

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 86

www.hvs.org.uk

June 2003

School Road development is “unsustainable” - Inspector dismisses appeal

Plans for 25 new homes in School Road have been judged “unsustainable” by a Government planning inspector.

Hurst Village Society had campaigned against the proposed development on the grounds that 19 houses and a block of six flats would be detrimental to the semi-rural character of the village, and be unsustainable because of the burden on village services and lack of infrastructure.

The planning inspector, Stephen Job who made a site visit in March, reviewed Wokingham council’s policy, and representations from residents and the Village Society before making his decision. The development would “introduce an urban element into the centre of Hurst starkly contrasting with the low density housing which surrounds the site on all sides,” he wrote. “The proposal has little regard for its context and would...have an unacceptable incongruous appearance.”

He dismissed Millgate Homes’ appeal against Wokingham council’s failure to make a decision on the plans within a prescribed time limit and stated: “The proposed development would have an adverse effect on the character and appearance of the area, this harm would outweigh any advantage that might accrue from using land more efficiently, and the development would be unsustainable.”

The inspector assessed the sustainability of the plans against the number of shops, the fact that the school is over-subscribed and cannot expand, lack of health services and significant opportunities for employment, frequency of the bus service, and accessibility of rail services – all of which would result in the occupiers of the development relying heavily on private cars for access to employment, shops and services.

Although Millgate Homes had produced a “draft unilateral undertaking” to
continued inside back cover

Support your Village Halls

The Village Halls Committee is very pleased to announce that the Halls have been successful in an application for a top-up grant from the Millennium Commission, *writes John Edwards, Chairman of the Halls Management Committee.*

We are eligible for a sum of £13,000 that will be put towards a new roof for the Committee Room and kitchen extension, and resurfacing of the floors in both the Large and Small Halls.

However, like all Lottery grants, we have to match the sum with our own money. The Parish Council has generously promised to help and we have saved some money of our own, but we are still £4,000 short of our target.

How can you all help? It's very easy, support social functions organised at the Halls (such as the Midsummer Ball and the Great British night) and make use of the attractive hiring fees for all your club and private parties. We have until the end of the year to raise the money before the offer from the Millennium Commission expires.

Children's Variety Show

Hurst Children's Theatre Group will be performing extracts from their first Variety Show at the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre. As this newsletter went to press the group was preparing to take the stage at Leighton Park School, Reading on 7 June, and look forward to a repeat performance in the village.

Twenty children ranging in ages from 7 to 13 have shown real dedication, not only in attending 14 weeks of rehearsals and practising at home, but some of them have also taken up the challenge of directing their friends, *writes Dorinda Duncan.*

They have chosen the cast, music and costumes, and choreographed pieces from Thriller, Fame, Spirit in the Sky, and a drama. The "directors" have had to motivate and direct their peers, which is an amazing feat at this young age. The children have also written project essays about the whole process and these will be on display at the show.

Invaluable help has been given by Lauren Kinge who introduced the cast to many different forms of dance, Caroline Speer who sold tickets and kept everyone together, Sarah Kinge who masterminded costumes, and Sally Pitwood for great prop hunting and stage management. We are also indebted to Leighton Park School who have provided the theatre at a substantially reduced fee.

Have a GREAT British Night!

You are invited to a "British Night" Saturday, 21 June at 8.00 pm in Hurst Village Hall. Come dressed to impress in red, white and blue, or glam up for the night as a Pearly King or Queen.

Entertainment includes a disco of British music from the 70s, 80s and 90s. Tickets priced £6 each are available from Caroline Speer on 0118 934 3886, and include a free glass of Pimm's. Money raised will benefit the Twyford-based charity Daisy's Dream and a voluntary worker in Peru.

Youth Club is here every week

The Mobile Youth Club was successfully launched by Councillor Bob Wyatt, the new chairman of Wokingham District Council, at the end of May with a party at the Village Hall.

After several weeks of trials, the van and trailer will be in Hurst (either at the Village Hall or the recreation ground by the pond) every Thursday evening from 7.30 - 9.30 pm throughout the summer with Internet access, PlayStation 2, music decks for DJs and MC-ing, skateboard ramps, football, basketball, and information about sexual health and drug awareness.

Youth worker Bev Stevens, who is looking after the club during the summer, said that as soon as the youth team has recruited more workers, they will be able to offer rounders at the recreation ground.

The youth team will be running a day-time summer holiday scheme in Hurst and Twyford – details will be advertised in the Youth Club van – and children will be able to get to Twyford on the 128 bus service from Hurst.

"We're very grateful to the Parish Council and Wokingham District for the help they've given us," said Bev. "Now we'd like to see a few more children coming along – at the moment we have between 12 and 15 regulars, and we'd like to get to know more teenagers from the village."

