



HURST Villager

HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY

Founded 1972

Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2023

Issue No. 137

The object of the society shall be to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Hurst as a living community.
www.hvs.org.uk

**We wish you all a very merry
Christmas and a happy and
healthy New Year**



A Warm Welcome from the HVS Chair

Hello all, my name is Annie Young. I am very pleased to be Chair of the HVS Committee, and am excited to continue the HVS commitment to preserve and enhance the character of the village of Hurst as a living community. I will work with the HVS Committee to ensure we work to:

- i. Protect the physical character and rural environment
- ii. Provide an independent focal point for the community
- iii. Encourage involvement in village activities
- iv. Promote the use of the amenities of the village
- v. Encourage a spirit of neighbourliness
- vi. Foster communication between members of the community

Join me in taking a trip through our wonderful village in this Autumn/Winter Edition of the Hurst Villager.

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Saturday 9th December
**A special night of sumptuous festive food
and party entertainment**

Christmas Services and Events in Hurst



St Nicholas CofE Church Hurst

11am, Sunday 10th December

Messy Christingle



4pm, Sunday 24th December

Crib Service



11:30pm, Sunday 24th December

Midnight Communion



11am, Monday 25th December

**Christmas Day
Communion Service**



Hurst Gospel Hall

11am, Wednesday 6th December

Ladies light lunch will be preceded by some traditional Carols and a seasonal craft.

5pm, Sunday 17th December

Carol Service followed by refreshments

10:30am Monday 25th December

**Christmas Morning
Come and celebrate the birth of the Saviour**



Christmas Events

2nd December

Hurst Football Club Christmas Party

6:30pm Saturday 9th December

**HVS Christmas Dinner Dance
Hurst Village Hall**

Sunday 10th December, 11am—3pm

**DBARC Santa Day
DBARC Nelsons Lane, Hurst**

Hello – I am Annie Young, HVS' new Chair. I am delighted to be involved with HVS and the village of Hurst. I have been a resident for 18 years and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of village life.

For those of you who were unable to attend the **HVS AGM** held at The Wine Shop at Stanlake Park in May, updates on the HVS' finance accounts, membership, planning activities, communications, and projects and investments were given by the respective members of the Committee.

Planning continues to be a concern to us all. We are always pleased to hear from the members regarding their news and concerns. There was a discussion regarding consulting members to a greater degree before responding to planning applications and publishing commentary. This has been taken on board and we will continue to ask members, and push harder for their comments and feedback in our email newsletters, Facebook posts and this magazine.

This is a very effective way of getting instant responses and we are very grateful to the members who have been getting in touch. Their comments suggest they are busy and don't really have time to engage - except for major planning events - and are very happy to send feedback when they have something to comment on, or have a discussion on the telephone. The email addresses to contact members of the committee are available on the HVS website.

As for major applications, we will hold members evenings/forums to discuss the issues and challenges facing the village. Members will be asked whether they would like to attend and a judgement can be made from the response. The response to the application for 200 houses at the Land East of Lodge Road (Tape Lane) Appeal was most effective as a joint effort alongside the Parish Council and other groups representing Hurst residents' views.

A big thank you to all who made the extra effort to support the **Village Shop** which was under threat of closing – please continue to visit the shop, so we may secure its future going forward.

The **Book of Hurst** continues to be available and is a perfect gift for existing Hurst residents and those with an interest in village life – dare we say, an ideal and unique Christmas present if you are looking for something a little different?

We are keen to grow the **membership of HVS**, so we hope to see an increase over the coming months. We are pleased to confirm the annual fee remains at £5.00 for members. A membership application form can be found on the back of this newsletter.

HVS continues on the goodwill of volunteers. If you are interested in Hurst, and want to help keep all the wonderful aspects and activities within the village, please volunteer to join **the committee** by contacting myself at: chair@hvs.org.uk

Thankyou!

Annie

What is HVS?

In 1972, 12 residents including the then Vicar and Annette Drake, got together and created HVS to fight against the threat to the village from the Gravel extraction in the Loddon Valley. Dinton Pastures has turned out to be a lovely community asset and not the feared over-developed park that was originally proposed. But the founders' fears should nonetheless be kept in mind to help prevent Dinton becoming overdeveloped.

50 years on, HVS has evolved through various phases of emphasis including for example tree planting to community engagement, while always keeping an eye on planning.

HVS is not part of the Hurst Parish Council and regularly people are confused by this. The independence of HVS and its mission statement is very important: **"The object of the society shall be to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Hurst as a living community"**.

Communication: The website is the main source of information for members and residents, along with our newsletters and Facebook. We post every letter we write on our website. Every planning submission and every communication with a statutory body, such as the Parish Council is posted.

Our members views are varied, reflecting a diverse range of residents and we are pleased to harness this diversity to benefit our wonderful village. If you want to know what HVS is doing, have a look on our website: www.hvs.org.uk.

Hurst Village Store - Saved!

We are delighted that the Hurst Village Shop is no longer under threat. The various campaigns in the village resulted in an up-turn in business at the shop and this has been sustained.

New lines are being added on a regular basis, including more fresh food - meat, fruit, vegetables - and wines and spirits— even champagne! New Christmas Lines are now being added.



Please keep up your support for Jayne and team and keep this Village store open.

2024 Dates for your Diary



Saturday 17th February 2024

Hurst Bowling Club Quiz Night
Hurst Village Hall

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June 2024

Hurst Show & Country Fayre
Multiple Locations in the Village

Saturday 17th August 2024

Horticultural Society Show
Hurst Village Hall

Hurst Village Pubs - A Rich History

In Hurst we are lucky to have 6 pubs, all providing excellent food and drink options. Please support these pubs over the Christmas period and throughout the New Year and keep these pubs alive and kicking.

The Castle Inn

The Castle Inn is a Grade II Listed building and according to its English Heritage listing, the Castle is an "Inn C16 or earlier, altered C18 and later with outshut at rear. Timber framed of 5 bays, roughcast and colour-washed. And other additions in the C19th."



It started life as The Church House, then became the Bunch of Grapes at the end of the 18th century, evolving eventually to the Castle Inn. It is the only Free House in the village and is owned by a charity, CHC -



Photo © 1906

Church House Charity, with Matt & Helen Brown the current lease holders. CHC was set up as a charity independent from the Church of England with the purpose of maintaining the fabric of St Nicholas Church and supporting Christian outreach for the ecclesiastical Parish of Hurst. Lease payments from the Castle Inn provide the monies for CHC to achieve its mission.

Visitors are said to have been King Charles II and WG Grace.

Elephant & Castle



The Elephant & Castle public house dates back to the mid 19th century, with the first record entry being for a Mr Henry White (Billings Directory), in 1854, although it is thought a licence was granted earlier than this.



The Green Man

The Green Man in Hurst is a fine example of a Traditional English Country pub with an extensive beer garden. It was awarded its first license in the 1600's and have been serving thirsty travelling tradesmen and villagers ever since.



A new project for our community at the Green Man!

You are invited to join our monthly get together on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, at The Green Man. For £5 you will get tea or coffee, and a snack and meet other people whose company you may well enjoy.



For those who wish, there will be cards, dominoes, crib, draughts, and other games. Or you could just natter. Bring your knitting or crossword. Bring your friends or make new friends. See you at the Green Man - **Pamela Barnard**

Hurst Village Pubs - A Rich History Page 2

Jolly Farmer



Along with the Wheelwright Arms, locals were well catered for with the opening of the Jolly Farmer in the mid 19th century. The first entry found is for a Mr James Allum - Beer Retailer and Farmer in 1854—Ref Billings Directory.



The pub was closed briefly in 2012, due to a fire when a gas cooker in the kitchen caught fire. Fortunately there were no casualties. The Jolly Farmer recently underwent extensive refurbishment under the direction of new manager Mike Cobb.

The Warren

The name is derived from Warren House, the name of the farm that stood on the site as early as 1681. In turn the farm probably took its name from a medieval rabbit warren, which is thought to have existed; owning a warren was then a privilege.



The first known reference to the building as a public house is in an advertisement in the Reading Mercury of 15th November 1777, which announced a pigeon shoot "at the Warren House.

Its name has varied more than that of any other public house in the Wokingham district. After the change to the New Warren House in 1817, it changed back to simply Warren House before 1820, only to become the Warren Inn by 1824. In the 1830s and early 1840s it was known as the Warren House, only to become the New Warren House by the 1850s. Today it is once again the Warren after a short and, locally unpopular, time as The Bullfinch.

