

# 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. 90**

**[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)**

**April 2004**

## **CALL TO ARMS !! HVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Friday 30th April at 8pm in the Small Village Hall**. Anyone with a connection with Hurst is invited. The Society is an independent body which aims to represent the residents of Hurst. However, it can do that more effectively if it receives feedback on its activities. Please do come along and let us know your views. The meeting usually lasts just an hour. Items on the AGM agenda this year are:

- Review of Activities in 2003/04
- Election of General Committee members for 2004/2005
- Update on District Council issues from Annette Drake
- Questions from the floor

The Society's General Committee meets every six weeks to discuss issues around Planning, the Environment, Transport, and Public Services in Hurst village. Issues currently being tackled include:

- Traffic Calming and Speed Enforcement
- Increasing incidence of burglary around Hurst
- Littering of highways and fly-tipping

If you have been affected by any of these, then please come along to the AGM. We want your ideas as well as your opinions!

The current Committee of 15 are all Hurst residents who volunteered to support the aims of the Society. Five of the 15 committee members will stand down at the AGM, per the Society rules; and those who wish to will offer themselves for re-election. The Committee is always keen to have people involved in the Society, either as Committee members, or as associate volunteers. A Nomination for Membership form can be found in the last newsletter or on the HVS website at **[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)**. If you would like to be involved, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Whether or not you can make the AGM, the Committee invites you to renew your membership of the Society. At just £5 per year, this represents outstanding value, and more importantly covers the cost of activities such as printing the newsletters, and dealing with planning applications.

### **Hurst Village Tennis Club**

If you would like to spend a couple of hours a week playing at our informal mix-in sessions, then dust off your tennis racquet and come along! We will be meeting every Monday evening at 7pm at the Dolphin School from Monday 26th April. All standards are welcome (we have no ex-Wimbledon members) and no partner is needed. We are a friendly bunch of amateurs. For more information contact:

**Pippa Boyd on 0118 934 5034 or at [njpboyd@postfor.com](mailto:njpboyd@postfor.com).**

### **Fund Raising for Wokingham Hospital Pavilion**

A fundraising race night for Wokingham Hospital Pavilion Appeal is arranged for Thursday 13th May at 7:30pm in Hurst Village Hall. Tickets are £5 including hot supper with licensed bar. There will be video races with the opportunity to place a bet and hopefully win! For tickets please call **Rita Bunyard on 0118 934 5253**.

### **Hurst Football Club**

A reminder that the annual Football Club fund raising **Party in the Park** will be held on **Saturday 3rd July**. Details of ticket prices in the next newsletter.

### **Hurst Pantomime Group's production of Snow White**

A reminder to all those of you who are keen to appear in the next pantomime. Auditions will take place in September and be followed by a regular programme of rehearsals, culminating in the real thing in January 2005. More details in the next newsletter. If having fun with the family and donating money to the cause is more your thing, then the Family Day scheduled for **6th June** at the Village Halls may be a safer bet!

### **Brownies are 90 years old!**

The Brownies are 90 years old this year. To celebrate, the 1st Hurst Brownie pack held a party complete with presents all round and a 90th birthday cake in Brownie colours made and decorated by Mary Langdown.

### **25th Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre**

Don't forget to put **26th and 27th June** in your diaries. Last year's show was a great success and the 25th anniversary this year promises to be equally entertaining. Please come along and support the event. If you would like to volunteer to help out or to provide financial sponsorship, please contact **[hhs@fractura.demon.co.uk](mailto:hhs@fractura.demon.co.uk)**

### **Hurst Pre-school Pagoda Sale**

On Saturday 1st May, St Nicholas Pre-school Playgroup are holding a cake and bric-a-brac sale at the Pagoda in Woodley Shopping Centre. All funds raised will go directly to running this lively group which meets every day at the small Village Hall. If you are shopping in Woodley between 8.30am and around 2pm, please drop by and pick up a bargain, or a delicious homemade cake. If you have anything to donate that we could sell (no clothes or electrical items) please call **Sam Langer on 0118 934 0230**.

## **Hurst Youth Football Update**

Since the last HVS newsletter we have received sponsorship from Romans Estate Agents and Flower Independent Financial Advisers; these local businesses are also helping us to be considered for a government grant to enable at least four teams to be entered in local leagues in September 2004.

We have had a good response from the village youth, however if you have not yet registered, go to the HVS web site at **[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)** and look under the heading **“Local Information”**. If you wish to lend a hand or even help with the costs, we have many positive ways in which you may help and to get your local business prominently displayed.