Anyone for an informal tennis club?

Following the item in the last edition of the HVS newsletter, Pippa Boyd has contacted the Parish Council and is happy to initiate a "club". This would develop a booking system for the Dolphin School courts, and perhaps an informal social "mix-in" session. If anyone is interested in either joining or helping to set up an informal Tennis Club please contact Pippa Boyd (0118 934 5034 or njpboyd@postfor.com).

The View from Shute End

Wokingham Unitary Councillor Annette Drake reports ...

“Wake Up!” call to planners and developers

The best news for Hurst must be the dismissal of the Millgate Homes appeal against the refusal by Wokingham council of their application to build 25 homes in School Road.

This is a “Wake Up!” call to the planners at Wokingham and developers who are on the look-out for potential sites. The council’s policy on windfall development in Category B settlements such as Hurst has been open to mis-interpretation. Had it not been for the Village Society and Parish Council representations at the Development Control committee, and a few of my rural colleagues, the officers would have given the green light to this application.

I hope the policy on windfall development in villages like Hurst will be clear and unambiguous when the Wokingham Local Plan (modified version) is published. In the meantime the Inspector has given us a test case for the Wokingham District. Well done everyone for your letters and time spent campaigning – the message from this village is loud and clear – “Don’t mess with Hurst!”

New chairman and new priorities at the council

The Conservatives increased their majority at the council by 3 after the recent elections when a third of the seats were contested. The new chairman is Bob Wyatt, a well-known local historian who wrote *The History of Wokingham*, which is a fascinating read. The new electoral boundaries will be in place in May 2004 when all the district’s councillors will face election.

The new council has outlined its priorities for the new year which include tackling crime and the fear of crime, fighting to reduce future housing development in the district, cutting congestion on the district’s roads, and reviewing the provision of secondary school places.