Wheelwright Arms

This 19th century Wheelwright's shop started selling beer when the railways arrived in the early 1850s. Wheelwright William Pither started to sell beer here to supplement his income when trade declined. He benefitted from the closure of the nearby Victoria Arms

after it came into the possession of Rev. A A Cameron and he did not like the idea of his property being involved with the sale of alcohol. Exposed timbers in the brickwork, and the outside chimney stack provide clear evidence of an historic building. Daryl and Katie Cooper look forward to welcoming you.



Since 2000, a quarter of pubs have closed in the UK, totalling more than 13,000 locations. Nearly 400 pubs closed their doors for good in England and Wales in the first half of 2023, almost as many as the whole of 2022.

Happily, our pubs are generally well patronised from within Hurst and by visitors from further afield. Recently, Covid and the cost of living crisis have not helped these pubs to keep running - let's keep ours alive and active!

Hurst - A Host of Wildlife Awaits You

Rare Breed Born in Hurst—Look at Him Now!

In our Spring/Summer edition we reported on the unexpected birth of a Suffolk Punch foal—then unnamed. He has since been named Danny Boy.

Hurst resident Danny Boy is now 5 months old and growing fast. He now measures circa 12.3 hands in height, about 250kg in weight. He is very much a handful now and still has a lot of growing to do.

Typically, young Suffolks with a “bum high close couple appearance” will grow upwards before they grow out. At his current growth rate, Danny Boy will be bigger than his father by some degree. Watch this space for further updates!



Other Rare Species in Hurst

The “wet” woodland habitats at Sandford Mill Copse and Lodge Wood are reputed to support 10% of the UK’s population of the **Loddon Lily**. Lodge Wood is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for this reason.

The River Loddon flows through the Parish of Hurst and the nationally rare **Water Vole, Loddon Pondweed and Loddon Lily** can be found along its banks.



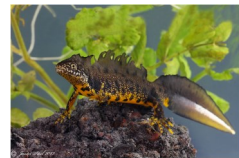
The lakes at Dinton Pastures Country Park and the Lavell’s Wetland Trust attract a variety of wetland birds. One of the rarest visiting birds is the **Bittern**.



The lakes are also important for insect life with a considerable population of varieties of **Dragonfly**.

Hurst has over 30 ponds in the Parish and these have a wide variety of wildlife, including the rare and internationally protected **Great Crested Newt**.

The **Stag Beetle**, which is nationally rare, is relatively common in Hurst.



Hurst - A Host of Wildlife Awaits You in Dinton Pastures

Life—but we may not be aware of it!

It's good to see the highland cattle still grazing in the Dinton Pastures meadows.

Conservation grazing is important - grazing animals do two things:

- They tend to eat the lush plant species, which in turn gives a competitive edge to the finer plants and flowers.
- They uptake nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, preventing them from being recycled into the soil again.

This means that more aggressive plants cannot invade and displace the rare plants which thrive in low nutrient conditions.



As we've reported in the Lavell's Wetland Trust update, bitterns have started to re-appear in the reedbeds and are being seen on a regular basis on Lavells Lake.

For the first time since 1984, a pink footed goose has been seen in the park which is of huge significance amongst our resident bird watchers.

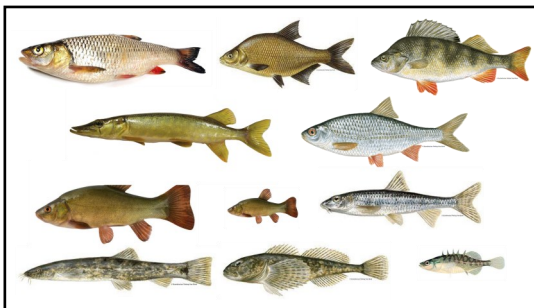


The team at Dinton Pastures has carried out a fish survey on the Emm Brook at Lavell's Lake.

This was a two part survey which included an electro fishing survey of the river to see what species we could find, and also a DNA survey which was carried out by Reading University to see what species they could identify as present.

The species found were:

Chub, Bream, Perch, Pike, Roach, Tench, Minnows, Gudgeon, Stone Loach, Bullheads and sticklebacks - shown below in order.



The species the team hoped to find (they know they are about) are River Lamprey and Eel. However, DNA results are awaited to confirm these, as none were found in the 100m stretch surveyed .

LaVell's Wetland Trust—A Nature Reserve in the Heart of Hurst

Do you know where LaVell's Wetland Trust is?— or what it is all about?

LaVell's Lake, set to the North of Dinton Pastures, is the centre of LaVell's Wetland Trust (LWT: registered charity 1176960) is in the northern most part of Dinton Pastures Country Park (DPCP) and set in about 46 acres of a mixture of managed wetland habitats, including Phragmites reed beds, sedges, grass areas, coppiced scrub and hedgerows.

LaVell's Lake has a rich biodiversity, but the key focus is wetland birds, such as dabbling ducks, waders, herons, bittern, egrets, rails and crakes and reed dwelling passerines. Two public hides have been built overlooking shallow water. Both hides provide some of the closest views possible of numerous shy and secretive species.

North of LaVell's Lake along the Loddon footpath, is Lea Farm Lake, which is about a third longer than LaVell's, but probably more than three times the area of water. A hide has been built offering exceptional views across the lake.

LWT are some way along with the reed transplanting, although the summer floods hampered progress to some degree. Final costings are being prepared to build the landfill viewing station and hope to have this built before year end - helped by a generous donation from HVS.

The summer is over, the last few Swallows, House Martins and Warblers are on their way and the winter birds have begun arriving, many of the duck species have been building numbers for over a month, but the Redwing, Fieldfare, Siskins, other finches, greater wild-fowl numbers and of course many Gulls, are yet to arrive. Each winter we hope we will yet again be blessed with Bittern at LaVell's and White Swan Lake – they usually arrive in early November and are a speciality that our area has become famous for.

What are you waiting for? Come and explore, sit and watch, enjoy the experience!





Wildlife In Hurst Challenge- How well will you do? Did you read carefully through the articles in this magazine?



What kind of foal was born in Hurst this year? (Bonus point for the foal's name)

What is the name of the rare visiting bird to Lavell's Lake?

Where is Lavell's lake?

What amphibian found here is internationally protected?

How many fish species were identified in the survey undertaken in the Emm Brook at Lavell's Lake?

Where locally is 10% of the population of the UK's Loddon Lilies?

Which protected insect, though rare nationally is commonly found in Dinton Pastures?

What type of goose has recently been spotted in Dinton Pastures—the first time in nearly 40 years?

How many ponds are there in Hurst?

Where do the highland cattle come from?

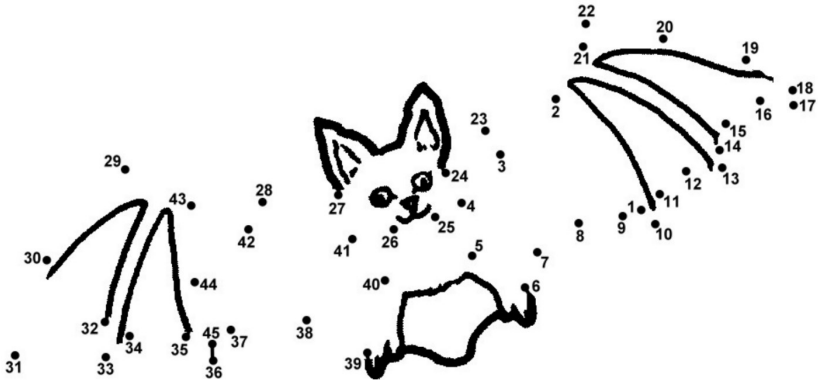


How did you do? Answers are on Page 26



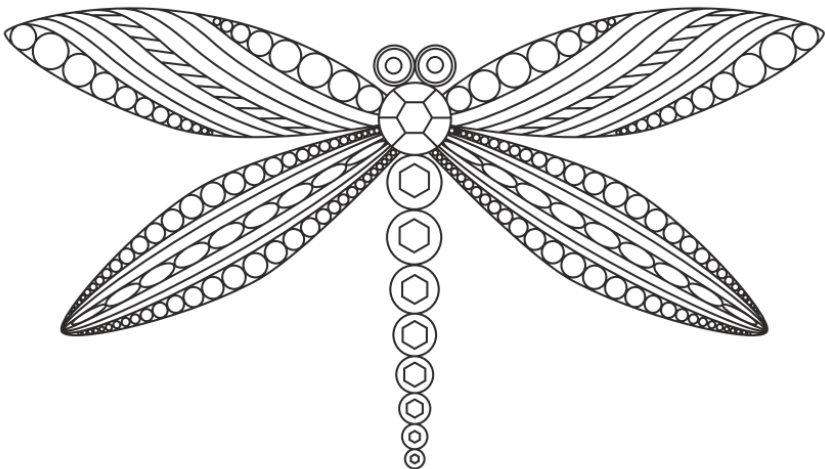
Join the dots - A Bat

- There are more than 1,300 bat species
- Some species weigh less than a penny, while some have a 1.8m **wingspan**
- Bats sleep upside-down



