

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. 96

www.hvs.org.uk

June 2005

Summer is coming to Hurst!

Welcome to the summer edition of the HVS Newsletter, in which we focus on the main events in the Village this month - the **Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre** on **18th and 19th June** and the **Jazz in the Park** on **25th June**. These events really bring the Village together with loads of fun and entertainment for all ages. All proceeds from these events benefit groups in the Village, so do come along and join in and enjoy!

Further to our last newsletter, we are pleased to report that we have an increased membership to the Hurst Village Society; many thanks to those of you who have either joined, or renewed your membership.

The drive towards speed control in the Village continues and we have news of further SID (speed check) surveys in the Parish Council update.

This edition also sees the start of our new Hurst in the 1940s feature with memories from Ted Lukey, a former resident of Hurst, put together for us by Duncan Kendall.

Hurst News Now Available by RSS

You may have noticed the recent addition of scrolling news on the HVS web site (www.hvs.org.uk). Now that news can come straight to you via the wonder of RSS (Really Simple Syndication).

What is RSS? It's a new Internet technology that allows you to subscribe to the content that you want and news items are fed automatically to you without you having to trawl numerous web pages to find it. Most of the major news services (BBC News, Reuters, The Guardian etc.) provide an RSS feed of news, and Hurst Village Society is right up there with them.

How do I get RSS? One thing you will need is a piece of software called a news reader or aggregator. There are several available from the Internet, many of them free of charge (such as SharpReader). Some mail clients already have RSS support included (e.g. Mozilla Thunderbird) and others such as Microsoft's Outlook are sure to follow soon.

How do I subscribe to HVS news? You have probably seen the little orange buttons marked "RSS" or "XML" appearing all over the Internet. Whenever you see one of these it indicates that an RSS news feed is available. Our web site is no different – you can find the orange button on our homepage. The method of subscribing varies from one reader to the next, but usually you simply drag and drop the orange button from the web page into your reader and away you go.

Tell me more. There is more information about RSS and links to news readers available on the HVS web site (www.hvs.org.uk).

*** News Bites ***

Hurst Pre-School Playgroup

The Pre-School Playgroup will be running its usual Strawberries and Cream stall at the Horse Show this year.

Later in the year, the Pre-School Playgroup are "presenting" a **Halloween/Rocky Horror Disco**. This will be held in the Large Village Hall on **15th October**. Details to be confirmed.

St Nicholas Church - Open afternoon

On **Saturday 9th July** St Nicholas Church will be open for you to visit from **2pm - 4pm**. Learn more about it's history and some points of interest in the Churchyard, the major part of the Hurst Conservation Area. There will be no charge but donations would be welcome (N.B. Not for the East Wall!). Cream Teas will be on sale in the Parish Room alongside the church so if you like a little outing, or can make it part of an afternoon's walk, come along in and join us.

Hurst Gospel Hall

At the gospel hall we have the regular **CAMEO** on **19th June at 5pm** (Good place to come for tea when you finish walking round the Horse show). We plan to have a tent at the Horse Show and will be pleased to meet people there. There is a ladies evening on **8th June** from **7pm** when we will be visiting a private garden in Wokingham and hearing a talk by a missionary from Zambia. The July CAMEO is on **17th July**.

Breakthrough Weekend

Hurst residents **Tony Ive** and **Elaine Timmins** are taking part in the "Breakthrough Weekend" on **23-25 September**. This is a 60km sponsored walk through the neighbourhoods of London, raising money and awareness for breast cancer research. Between them they have **committed to raise over £3,000** and with your help they can achieve this. To sponsor them simply visit the web site at **www.breakthroughweekend.org** and click on the "Sponsor a Participant" link at the top of the page - or follow the link from the HVS web site (**www.hvs.org.uk**). Tony and Elaine are in the "Hurst" team.

Hurst Bakery & Provisions at the Horse Show

The Hurst Bakery & Provisions stall will be close to the beer tent offering their tasty selection of freshly made sandwiches and cakes. **John Shuckburgh** and his team are **supporting St Nicholas's School by donating £1 for each sandwich sold**. For further information and advance orders, call the bakery on **0118 934 1941**.

