

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. 104

www.hvs.org.uk

September 2007

SUMMER ROUND-UP

It has been an eventful summer, not least because of the record rainfall and flooding. Now, with the holiday exodus behind us, it is time to enjoy all the end of summer activities.

The HVS is holding a bumper **Quiz Night** on **Friday, 21st September**. If you want to enjoy a great communal evening, come along to the Village Hall and show off your general knowledge.

Autumn, of course, means tidying up the garden and sweeping up leaves. The Parish Council is organising its usual **Autumn Clean-up** on **Saturday, 27th October**.

HVS pledges £5,000

The Parish Council has drawn up a project for **enhancing the village centre**. They hope to start work in October and would like some more sponsors for the scheme. The HVS has given a pledge for £5,000 towards this welcome improvement.

HVS QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 21st September 2007

How well do you know your village? Find out at our new quiz night!

We're including two rounds of local knowledge along with music, general knowledge, and sports in an audio-visual presentation.

Gather your team of up to **8** people (over 16 years) for a fun night, which will include a light supper.

The bar will open at **7.15pm** to enable teams to debate their name over a drink and begin a 'handout' quiz that will be collected and scored at the break for supper. The quiz questions will start promptly at **8pm**.

Tickets are priced at **£7.50** and can be bought from:

Janet Spiller, **0118 934 2438** (Hogmoor Lane)

Louise and Eddie Coe, **0118 934 5103** (Lodge Road / St Nicholas School playground)

Barbara Johnson, **0118 934 5104** (Hinton Road)

Mel Brown, **07833 566 715** (Broadcommon Road)

*** What's on ***

**Hurst Morris People – HuMP
Beginners/Open Workshops**

Hurst Village Hall Thursday, 20th and 27th September 2007 8pm-10pm

HuMP welcomes anyone who'd like to have a go at dancing or music. Men and women welcome. It's free of charge and you'll enjoy it!

For more information, contact:

Mary Esslemont 0118 987 4346; Chris Smith 01628 633 051;

Sally Bryson-Bond 0118 979 2333 or secretary@hump.org.uk

Reading University Open Day

Saturday 29th September 2007 10.00am - 3.00pm.

No need to book - just turn up!

Programme available at: www.rdg.ac.uk/life/life-opensdays.asp

Carey Singleton, Director, Student Recruitment & Schools Liaison Office

Tel: 0118 378 8618 Fax: 0118 378 8924

Harvest Festival 2007

St Nicholas Church, Hurst Sunday, 30th September 11.00am

A special service of **HARVEST CELEBRATION** for all the family

Like many churches, we are keeping this as 'Back to Church Sunday' which makes it a particularly good time to come to church and bring family or friends. You will be very welcome.

The church will be decorated for Harvest and harvest gifts are to go to 'Feed the Children'. This year, their theme is 'Water' and they are asking for washing equipment such as flannels, soap, toothpaste, etc. They would also be pleased to receive packets of dried food such as rice. Other produce will be made into parcels for those in our community who find it hard to get out.

On *Saturday, 29th September* there will be a **FAMILY BARBECUE** at The Vicarage in Church Hill. Again, everyone is very welcome. Tickets are available from Sue Payne (0118 977 3466).

**Senior Citizens Open Forum
Community Lunch and Talk by WestCall**

Hurst Village Hall Tuesday, 2nd October 2007 From midday on

For Wokingham Borough Older People's Forums and people over 50 in the Northern Parishes

What happens if your GP's surgery is not available when you need a Doctor?

WestCall is the organisation that provides urgent NHS GP services to all patients in West Berkshire during the times that normal GP surgeries are closed. It is one of the services provided by Berkshire West Primary Care Trust.

Midday	Displays of Services Provided for Older People
12.30pm	Community Lunch
1.30pm	WestCall Presentation by Dr Jeremy Lade

For further information, contact Lyn Buddell, Age Concern, Twyford and District, on 0118 934 4040.

THE FLOODS OF 2007

Hurst was fortunate to escape the worst effects of the widespread floods, which hit Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire in July. However, our area did not go unscathed.

