



HURST Villager

HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY

Founded 1972

Spring/Summer Newsletter 2023
Issue No. 136

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

Congratulations to King Charles III on his coronation, Saturday 6th May 2023



**** The Village Has Spoken ****

Hurst came out in force to say No! to the planned development on Tape Lane and is heartily grateful that the Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal. So many people gave their time and effort - and financial donations totalling £33,155 (Source Hurst Parish Council Minutes, February 2023). This total amount includes £7,000 donated by HVS to support this cause. Congratulations and many thanks to all involved.



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22nd May - Annual General Meeting



9th December HVS Dinner Dance



Notice of the HVS Annual General Meeting

Monday 22nd May 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Hurst Village Society will be held on **Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7.30pm**. The venue will be **Stanlake Wine Shop RG10 0BN**.

HVS members are welcome and will need to register their intent to attend by emailing **secretary@hvs.org.uk**. Space at Stanlake is limited so, to avoid crowding, attendance in person will be only for those who have registered.

Nominations to the Committee can be made and seconded by any paid-up member of the Hurst Village Society and must be counter-signed by the nominee using the Nomination Form below. Nomination forms must be returned to: **secretary@hvs.org.uk** not later than noon on 7th May 2023. All paid up members attending the Annual General Meeting are eligible to vote on relevant matters.

Nominations for the election of the Committee of Hurst Village Society

I nominate (please print): _____

Proposed by (please print): _____

Member's Signature: _____

Seconded by (please print): _____

Member's Signature: _____

Signature of nominee: _____

Current Committee Members:

Robin West	treasurer@hvs.org.uk
Laura Godsal	website@hvs.org.uk
John Osborne	planning@hvs.org.uk
Suzu Watt	secretary@hvs.org.uk, skills@hvs.org.uk
Roland Thomas	membership@hvs.org.uk
Jane Disney	communications@hvs.org.uk
Veronika Koekemoer	events@hvs.org.uk
Andrew Wilson	traffic@hvs.org.uk, events@hvs.org.uk
Annie Young	events@hvs.org.uk



2023 Dates for your Diary



6th—8th May

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th May

Monday 8th May, 2 - 4pm

Monday 22nd May, 7:30pm

Saturday 17th June, 6—10:30pm

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th June

Saturday 1st July

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd July

Saturday 19th August

21st & 28th September, 8pm

Every Tuesday 6pm from 22nd April
to 23rd September

Saturday 9th December

King Charles III Coronation Weekend
Beer Festival and Entertainment
The Castle Inn
Cream Teas, St Nicholas Church

HVS AGM
Stanlake Wine Shop

“The Walnuts with Bells On”
Starting at Castle Inn
Then on to St Nicholas Church

Hurst Show and County Fayre
Multiple locations in village

Party in the Park
Hurst Football Club

Marvellous Festival
Dinton Pastures

Horticultural Society Show
Hurst Village Hall

Hurst Morris People Taster Sessions
Hurst Village Hall

Hurst Bowling Club
Try your Hand at Bowling

HVS Christmas Dinner Dance
Hurst Village Hall

Sign up to receive the newsletter by email on our website
www.hvs.org.uk/newsletters

King Charles III Coronation in the Village



Coronation mugs for St Nichols Primary School

To celebrate this event, HVS is giving a coronation mug to all pupils and teachers at St Nicholas Primary School. A total of 168 mugs will be presented at the school's Assembly by members of HVS on Friday 5th May.



St Nicholas Church—Monday 8th May



Join us in the grounds of St Nicholas Church, Hurst from 2pm – 4pm to celebrate the Kings Coronation with a delicious cream tea. All are very welcome. Cakes to be made and donated by HVS' own wedding and events coordinator, Veronika Koekemoer.



The Castle Inn - Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May



Join Matt and Helen Brown in celebrating their 10 year anniversary since they took over the Castle Inn. They will also be celebrating the King's Coronation with a beer festival on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May, with beers, ciders and a BBQ in the garden. On Saturday 6th, a soul funk band will provide entertainment from 3pm, while on Sunday 7th background music will be played.