The Jolly Farmer

The Jolly Farmer pub are lending support by supplying the beer tent with Greene King beers. Landlords **Martin and Jackie Harris** are celebrating their first anniversary at the Jolly next month and are looking forward to the imminent refurbishment of the pub, family garden and pets corner. Jolly Farmer, Davis Street, Hurst. **0118 934 1881**.

Hurst Informal Tennis Club

We meet on Monday evenings at 7pm - 9pm at The Dolphin School. Anyone of any standard is welcome. If there is sufficient interest, we will run a Ladies' night on another evening. Do dust off your racquets and join us! For more information call **Pippa** on **0118 934 5034**.

More News Bites

Dolphin School Musical Performance

In July Dolphin children in years Seven and Eight will be performing the musical '**Oh What a Lovely War**' in the school hall at **7.30pm** on Tuesday and Wednesday the **5th** and **6th July**.

Jazz in the Park - Saturday 25th June

Jazz in the Park has been a regular event in the village which was much missed last year. This year the event is hosted by Hurst Romans Football Club and is back in force with live music from two bands: *Night Train*, supported by home grown *South Drive*.

The format of Jazz in the Park is the same as previous years - ie set up tables and gazebos during the day, and bring your own picnic and wine (although a pay bar is available in case you run out!).

A successful event will allow the Romans Football Club to make a significant step forward to invest in the development of youth football in the Village.

Access to the field to set up is from 9am to 4pm. The gates will open for the evening's entertainment from 6:30pm, with music from 7:30pm to midnight.

Tickets are £10 each, available from **Martin 07901 635228**, **Deborah 07880 747279**, **Liam 07770 802400**, **Ruth 07931 445559** or **Bruce 0118 934 9171**.

Police Update for May from WPC Sandy Craske

A full report from Sandy, along with an update on neighbourhood policing, is available on the Parish Council web site (www.hurst-pc.org.uk). Sandy is finally back in Twyford Police Station after the recent refurbishment.

We now have a PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) called George who will be working out of Twyford station. At present he is being tutored by Pc Loudwell and if all goes according to plan he will be out on his own by the end of the month.

The PCSO role is to provide a uniformed, official presence in public places. The PCSO is funded jointly by the Local Authority and the Police Authority but is employed by the Police Authority. A PCSO is able to seize alcohol in designated areas and confiscate alcohol and tobacco from young persons, can demand the names and addresses of persons acting in an anti-social manner, and issue certain fixed penalty tickets. All PCSO's are designated as traffic wardens but at this time they have not been granted any special powers of detention. George is expected to spend 80% of his time out on the streets and to engage with the public to provide a high visibility patrol to reduce crime, reassure the community and to tackle anti-social behaviour. Please welcome George to Hurst when you see him in the village.

Meanwhile Sandy continues to stage speed checks in the Village and also checks on vehicles using "Access Only" routes through the Village. You have been warned!

Hurst Horse Show & Country Fayre

Can there be anyone in Hurst who has not heard about the biggest Annual fundraising event in the village? To anyone new to Hurst, please just come along, join in, see what it is all about, have fun and make new friends. This really is what village life is all about. The money raised all goes to support St Nicholas Primary School and several other, mainly local, charitable causes.

The pace is now really hotting up with preparations well under way for the 26th Annual Show. We would like to remind people that the event is a week earlier than usual this year, and will run over the weekend of **18th and 19th June**. The decision to move from the traditional 'last weekend in June' was made because of the availability of the show's Compere/DJ/Master of Ceremonies (call him what you will) Peter Head. He is a face, and certainly a voice, familiar to all regular show attendees as he has held the proceedings together skilfully for many years with his spontaneous easy style of commentary. Peter has moved away from Hurst to live in Devon, but has returned faithfully every year to host the show.

As usual there will be a full two-day schedule of horse riding events including **jumping, showing classes** and a **musical ride display by Hurst Riders Club**. The schedule has been distributed widely and can also be downloaded from the show website at www.hurst-horse-show.co.uk It is still not too late to enter and further details can be obtained from the events secretary **Anne-Marie Peries** on **0118 989 1945**.