Colour me in - A Dragonfly

- Dragonflies have been around for over 300 million years and there are over 5000 different species
- Some dragonflies can eat up to hundreds of mosquitos in a single day
- They come in all sorts of brilliant colours



Our Environment—Respect, Protect, Repeat

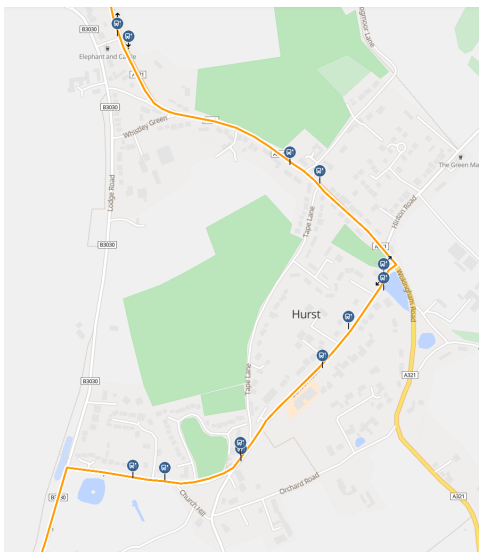
Leave the Car at Home - Catch the Bus

Replacing car journeys with public transport can help reduce CO2 emissions by 42% if using the bus and 73% if travelling by train. It all helps with creating a cleaner, greener environment.

We all need to consider ways of reducing our own carbon footprint. Why not consider taking the bus? A walk at either end of our journey will also help towards our steps count.

In Hurst, we have the option of Bus Routes 128 and 129 to travel either in the direction of Wokingham, or towards Reading. For those of you commuting out there, the 128 stops at Twyford station, and this is a great advantage given the challenging parking conditions at the station and throughout Twyford.

The map shows the bus stops through Hurst. The timetable for the buses is available on www.thamesvalley.buses.com - buses can also be tracked here, or on the Thames Valley Buses app **TVBuses**.

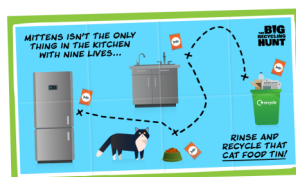


Recycling—something everyone can do to play their part.

Information on recycling options in Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) can be found online: www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling

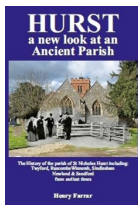
In WBC there are many other options for recycling items not collected by WBC's kerbside collections:

- Donate clothes, shoes and furniture to charity shops (many will collect larger furniture items)
- Drop clothes and shoes to clothes banks—there are many in the Borough
- Use the freecycle network to give away your items - <https://www.freecycle.org/>
- Use Facebook groups such as “Don’t Dump It” and Marketplace for your area
- Glass/Bottle banks are available at most supermarkets and at Dinton Pastures, the Green Man and The Castle Inn.

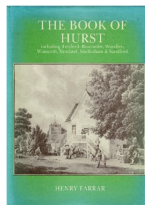


Other items that are not generally recycled throughout the borough do not have to be put into landfill. **Ali's Recycling**, in conjunction with **Terracycle** - a global company dedicated to the idea of zero waste - provides information on where items such as crisp, biscuit, pet food and other packaging can be recycled. More information on Ali's Recycling can be found at: www.facebook.com/AliRecycling. Visit www.terracycle.com for further information.

Find out More About the History of Hurst in our book: Hurst, A New Look At An Ancient Parish



What a great
Christmas
present!



One Year's Free HVS Membership with Every Purchase!

The Book of Hurst - NOW ON SALE £23

at Stanlake Wine Shop, Newberrys Twyford and direct from HVS

by contacting: secretary@hvs.org.uk For more information see www.hvs.org.uk

HVS Membership Benefits

If you are not already a member, please join us. The cost to each household is only £5/year. If you are already member don't forget to renew in January. Membership numbers help back up our influence on planning matters especially with the current number of planning applications being submitted. Membership also helps fund local projects—and the cost of this popular magazine.



Hurst Village Society

Membership Benefits Scheme



Richard of Hurst

The **HVS Membership Benefits Scheme** allows members to take advantage of discounts offered by local businesses. Three local businesses have joined the scheme so far and offer 10% discounts.

Members will need a membership number and a card to access these benefits. To get your new HVS Members Benefit Card please email:

secretary@hvs.org.uk. If you are not already a member, you can join using the membership form provided on the back page.

HVS Membership Benefits Scheme - Featured Partner

We are very grateful to our Membership Benefits Scheme partners for their participation in this programme and the discounts they offer.

Hare Hatch Sheeplands aims to be the friendliest and most knowledgeable plant nursery, farm shop and cafe in the area. They have been trading for nearly 30 years, and have over 50 years of horticultural experience.

Antique & Flea Markets
Wed 10, Sun 21
& Sun 28 May

10% OFF
for HVS
members
with your
HVS card *
terms
apply

Hare Hatch Sheeplands
FARM SHOP - GARDEN CENTRE - COFFEE SHOP
EVERYTHING YOU NEED for Great Gardening & so much more!

Join our Club FREE
10% OFF for age 60+
Cash back for schools

HVS23
www.harehatchsheeplands.co.uk
info@hhsheep.co.uk

BerkshireLive

Hare Hatch Sheeplands voted Berkshire's best garden centre!*

Hare Hatch Sheeplands has been named the best in Berkshire following a poll of BerkshireLive readers. The poll was launched at the beginning of August as they sought to champion the very best Berkshire has to offer.

After an initial poll, the longlist was whittled down to six contenders who battled it out to win the overall title. After another few weeks of voting and with plenty of votes cast, Sheeplands Garden Centre has come out on top.

Sheeplands is an independent garden centre around 7 miles from Reading, found on London Road. The garden centre, which has received rave reviews on Google, and also boasts both a farm shop and café.

* Source BerkshireLive News.

HVS Membership Benefits Scheme - Featured Partner

Stanlake Park Wine Estate

Settled in 130 acres of peaceful English countryside, Stanlake Park is an impressive historical estate in the Royal County of Berkshire, and is one of the oldest wine producers in England .

Built for the first time in 1166, its charming main barn houses one of the oldest and largest wineries in the area, and is able to process 200 tonnes of fruit in any one season.



OPEN WED - SUN

ENGLISH WINE SINCE 1979



STANLAKE PARK
WINE ESTATE

Wine Bar & Coffee
Tours & Tastings
Xmas Gifts
Weddings & Private Events
Accommodation

HVS MEMBERS GET 10 % OFF!

Please show your Member Card at the till. Valid for Shop or Wine Bar purchases only. Not valid online. Can't cumulate with other offers/discounts.

Waltham Rd, Hurst
Berkshire · RG10 0BN
www.stanlakepark.com



@stanlakepark

Spotlight: HVS Skills Register Partner



It's nearly that time of year again!

When it comes to gutter cleaning, reliability and trustworthiness are non-negotiable. At First Choice Gutter Cleaning, we not only pride ourselves on being the go-to choice for a spotless, clog-free gutter system but also for our unwavering commitment to your peace of mind.

We are a fully insured, family-owned business with a stellar track record of protecting homes from water damage. We are not only experienced but also committed to delivering consistent, dependable services. When you choose First Choice Gutter Cleaning, you're not just choosing a service; you're choosing peace of mind. Your gutters are in trusted, capable hands.