Wheelwright Arms—Saturday 6th May

Daryl and Katie look forward to welcoming you for The Wheelwright Arms' Coronation celebrations from 11:15am - 11:00pm. Kicking off the day will be a live broadcast of the Coronation at 11:15am. Live music will entertain customers from 5 - 11pm and BBQ food will be available from 5 - 9pm.



Send us Your Coronation Photos!

Send photos of your Coronation Celebrations to communications@hvs.org.uk and we will select some to go into the Hurst Village Archives to create a lasting record of King Charles III's Coronation.

The Archives have a permanent home at Stanlake Park and include many documents and photographs relating to the history of the village. They are accessible to everyone. To view the archives please email natalia@stanlakepark.com.

Hurst Village Shop - “Use it or Lose it”

The Hurst Village Shop is over 110 years old and is a fundamental part of the village community.

It offers the convenience of a Post Office and off-licence, as well as papers and fresh food, grocery items and sweets. There is also an in-store bakery with fresh croissants, bread, patisseries and savoury pies prepared every day.

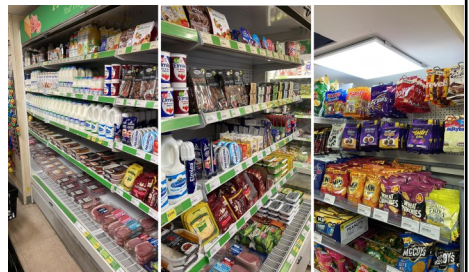


The shop provides an essential service to many residents in the village – especially the elderly and others who don't drive. It has collected money for the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice and provides pet food collection service for people struggling to feed their pets. During the pandemic the shop delivered groceries to villagers who were isolating at home.

However, the shop has had a decline in footfall since the pandemic and now faces the threat of closure by its owners – Bestway Wholesale - if business does not pick up enough in the next 2-3 months.

Jayne Overington has been manager at the shop for 12 years now and has a team of 10 people working with her. They provide a warm welcome and are well known to all in the village. A new regional manager - Patrick Wills - has been appointed and, working closely with Jayne, new ranges are being ordered and stocked, display shelves are being reorganised and more fresh produce is now available. In the next weeks they expect to show more improvements to the range of items available, including full meal offerings.

Business is already picking up, which the owners are encouraged by. **It now needs all of us to commit to support Jayne and her team to ensure the longevity of the business and, ultimately, fund more improvements inside and out.**



HVS has met with Jayne and Patrick and agreed to fund a “Use it or lose it” banner to be displayed in the village. At the same time, Patrick has agreed to work on the shop entrance to improve its appearance from the roadside.

We will keep in touch with Jayne over these coming weeks to see what more HVS can do to support her and help the business.

Special Feature—Animals & Farming in Hurst

The Belcher Family at Hatchgate Farm

We have been farming in Hurst and surrounding areas for 60 years, our own land as well as rented land. Three generations of the family work together every day on the farm.

Farming has had to adapt to many changes over the years, the biggest one for us was the foot and mouth outbreak in 2010 when we were heavily into pig production - swill feeding was stopped and our business halted overnight. The pig houses became small industrial units for local businesses and some of the original tenants are still there.



Our main farming enterprise now is beef and lamb. You can find beef cattle and lambs on the farm. We lamb ewes each year starting just after Christmas, so you can expect to see spring lambs out in the fields from late January.

The fields around Hurst are used to grow crops solely for our own animal feed: fodder beet, turnips, mustard, fodder maize and silage grass. The grass cut for silage is used throughout the year to feed the cattle, the rest is mixed in to give a balanced diet. If we are lucky we can get two cuts of the grass each year in May and July.

We can then go up to North Yorkshire to buy in more lambs to eat the grass.

Of course, where there's animals there's manure and we have plenty of it! It's organic and good for the soil, hence we do not need to put too much brought in nitrogen on our fields. Sadly, though, it does smell for a day or two.

Hedge cutting takes place every year after the birds have finished nesting. This is a slow tedious task especially with so many cars on the roads, but it's important. We get lots of complaints about tractors going too slowly and going too fast, manure being spread, lorries delivering to the farm and sheep trampling footpaths (we tell them to keep off the footpaths, but they just don't listen!). Where rural reality bumps up against suburban living, there's bound to be some friction.

