect this application to be determined within the next two weeks, but will keep you informed through the HVS newsletter.

I have restarted Saturday “surgery” from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, for residents to phone or discuss District Council matters. I look forward to hearing from you.

The Village Shops

Village Post Office and Stores

The Benefit Agencies are actively encouraging people to have their benefits paid directly into bank accounts. As Steve points out, this is one of the major areas that keeps the Post Office viable and asks you to resist. He also states that the money can be collected at the Post Office, in cash, 6 days a week.

Christmas Shopping Hurst Style

Support your local shops this Christmas (and into the new Millennium) and take some of the hassle out of the shopping.

At the **Village Post Office and Stores** things are already very busy with Christmas stamps now in stock. Do not forget those last posting dates. The store has a wide range of Christmas 'goodies' to tempt you, cards for all the family, wrapping paper, Advent calendars, boxed chocolates and a range of very good continental chocolates. Please note that this year the Post Office and Stores will be closed on 25th, 26th and 27th December.



P & D Jennings, who provide a good range of quality meat and poultry, will be open from 7.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. daily, from 20th to 24th December inclusive. They offer a full range of traditional farm fresh turkeys, which can be ordered up until 16th December.

Look out also for the Christmas opening hours at the **Village Bakery and Tea Rooms**

St Nicholas Primary School

St Nicholas Primary School is looking for a lunch time controller to supervise the children whilst they eat their lunch and play at lunchtime. The hours are 12.00 – 13.00 Monday to Friday. However, if you can only do a Monday or a Friday this would be most welcome.

The governing body of St Nicholas Primary School is looking for a clerk to take minutes at the twice a term evening meetings and to liaise with the Chairman.

If you are interested in either of these posts please contact Mrs M Morgan on 934 0727.

Speeding in the Village

Thank you to all of those who wrote to me about the above subject.

The article seemed to at least ruffle a few feathers! I will keep you informed of any developments in future Newsletters.

... and finally ...

This Newsletter sees me complete a year as Editor. It has been a year that has been rewarding and frustrating in almost equal measures.

I very much want people to consider the Newsletter as 'ours' and was encouraged by the number of different people who contributed this time around.

I would like to include as many organisations, clubs, societies etc as I can in every Newsletter but I can only do this if you let me know what is going on!

Newsletters are produced quarterly and I need to have your contributions by the end of Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct.

I look forward to hearing from you!

*Derek Chivers
0118 934 0861*

Dates for your Millennium Diary

The year 2000 is going to be even busier than usual in our village. Below is a list of events that I have been informed about so far. So take out your Millennium diaries and make a note of the dates now.

If you are organising an event that is not included here please let me know and I will include it in a future Newsletter. (No commercial ventures please).

31st December 1999	Adults' Y2k New Year's Party
2nd January 2000	Children's New Year's Party
26th March	Millennium Dome outing
20th May	May Ball in the Village Hall
24/25th June	Hurst Horse Show & Country Fayre
1st July	Jazz in the Park
22nd July	Children's Party on the Green
28th July	Lads v Dads Cricket Match
19th August	Hurst Horticultural Show
9th September	Over 60s River Trip
28th October	HVS Annual Dinner Dance
6th December	StNicholas' Day Millennium Church Service

We wish all our readers a Merry
Christmas and a happy and successful
New Millennium