Toy Library at Woodley

The first Toy Library in the district was opened recently in the Highwood Annexe in Fairwater Drive, Woodley. The library is open to everyone, parents, child-minders and playgroups to give them support and new ideas to keep young minds healthy and active.

~~~~~ **TICKETS ON SALE FOR THE PARTY IN THE PARK**

Tickets for the ever-popular Party in the Park will be on sale from 6 June. This year’s event takes place on Saturday 5 July in the School Road field, when two bands will be entertaining Hurst residents, their friends and families.

Hurst Football Club, which is running the event, is celebrating a highly successful season with the first team promoted to the Senior Division. Party in the Park tickets can be bought from any member of the club, the local shops and the Elephant and Castle pub. More information from Social Secretary Keith Pattendon (01344 50191) or Gary Porter (0118 978 8722) .

HURST HORTICULTURAL & COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY SHOW SATURDAY 16 AUGUST

A slightly modified schedule has been produced for gardeners and craftspeople to have a go at entering the 90th annual Horticultural and Home Industries Show *writes co-organiser Rita Bunyard.*

There will be 125 classes from flower arranging to vegetable produce, cooking, photography or even decorating your walking stick! Children are especially encouraged to enter with fun classes for under fives up to “Family Group” photography for 15 year olds.

Exhibits are displayed in the Village Hall and grounds with marquees, stalls and a refreshment area for visitors to enjoy the sounds of the Woodley-based Trinity Concert Band, playing a lively programme of music throughout the afternoon.

Show schedules are available from the village shops and on the village website: www.hvs.org.uk. Entries close at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 13 August and all exhibits must be staged before 10.00 am on the morning of the show. The show opens to the public from 1.30 pm, when the exhibits can be viewed, prize giving is at 4.30 pm finishing up with the popular produce auction at approximately 4.45 pm.

The Dog Show, held in aid of the National Animal Welfare Trust takes place in the adjacent field. Entries are accepted only on the day of the show from 11.30 am, with judging by Aggie Cory starting at 12 noon.

If competition is not for you, just come along and enjoy the event, cream teas, beer, wine and barbeque food will be served throughout the afternoon, entry to the show is £1.00 for adults, 50p for seniors and children.

HH&CGS is holding a members evening mini-show on Thursday 3 July for people to gain experience at showing and judging. Anyone interested in taking part should call Terry Bovis on 0118 979 3910 or Terry Bunyard on 0118 934 5263.

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### MARQUEE FOR HIRE

The 1st Hurst Air Scouts are currently hiring out their 30' x 30' marquee for £200 within a 25 mile radius of Hurst. This price includes erecting and striking the marquee at a mutually convenient time. To allow for guy ropes, the area required to pitch the marquee needs to be a minimum of 45' x 45'. Smaller Bell Tents are also available on request. For further information please contact Louise Shapland on 0118 934 2209.

## The 24th Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre

This year's Hurst Horse Show & Country Fayre on 28 and 29 June has several new attractions as well as the traditional gymkhana, show classes and show-jumping on both days.

The Show and Country Fayre on the fields in School Road will once again be raising money for St. Nicholas School as well as the many charities and organisations that form an important part of our village lives. So bring granny, the kids, and your friends to enjoy a great day out and support a good cause at the same time.

It really is a combined effort by people living in the village, and if we should ever wonder if it were worth all the fuss, just ask anyone who has had a child at St. Nicholas School. They will tell you how the excitement starts to mount as soon as the first tent is erected. By the weekend of the Show, the atmosphere at the school is electric!

For the first time it will be possible to purchase Show tickets in advance at preferential rates, keep an eye on the village notice-boards for more details.

### Ferret Racing

New events scheduled for this year include Ferret Racing and a Fly Fishing display. The Children's Theatre Group is putting on a performance with extracts from their Variety Show.

Among the regular favourites are:

- \* Static classic car display
- \* Hurst FC penalty competition
- \* Archery with the HVS
- \* Our own Hurst Morris Group
- \* Arena displays
- \* Birds of Prey including owls
- \* Pet show
- \* Guess the make, model and year of the scrapped car competition
- \* The Sandhurst Beagles
- \* The Show Queen parade
- \* Visits from our local Steam Traction Engine and the Fire Brigade
- \* Craft Stalls
- \* Beer and Refreshments Tent
- \* Horse and cart rides, and pony rides
- \* Large bouncy castle and Gladiator Game

We welcome back the basket-weaver to the ever expanding Living Crafts Corner which this year features woodcarvers, a saddler, wheelwright, potter, the basket weaver, hurdle maker and bee-keeper.

### **Terrier Racing**

There's something for everyone and each day is capped off by the famous Terrier Racing. For the uninitiated, this entails several heats with dogs of various size, shape and pedigree (some very dubious!) in hot pursuit of something resembling a rabbit on a piece of string. This really is the highlight of the day, so bring your faithful hound to the Show with you (non-terriers are welcome too) and he may win his supper!

### **Strawberries and Cream**

St. Nicholas Playgroup will be selling luscious strawberries and cream on Saturday – all the strawberries hand-picked by the children the day before, and then sold to raise funds for the group on Saturday.

The St. Nicholas School stalls will include bric a brac, pancakes and candyfloss, skittles, book stall, and children's games.

### **Help wanted!**

If anyone is interested in helping with the show please either contact us now, or come along to any of the setting up evenings from Wednesday 25 June onwards. We would value any help both setting up and particularly taking down on the Sunday night. It's a great way to meet other folk from the village, a good excuse for a pint afterwards and your help would be very much appreciated.

It is also possible to sponsor the Show, which is how a great deal of the funds are raised. Some people and organisations provide financial sponsorship, others in the form of gifts or services which can be raffled. If you or your company would be kind enough to sponsor this year's Show, please contact David Lochman on 0118 934 1205 or email: [HHS@fractura.demon.co.uk](mailto:HHS@fractura.demon.co.uk).

### **Thank you**

We are, as ever, indebted to Mrs. Jo Walker-Robson and family for allowing the Show to take place on their fields once again, and we also mustn't forget the parents and staff at St. Nicholas School who put in a huge effort during the weekend.

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> January every year.

To join the HVS please 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. Send the completed form to Eddie Coe, Membership Secretary, 4 Lodge Road, Whistley Green, Hurst RG10 0EH.

#### **Section A**

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
Postcode..... Telephone.....  
E-mail .....

#### **Section B**

I enclose £5.00 cash / cheque for £5.00 payable to **Hurst Village Society**, being my subscription for 2003. I also enclose a donation of £ .....