Hatchgate farm is getting ready for another busy farming year. All the land around Hurst is being ploughed and sowed, and grass is growing for silage to feed the cattle in the winter months. Lush fields full of lambs is a sure sign spring is on its way.

So please buy local and know that it has taken a lot of hard work, commitment and love to supply your roast lamb this spring and juicy steaks on the BBQ this summer!



Smiling Alpacas: Despatches from Nikki Girdler

When I lost my dear old pony after having him for 26 years, my friend and I had heard about alpacas. We went on a husbandry course and decided to get some.

After a few years we had around 8, including a female from which we successfully bred 2 cria. My friend relocated to York, so I decided to buy some of my own - the ones I have now.



There are two types of alpacas - Suri and Huacaya. Suri's fleeces are straight and grow in locks and Huacaya's have a crimped fleece, much thicker and fluffier. I have two of each. They are kept as pets and are sheared yearly. The fleeces have many uses; from clothing to bedding, felting, crafts, insulation and much more. Mine, however, is mostly given away! There are 22 colours of alpaca fleece.

Alpacas are herd animals, and it is recommended that no less than three alpacas are kept together. They have guarding instincts against foxes and are sometimes kept to guard sheep when lambing, and free range chickens. In fact, our first herd was borrowed to help with a friend's lambing and they did a fantastic job guarding the young lambs from foxes.

My alpacas are all halter trained and we walk two of them to the Hurst Horticultural Show most years, where you can see them close up.



They are gentle and curious creatures and are great fun to keep. They eat grass and hay and have a daily supplement of camelibra, giving them the correct balance of vitamins and minerals they need. In warm weather they love to cool down in their paddling pool! Their claws are trimmed regularly, which can be done fairly easily.



Their manure is fabulous for the garden. If you would like a sack, please contact me on: **07501 339 437**.

Rare Breed Born in Hurst!

A few years ago we reported on some very special residents in Hurst - Danny Wall's beautiful Draft horses moving around different grazing areas in the village. The chestnuts are Suffolk Punch horses, which can be traced back to 1768 and are on the Critically Endangered list. There are less than 500 pure bred Suffolks registered in the UK and they are more endangered than the Great Panda.

The black draft horses are Shires, a breed of Draught horse, also at risk according to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Shires are one of the tallest breeds in the world. Used over time for towing barges, farm work, cart horses and, in Danny's horses' case, brewers drays for the delivery of beer. They have distinctive feathered feet, but it is the size of Danny's horses which is so impressive. One stands at 19 hands 2- a huge horse.

Both breeds are considered traditional native 'core' breeds of horses, and they are a treat to see.

Imagine Danny's surprise to find a new born foal in the field next to its Mum!

Danny said:

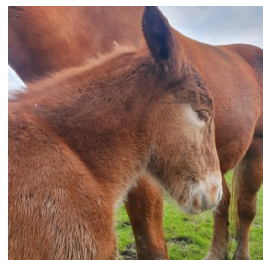


"Mum is 3 and a half years old. The pregnancy was un planned as my stallion, who is 4 and a half, got in with her by accident! Neither us, nor the vet and farrier, noticed she was pregnant (throughout her 11 month gestation).

Much to our surprise, and disbelief, when we came to visit my shire for a hoof trim and general care..... there was a foal stood up with mum. This is a very important foal as it is the first known to be an unplanned and unaided delivery in the field with the Suffolk Punch Society.

The name is yet to be decided but I believe it to be the first born in Hurst as well. Mum spent last summer and autumn grazing on Dinton which helped massively in growth for the foal as the grass was still very good in the chronic heat and drought."

Many congratulations to Mum, and Danny and team. We look forward to finding out the name for the foal and to seeing the horses grazing around the village.



HVS Tree Planting In Hurst—1973

Henry Farrar and his wife Elizabeth moved to Hurst in 1968 when they purchased one wing of High Chimneys. Henry worked for the BBC as a film cameraman. He is fascinated with history and spent many months researching the history of the Parish of St Nicholas Hurst which culminated in the “Book of Hurst”, published in 1984, and subsequently updated in “Hurst a new look at an ancient parish” published in 2021. (See Page 11 for information on how to purchase this book).