Dinton Pastures closed to the public

The park became inaccessible beyond the main car park when the Emmbrook burst its banks. The bird feeding area was turned into a waterfall as water from the Emmbrook cascaded into Black Swan Lake. The River Loddon flowed into White Swan Lake, causing the lake to overflow into the surrounding ditches and meadows.

In order to prevent the valuable course fish from escaping, nets were erected and members of the night fishing syndicate helped rangers to return the fish to the lake. The cattle used for conservation grazing were stranded on small areas of higher ground. Rangers used canoes to take bales of hay to them. They worked above and beyond the call of duty, staying throughout the night to watch over them.

Whistley Green

The ford at Whistley Green remained impassable for over two weeks. Horses at the nearby riding stable had to be moved to another field, as the gateway to the stables was under six feet of water.

Islandstone Lane and Nelson Lane were both closed. The village itself was not as badly affected as in 2002.

Hurst on TV

Many of you will have seen the village of Hurst on ITV 1 on Monday, 27th August. This was one of five documentaries in a series Village Voices, made by Plus3 Productions.

The documentary showed some of our well-known village people, including Terry Bunyard, wood carver Clive Winson, and hedge layer Richard Girdler. Stuart Croft, countryside ranger and scout leader, was seen with the Scouts measuring trees for the Veteran Tree project.

The Morris Dancers, Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre and the historic Bowling Green and Almshouses were also featured.

The documentary centred around the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre, and Katie Barton, publicity officer for the Horse Show, comments:

ITV (Meridian region) clearly agreed that we have a very special village as they selected Hurst for their *Village Voices* documentary. If you saw the programme, then we hope you will agree that we do have some lovely traditions in Hurst and we hope they will continue to thrive for future generations.

HURST HORSE SHOW AND COUNTRY FAYRE

The 28th Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre held on 23rd and 24th June was again a great success. There was a lot of hard work behind the scenes and the committee wishes to thank all the Hurst villagers who helped before, during and after the show. Without this sort of help, the show just simply could not go on.

This year we welcomed over 4,000 visitors. The weather was glorious on the Saturday and even though it rained on the Sunday, we still had a very good turn out. Following the show, we were able to distribute a total of £12,000 to local deserving charities and of course our main beneficiary, St Nicholas School.

The pre and post show publicity is worthy of a mention, as it really was the best ever with many features in local papers and coverage via two radio stations, not to mention ITV!

Next year

The show dates for your diary are 28th and 29th June 2008. The committee chairman, Duncan Kendall, who did a grand job this year, continues into his second year.

Planning starts in January 2008. If you would like to be part of the committee and help shape your village show, then please contact Duncan Kendall by telephone on 0118 934 2852 or via the website www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk.

HURST HORTICULTURAL & COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY

The 94th Annual Show of the Hurst Horticultural & Cottage Garden Society took place on Saturday, 18th August.

High standard of exhibits

Exhibitors were highly praised by the judges for the standard of entries this year. The judges took over two hours to decide on the results in the flower, vegetable and fruit marquee, and commented that very few village shows are able to attract such quality, especially in the flower classes.

Inside the village hall where all the home industries talents were on display, the tables were full of creative crafts and delicious produce. Future talent was most evident in the children's section where entries were greater than before. The 137 classes in the schedule attracted on average three entries each which is most encouraging.

The Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band music and the colourful puppet show kept visitors' spirits up in the village hall grounds and the 60 dogs and owners kept the show busy in spite of the dull weather.

We hope new exhibitors will be encouraged to enter again next year. HH&CGS news and meeting dates will be published in future editions of the HVS Newsletter.

HVS DINNER DANCE

Large Village Hall, Hurst Saturday, 1st December 2007 7pm

The **Hurst Village Society Dinner Dance** will take place this year on Saturday, 1st December in the Large Village Hall. The Mark Tait Band, who were a huge success at last year's dance, will provide entertainment.

The event will start at 7pm for 7.30pm with carriages at midnight.

Dress: Lounge Suits or Black Tie.

Tickets are priced at **£28** for HVS members and **£30** for non-members.