### **The summer tournaments:**

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday/Sunday 8th/9th May</b>    | Woodley Kestrels FC at Alfred Sutton School      |
| <b>Sunday 23rd May</b>                | Lower Earley Predation FC at Piggott School      |
| <b>Saturday/Sunday 29th/30th May</b>  | Wokingham Town at St Crispin’s School            |
| <b>Sunday 6th June</b>                | Chequers Way Woodley Hammers at Bulmershe School |
| <b>Saturday/Sunday 19th/20th June</b> | Woodley Saints at Sonning Lane, Sonning          |
| <b>Sunday 4th July</b>                | Carterton Rangers at Oxford                      |

Registration is free at **[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)** alternatively email Tim Drake for information at **[tmdrk@aol.com](mailto:tmdrk@aol.com)**

## **Come on Hurst !!**

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### **[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)—What’s On in Hurst ?**

The HVS web site provides information about events in the village and important dates to note, which are posted in a monthly email. There is also a skills register showing all the local skills we can call on within the village. So log on today and register for your regular email updates and find out more about Hurst and what’s on.

## **Parish Council News**

**From Jan Martin—Chairman of Hurst PC** - contactable on **0118 934 2851** or visit **[www.hurst-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurst-pc.org.uk)**

### **Road Safety**

As part of the Parish Council's road safety policy, a vehicle speed survey using SID (Speed Indication Device) was carried out on Broadwater Lane, near the Gospel Hall, on Friday 2nd April. Between 12:00 and 13:00, the speed of 63 vehicles was recorded in this 30 mph zone.

| <b>Number of vehicles</b> | <b>Speed</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 36                        | 36-39mph     |
| 23                        | 40-49mph     |
| 4                         | 50mph +      |

The 85 percentile speed was calculated to be 45mph. In view of these very high figures the police have proposed additional future SID visits to this site with police support.

The Parish Council has asked WDC for a SID assessment to be carried out for their vehicle activated sign (VAS) programme at other sites. These are: Lodge Road, Hinton Road and the A321 to the south of the village. An update on the VAS programme is due from WDC's Highways Board in July.

### **Local Nature Reserves**

The Parish Council has written to a local landowner to explore the possibility of designating some of their land for a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). As this is a big step for the landowner to take it will be some time before we get a formal reply. In the meantime the Parish Council is making further enquiries with English Nature and other Parish Councils who have been through the process of designating an LNR.

The Parish Council is keen to know both the positive and negative aspects and it is essential that we gain sufficient knowledge of the costs and liabilities before committing public money to this project. It is clear that, should this project go ahead, we will require the assistance of many people to manage, maintain and fund the LNR's upkeep. To keep up to date with this project, visit our website at:

**[www.hurst-pc.org.uk/news/lnr.html](http://www.hurst-pc.org.uk/news/lnr.html)**

### **Community Shelter**

This project is well underway and is on target for completion in the summer holidays. The shelter will be positioned in the School Road recreation ground (opposite Townsend Pond).

It should be noted, however, there remain a number of residents who object to the Community Shelter and have made their views known at the meetings held by the Parish Council and directly to the HVS Committee.

## Youth Provision

The popular Mobile Youth Facility will continue to meet at the Village Hall car park on alternate Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7:00 to 9:30pm, but will switch to the School Road recreation ground when necessary work has been completed.

## Village Clean-up

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who took part in the annual village clean-up. A record number of helpers collected nearly four skips of rubbish with many unusual items being found. The waste team at WDC arranges for the removal of rubbish dumped on roads, verges and footways, so please report any incidents to WDC on **0118 974 6340**. Please also report anyone you suspect of dumping rubbish to either the Environment Agency on **01276 454300** or WDC on **0118 974 6307** or **6339**.

WDC has a hotline (**0118 974 6307**) for residents to report incidents of graffiti on private property which will be removed or covered free of charge by the Council's street cleansing contractor.

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## **Call for an even cleaner Hurst !**

While we reached record numbers taking part in the annual village clean up, we felt it important to include an extract from an email the Committee recently received from a regular visitor to Hurst:

*".. This was my fourth visit to Hinton Road in the past six years and I write to you to express my dismay at the way in which pride in your environment has gone right down since my last visit.*

*"Imagine my dismay when I found most of your beautiful walking trails and pavements befouled with dog poo, old gear boxes, refrigerators, microwave ovens, stoves, general rubbish and even bags of everyday household garbage. People are using Hurst as a dumping ground and your residents walking their dogs are carrying doggy poo bags for show—not for picking up the poo.*

*"To say I was disgusted was an understatement. The worst walk was down to the ford. I cannot believe that people can so harm the environment in which they live. Furthermore, I cannot believe that a Council such as yours allows this filth to collect and grow in volume to the extent that it has.*

*"You need an education programme for your residents and some system whereby the need to dump household appliances by the side of the road is not necessary. Furthermore, you need to do something about cleaning up the mess that is already there.*

*"I hope that you manage to do something—my next visit to Hurst will be in September. Will I see an improvement? I hope so."*

While this may seem hard hitting, it is clear that this particular visitor to our village feels that the environment is being spoiled. The HVS Committee is keen to support the Parish Council in countering any littering and dumping problems and would like to encourage sensible disposal of rubbish and the use of the Parish Council's incident and help lines given above. Let's work together to ensure this visitor's return to Hurst is a more pleasant experience.