For more information and to book your gutter clean service contact: **07985 763 940** or **hello@1stchoicegutterclean.co.uk**

Update on HVS Activities and Funded Projects

HVS Christmas Dinner Dance



The 2023 Hurst Christmas Dinner Dance, planned for **Saturday 9th December**, is proving to be extremely popular with tickets selling fast. Following great feedback from last year, the HVS has decided to keep the overall format for this year's sumptuous event largely unchanged; however, the team has tweaked aspects of the evening to raise the standard even higher and to create an even more exciting atmosphere in the hall.

Despite inflation pressures, the ticket price is the same as last year at £45. This represents terrific value considering the content and quality of the evening. For this year's Dinner Dance, HVS has arranged a **"get-you-home" taxi service** that will be **free for HVS Members, and £5 for Non HVS Members**. Any guests wishing to take advantage of this service can book it through treasurer@hvs.org.uk. Further details of the arrangements will be sent out to the guests closer to the event.

All profits from the function are shared between the St Nicholas School and the HVS fund; the **2022 event raised over £2,800**, an incredible achievement. Contact treasurer@hvs.org.uk for more information.

HVS Invests in a new viewpoint at Lavell's Wetland Trust

With funding from HVS, LWT is eagerly awaiting the start of a weekend project to build a view point overlooking the landfill from the bottom of Lavell's car park field. The view point will provide a simple means to both shelter from rain and wind, and somewhere to rest and linger for longer periods, as it is through a prolonged stay that one can really witness the movements of across a range of bird species, from birds of prey, to wildfowl, to herons, egrets, to finches, pipits, thrushes, swallows and martins and numerous other passage birds, not least wading species. Watch this space for more information on this project.



Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue

At the HVS AGM in May, Donna Penfold from Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre (DBARC) gave a very informative presentation on DBARC, where they rescue and rehome Cats, Dogs, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs and other small animals and birds. Covid had a massive impact, leaving them unable to fundraise. DBARC relies solely on donations and fundraising. The drop in income, while costs of caring for the animals stayed the same, created some severe challenges for them.



DBARC will be fundraising at the Wokingham Winter Carnival on Sunday 26th November, from 11am to 5pm November, and will be holding their Santa Day on Sunday 10th December, from 11am—3pm. Please support them if you can. www.dbarc.org.uk

HVS was pleased to present Donna with a cheque donation at the meeting.

Hurst Show & Country Fayre

THANK YOU from Hurst Show and Country Fayre

Many thanks to all those who supported Hurst Show on one of the hottest weekends of the year. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the organisers are delighted to confirm that the show raised over £15,000. These funds have been distributed to local charities and good causes including St Nicholas CofE Primary School, Hurst Scouts, St Nicholas Pre-School and Alexander Devine Children's Hospice.

*Best in show with Mum Alex Morgan**



*Luenna Thacker-Proctor, 10, travelled 340 miles to win first prize!***



*The Red Diamonds are ready for visitors, including Jessie who is a remarkable 103 years young!**



*Lewis 12, Charlie 13, George 12, Elliot 12— Welly Wangers***

** Photo Credit Emma Vaughan*

*** Photo Credit Sue Corcoran*

This year, a number of £250 grants are also available to support local community initiatives. To express an interest in applying for a grant, please email details of your project to hurstshowandcountryfayre@gmail.com by 1st March 2024.

Next year's show takes place on **Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June 2024**. The show relies on a team of volunteers, helping with site set-up, traffic marshalling, bar and BBQ duties, etc. **If you would like to get involved in next year's Show, please email hurstshowandcountryfayre@gmail.com to be added to the volunteer distribution list. Thank You!**

HVS Archery at the Hurst Show and Country Fayre



As usual the HVS Archery stall at the Hurst Village Show in June was a great success: fun for all those who took part and also raising a little money for the HVS funds which will we use to contribute to projects in the village.

Thank you to all those of you who came to take part and also to the many volunteers who helped show children how to safely use the bows, collected up the arrows and put the targets back up as they were knocked down so we could operate continuously throughout the weekend.



Planning Update



All planning matters being dealt with by HVS, together with any associated correspondence, are regularly updated on our website (www.hvs.org.uk/planning), and also in our regular e-mail newsletters*.

Land at Broadcommon Road, Hurst (Planning Application No: 223805)

This second planning application for the erection of up to 30 self build dwellings was refused by Wokingham Borough Council. The main reason for refusal given by the Planning Authority was *“Due to the site lying outside of the settlement boundaries and it represents inappropriate and unsustainable form of development in the countryside with a loss of the separate identity of Hurst and scattered development to the South, and harm to the quality of the environment.”*

Proposed Erection of a 15m Telecommunications Mast on Broadcommon Lane (Planning Application No: 222846)

This second application which, having been refused by Wokingham Borough Council, was the subject of an Appeal by the developers. The appeal was subsequently dismissed by The Planning Inspectorate. The proactive involvement of local residents in this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Land Adjacent to School Road and Orchard Road (Willowmead Field, Planning Application No: 230074)

At the time of going to press, this application—despite being submitted to Wokingham Borough Council, and registered by them on 9th February 2023—has yet to be determined.

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst (Planning Application No: 230201)

Following the refusal of this planning application by Wokingham Borough Council, an Appeal (**APP/X0360/W/23/3322416**) has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. It has been deemed that the Appeal would be determined on the basis of written representations, which had to be submitted to them by 9th October 2023. The Appeal decision is awaited.

Land Adjacent to Amen Corner, North of London Road/ East 329M, (Planning Application No: 232026)

HVS objected to an Outline Planning Application for the erection of up to 45 residential dwellings. The Society's full submission to the Planning Authority can be seen on our website www.hvs.org.uk/planning

Contact HVS for Planning Updates and Information

As reported previously an increasing number of individuals are contacting HVS to seek advice or assistance in relation to specific applications. If you think we may be able to help you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us at planning@hvs.org.uk

STOP PRESS: Local Authorities told to adopt ambitious Local Plans ahead of reforms.
See details and Housing Secretary Michael Gove's letter to Local Authorities on the HVS website: www.hvs.org.uk

* Sign up for the HVS Email newsletters by email on our website www.hvs.org.uk

Wokingham Borough Council Local Plan Update



The Local Plan Update (LPU) replaces the adopted Core Strategy and Managing Development Delivery Plans, setting out the Spatial Strategy for the Borough up to 2040, showing where and how much growth can happen across the area, setting rules for managing development and what sites can be developed. The LPU will be completed and adopted between 2023 and 2026.

A new Statement of Community Involvement, setting out how the Planning Authority will engage in the preparation of Local Plans and assessing planning applications, will be adopted. A new Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule, i.e. a charge which can be levied on new development to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support growth, will also be adopted.

Indicative Programme for the preparation of The Local Plan Update:

- Proposed Submission Plan Publication – November 2023
- (NB. It is the Society's understanding that the proposed Submission Plan has to be approved by WDC's Executive)
- Submission – March, June 2024
- Examination Hearings (stage 1) - August 2024
- Examination Hearings (stage 2) – January 2025
- Inspector's Post Hearing Letter – April 2025
- Modifications Consultation – July 2025
- Inspector's Report of Examination – November 2025
- Adoption – December 2025 (Having been approved by WDC's full Council).

What potentially will be a 200 page document, the emerging Local Plan will include all the new proposed planning policies, bringing them fully into line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Wokingham Borough Council is committed to having “**good conversations**” with the community and stakeholders about the content of Local Plans. It is important that these conversations have the right depth and focus, matching the scale of the issues and proposals being considered. If you haven't already you can sign up to join the LPU consultation list here: www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/local-plan-update

A Government consultation is awaited on amending the NPPF to take into account past oversupply of housing by Local Planning Authorities to set off against future requirements– this could be really important as it could mean anything up to 2,000 fewer houses during the period of the new Local Plan.

Hurst Neighbourhood Plan Update

Update from the Working Group Chairman:

“The Group is in maintenance mode until WBC publishes an update of the Local Plan and Mr Gove concludes his review of the planning process. This was scheduled for November.” See www.hurstplan.uk for more information.

Electoral Changes for Hurst

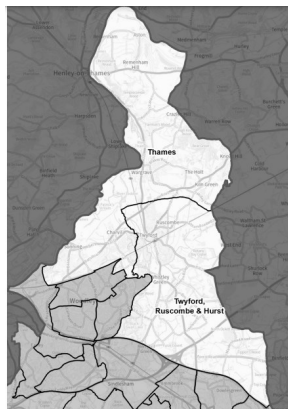
The **Boundary Commissions for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland** submitted their **2023 Boundary Reviews** in June, presenting their recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Commons on the reorganisation of UK parliamentary constituencies. Out of 650 existing constituencies in the UK, only 65 will remain unchanged.