#### **Section C**

To: My Bank:  
The Manager, .....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 1349706 (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 1<sup>st</sup> January

Signature.....Date.....



## Hurst Village Register of Skills and Services

Have you registered your skills and services? The Village Society is in the process of updating the Skills Register for publication later this year, and we would like to have the correct information.

This invaluable leaflet provides details of skills and services made available by people living within Hurst, and is delivered free of charge to all households in the village. The register covers a large range of skills: from Accountants to Architects, Plumbing to Photography.

If you are looking for someone with a skill, then the Skills Register should be your first stop. If you have a skill or service to offer, then please let us know.

All we need is your name, address, and contact details (telephone number, e-mail address, and/or web site) and a brief (20 words or less) description of your skill or service.

Entries in the register are free to members of the Village Society; non-members can be included for a fee of £5 (the same as a year's membership, so it makes sense to join anyway). The Skills Register is also available on-line at the Society's web site [www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk), and updated throughout the year.

To be included please contact Duncan Kendall on 0118 934 2852 or any committee member. If you were listed in the last year's edition of the Skills Register, or are listed in the on-line version, and are a paid-up member of the Village Society, then you will automatically be included in the next issue.

However, if you would like to amend your details, or include an e-mail or web address for the on-line version, please contact Duncan Kendall on 0118 934 2852 or by email: [dk-hvs@bdksol.co.uk](mailto:dk-hvs@bdksol.co.uk)

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Village Halls Midsummer Ball

The annual May Ball is slightly delayed this year and will take place on Saturday 14 June. Penny Curry's team is providing a sumptuous feast and Gene Taverner will entertain us along with his band of musicians, *writes John Edwards*. The fully licensed bar will have a great selection of wines and draught Rebellion bitter.

This is a very popular black tie and posh frock affair—tickets priced at £20, may be obtained from John Edwards on 0118 934 0238 or John Penney on 0118 934 1498. Profits from the event will contribute towards the ongoing refurbishment of the Halls.

What's happening in Hurst? How to stay informed

This month Hurst Village Society launched its Internet information service. Complementary to the printed newsletter and our website, www.hvs.org.uk, this free e-mail service delivers information about events and activities in and around the village straight to your inbox.

Mailings are normally sent out monthly, although they may be more frequent. Subscribers to the service also receive an electronic copy of the newsletter and other news about the Village.

The easiest way to subscribe to the service is to send a blank e-mail to: "HurstVS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com". You will receive a confirmation e-mail from Yahoo Groups (who host the service for us). To complete the subscription process, simply reply to their message.

The success of this service is dependent on support from people who want to publicise local events and activities. If you are organising an event or activity in Hurst, then let us know and we can include the details in a future mailing. If you are interested to know more about what is going on in your Village, and have access to e-mail, then subscribe today, and get your friends and neighbours to subscribe too.

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### **The Blea family at The Castle**

David Brighton of Beech in Hampshire has contacted the Village Society to find out more about the Blea family who lived at The Castle Inn during the mid-1800s.

David's great great grandmother Ann Blea was one of eight children including her brothers William (born 1820), George (born c1822) and Thomas (born 1835). One of the brothers is thought to have been a landlord at The Castle around 1870, and the pub was in the Blea family for many years. Does anyone have any details on past landlords—including the Blea family? If you can help David, please e-mail him at: [david.brighton@virgin.net](mailto:david.brighton@virgin.net)

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New Editor Wanted

Are you interested in contributing to, or editing, the Newsletter? Wendy Tobitt will be relinquishing the editor's role at the AGM next year, so please contact her if you would like to take over. The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in September. All items for publication should be sent to Wendy before 7 September by e-mail to wendy_tobitt@compuserve.com, or call 0118 934 2381. The next committee meeting is on 17 June.

School Road development is “unsustainable” continued...

remove the great crested newts to a new pond, and make a donation towards council services, the inspector dismissed the offer because it was only in draft form.

The inspector's decision gives clear and specific guidance to planners and developers on what constitutes sustainable development in Hurst which includes: “development proposals should be appropriate to the area in which they are located and respect the local context. Development should not have a detrimental impact on nature conservation features.”

The full Appeal Decision is on the Village Society website: www.hvs.org.uk

News from the Gospel Hall

There's always a warm welcome for everyone including visitors at the Gospel Hall at Whistley Green. The regular Sunday service is at 6.30 pm or the Bible Study evening on Tuesdays at 7.45 pm.

If you have children aged six years or older, they may like to join in the singing, games and quizzes, and Bible stories at the regular Monday evening JAM (Jesus and Me) sessions. Contact Jon and Christina Colman on 0118 969 4240 if you would like to know more.

The Ladies' Evenings concluded their spring programme with a Strawberries by the River evening on 4 June. This group will meet up again in the autumn, but contact Rachel Simms on 0118 977 2071 if you would like to arrange an event during the summer.

For general inquiries about services and events at the Gospel Hall, contact John Barton on 0118 377 4063 or Nigel and Norah Thomas on 0118 966 7239.

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### **School Library to benefit from sale of Denis Eastwood's books**

The Denis Eastwood library of books, which was given to the Village Society with a donation to maintain it and make the books available to anyone in the parish, is to be sold. The proceeds and the donated money will be given to St. Nicholas Primary School to equip the new library.

David Shapland and Brian Thomas have catalogued the Denis Eastwood library, which can be seen on the village website, [www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk) and identified a number of books to be valued before sale.

Several people have expressed an interest in buying some of the books, and offers will be accepted before the remainder are sold at the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre. Please contact David or Brian (details overleaf) if you would like more information about the books.

# Hurst Village Society Committee Members

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*Published by the Hurst Village Society.*

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