## **View from Shute End**

### **Wokingham Unitary Councillor, Annette Drake, reports:**

#### **Speeding traffic**

The Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police has replied to my letter in which you may recall that I asked him to be aware of our disquiet about the speeding traffic on our village roads.

His reply is very positive. The guidance on the use of speed cameras is being revised nationally, and there may be some flexibility to deploy more speed cameras or mobile speed enforcement teams at sites that fall below the current threshold. This threshold relates to the number of crashes and fatal accidents on the site.

This is truly good news – it seems ridiculous that unless there are fatalities we cannot get action from the police on traffic calming! The Chief Constable has forwarded his letter to Inspector Lindsay Finch, the Neighbourhood Inspector for Wokingham, who will meet with us to discuss the problems of speeding traffic in Hurst.

#### **Tape Lane**

The new access onto Tape Lane which is causing much consternation and anxiety to residents in Tape Lane, and all who fear the not very well hidden agenda of the owner of the land. Many have written to the planning department and the enforcement team, and now the arboriculture officer has also been alerted. The news I have from the officers has now changed! This access requires planning permission because it opens on to an adopted road and does not serve any permitted development.

Planning permission is required to remove a hedge under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997, which states:

- It is against the law to remove most countryside hedgerows without permission
- You must write to your local planning authority
- If the authority decides to prohibit removal of an important hedgerow it must let you know within 6 weeks
- If you remove the hedgerow without permission (whether important or not) you may face an unlimited fine. You may also have to replace the hedgerow.

Many thanks to those of you who have helped to get this matter properly investigated by the officers of the Council. We now have the opportunity to fight this battle. Once again we act together against unauthorised goings-on!

#### **Clearing Ditches**

I have had no response from my questions as to whether anyone else needs their ditches cleared. I thought that if several residents clubbed together, they would get a better deal from a contractor for the work. My ditches need excavating, do yours?

#### **Contacting Annette Drake**

Please note, I have had no email since early this month and will not be online again until the beginning of May! So please use my 'phone numbers if you wish to contact me:

Home: 0118 934 1035

Work: 07753 861 961

# Crime Report from Wpc Sandy Craske

Sandy Craske's full report for March can be found on [www.hurst-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurst-pc.org.uk)

**The Use of Lines Road** as a cut-through for commuter traffic is being looked into, but I am conscious that it could put a lot more traffic through School Road. What I plan to do is to go to the area and note all vehicles that pass. I will then send a letter to each of the owners, indicating that the vehicle was seen to be using that road and requesting that they notify the driver and request they respect the "access only" signs.

I have passed the **Green Man public house** on several occasions but have not found any vehicles blocking the footpath. Perhaps I have not been there at the right time and will bear this in mind on my travels.

**Crime update:** during March we have had only one instance of a dwelling burglary; better than in February. However, Hurst has been hit very badly for garage, shed and outbuilding break-ins. A total of 8 have been reported and a variety of equipment has been stolen, including hand tools, electric tools, petrol and a generator. In relation to these break-ins, we have been handed a Master 800 Workbench which was left near the scene of a break-in; so far we have been unable to trace the owner. If anyone knows the owner, please contact me. There have been two incidents of vehicles being broken into and also one reported theft of a motor vehicle which was found in Caversham the next day.

**Dunt Lane:** reports of youths drinking and drug taking in this area have been made, but once again I have not seen anyone at that location when I have been there (never in the right place at the right time !).

## **New Incident Number:**

Just a reminder that the new non-emergency number for police matters is **0845 850 5505**.

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## **Follow the Women Campaign An extraordinary event taking place in the Middle East!**

This month will see over 200 women from 20 different countries taking part in a bicycle ride from the Lebanon to Anman to protest for peace. Wpc Sandy Craske will be joining Reading-based Detta Regan who founded the Follow the Women Campaign because she felt she wanted to do "something" to help the situation in the Middle East and create awareness of the suffering experienced by the women of that area.

During the ten day event, the cyclists will meet politicians and famous people of the region as well as being supported along their route by thousands of ordinary women (and men). Judging by the itinerary Sandy provided to us, they are going to have a very interesting, rewarding, but exhausting 10 days. We wish them the very best in this venture.

If you would like to see more details about the event and the Follow the Women Campaign, please visit our web site at [www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)

# Hurst Village Society Committee Members

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*Published by the Hurst Village Society.*

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