Elizabeth was a keen gardener and she was very knowledgeable about trees and realised that there was a need for more to be planted in the village. In 1973 Elizabeth was on the committee of the HVS when she put the plan forward to the rest of the committee which they agreed. She worked out what should be planted where, and managed to get plenty of volunteers to help do the work. She also ordered the trees and she and Henry collected them from the nurseries.

A variety of trees were planted in the village, including (among many):

- 3 Hornbeam (*Carpinus Betulus*) in School Road between the junction of Orchard Road and the school playground
- 5 Sycamore (*Acer Pseudoplanatus*) in Davis Street, between the junction with Dunt Lane and the entrance to the Children’s playing field and Dinton Pastures
- Oaks (*Quercus Robur*) planted at 20ft intervals on the A321 on the entrance from Twyford in Hurst



- A pseudo Acacia in the grounds of the village hall, planted by the brownies.

Henry recalls:

“I remember that Sue and Clive Rose were involved and when planting the trees along Davis Street, Clive was holding a stake, while someone else was standing on steps using a sledge hammer to knock the stake in to the ground. When swinging the hammer to take a swipe at the stake, the hammer’s head flew off and landed on Clive’s head. He fell to the ground and everyone thought that he must be badly wounded but, remarkably, after a few moments he rose to his feet stood up. He was obviously badly shaken but survived, and continued to help with the planting. After that, every time I drive down Davis Street, the memory of Clive falling to the ground comes back to me.”

Now, 50 years on, we are able to drive around the village and see how much this tree planting project by HVS has enhanced the character and environment of Hurst. These trees are now mature and shape the village as we are used to seeing it today.

The Day it Rained .. And Rained

On Friday 31st March it rained in Hurst, and it rained and rained! It is estimated that, from about 11.30am on Thursday 30th March to 12.45pm on Saturday 1st April (c.48 hrs), we had 55.8mm (2.25 inches) of rain – more than one third of the total for the whole month. These are measurements provided by a resident who has monitored the rainfall in Hurst since 1985.

On 3rd April the BBC reported that, amongst some other towns with exceptional rainfall, Reading had received 3.5 times its March average rainfall. Hurst received 2.9 times its 39 year March average.

Since 1985 the three wettest March months have been:

2001 (105.5mm) 2018 (103mm) 2023 (132mm)

The driest March since 1985 with only 6mm was in 2003.

The records kept show average monthly rainfall in March, for each decade since 1985, to have been:

◆ 1980s (since 1985)	59.00mm
◆ 1990s	31.80mm
◆ 2000s	44.35mm
◆ 2010s	47.90mm
◆ 2020s (to date)	62.60mm

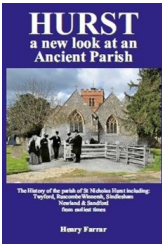
While these are not official Met Office figures, they do show an increasing trend of rainfall during our early Spring months.

A village under water - Clockwise:

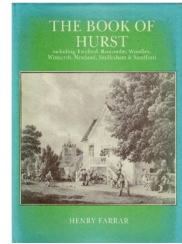
- Hogmoor Lane where Marion Ager reported seeing a jumping fish as she pushed her bike through the water.
- Poplar Lane - flooded through to Hogmoor Lane and into Hinton Road
- Flooding on the A321 (Source Wokingham Today)
- Frank Whittaker gamely trying his luck in Hogmoor Lane (Source Wokingham Today)



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



*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



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 Partners

We are very grateful to our Membership Benefits Scheme partner 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

SHEEP LANDS Friends Card

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

Stanlake Parke 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 70 tonnes of grapes.

OPEN WED - SUN

ENGLISH WINE SINCE 1979

STANLAKE PARK
WINE ESTATE

Wine Bar & Garden
Tours & Tastings
Gift Shop
Online Store
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

Why I Joined Hurst Village Society by Robin West

"We moved from Wokingham to Hurst in 2005 for the open countryside and village feel while still close to London for work.