The weekend's fun-packed programme also includes **Morris dancing, birds of prey, dog displays, tug of war** and **terrier racing**. The **Scouts** will be providing entertainment in the form of a **pioneering display** and a **swing band** will add a musical touch. Once again the **children from St Nicholas School** will be **Maypole dancing** and **singing**. Following its resounding success last year, **ferret racing** will also feature on the programme and there are **pony rides** for the younger children. Adding an authentic rural feel to the show will be the **country corner** with **farm animals** and displays of **traditional country crafts** including **pottery** and **willow sculptures**.

Bustling side shows and stalls including **face painting**, a large **bouncy castle** and **30 foot high mega slide** (suitable for both children and teenagers) will feature along with a **bar** and **refreshments** to ensure entertainment for all the family.

Topping a long list of attractive prizes in the **Grand Raffle Draw** this year is a **Wide Screen TV** so make sure you buy your tickets either from the Village Shop, Scouts, Guides or St Nicholas School in advance, or from ticket sellers at the show.

There will also be a **World Premiere** at the show! It will be the first time the newly-formed **DBarc's Fly Ball Team** has given a public demonstration of their skills.

The five dogs, Chewie, Frisbee, Flik, Jabba and Fidget, are all connected with the Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre in Nelsons Lane, Hurst. And were brought to the centre as rescue pets.

Fly ball is a fast developing sport for dogs and their owners. The centre manager Janet North describes it as “... *a relay race for dogs. The dogs jump four fences to grab a ball perched on top of a box. They then race back over the fences to the start line. All the while the other members of their team are barking like crazy, desperate for their go!*”

Janet hopes that the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fair display will lead to more demonstrations in the future as it would be good publicity for the centre, as well as showing people what fun dogs can have, while still being very well trained and behaved.

Another first for the show is the **Scarecrow Competition**

Entries are invited - in fact positively encouraged - for the inaugural staging of the Hurst Scarecrow Competition. Completed scarecrows should be brought to the country corner of the show by 10.00am on Saturday morning where entry forms will be available. There will be separate categories for adults and children and, depending on the number of entries, the children's competition may be judged by age groups. A local celebrity will be on hand to judge and present the prizes. It is hoped that the proud owners will allow their handiwork to be displayed throughout the show. As an incentive to encourage folk to enter, anyone accompanied by a scarecrow will gain **free entry** to the show on Saturday!

For those who are now wondering what constitutes a prize-winning scarecrow – well the answer is “absolutely anything goes” – so go on, why not get creative and let's make this a successful and fun attraction which will hopefully become an annual event.

**** Pitches Still Available! **** Sponsors Invited **** Helpers Welcome ****

There are still a limited number of pitches available for hire by **Trade Stall Holders** which can be booked by calling **Richard Hiles** on **0118 934 0704**. Also the committee are still keen to hear from individuals or businesses wishing to sponsor the show. Enquiries should be directed to **Cathy Lochman** on **0118 934 1205** and **sponsors** will receive **a credit in the show programme**.

Finally, the success of the show depends on a huge amount of effort from many people. If there is anyone out there who is not yet involved but would like to be, then the committee would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact **Cathy Lochman** on **0118 934 1205**.

Parish Council News

From **Jan Martin**, Chairman of Hurst PC - contactable on **0118 934 2851**

Transport for the Elderly and Disabled

The Parish Council is committed to help all parts of our community and one way it does this is to provide grants to service providers that help people in Hurst. One example of this is our commitment to support the provision of transport for the elderly and disabled.

Annually the Parish Council receives requests for grants from Keep Mobile and Readibus to help provide transport for those who are unable to use public transport through age or disability. The services these charities provide are:

Dial a Ride: Members can book a journey anywhere they require at a time to suite them.

Shopping trips: To a specified town with sufficient time to shop or meet friends.

Day excursions: To places of interest.

Contract work: For other voluntary organisations: Stroke Clubs, Arthritis Care, Polio Fellowship and many more.