Since 2021 the Boundary Commission for England has been reviewing all parliamentary constituencies in the country. It's aim was to redraw some constituencies to ensure each area has a similar number of voters.

The proposed **changes for Hurst** (and Twyford) see them **moved from Maidenhead to Wokingham**. So **Hurst will no longer have Teresa May as MP**. Instead **John Redwood will represent us, if re-elected**.

Changes have also been made to local authority wards to help maintain balance. A **new ward called Twyford, Ruscombe and Hurst** will be created, comprising Ruscombe, Hurst and Twyford parishes, and represented by three councillors.

These changes come into effect at local elections in 2024.



Electorate (2021)	7,794
Number of electors per councillor	2,598
Variance from average	%7%
Electorate (2028)	7,902
Number of electors per councillor	2,634
Variance from average	% 7%



Lady May with Jo Newbold at the launch of the Book of Hurst at Stanlake Winery 2021

Tape Lane Appeal – Surplus Funds

In the September Newsletter the HVS Committee expressed a preference for seeking the return of the Society's share (approx. £1,300) of the surplus funds from the Tape Lane Appeal following the decision by Hurst Parish Council (HPC) to return such monies on request. Members were asked for their views and, as no objections were received, a formal request has now been submitted to HPC.

Hurst Activities, Sports & Club Updates

Hurst Football Club

The Hurst Football Club - a fun and friendly local club - currently has **space for new players in the U6 and U7 age groups** and would love to welcome new players for this season. We are also excited to say we have our first girls team for Hurst FC, called the Hurst Jets. They are all U7 and U8 and we are **recruiting for this team too**.



On a Saturday morning we have a tots session, and minis first session: first session free, then £2.50 there after. All training is on Thursday evenings and matches are held on Saturday mornings.

This season's highlight was our **U10s Hurricanes winning** their first tournament in Bracknell—well done to the team and all involved!

We are having our **Christmas Party in December** - tickets will go on sale over the next few weeks. This event will be held at the **Hurst Cricket Club**, and the **food provided by the Greenman pub**.

For further information please contact hurstfc2@gmail.com

Hurst Cricket Club



After a difficult start to 2023, the club enjoyed a full year of cricket. Due to a lack of players at the start of the year, the club was unable to field two teams in the Thames Valley Cricket League (TVCL). The club has now entered into an agreement with Rangers Cricket Club, a Woodley based club. We will join for the 2024 season, when we will field two teams in the TVCL and one team in the Berkshire Cricket League (BCL).

The Saturday team finished 9th in division 2B of the TVCL. However, 2 Colts players, Jack Odey and McKenzie Keen, both made their league debuts and both show great promise.

Our Sunday Development XI continues to enjoy a more relaxed cricket environment, eventually finishing in third place in the Berkshire Blast Sunday Cricket League.

Friday night Colt's coaching has continued to flourish with a good social atmosphere for all parents and friends. Thanks to all who provided food and served alcohol, as well as to the club's sponsors, and Rob Dewey and Steve Hills for their efforts throughout the summer.

Hurst Colts fielded teams at U11, U13 and U15 and enjoyed some notable results in 2023. Thanks to Catherine Pearce for running the All Stars coaching sessions for younger players.

The club house is open for bookings - parties, exercise classes or any other social event. We can also provide a staffed licenced bar. Contact **Steve Hills on 07899 847038 or hurstccofficial@gmail.com**.

We are still looking to recruit new players and, if you are interested in playing for HCC, please contact **Nigel Hawkes on 07952 516 987 or nhawkes065@gmail.com, or hurstccjuniors@gmail.com** for children. You can also follow us on Instagram: **@hurstcricketclub**, and Facebook: **<https://www.facebook.com/HurstCricketClub1875>**

Hurst Gospel Hall - Regular Services



Once again we take the opportunity to invite you to join us at one of our services. You will be given a very warm welcome, and we believe the Bible has a real message of hope in this difficult world

Sundays: 10.00am – Breaking of Bread - A time for Christians to remember the Lord Jesus
11.30am – Refreshments prior to: -
11.45am – Family Gospel Service with Sunday School (except 3rd Sunday) Suitable for everyone, young and old
5.00pm – Come and meet each other (CAMEO) (3rd Sunday only) A Bible message, tea and hymn singing. All ages very welcome

Mondays (term time only):

10.00am – Coffee and Toddlers
6.00pm – J.A.M (Jesus and Me) Children’s Club

Tuesdays: 7.45pm – Bible Teaching 8.30pm – Prayer Meeting

Wednesdays (1st Wed in each month from September to June):

11.00am – Ladies Light Lunch (preceded by an activity & Bible time)

Fridays (fortnightly in term times):

7.00pm – Young People’ Bible Class

Please contact us through the website www.hurstgospelhall.org for more details and dates.

“Friends of St Nicholas Church”

There are many things that make up the village of Hurst; the school, cricket club, pubs, village shop and of course the people, but one thing that stands at the top of Church Hill and we take for granted is the church. St Nicholas has stood for over 900 years, and if walls could talk it could tell some tales.

You may worship at the church, attend school or festival services, have been married or said goodbye to a loved one there. You might have come to one of the concerts, or the cream teas that have been held, or you just drive past on your daily commute. Whatever it maybe, the church building is a central part of the landscape of the village.

The Parochial Church Council is setting up a “**Friends of St Nicholas Church**” group. A group that is interested in the history or the preservation of the fabric of the church building to ensure that it can be maintained and passed to future generations. You don't have to worship at St Nicholas to join, "you don't have to believe to belong". A “**Friends of**” group would be instrumental in primarily raising funds, but also raising awareness of the 900 years of history of the church at the heart of Hurst.

We are in the early stages of setting this group up and are asking for **4 or 5 volunteers** who would be interested in forming the core group that will be ready to start in the New Year. This team will look at all elements of how to set up the scheme from identifying projects that need to be funded and supported, as well as social events, history talks, communication, setting up a newsletter etc. We would then look at launching **the scheme in the Spring** for wider membership and participation.

If participating in the initial set up of this scheme appeals to you, please contact Julia Curnow at curnowjulia@aol.com for more information.

Hurst Pantomime Group

It is with a heavy heart that we need to advise that the Hurst Pantomime is cancelled for 2024. It takes a whole team both on stage and behind the scenes to bring the pantomime to life and unfortunately this year we haven't managed to secure enough volunteers for all the various roles.



We fully appreciate all the hard work that the cast, parents and team have put in so far.

We remain hugely positive about bringing a pantomime to Hurst in 2025, and will start the planning and advertising of roles early next year..

To find out more or to register your interest, please email hurstpanto@hotmail.co.uk

Fancy Giving Walking Football a Go?



We train every Wednesday 7-8pm at Floreat Montague Park Primary School in Wokingham on a 4G artificial grass surface.

We have two over 50s teams and an over 60s team all of which are in the age respective Thames Valley Walking Football league.

Both our over 50s teams are in the Championship this season (one from the top), which is 6 a side, multi touch under head height, no contact.

First three training sessions are free to see if you like it.

League matches are played on the second Sunday of every month (starting in September), either morning or afternoon (it alternates each month) at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, 5 matches are played each month (same day).

We also have the TVWFL league cup at Bisham in the Summer and regularly play in other ad hoc tournaments each season (we recently won one at Tottenham Hotspur!).

It's very friendly and informal and great for fitness.

If you want to give it a go, email club@hurstwalkingfc.co.uk or just come down to training on a Wednesday night, everyone welcome.

Additional : Since the last Village newsletter our Over 50s A team was relegated from the Thames Valley league Premier division, but our over 50s B team was promoted from division 1, so this season both are now competing against each other in the Championship division!

A mixed team from Hurst went to compete in the Tottenham Hotspur Walking football tournament at White Hart Lane, London, on a sunny Thursday, and promptly won it(!), beating teams including Tottenham and Portsmouth!

The Hurst A team bounced back from relegation to win the Thames Valley League cup, beating the Premier division champions Oxford United, in the final!

