

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. 94

www.hvs.org.uk

February 2005

HVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **Friday 22nd April, 8pm**

The HVS Annual General Meeting will be held **on Friday 22nd April at 8pm** in the Small Village Hall. All Hurst residents, together with anyone associated with the village, are invited. The meeting usually lasts just an hour.

The focus for this year has been around Traffic Calming, Fly-tipping and littering, and Development. We plan to review these and to open the floor for general discussion. If you have any burning issues or hot topics, please come along to the AGM. We want your ideas as well as your opinions!

The current committee consists of 12 volunteers, all of whom are Hurst residents interested in supporting the aims of the Society. Four of the current Committee will stand down at the AGM, per the Society rules, and those who wish to will offer themselves for re-election. However, the Committee is always keen to have people involved in the Society, either as Committee members, or simply members. Further details can be found on the HVS website at **www.hvs.org.uk**

Second Award for HVS Website!

Last year Hurst Village Society's website - **www.hvs.org.uk** - was the Berkshire winner in the Information Technology and Communications (ICT) category of the Calor Village of the Year competition. At an awards luncheon in London last December our webmaster Duncan Kendall was delighted to receive a Special Merit Award in the Eastern England region competition.

One of the judges, Ellie Stoneley commented: "*St Nicholas Hurst demonstrated a wonderful sense of welcoming community via a simple, straightforward and attractive website. This is not just due to 'whizz-bang' technology, but the care and attention to detail that has gone into its creation, from data collection offline, to local community engagement and the evident pride in the local area. The village's entry states an aim to 'preserve and enhance the character of the village as a living community' and the judges believe that the use of ICT throughout the local population goes a long way towards helping achieve this. Well done St Nicholas Hurst - a fine example to other communities.*"

We hope to get this second award on display in the Committee Room of the Village Hall, alongside our Berkshire award.

St Nicholas School PTA

The following events have been organised by the St Nicholas School PTA:

Saturday 12th March: Quiz Night and Support, Large Village Hall, 7:30pm
(In conjunction with St Nicholas Pre-School Group
Fish & Chip Supper, tickets £8

Saturday 7th May: Cake Stall, outside Hurst Village Stores and Post Office

Saturday 14th May: Dads' Dinner and Dad's Band, Large Village Hall
A Gourmet evening, cooked by a group of Dads

Hurst Youth Football Club

The Village Hall has been booked for Saturday 7th May for an event to raise funds for the club. Details to follow in our next newsletter.

Hurst Horse Show

The Horse Show committee starts its planning for this year's show this month and would be grateful for any support from interested parties in the village. The committee meets approximately once per month between now and July, when the funds are dispersed around the various worthy causes. Show dates for this year are 18th and 19th June. For further information please contact:

david@hunterpetroleum.com or **cathylochman@fractura.co.uk**

Police Surgery

Sandy Craske will be holding another police surgery on Saturday 26th March, 10am-12pm in the Small Village Hall to provide support to any interested parties in the village. Anyone who wants to introduce themselves to Sandy is able to and if anyone has any concerns over police issues in Hurst they are welcome to come and talk about them. Sandy is more than happy to meet with any age and if it is felt that it would be more appropriate to meet in private, Sandy will arrange another date to come and visit personally. Sandy can be contacted at: **sandy.craske@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk**

1st Hurst Guides

On 15th March, 1st Hurst Guides are planning a show to raise money for the Tsunami Appeal. The show will take place at the Scout Hut from 7pm to 8:45pm and everyone is welcome. Please bring friends and family for a great show. There will be a collection at the end, so please bring spare change.

Village Clean-Up

The Village Clean-up day is Saturday 19th March; please make a note in your diaries. More, detail is provided in the Parish Council update of this newsletter.

Skills Register

The latest HVS Skills register has been published and distributed along with this issue of the newsletter. The register is open to members (new members always welcome) and is published on the HVS website (**www.hvs.org.uk**). If you would like to be included in the register on-line, or in future printed editions, please contact:

Wayne Smith on **0118 934 0840**.

*** News Bites ***

Hurst Gospel Hall

Events at the Gospel Hall:

Each Monday during term time: J.A.M. Children's Bible club for ages 5 and upwards, from 6:15pm.