Tickets will be available after 10:30am on Friday 2nd November from Barbara Johnson on 0118 934 5104. Hurst Village Society members will have priority for tickets. Each member can buy up to **six** tickets, including tickets for non-members within their party.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Annual St Nicholas Night Celebrations

By the children's playing field Thursday 6th December 2007

Turning on of the Christmas tree lights and carol service

Mulled wine, mince pies...and much more!!!!

Following on last year's great success, the Parish Council has decided to organise another special event to mark the turning on of the Christmas tree lights on St Nicholas Night.

If anyone would like to get involved, please contact Wayne Smith on *0118 934 0840*.

AUTUMN VILLAGE/POND CLEAN-UP

Saturday, 27th October 2007 Village Pond 9.30am

The Parish Council is organising the annual Autumn Village/Pond Clean-Up for Saturday, 27th October. Please join us at the Pond at 9.30am.

Your help is always appreciated.

For more information, please contact Wayne Smith on *0118 934 0840*.

1ST HURST BROWNIES

Last term, the girls were busy growing plants from seed: African marigolds and Perennial Wallflowers. They took one of each home and planted others by the entrance to the Scout hut.

Next term they hope to be planting bulbs to brighten the Spring.

On 7th July we visited the Hawk Conservancy, Andover, and this term, we shall be visiting the London Eye.

We still don't have a successor to Mary Langdown when she ceases running the Unit next Easter. It is a task that can easily be "job-shared". So please get in touch with her as soon as possible, if you are even slightly interested. Her phone number is 0118 934 5751.

SCOUTING NEWS

This year marks the centenary of the Scouting Movement

Recent celebrations in August marking this event have been covered widely in the Press. 1st Hurst Air Scouts were privileged to have had two of our scouts, Joshua Slade and Fergus Mc Clean, chosen to attend the World Scout Jamboree held in Chelmsford. Indeed, many of you may have supported them in their fund raising activities during the year and we thank all those who did.

A group of eleven scouts also attended a summer camp in Chelmsford, with the opportunity of attending the Jamboree for one day. These two events bring to an end what has been a very full and exciting year of scouting in Hurst.

If anyone is interested in joining the 1st Hurst Air Scouts either as a Beaver (age 6-8), Cub (age 8-10½) or Scout (age 10 ½ to 14), we would love to hear from you. You can contact Jane Melizan on 0118 934 9171.

ROMANS FOOTBALL CLUB

From Brendan Crawford

Under 12 age group

I have recently 'been volunteered' to manage a completely new age group within the Hurst Romans Football Club for those boys who are leaving primary school and heading off for secondary school this summer, so those who do not turn 12 until after August 31st.

I'd like to make an appeal to anyone reading the newsletter to be aware that we are actively recruiting. We would welcome any aspiring Pele from Hurst and beyond to consider joining Hurst Romans. This includes any new friends that local boys make when they start at their new schools, regardless of where they live, whether it be Woodley, Winnersh, Twyford or wherever.

Please contact me on 07768 044617 or e-mail Brendan.Crawford@HurstFC.org.uk.

From Jackie Daniels – Hurst Police Community Support Officer

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

We are still looking for new members/volunteers for our Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). If anyone is interested, please do contact me and we can set the ball rolling! We really do want people from Hurst to participate, as obviously it is in the interests of our own community.

The NAG has been up and running for a year now and the top three issues raised in the first Neighbourhood Profile/Survey were:

Speeding

Lack of Youth Facilities

Car Crime

These issues are all work in progress and all looking quite positive. However, as it's a year on, the decision was made to do a new survey at Summer Fetes in the district. The Hurst Horse & Country Show was very successful and we came away with a couple of new potential members and volunteers to help out with the Speed Indicator Device (SID).

We are now concentrating on Car Crime and below are a few tips put together by our Thames Valley Police Crime Reduction Advisor on how to keep your car and possessions safe, when you are visiting local beauty spots such as Dinton Pastures.

SIMPLE STEPS TO SECURE YOUR CAR

1. Leaving anything on view in your vehicle could entice a criminal to break in and steal your belongings – remove ALL items from your car.
2. On a rainy day, a coat becomes valuable to someone without one!
3. If you must leave bags etc in the boot, make sure you put them in there at the beginning of your journey (you never know who will be watching!)
4. Make sure all windows are closed
5. Did you hear the locks engage? Did you see the indicators flash?