Hurst Bowling Club circa 1747

Charity NO:1198978 CIO



Club members are justly proud of our designated ancient green. Our sporting history can boast the fact that one of England's finest cricketers, W.G. Grace, played our green in 1902 and lost. We know that the sport of bowls has been played continuously on our green, despite two major wars, since 1747. Unfortunately, the pandemic did suspend bowling on our green for two years. We can imagine the thousands of feet that have walked our green since 1747. Our ancestors have preserved this sport for us to enjoy today.

In 2022, we celebrated 275 years of this noble sport at our club. Our celebrations included a county match. We had a new club flag, our logo was updated, and a badge was made specially for the occasion.

Our visiting teams have commented on how well our bowling green plays, which is thanks to our dedicated green keeping team.

Though the green may be excellent, the clubhouse is not, and in order to preserve the future of the club and to attract new members, we need to have a sound clubhouse for future generations. The current building is over 160 years old. It is made of wood; it has no foundations and can no longer be repaired. There is no heating, no hot water and it is permanently damp and mouldy. The last two years have been most unkind. Whenever it rains, the floor is flooded.

Our club fundraising team is actively looking at ways in which to engage our community to help us fundraise. To date we have raised **half the money; we must raise another £100K**. We will be holding a **Quiz Night on 17th February 2024**. We are also planning to have a **Bowling Club Auction in April 2024**, and we are considering a **Bowlathon**. As soon as these events are confirmed, we will be advertising them. So, watch out for further information.

We also appeal to all who love history and sport to make us a donation, whether it be an item for the auction, or financial - however small - to help us preserve this beautiful historic part of our community and of Berkshire. For more information visit www.hurstbowlingclub.co.uk or contact **Ronnie Ashley** via v.m.ashley@btinternet.com

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Scouting in Hurst is open to boys and girls from the age of 6 through to 14, providing a structured, adventurous and safe programme of activities in a fun environment enabling youngsters to develop their skills and personalities.



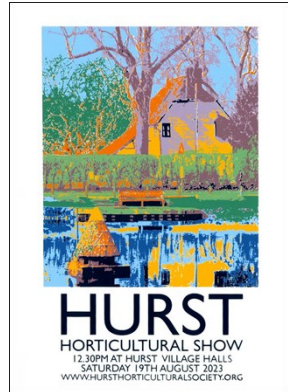
Never has there been a more exciting time to join the Group with openings available within **Beavers (6-8 yo), Cubs (8-10) and Scouts (10-14)** for boys and girls to join.

Children and adult members find themselves participating in a wide array of activities where fun and team building are core. If you'd like to get involved, learn new skills and make a difference in your community then we can definitely help! Get in touch via our website www.hurstscouts.org.uk

Hurst Horticultural Society

"It was a very Darling Buds of May, my daughter and I had a lovely time with church bells ringing out in the background", was one comment from a visitor to the 110th Hurst Horticultural Show held on Saturday 19th August.

Frank Whittaker, secretary of the Hurst Horticultural Society said: *"The enthusiasm and turnout for the show never ceases to amaze and delight me. We really do seem to have hit upon a recipe for success and, reflecting on it, I think the comment about Darling Buds of May sums it up. I would throw in a sprinkling of The Archers, but without the bickering, and here we have the Hurst Horticultural Show, a traditional English village summer's afternoon."*



These days the show is much broader than pure horticulture with at least half of the entries spread amongst cooking, baking, preserves, handicrafts, art, photography and scarecrows. Indeed, it's more broadly based geographically as well with many entries from Wokingham, Bracknell, Twyford, Maidenhead and Swallowfield, which we encourage; it's not just about Hurst.

The highly contested Men Only Apple Flan Baking Competition was won this year by Brian Poulton who walked round the show proudly wearing his golden crown and apple medalion. The Sommelier Cup for ladies only liqueur was won by Fiona Piper. Both Brian and Fiona are keeping their recipes secret!

Children's classes were popular and a number of delighted children {and parents} could be seen proudly displaying their newly won medals and trophies.

Overall numbers of class entries were similar to last year, whilst visitors to the show increased once again - and who could blame them with a live jazz band, wine and beer tent selling prosecco and local real ale, home-made cream teas and cakes, freshly cooked hot food, a variety of local craft stalls and the well-known Hurst Alpacas which always delight.

Frank Whittaker said: **"We deliberately keep the show `non-commercial` and friendly with low prices such as tea and coffee just £1, home-made scone jam and cream £2.50, entry charge £2 and free to all under 18. We hold a raffle which is generously supported by local pubs, restaurants and businesses and we are very thankful to them all as this is the main source of income.**

Despite this, when we make a surplus we like to donate most of it to local charities with over £5,000 being donated over recent years."

This show is held each year on the third Saturday in August, in **2024** the date is Saturday **17th August**. More information is available on the Horticultural Show website: **www.hursthorticulturalsociety.org**.

Thank You from St Nicholas Church

St Nicholas have held a number of events over the summer season and we want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the village for their support and generosity.

In May the cream tea in celebration of the Kings coronation was an amazing event. The queues into the church nearly brought the traffic to a standstill. We are very grateful for the support of HVS and Veronika Koekemoer who made the most amazing scones and cakes for us.

Chantal Roberts, one of our dedicated bell ringers, arranged a fun dog show at the Jolly Farmer in May, now affectionally known as the "Jolly Dog Show". Proceeds from this popular event went to support St Nicholas and Alzheimer's Society. Thanks to Chantal, Mike and Yutti for their planning and hospitality.

In June, the Walnuts with Bells On came back for another gig. It was again a huge success with dancing (even twisting on the pews), singing, mad games and a generally a wild evening. We were joined this year by the beautiful voices of the Hagen Brothers and some amazing vocal renditions from members of CLASP. We were treated to an unexpected fly past from the Kings birthday celebrations. Thanks to the Walnuts themselves, the Hagen broth-



ers, the bellringers, Colleen Scott, Matt and staff at the Castle Inn. Thanks to your generous support we were able to make a donation to CLASP of £1,500.

At the end of June, St Nicholas supported Hurst Show by running a bookstall and running a craft stall for the children. There must have been over a thousand books donated, so we are very grateful for your support.

On Saturday 30th September we held Dance through the Decades. We featured tracks from the 60's to present day and had everyone dancing for 4 hours non-stop. Amazing burgers were provided by Flame BBQ and a licensed bar was run by a group of local men! This event raised a magnificent £2500 profit, half of which is being donated to Bowel Cancer UK.

Funds: The Parochial Church Council of St Nicholas have agreed that funds raised this year, will go to the refurbishment of the organ that is used for services, weddings, funerals, recitals and much more. We are also planning to apply for grants to help us achieve our goal of over £15,000 for the work which needs to be done.





It's been a very busy start to the new academic year and we have enjoyed welcoming new families to St Nicholas CE Primary School. We have introduced a number of new activities for the children to enjoy before, during and after school. These include a variety of music lessons – drums, guitar, violin and piano – as well as differing sports and exercise – yoga, fencing, judo, netball and football.

Trips and Activities

We have enjoyed watching our children in our Early Years class participate in a visit from 'Zoolab', who brought a selection of unusual and exotic minibeasts into class for the children to look at and handle. This provided an introduction to invertebrates and gave the children a wonderful chance to experience first-hand many animals that they will have seen and heard about in books and on the television



Our Year 1 and 2 children went to Whipsnade Zoo, the largest zoo in the United Kingdom! While we were there, we learned about life cycles and practiced reading our maps to help us find our way around. We had a fantastic day out and enjoyed seeing all the different animals.

Vision and Values Day

Recently we celebrated our visions and values day. At St Nicholas we have four core values: Respect, Honesty, Courage and Kindness. Our day started with collective worship where School Governor, Claire Lawrence, re-told the story of the wise man who built his house upon a rock. The story helped us to reflect on the importance of laying firm foundations and how this is particularly significant here at school where we are building on the things we learn as well as our values we live out, to ensure that we are ready for the next stages in our lives. This was also shared at our Stakeholders Vision and Values meeting where we were joined by members of our school community, parents, grandparents, school council, church wardens, staff, Governors, visitors and volunteers. We talked about how we hold these values, not only for our children, but for our whole community, enabling everyone to flourish and be the best we can be.

Brand New Play Equipment

Thanks to the incredible support of our families and PTA, this has been installed.

Their generosity and commitment to enhancing our school environment have made a significant impact. Our children now have a fun and engaging piece of equipment that will surely become a hub for creativity, physical activity and positive social interactions.



Can you help?