Sunday 20th March: CAMEO (come and meet each other), an informal time to chat, followed by tea, hymn singing and a Bible talk. This is for all ages.

March 2nd: Ladies Evening from 8pm. "Out of the Jungle" talk by a young lady who has spent 6 months helping underprivileged people in South Africa and the DR Congo.

Hurst Village Bakery and Provisions

John Shuckborough is delighted to inform us that he achieved the granting of an 'Off' Licence to sell wine on 1st December - just in time for Christmas! His personally selected range of wines has been selling well ever since. Since the opening of HB&P there has been a growing popularity for many of its ranges, some of which were enjoyed by the turkey queue outside Jennings Butchers on Christmas Eve - together with mulled wine, Christmas crackers and much jollity! If you would like to hear more about John's plans for 2005 and perhaps a tour of the bakery, please contact John on **0118 934 9137**.

Mary Nondé, Artistic Director, Dancing for Joy

Mary was the choreographer for the Hurst Pantomime Group's production of Snow White. Mary has a new season of dance and movement classes for adults and children which started on 1st February. Whether you're looking for upbeat and funky, centring and meditative, completely still, fun and sparkle, or just Ballroom and Latin American dancing, there's something for everyone. And it's a chance to *get yer body movin'* and be FIT FOR LIFE. Please contact **Mary** on **0118 934 0640** for more information and class schedules.

St Nicholas East Wall Update

You may have seen the latest public notice outside the church about the East Wall, pointing out that the St Nicholas Hurst Parochial Church Council is applying to the Diocese for a faculty to investigate and repair some of the wall, coping and apex crosses and flashing. This lower-key approach will allow the finances to be understood and managed more easily when we embark on the later phase. It will also allow some repairs to be undertaken to reduce water penetration.

If you wish to see the detail, the papers are available in the church. Work is expected to commence in May.

In the meantime, we have carried out the monitoring of readings on the East Wall for over a year, and this will continue for a further 4 years at least. This is to understand the nature of the movement, i.e. is it progressive or seasonal? To date it seems to be seasonal, but time will tell. It will also enable us to check that any activities or repair work do not adversely affect the movement or introduce instability.

Hurst Baby & Toddler Group

Do you look after children under 4 and have a free Wednesday morning? If so why not come and join us at Hurst's busy Baby & Toddler group. Everyone is welcome including parents, carers, nannies, grandparents and childminders.

Each week we have a variety of stimulating toys for all ages, a home corner, dressing up, play dough, a book corner, and ride-on toys. There is also a separate baby area for non-walkers. We try to include a group activity such as singing every week towards the end of the session, and there is a small video and cassette library with young children's titles.

We have a number of different visitors to the sessions including a photographer, someone who does hand and foot imprints, children's book sellers, toy stalls and Phoenix cards. We are closely linked to the St. Nicholas Pre-School Playgroup and we share in some of its fund-raising activities and trips. Up and coming events include a sponsored 'toddle' in the summer to raise funds for Barnardo's and the Toddler Group.

We meet every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon in the Large Village Hall in Hurst. This includes school holidays, although we are closed between Christmas and New Year. We charge £2.00 for you and your first child plus 50p for each additional child over six months old. The price includes tea or coffee for the adults and squash and a biscuit for the children.

If you have any further questions please contact our Toddler Co-ordinator **Rebecca Vaughan** on **0118 932 0667**.

St Nicholas Pre-School Playgroup

Did you know there is a thriving Playgroup in Hurst?

Our pre-school provides places for all 3-5 year olds in Hurst and the surrounding area. We are open five days a week (mornings 9 - 11.30am, lunch club 11.30 - 12.30, and afternoons 12.30 - 3pm) and we meet in the Small Village Hall. Our Breakfast Club, known as the 'Wakey Wakey Club', is from 8am for 4 to 11 year olds and includes walking children to the Primary School.

We have very high standards and aim to send all our children off to primary school as happy, well-balanced individuals who enjoy learning and face challenges with enthusiasm and confidence.