My first community involvement was the Village litter pick where I found out about the many other things the HVS and Parish Council were involved in - which soon led to volunteering to join the HVS committee and see where I could help.

There is a lot of life in the Village, and HVS helps in many ways. Over the years I have been involved in the 2012 Golden Jubilee celebrations, the children's Archery stall at the Hurst Country Fayre (always great fun – please volunteer to help this year!), the HVS annual Dinner Dance (recently in conjunction with the PTA) and the cricket match between the HVS and PTA to celebrate surviving Covid.

The money raised from these events has been used for many local donations (see the HVS website) as well as contributing to the Parish Council fund for the Say No to 200 Houses campaign. This printed magazine, paid for out of HVS funds, has always been a good local resource - always a lot of work (not by me) and well produced. My role is coordinating delivery by volunteers to all houses in the Village each time it is printed.

The recent update of the Book of Hurst by Henry Farrar was made possible by the HVS and is full of local pictures and history (and a snip at £23, please ask for your copy).

There are plenty of other organisations, each of which makes its own contribution to the Village but I have enjoyed being part of the HVS, and have now been the Treasurer for many years.

Between them, the HVS volunteers help to enhance the character of the Village – this includes responding to planning applications (always an emotional subject) but also ensuring there continues to be life and fun in the Village.

Not bad for £5 per year membership."

HVS Archery at the Hurst Show and Country Fayre

HVS will be back as usual at the Hurst Show and Country Fayre on 24th and 25th June this year with the ever-popular Archery for children and all. We have bows for all sizes, and targets for all ages.

Do come and find us at the Show for a bit of fun, and if you can volunteer to help for a couple of hours please contact Robin on hvstreasurer@gmail.com



Enjoyable for the volunteers also – no experience necessary as we give brief on-the-job training to help you guide any new archers and ensure safety all round.



Update on HVS Activities and Funded Projects

Say No to 200 Houses—Campaign Donation

HVS contributed £7,000 towards the Say No campaign's fight against the Tape Lane Appeal. We were very happy to support the campaign by attending each day of the consultation and providing the village with daily updates on our website and in our newsletters. We'd like to thank all involved and are especially proud of our Planning representative, John Osborne, for his well researched and delivered presentation at the consultation.



HVS Christmas Dinner Dance

The HVS Christmas Dinner Dance returned with a sell-out event after an absence of two years due to the pandemic. The black-tie event was a huge success with all 120 tickets sold. Guests were treated to a Christmas themed evening starting with a welcome glass of bubbly and canapés.



The festive meal was served at tables draped in white linen and Christmas decorations, the hall was themed with Christmas fir trees, pinecones, masses of white fairy lights and an enormous Christmas tree. HVS would like to thank the enormous support received for the event and for the generosity of local business who contributed to the raffle and to the bar stock. Particularly we'd like to thank Haweli in Twyford for providing pristine white table cloths, our anonymous donor for the lovely prosecco we served as guests arrived and to Bruno for stepping in to run the bar all evening.

The event raised over £2,900, 50% of which is to be donated to the St Nicholas CofE Primary School PTA. Make a note in the diary for **Saturday 9 December 2023** because enquiries have already been received for information on when the 2023 tickets will be released!

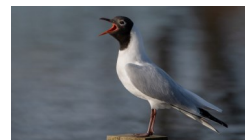


Village Shop—Use it or Lose it Banner

Following the shock news of the impending closure of our village shop and the subsequent **3 month reprieve**, HVS visited Jayne Overington and her Regional Manager and agreed HVS would fund a "Use it or Lose it" banner which you will see displayed outside the cricket ground. We hope that this contribution will help to drive more customers to the shop.

New Projects at Lavell's Wetland Trust

Lavell's Wetland Trust (LWT) are planning a number of new projects, potentially including screening the path to the new hide that will be built in August this year. There is also a plan to build a viewing place overlooking the landfill. We are discussing with LWT which of the potential projects HVS can help fund. More details in our next issue.





Hurst Show & Country Fayre

Have-a-go at Hurst Show! All the usual Hurst Show favourite attractions return to the village on **Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June**, offering a fantastic family day out.