MAKE SURE YOUR CAR IS LOCKED, ALARMED AND IMOBILISED – it only takes a minute for an opportunist to dive in and take what they want.

REMEMBER – an empty car is a safe car.

SATNAV – always take your SATNAV with you AND the cradle that it sits in.

Thieves will break into a car if the cradle is left on the dash, thinking that the SATNAV may be in the glove box. Once the cradle is removed, also make sure the sucker ring mark on the windscreen is wiped away as this also entices criminals.

CONTACTING THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Thames Valley Police has now only one general purpose phone number:
0845 8 505 505

In an emergency you should always dial **999** or **112** from your mobile.

If you wish to contact me directly, my e-mail address is
jacqueline.daniels@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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.

If you choose to pay by Standing Order, please consider making a donation as well, thank you.

Completed forms should be sent to Eddie Coe, HVS Membership Secretary, 4 Lodge Road, Whistley Green, Hurst RG10 0EH, or any other member of the committee. Thank you.

Section A

Name

Address

.....

Postcode Telephone

E-mail address

Section B

I enclose my cheque/cash for £5.00 being my subscription for 2007. I also enclose a donation for £.....to the Hurst Village Society.

Section C

To: Name of Bank

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 01349706 (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

School Road playing field/Pond area

Thank you to all those who responded to our plea for help with the improvements to our village centre. HVS has pledged £5,000 to the proposed improved play area. Beryl Lambert has also kindly sponsored the Village pond planting scheme along with several others who have pledged their support. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking them for their kind support.

We still have lots of opportunities if anyone would like to support us - for instance, sponsorship of some of the plants. Even a small amount will help!

Subject to all our plans coming together, the project should start in October. Details will follow in the next edition.

Clerk needed

We currently have a vacancy for a Clerk because our existing secretary is retiring. It is a paid position, working from home, on average nine hours per week. Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information.

If anyone wishes to join or would like further information about the Parish Council, please give me a call.

Wayne Smith - Chairman of Hurst PC

Tel: 0118 934 0840

Village Hall News

After a lengthy delay the trustees are submitting an application to build a pair of semi-detached houses on the spare plot at the Village Hall. If successful, the proceeds will be invested by the charity to secure the long-term future of this valuable community asset

John Edwards, Tel: 0118 934 0238; Mobile: 07767 643 3090

Hurst Village Society increases its membership

The Hurst Village Society is very pleased that 149 households in the village have now joined the Society. We really value your support.

Village enhancement

A donation of £5,000 is to be made to the Parish Council's project for enhancing the village. An enterprise like this can only improve the amenities of the village and we are happy to lend some material support to the project.

Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre

The HVS Archery Stall at the Horse Show provided a lot of fun. We made a profit of £328, of which £150 went towards the funds of the Horse Show.

The View from Shute End

Environment Day

As Mayor of Wokingham, I attended the Environment Day at Dinton Pastures on Saturday, 18th August. This day allowed Companies, Council officers, Fairtrade and Friends of the Earth to display their ideas for reducing carbon emissions.

The Wokingham and Reading Show

The show was held in a big field in Spencers Wood. The cattle were missing, but there were ponies, ridden by children in fancy dress, horses playing polo, heavy horses. The dog show was a splendid affair. My job was to present the trophies to the winners of the heavy horses pulling carts with shining brasses and heavy horses with bows everywhere! Beautiful animals.

Next year, this show should be on your list of places to take the whole family. It is a delight!

Annette Drake

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst. RG10 ORU

Telephone 0118 934 1036, mobile 07753 861 961

Hurst World War Records

Local resident John Terry has been researching the lives of the men named on the Village War Memorial at St Nicholas Church. With the help of Duncan Kendall, this research is being published on a web site (www.warmemorial.org.uk) in memory of the soldiers from Hurst, who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

The Great War section is now complete. As well as biographies of the forty men on the village memorial, there are details of another sixty men who fought in the conflict. Their stories graphically illustrate the heroism and horror of the First World War and provide a fascinating insight into many of the major actions of the war.