Our children are very enthusiastic readers. If you are able to volunteer some time to come into school to listen to the children read, that would be very much appreciated. Please get in touch by either calling the school office or by emailing: admin@st-nicholas.wokingham.sch.uk

Dolphin School



It has been a busy start to the new academic year at Dolphin School - the rain may have arrived, but our spirits have not been dampened, and the school has been full of laughter and merriment! Our unique trips programme is well underway with every year group from Nursery to Year 8 already having been on either a day trip or residential. During half term, our Y6s returned from North Wales and our Y7&Y8s came back from six days in Northumbria. After half term, Y5 are straight out on the first of their three residentials, to Boulogne - they are also heading to Iron-bridge and the Brecon Beacons during this academic year.



We are delighted to announce that Jade Jeffries has been appointed as Head of Charities, after her predecessor retired after 15 years with us this summer. Jade has been busy, having already organised a MacMillan Coffee & Cake Sale, which was hugely popular with our pupils, parents and staff, all helping to raise money for this very worthwhile cause. Our parents have also been very generous with our Harvest Collection for the Wokingham Food Bank which Jade was able to visit recently, along with many, many bags of essential items.

As we headed into half term, the last day was “off-timetable” for our termly “Core Value Day” – here at Dolphin we have five core values (Freedom, Discovery, Challenge, Confidence and Kindness) which are lived out each and every day. This time saw the turn of “Kindness”. The charity “52 Lives” visited us for a wonderful 'School of Kindness' assembly and along with a number of workshops, our girls and boys enjoyed a range of activities, from singing and making kindness wands, to teambuilding and learning more about the Earth! It was a lovely way to end a great half term, with one parent informing our Headmaster that her son had told her “it was the best day ever!”



If you wish to see how Dolphin School “inspires a love of learning that lasts a lifetime ...” contact **Kate Spooner** at admissions@dolphinschool.com to arrange a personal tour and to meet our Headmaster.

Wildlife Challenge - Answers

1. Suffolk Punch & Danny Boy
2. Bittern
3. To the North of Dinton Pastures
4. Great Crested Newt
5. 11
6. Sandford Mill Copse
7. Stag Beetle
8. Pink Footed Goose
9. 30
10. Scotland

How well did you do?



Talent in Hurst - Did You Know About Only The Poets?

Only the Poets is an indie-rock band described as being from Reading, but Hurst is home to the bass player Andy Burge. Andy grew up in Hurst and went to Piggot School. He was a popular gardener in Hurst and taught bass guitar in the village while the band saved up to fund their European adventure.

The band gained popularity from being Louis Tomlinson's support act on the European leg of his world tour in 2021. Covid foiled them being included on the American leg of the tour. In 2023 they were the support act for Lewis Capaldi's tour, while acquiring a fanatically dedicated legion of fans.



Dreams came true when The Poets were selected for a BBC Maida Vale session, then the BBC picked them for the BBC introducing stage at the Reading and Leeds festivals, and their solo European and UK tour in 2023 has been a huge success.

They describe their music as Energetic. Indie. Pop. Only The Poets consists of Tommy Longhurst (lead vocals, guitar), Andy (Roo) Burge (bass, vocals), Clem Cherry (guitar, vocals), and Marcus Yates (drums, vocals). They released their first hit, "Ceasefire," in 2017, followed by their catchy single, "Emotional," a few months later and have been gradually putting out new music, one song at a time, then an EP, and now on October 20th, their first vinyl release, a live album from the 'Feels Like Home' Tour.

In an article in Urban Vinyl Magazine in July 2020 by Sophie Hsu, the singer Tommy gave some insight in the forming of the band: *"There's a really famous festival right around the corner (Reading and Leeds) which I've been to loads of times. One year in particular, I was watching the bands and just fell in love with the idea of doing that. I was already performing as a solo artist at that point, and then I started writing songs with a band in mind. Our bass player, Roo (Andy Burge), was actually in a band that I supported while I was a solo artist. I knew who he was and that he was a great bass player, and as soon as his band broke up, I asked him if he wanted to play with me because I wanted to start a band."*

More Information - **Twitter:** [@onlythepoetsuk](https://twitter.com/onlythepoetsuk) and **Instagram:** [@onlythepoets](https://www.instagram.com/onlythepoets), and liking them on **Facebook:** [facebook.com/onlythepoets](https://www.facebook.com/onlythepoets)

Hurst Morris People



Did you spy a flash of white at Hurst Village Show? Hear jingling bells, sticks clashing, fiddle or squeezebox tunes one summer pub evening at the Castle Inn, Jolly Farmer or Green Man? That would have been our very own traditional English dance group, Hurst Morris People.



Missed #Hurst Morris's 2023 exploits? Catch up on Instagram [@HurstMorrisPeople](https://www.instagram.com/HurstMorrisPeople), or Facebook [@HurstMorris](https://www.facebook.com/HurstMorris). Watch our website www.hump.org for next year's events.

HVS SKILLS AND BUSINESS REGISTER

Please support Hurst traders

Accountant

Land & Scales Ltd

Cadomin, Wards Cross 0118 934 1818 maria@landandscales.co.uk

Small Business accountant specialising in helping to run sole trader businesses and small limited companies, statutory accounts, company secretarial accounts, tax returns and pay-rolls. CIMA qualified.

Admin Services

Mayday VA

susan@mayday-va.com www.mayday-va.com

Personal/Virtual Assistant Service of choice delivering professional administration services to support private individuals and small/medium businesses.



Building Contractor

S & K Construction

Furze Covert, Dunt Lane

01189 320 245 07957 303 658 www.sandkconstruction.com

All types of building work, extensions, alterations, and conversion. References available. Free quotation and advice given.

Building Contractor

C Sawyer and Son Builders Ltd

Colin Sawyer

Hurst csawyerandsonltd.co.uk 07768 533 774

Builders for over 38 years. Specialists in old building and listed buildings works.

Car Locksmith

AutoLock3000

Matthew Koekemoer

Lodge Rd Hurst 07950 597 295 1@autolocks3000.co.uk

Lost keys or locked out? We can get you back on the road with a new set of keys in no time. Remapping cars for more power or lower fuel consumption and ECU units fine-tuning to bring the best from your car.

Catering

Flame BBQ

Grange Farm Units, Hurst

07958 670 153 events@flamebbq.co.uk www.flamebbq.co.uk

Outdoor catering specialising in cooking on open fires, firewood pizza, paella and grazing tables.

HVS SKILLS AND BUSINESS REGISTER

Please support Hurst traders

Chimney Sweep

Thames Chimney Sweep

Neil Scott

01628 828 130 07799 268 123 enquiries@thameschimneysweeps.co.uk

Professional Chimney Sweep. Fully insured. Contact for prompt attention. Member of Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps, European Federation of Chimney Sweeps and Trading Standards Buy with Confidence Scheme. www.thameschimneysweeps.co.uk



Day Nursery

Muddy Ducks Nursery

Dinton Pastures

07935 228 600 info@muddyducksnursery.com www.muddyducksnursery.com

We are passionate about outdoor play and the importance of children learning about nature and the environment. 2 – 5's. (Funding available)

Garden Maintenance

Burge Maintenance

Alex Burge

Broadcommon Rd 07712 742 671 groundsmaintenanceuk@gmail.com

General garden maintenance, including jet washing, grass cutting, strimming, hedge trimming and small tree removal.

Gutter Clearance

1st Choice Gutter Clean

Lyndon Roscher

079 8576 3940 hello@1stchoicegutterclean.co.uk 1stchoicegutterclean.co.uk

Clean – Clear – Repair of all gutters



MOT Servicing

Berkshire Autos MOT and Service Centre

Grange Farm, Nelsons Lane 0118 934 3114 berkshireautoshurst@aol.com

Friendly and professional local garage, catering for individual needs. We provide MOTs and servicing; and in addition, tyres, diagnostics, mechanical repair work and air-conditioning.

Skip Hire

John Horwood Skips

John the Skip

Wokingham Road

07710 008 630 01628 788 144 johnhorwood@johntheskip.co.uk

All sizes from 3½ yard upwards always available. Grab Hire Service Top Soil and crushed concrete supplied.



HVS SKILLS AND BUSINESS REGISTER

Please support Hurst traders

SOLICITOR

Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP

Eugene Wojciechowski, eugene.wojciechowski@penningtonslaw.com, 0118 934 4485

Eugene is an employment law specialist and his firm advises both businesses and individuals on a full range of legal issues.