After our Guinness World Record disappointment (GWR have decided that as not everyone was riding their horses, the record does not stand), we'll be introducing some Village Records of our own for visitors to compete for! Follow our Have-a-Go trail to try out the various activities, collecting stamps as you go to claim your prize (more details to come).

Attractions already booked include fun dog show, craft stalls, classic vehicle show, live music and bar and BBQ. Arena events will include hobbyhorse jumping and dog agility. Back by popular demand are the book stall and dog races!

For the latest information on Hurst Show and Country Fayre, please see our website at **www.hurstshow.uk** and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Volunteers Needed – It takes a village to put on a show, so any time people can give to support is much appreciated, however little or much!

We'll need help with putting up and taking down tents, site set-up, parking, marshalling, on the bar and BBQ, and much more! It's a fun way to meet other villagers and give a bit back to our community.

To be added to our volunteer list, please email us at **hurstshowandcountry-fayre@gmail.com**

Save money and beat the queues on the gate by buying tickets in advance via our website: **www.hurstshow.uk**

Online Prices

Adult:	£5 for 1 day or £7.50 for the weekend
Seniors aged 65+:	£2.50 for 1 day or £4 for the weekend
Under 16s and Carers:	Free

All profits raised go to local good causes including Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, and Hurst organisations such as St Nicholas Primary School, Pre-School, Church, Scouts and Guides.

Day tickets will also be available to purchase on the gate at a slightly higher price - **£6 for adults, £3 for seniors aged 65+ and £1 for under 16s. Free entry for carers.**
Ticket pricing also includes free parking.

Planning Update



Land East of Lodge Road (Tape Lane)

Whilst it probably hasn't escaped the notice of most of the village community, the Appeal against the decision by Wokingham Borough Council to refuse outline planning permission to build 200 houses on this site was DISMISSED. This followed an 8-day Public Inquiry at which a number of individual residents attended each and every session and many (including HVS) took the opportunity to speak and make a formal submission to the Inspector.



Their input and that of Hurst Parish Council, acting as a Rule 6, body added to the case put forward by WBC acting as the Planning Authority. This is a very welcome decision for Hurst. It is interesting to note that the Inspector took a pragmatic view as to those key planning policies relevant to this case, which because of the lack of progress in The Local Plan update and the failure of WBC to demonstrate a five year housing land supply have to be considered out of date but crucially, in his opinion, it did not mean that these policies should carry no weight in the determination of the Appeal.

In taking this view he took notice of the large number of housing completions in the Borough as a whole, saying that this did not signify a Council that is failing in terms of housing provision, and also confirmed that WBC's spatial vision which, again whilst out of date, was not preventing the Council from achieving satisfactory housing delivery to date. In conclusion a VERY BIG THANK YOU to everybody in the local community for contributing, either by their actions or financially, that has resulted in the Appeal against such a large unwelcome development being dismissed.

Land at Broadcommon Road, Hurst; Planning Application Ref No;223805

An application for outline planning permission has been submitted for the erection of up to 33 Custom and Self Build homes to include 17 Affordable Homes

This is a so called "improved" proposal submitted in February 2023 by Leaper which included an addendum in which the company maintained they had addressed the reasons for refusal of their original application in January 2022. The Society again strongly objected to these proposals as did a number of individuals and The Parish Council. Whilst a decision is expected imminently, at the time of going to press nothing has been forthcoming from WBC acting as the Planning Authority. It is suggested that the comments of the Planning Inspector in the Land East of Lodge Road Appeal may be helpful in this regard.

Planning Update (Cont.)



Land Adjacent to School Road and Orchard Road (Willowmead):

Planning Application Ref. 230074. Outline planning permission for the proposed erection of 24 dwellings. This application was submitted recently in March 2023. On this occasion the HVS Committee whilst submitting a detailed response to WBC chose not to make any specific recommendations in relation to either supporting or objecting to this application. In doing so it was recognised that a number of members had individually objected to the proposals and some had supported them, and only a very small number of members had contacted the Society directly.