Our curriculum follows the Early Learning Goals set out by the Department of Education and we have already passed three Ofsted inspections with flying colours. We offer 'freeplay' sessions for 3-5 year olds where the emphasis is on learning through play. We also have smaller, more structured sessions to encourage pre-reading and writing skills, plus concentration and perseverance. Each term has a theme and there are related trips out and special visitors - a recent favourite being a visit from a local vet.

We are proud of our ratio of one adult to six children. Each funded child has a key worker which means our professional staff are dedicated to the needs and development of each child. For further information or to join our waiting list, please call **Sam Langer**, our Vice Chairperson, on **0118 934 0230**, or visit our web site at:

www.playgroup.bdksol.co.uk

HURST HORTICULTURAL & COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hurst Cricket Club, Thursday 14th April, 8pm

The meeting will be followed by an open social evening (at 8:30pm) when the Society's archives will be on display. There will also be a sale of garden items by Perennial, and a young plant sale. **New members always welcome!**

The 92nd Annual Show Date is August 20th. If you would like to get involved, please come along to the meeting on 14th April. Show schedules will be available at this meeting.

Don't Miss Out!

Since its launch in Mid-2003, the free monthly "**What's On in Hurst**" e-mail has been going from strength to strength. In that time over 300 events and activities in and around the village have been listed, and the number of subscribers has risen sharply to nearly 100.

Event organisers have found it a really useful and easy method of promoting their activities and it complements the notice boards around the village. If you are planning something, then visit our website at **www.hvs.org.uk** and find out how easy it can be to reach a large number of local households.

To find out more about the "What's On" mailing list, visit our award-winning website at www.hvs.org.uk where you can find lots of useful information. Don't miss out on what's happening in *your* village - visit the website, see the latest listings and **sign up today!**

Local History and Parish Register

We are really excited that local historian Henry Farrar has allowed us to publish on our website (**www.hvs.org.uk**) his wonderful "CD-ROM of Hurst". This in-depth history of our village and surrounding area has been updated and made available as an online resource.

The website also includes entries from the Hurst Parish Register, detailing Births, Marriages and Deaths in the village from the mid 1500s to the late 19th Century. This has been made possible by a mammoth feat of perseverance by Henry Farrar who acquired several shoeboxes full of index cards and typed in all of these records. We believe that we are one of the first parishes in the country to have such comprehensive records available on-line.

Nomination for Membership of the General Committee 2005 – 2006

The object of the society shall be to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Hurst as a living community

Hurst Village Society General Committee meets every six weeks to discuss issues associated with planning, the environment, transport and other public services in the village that are related to the aims of the Society given below. The Committee is associated with running the annual Dinner Dance, working with the Parish and District Councils to protect the character of the village and organising fund-raising events such as Archery at the Hurst Horse Show. The HVS produces a Newsletter which is published at least four times a year, manages a village website **www.hvs.org.uk**, and publishes a Skills Register. The newsletter and website contain information about village events and activities other than those of the Village Society.

The aims of the Society include:

- to protect the physical character and rural environment
- to provide an independent focal point for the community
- to improve road safety in the village
- to encourage involvement in village activities
- to promote the use of amenities in the village
- to encourage a spirit of neighbourliness
- to foster communication between members of the community.

The General Committee consists of 15 members who elect their officers including: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Social Secretary. Other responsibilities include Planning, Environment, Health and Newsletter Editor. Each year a third of the committee members stand down and may offer themselves for re-election.

Nomination for Membership of the General Committee 2005 – 2006

Nominee

Proposed by

Name

Name

Address

Address

.....

.....

.....

.....

Telephone

Telephone

Hurst Village Society

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Hurst Village Society was formed in 1971 to preserve and enhance the rural character of the parish. The current annual subscription is £5.00 per household. Membership of the Hurst Village Society is renewable on 1st January every year.

Complete Section A, then **either** Section B, **or** Section C. Please bring this with you to the AGM on 22nd April, or send it to Eddie Coe (address below).

If you choose to pay by Standing Order, please consider making a donation as well, thank you. Then, photocopy this form, send the original to your Bank and a copy to Eddie Coe, HVS Membership Secretary, 4 Lodge Road, Whistley Green, Hurst RG10 0EH. Thank you.

Section A

Name

Address

.....