Looking for a volunteer

John is now looking for a volunteer to research into the Second World War soldiers. A few details are known, but much is left to discover. The only qualifications you need to have are time, persistence and an inquiring mind. What is guaranteed is a fascinating treasure hunt into our recent past with unexpected results and the risk of serious addiction.

If you would like to take up this challenge, then please contact John either via the web site www.warmemorial.org.uk or by phone on 0118 934 4340.

Lest we forget

Sunday, 11th November 2007 Remembrance Sunday

An Act of Remembrance and Family Eucharist will be held at St Nicholas Church. Members of the Royal British Legion Winnersh & Hurst Branches will be present. The congregation are asked to be in church by **10.45am**, before proceeding to the Cenotaph where the Act of Remembrance will take place at 11am.

St Nicholas Church, Hurst

Sunday, 2nd September	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Morning Worship & Sunday Club
Sunday, 9th September	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
11.00am	Family Eucharist, Baptism & Sunday Club
Sunday, 16th September	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Family Praise
Sunday, 23rd September	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
11.00am	Family Eucharist & Sunday Club
Sunday, 30th September	HARVEST FESTIVAL & Back to Church Sunday
8.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Harvest Celebration
Sunday, 7th October	Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Morning Worship, Baptism & Sunday Club
Sunday, 14th October	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
11.00am	Family Eucharist & Sunday Club
Sunday, 21st October	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Family Praise
Sunday, 28th October	St Simon and St Jude
11.00am	Family Eucharist & Sunday Club
Sunday, 4th November	Fourth Sunday before Advent
8.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Morning Worship & Sunday Club
Sunday, 11th November	Third Sunday before Advent (REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY)
10.45am	Act of Remembrance and Family Eucharist
Sunday, 18th November	Second Sunday before Advent
8.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Family Praise
Sunday, 25th November	Christ the King
11.00am	Family Eucharist & Sunday Club

The church is open for you

Please note that St Nicholas church is now open at weekends from 10am – 4pm.

For more details about the church in Hurst, please phone the Revd John Coombs on 0118 934 0017 and/or go to www.acny.org.uk/5339.

CHOIR FOR THE CAROL SERVICE

Volunteers for singing at Christmas, please! Children and adults welcome. There will be a special need for men!

If you would like to sing with the choir, please speak to Peter Dart on 0118 934 4082 or e-mail him at peter@familydart.com.

Hurst Village Society Committee Members

David Bingham	3 Whistley Court Farm	0118 932 1267 david.bingham@wolseley.com	Treasurer
Val Bowman	Little Farm, Hogmoor Lane	0118 932 1420 vbowman51@aol.com	
Melanie Brown	2 Elliot's Green Cottage Broadcommon Road	07833 566 715 greenwellingtons@hotmail.com	
Eddie Coe	4 Lodge Road	0118 934 5103 eddiecoe@talk21.com	Membership
Liz Cossey	Lea Farm, Lodge Road	0118 932 1043 lcossey@chocolates-for-chocoholics.co.uk	Entertainment
David Fraser	1 Aylesford Villas	0118 934 9301 d.fraser3@btinternet.com	
Barbara Johnson	Little Grange, Hinton Road	0118 934 5104 bajlittlegrange@hotmail.co.uk	Planning
Carol Sheasby	8 Almshouses, Church Hill	0118 932 1647 carolsheasby@hotmail.co.uk	Editor
Wayne Smith	Woodville, Wokingham Road	0118 934 0840 wayne.x.smith@centrica.co.uk	Skills Register
Janet Spiller	3 Hogmoor Lane	0118 934 2438 janetspiller16@aol.com	Chairman Environment
Brian Thomas	The Retreat, Forest Road	01344 453 256 brian_thomas55@hotmail.com	Secretary
Nick Willson	The Gables, Wards Cross	0118 934 0319 nm.willson@virgin.net	
Ex-officio: Annette Drake	Walden Acres, Wokingham Rd	0118 934 1036 anndrk@dsl.pipex.com	WBC Councillor

Chair: Janet Spiller, 3 Hogmoor Lane, Hurst, RG10 0DH
Published by the Hurst Village Society.

www.hvs.org.uk