Approximately 50% of the funding for Keep Mobile and Readibus comes from grants and donations, which whilst very welcome, does not give stability from year to year. This makes planning very difficult, not knowing their level of income or whether they will receive sufficient funds to cover their costs. What these charities need is a regular income, part of which could be provided by shops and businesses in the form of an annual grant. Last year the Parish Council provided a grant of £850 for Keep Mobile and £300 for Readibus.

In order to set this year's grant, the Parish council would like to have some feedback from users of either the above services. Please e-mail **admin@hurst-pc.org.uk** or telephone **Jan Martin** on **0118 934 2851**. More information about Keep Mobile and Readibus can be found at:

Keep Mobile:

PC Web site:

www.hurst-pc.org.uk/hurst/keepmobile.html

Web site:

keepmobile.org.uk

E-Mail:

admin@keepmobile.org.uk

Telephone:

0118 979 3778

Readibus:

PC Web site:

www.hurst-pc.org.uk/hurst/redibus.html

Web site:

www.readibus.co.uk

E-Mail:

info@readibus.co.uk

Telephone:

0118 934 1000

Vehicle Activated Signs

It was reported in the last HVS Newsletter that 7 day 24 hour speed surveys were to take place at the sites of the proposed Vehicle Activated Signs. The first survey was carried out between the 18th and 24th April outside the Elephant and Castle. The results of the **southbound** traffic volumes showed that the speed at or below which 85% of the vehicles travelled averaged at 44mph over the 7 day period in what is a 30mph zone. This measure is almost identical to the SID surveys taken during the first quarter of last year, but this latest survey gives us the true volume of traffic, i.e. about one car every 30

seconds during daylight hours. Unfortunately we have not been able to get individual car speeds, which would have shown how many cars were travelling faster than 45 mph. You may be interested to know that Northbound, towards Twyford, the equivalent speed for a 7 day average over a 12 hour period was 41.7 mph.

The second survey from the south towards Hurst, located near Orchard Road, has just been completed. Both results will be presented, along with a formal proposal, to the WDC Executive, either at the 28th July or 29th September meeting.

Youth Provision for Hurst

The Mobile Youth Provision for Hurst, are holding a baby sitting course commencing **Tuesday 24th May**. The course will be held in the **Committee Room** from **8pm-9pm**. The young people will learn first aid, health and safety and how to care for children of varying ages. At the end of the course they will be given the opportunity to practice what they have learnt by looking after a virtual baby. The course will be run over an eight week period. If you require any further information regarding the baby sitting course or the Mobile Youth Provision you can contact **Debbie Coleman** on **0118 966 0373** or **07808 143631**.

Hurst in the 1940s

In 1941, having survived much of the Blitz in Chelsea, Ted Lukey moved with his mother and sister to live in Tape Lane. Ted has many happy memories of his time in Hurst, and also has a few questions that he hopes someone reading this and future instalments can answer for him. There is too much information to include in one newsletter, so we have decided to run this as a regular feature until we have covered Ted's memories and any feedback we receive as a result.

"I remember going to the village bakery and watching the baker take bread from the oven with a long handled shovel, I still remember the smell! Almost opposite was a tiny butchers shop; I believe his name was Mr Pibworth. He ran a hire car and we used to hire him to pick my father up on Friday night at Twyford Station. This was always very exciting for me as I loved cars – and still do! Mr Pibworth called me the "why" boy as I always bombarded him with questions about the car."

"My father and mother used to walk hand in hand to the Green Man with us and it must have been a terrible time for my mother with my father in London during the week. I can remember her standing in the garden and watching the searchlights and fires etc in London, all clearly visible."

"One day sticks in my mind, we saw thousands of glinting things in the sky very high up over the field across the lane. My sister and I went out to see and after a while loads of silver strips floated into the field and we picked some up and took it to No 5. We learnt later that it was chaff dropped by aircraft to confuse enemy Radar. I always wonder who dropped it, them or us!"

To be continued ...

If you are interested in Ted's memories of Hurst, you can read more on the Village Society web site (www.hvs.org.uk). If you have similar memories and can answer any of Ted's questions, then please get in touch with him via the link on the web site, or talk to **Duncan Kendall**.

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