Postcode Telephone

Section B

I enclose my cheque/cash for £5.00 being my subscription for 2005. I also enclose a donation for £.....to the Hurst Village Society.

Section C

To: My Bank:

Name

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 1st January

Signature Date

Parish Council News

From Jan Martin—Chairman of Hurst PC - contactable on 0118 934 2851.

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS):

The Installation of Vehicle Activated signs for Hurst moved a step closer thanks to the efforts of the Parish Council, the Village Society and District Councillor Annette Drake.

In December, Wokingham District Council wrote to the Parish Council with a proposal to provide two VAS on the A321; one outside the Elephant and Castle and one outside Woodlands Cottages on the approach to Orchard Road. As part of the proposal, the Parish Council was asked to fund one of the signs, estimated at £7,000 which they were able to agree to once the Village Society generously offered to provide 50% of this £7,000 funding.

At the highways Board meeting on 7th February, it was agreed that the Board would advise the WDC Executive to approve Hurst, along with 8 other locations in the District to undergo further assessment for VAS. The investment will involve a 7 day, 24 hour speed survey at the chosen location and a more detailed cost estimate and implementation plan. Once the assessment is complete, a full proposal will be put to the Highways Board.

Parish Design Statement (PDS):

This seems to be moving slowly forward after further consultation with developers and their ilk was suggested by Wokingham District Council and this has taken place during January. We now believe that the PDS will be considered by the March executive meeting at WDC.

Mobile Youth Provision:

This has moved into the Village Hall until the weather improves. The times are 7:15-9:45pm every Tuesday. Debbie is currently planning a programme to accommodate young people's requests. Please come along and support this venture. You can contact **Debbie on 0118 934 0221.**

Village Clean-up:

This year the village clean-up, sponsored by the Parish Council, will take place on Saturday March 19th.

As usual, please report to the Large Village Hall car park between 9am and 12 noon to collect safety tabards, litter pickers and rubbish sacks. Please provide your own gloves and stout waterproof footwear both of which are recommended for this worthwhile activity. There will be 2 skips at the Village Hall, 1 in Davis Street and 1 at the Bullfinch, Forest Road. All help will be welcomed! For further information please contact **Jan Martin on 0118 934 2851.**

Parish Councillor Vacancy:

Anyone interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk **Bob Wardle on 01628 628485.**

View from Shute End

Wokingham Unitary Councillor, Annette Drake, reports:

The South East Area Plan:

The consultation period for The South East Local Plan which will govern economic growth across the South East for the next twenty years is from 24th January to 15th April 2005.

The South East Regional Assembly (SEEDA) formulates the plan, which sets out policy proposals for the region, the counties of Buckinghamshire, Kent, Hampshire, East & West Sussex, Surrey, Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

The proposal is talking about huge numbers of houses for the South East to be built at very high densities and with very restricted parking allowances in residential areas, designed to encourage us to use public transport. Although encouragement to use alternative methods to the car where possible is laudable, car ownership is not going to decrease and the cars need somewhere to park

A questionnaire will be sent to every household in the region asking for views on the three levels of proposed housing growth from 25,000 and 28,000 to 32,000 houses per year in the region from 2006 to 2026. A previous proposal approved by the assembly's regional planning committee backed targets between the regional planning guidance (RPG) rate at 29,500 and 36,000 homes a year. We already suffer from an infrastructure problem and it is unlikely that contributions from developers will provide the necessary schools, roads, doctors and other community facilities. There will be pressure on all utilities, particularly water.

We have the opportunity to express our views, and I urge you to respond to the consultation. Reasonable numbers of houses, and a properly planned expansion should be the way forward, with Councils making the decision, not SEEDA an unelected body.

Budget time:

Is here again and every item of expenditure is scrutinised in the run up to the Full Council meeting the aim is to keep council tax rises at about the rate of inflation for the next 3 years. **The budget proposals will be announced & debated on at the full Council on 24th February when the Council tax will be set.**

One of the items, which caused residents unrest this month, was a review of Concessionary Fare Scheme. The result of consultation has concluded that the tokens were very popular and should continue to be available. The solution which the Executive of the Council arrived at was to produce a locally manufactured token to replace the national tokens, these will be of a light weight plastic, at a cost of approx £15,000 and will be distributed by post, (no more queuing in Village Halls) the cost of these tokens will be paid by the Council only when they are used; this will reduce what has otherwise been an increasing annual cost.