Water Softeners

Thames Valley Water Softeners

**THAMES VALLEY
WATER SOFTENERS**



**making soft
water simple
0118 9344485**

Gavin Boakes

Tape Lane 0118 934 4485 info@thamesvalleywatersofteners.co.uk

Local water softener supplier: Free installation survey & advice. 10 year guarantee. Repair Service available. Salt for pick-up or delivery.

www.thamesvalleywatersofteners.co.uk www.blocksaltman.co.uk

Window Cleaning

Richard of Hurst

Richard Boyden 07980 872 034 richard@richardofhurst.com

Local, trusted and reliable. No house or business too small or too big. Free quotation. Fully insured

For 30 years the HVS Skills Register has been promoting local Hurst trades and businesses to the residents of Hurst. The Register is on the HVS website www.hvs.org.uk/skills and receives a steady stream of hits. We include a feature in our regular newsletter sent out by email, and our Hurst Villager Magazine is delivered to every household in the Village and includes the full skills register.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE HVS SKILLS AND BUSINESS REGISTER 2023

£20.00 Per calendar year for members of the HVS

£25.00 per calendar year for non-members of the HVS

This will include calendar year-long exposure on our website and in our Newsletters. Also included in any HVS Magazines: email: skills@hvs.org.uk

Hurst Village Society, Lloyds Bank plc. Sort Code: 30-91-11 Account Number:

01349706 Reference: Business name

Hurst - Helping the Vulnerable

Many people will still be struggling in the winter period and finding it hard either making ends meet, or being alone and in need of support. **Please give generously to help them through the difficult times they are facing.**

The Link Visiting Scheme



Link Thursdays
at Space for All

Every Thursday from 10am to 4pm

A safe friendly space for everyone, with hot drinks. Join us at All Saints Church, Wokingham

VISIT LINKVISITING.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ageing well is an important concept for us all to consider. As we grow older, it can be easy to become isolated and disconnected from our social circles. At The Link Visiting Scheme, we understand that ageing well can have a significant impact on overall wellbeing and happiness.



“Link Thursdays” have just been introduced, providing a place where anyone can come for a cup of tea, chat and join in some friendship tables. We will also be running a series of talks/ forums.

If you are interested in volunteering at The Link Visiting Scheme or you or a family member may benefit from our service, please contact us via our website and we’ll be in touch! www.linkvisiting.org or call us on **0118 979 8019**
Marjie Walker, info@linkvisiting.org

Woodley Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who has so generously been donated to the Food bank over the Winter. They are still in desperate need of any long life products such as milk, juice, tinned items, pasta, coffee, tea and personal care items including nappies.



If you are able to make a donation, every tin helps, then please drop to 1 Myrtle Cottages, Hinton Road and all items will be taken to the food bank on a weekly basis. **Thank you for your support!**

The Cowshed

The Cowshed is a charity which provides support to people of all backgrounds in a time of personal crisis. The aim of The Cowshed is to provide good quality cleaned and ironed clothes and other essentials free to anyone in need.



Donations of Clothing, Baby Items, Toiletries, Bedding and Household Goods, and toys & Children’s Books. (Note, Crockery and Bric-a-Brac are not required).

Cowshed’s donation centre address is: **Rubra2, Mulberry Business Park, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, RG41 2GY.**

Tel: **0118 934 5120** | Email: **info@thecowshed.org**

Hurst - Helping the Vulnerable

Twyford Age Concern

Twyford & District Age Concern aims to promote and maintain independent living for elderly residents in and around our local community.

AGE concern
Twyford & District
— for friendship and care

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUB

Dementia Friends

We are a **registered charity** that operates a small, independent day centre that serves the local community.

Our friendly team offers a **warm, caring and happy atmosphere**. As well as a stimulating and active environment, we offer companionship as well as respite care. If you are lonely or feel isolated or know someone that is, please do come and talk to us and try a free taster session.

Our staff treats our members with the **respect they deserve**.
Centre Transport available within a 4 mile radius of Twyford.

Take a Break, we offer Respite Care

Take home cold evening meal service — Launched!

Hairstressing and Chiropody — Coming Soon

We offer a wide range of services to our members, their families and carers.

 Entertainment, arts & crafts, quizzes, and lots more fun	 Our sing-alongs, seated exercise classes and dancing are always popular	 Freshly prepared two-course cooked lunch
 Refreshments throughout your visit	 Assistance with form-filling, eg. Attendance Allowance, Blue Badge, etc.	 Monthly themed events and special occasions

Call or email now to find out more or to arrange a free taster session:
 (0118) 934 4040 info@ageconcerntwyford.org.uk

Registered Charity 1163722, President: Lady S Watt, ©2023 by Age Concern Twyford and District
Age Concern Twyford & District, Polehampton Close, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9RP

During the Covid pandemic, the centre took a large hit. We are still trying to build back the confidence in the elderly: it's ok to return and socialise. **It is!**

Since Alan Boyle joined as Centre Manager some 7 weeks ago, he has been aiming to provide assurance and encourage more people to visit the centre and take advantage of the social atmosphere and the various activities on offer. Please feel free to visit the centre and encourage your friends and relatives to come along too.

Contact us on tel.: **0118 934 4040**, email: **info@ageconcerntwyford.org.uk**

Here's a bright idea...

Leave a light on!

As the nights draw in
is your home secure?

- Close and lock all your doors and windows when going out or to bed
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Don't advertise that you're out invest in a light timer switch
- Register your valuables with www.immobilise.com
- For crime updates sign up to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

 **THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Please contact us if you have any information relating to burglary in your neighbourhood. Report online or **call us on 101 - always dial 999 in an emergency**. Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone **0800 555 111**.

Follow us on social media for regular crime updates and find out what your local policing teams are up to: Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham. Twitter: @TVP_Wokingham

JOIN HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY TODAY!

Have you joined the Hurst Village Society?

Become a member - and maybe even a committee member - be part of the team working hard to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Hurst as a living community. It is also an opportunity to join a group of like-minded people committed to maintain and enhance the character of Hurst. Membership fees are **only £5 per year per household**. For this very modest sum you can contribute to the many projects and local causes and clubs in Hurst and do your bit to make a difference.

Benefits:

- Regular Email Newsletter (generally monthly).
- Spring & Autumn Magazine delivered twice a year to all households in the village.
- Local Businesses and Skills list - including 10% discounts for members

The Newsletter and Magazine feature what is going on in the village – e.g. the Christmas Dinner Dance, Clubs and Societies and other events, features on local businesses, key planning applications, plus much more.

You can find a membership form on the back page of this magazine or print one from our web site www.hvs.org.uk/join-hvs

What are you waiting for—Join today!

Hurst Village Society **Membership Application/Renewal**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

I would like to receive periodic local information by e-mail from the HVS: YES / NO

New data protection regulations (Data Protection Act May 2018) require you to consent to your personal details including your email address being held by the HVS. Details will not be disclosed to any outside body.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Standing Order Instruction to:

Name of your Bank: _____ **Branch:** _____

Your Account Name: _____ **Sort Code:** _____ - _____ - _____

Your Account Number _____

Payee Details:

Payee: Hurst Village Society **Bank:** Lloyds Bank plc

Sort Code: 30-91-11 **Account Number:** 01349706

Payment Reference: Your surname followed by first initial

Payment to be made: Immediately* and thereafter on **2nd January** until further notice

Amount: £5.00 (Please amend this amount if you wish to add a donation)

Customer Signature _____ **Date** ____/____/____

** Unless paying by Direct Debit*

We now have more members paying on-line or by Standing Order. Standing Orders are particularly helpful as they save considerable time in administration and identifying members' payments at the bank. Please ensure any Standing Order or on-line payment is clearly marked in the reference section with your surname followed by your initial.

However, we appreciate that not all members have access to the internet, so we are still happy to receive a cheque and the above form.

We strive to keep the subscription to a low figure of just £5, but many members also add a donation to their subscription payments for which we are most grateful. These sums contribute to the provision of the monthly Newsletters and other projects HVS embarks on throughout the year.

Please contact membership@hvs.org.uk if you'd like to discuss joining the HVS and want to know more about membership.

Please return this form to membership@hvs.org.uk or post to R Thomas, Membership Secretary, Woodside Cottage, Maidenhead Rd, Hurst, Wokingham. RG40 5RH