Please let me know if you need advice on any Council matter I am available nearly every **Saturday morning from 10am – 12 noon**, or you may contact me on:

0118 934 1036 or by email at **Anndrk@dsl.pipex.com**

Hurst Pantomime Group Snow White ~ A review by Sue Corcoran

Banter and heckling from the audience reached a new rollicking high as audiences entered into the spirit of Hurst's panto Snow White. Hurst Pantomime Group's production had all the magic ingredients of a traditional panto along with buckets of talent, enthusiasm and liveliness.

Every one of the cast shone. Florence Tavener, just 13 years old, had a calm confidence and strong but sweet voice. Judith Boulton had excellent timing and diction as the wicked Queen Maligna. She expertly bounced back audience banter with witty ad libs.

Jo Penney has cornered the market in fairy godmothers. Her portrayal of Fairy Thistledown's gentle commonsense was a worthy successor to her part in the group's Cinderella two years ago.

A talented threesome of Brian Colman (also of HVS fame) as Chuckles, Tim Taylor as Dame Goodheart and Tony Pouncey as Alonzo, provided much merriment as they romped through the show. Laura Hiles was a strong and dashing Prince Michael who went on of course to win his bride. Keith Milner played a menacing Black-hearted Jake.

Lightning the pantomime horse was a triumph. Rod King and John Penney, inside the skin, managed to convey an amazingly wide range of emotions – and create many laughs.

The seven miners, as the dwarves were dubbed for the show, were played by Georgia Leigh, Holly Briggs, Victoria Timmins, Rebecca Boulton, Ryan Marnier, Phoebe Leigh and Ben Connor. Their strong acting and singing skills were among the panto's highlights.

Director Peter Stallwood, a former artistic director of Wokingham Theatre, wove the cast together to produce a sparkling show that kept its pace going throughout. Steve Randall's indefatigable work as musical director was highly effective.

The sets by Terry Bunyard, Eddie Coe (also of HVS fame), Geoff King, Carole King, Naomi Bassett and Jane Fienes were excellent. Janet Larkin, Joyce and Beryl Spear, Susan Rockall and Jane Carr produced colourful and attractive costumes.

A whole army of other people were involved in many other roles behind the scenes for the panto which had four performances at Hurst Village Hall in January.

A power cut towards the end of the Friday evening performance was not allowed to spoil the show. Resourceful members of the lighting crew (including our own Duncan Kendall) and the audience shone torches onto the stage to make sure everyone could see the cast, undeterred, singing the final song.

This was the group's second panto. It was a truly village event which the village will surely wish to see as a fixture in its calendar.

Time of our Lives Music Theatre Presents:

Two for the 1/9^ds

A musical comedy revue

Saturday 16th April, 6:30pm

An hilarious mix of music, dance, stand-up and sketch comedy remembering the British experience of going to “The Pictures” from the slapstick Silent Era to the Swinging 60s.

Set in the Odeon in 1969 meet Flo the usherette with her stories of “goings on in the back row”, Charlie the movie buff on his “Mighty Wurlitzer” and watch as they conjure up your favourite stars of the silver screen.

Hurst Village Halls Committee has again engaged this talented group who entertained us last year with “Radio Times”. The arrangement will be as before with Buffet Dinner (Penny Curry special), Show and Bar.

Tickets are priced at £25 and are available from:

John Penney 0118 934 1498

John Edwards 0118 934 0238

Hurst Pantomime Group ~ Epilogue

This was the second production from the Hurst Pantomime Group. The team learned a lot from the experience of its first performance and made Snow White into an even more storming success.

Money from the profits made has been donated to the Wokingham Theatre, the 1st Hurst Scouts, St Nicholas School and the Twyford Branch of Feed the Children.

Another performance is to be staged in two year's time, with planning commencing early in 2006. Please visit the Group's web site at www.hurstpanto.org.uk for more reviews, photos and details of the Group's activities.

Hurst Village Society Committee Members

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Published by the Hurst Village Society.

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