Walden Acres: Planning Application Ref. 230201, for 3 houses

The Society took a pragmatic view in relation to this application for the proposed erection of three houses and, whilst accepting that the site was outside the village envelope, because of its position considered it to be more of an infill site, and therefore found it hard when applying the planning balance principle to sustain any objection to these proposals. The Local Planning Authority did not agree with this concept and the application was refused.

Proposed Erection of a 15m. Telecommunications Mast on Broadwater Lane

A second application, but essentially identical to the previous application, other than a reduction in height from 18m to 15m, was again refused by The Planning Authority, but is now the subject of a further Appeal to The Planning Inspectorate (**Appeal APP/X0360/W/22/3311026**). The Society has reaffirmed its strong objections to this proposal, as it believes it will be to the visual detriment of the surrounding area, and would result in demonstrable harm to the character of both the immediate and the wider area. There was also no evidence in the application to show that any alternative sites have been adequately assessed. A decision is awaited .

Other Planning Matters in Hurst

The lack of progress in finalising two important strategic planning policy documents remains a concern particularly in providing the basis for objecting to any future unwelcome development in the village. The first of these is The Local Plan Update – Right Homes, Right Places, Revised Growth Strategy being prepared by WBC.

The second is The Hurst Village Local Neighbourhood Plan which is being prepared by a working group under the control of Hurst Parish Council since March 2018 and has yet to publish a plan or identify a timescale by which any such plan would be subject to the required statutory local public consultation.

Following a presentation by the Chairman of the working group at the April meeting of the Parish Council a decision was taken to suspend work on the Neighbourhood Plan (other than to continue to update potential evidence based data bases). It is unlikely that any future work on the plan will recommence until the Local Plan Update is finalised and nationally the Government confirms it's position in relation to housing supply.

HVS continues to monitor all the planning applications submitted to WBC on a weekly basis and where appropriate make comments. Examples are individual new dwellings in Whistley

Cont..

Planning Update (Cont.)

Green and Dunt lane which The Society supported and have subsequently been approved by the Planning Authority, and an application for three new homes in the garden of an existing dwelling in Wokingham Road (Walden Acres) which was refused by the Planning Authority.



As reported previously an increasing number of individuals are contacting HVS to seek advice or assistance in relation to specific applications, either that they have submitted or are directly relevant to them. 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**

As we always say planning is a matter for all of us perhaps more so currently than ever before, so please do continue to visit the HVS website: **www.hvs.org.uk** for any updates and full details of any correspondence by or to HVS in relation to all planning matters. In addition if you haven't done so already, make sure you sign up to receive a regular e-mail newsletter which provides planning updates.

JOIN HURST VILLAGE SOCIETY TODAY!

Become a member and be part of the team working hard to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Hurst as a living community.

Membership fees are only £5/ 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. You can find a membership form on the back page of this magazine.

Sign up for HVS Regular Email Newsletters

In addition to this printed HVS Magazine which we publish twice a year, we send out regular newsletters (generally monthly) to everyone who has signed up to our email list.

The newsletters feature what is going on in the village - for example the Christmas Dinner Dance and other events, the threat to the Village shop, features on local businesses, key planning applications, plus much more.

You can view recent newsletters that have been sent by visiting **www.hvs.org.uk/hvs-newsletters**, you can also sign up to receive the newsletter on the same page - or you can email **communications@hvs.org.uk** to sign up. Anyone - both HVS members and non-members can receive our newsletters.

All information regarding what HVS does, every planning letter we send, key planning documents, events we run, our donations to local causes are documented on our website: **www.hvs.org.uk**. Copies of our email newsletters and these printed magazines can also be found on the website.

Hurst Activities, Sports & Club Updates

Hurst Morris People

From May to September, enjoy a new season of live traditional English folk music and dance from our own Hurst Morris People. Their historic Cotswold Morris style is recognisable by jingling leg bells, colourful sashes and flowered hats worn with white costumes, rhythmic hankie wafting and enthusiastic stick clashing to vibrant, rustic fiddle and squeezebox tunes.

Catch a performance at events like **Hurst Show & Country Fayre on Saturday 24th June**, or a relaxing evening in a local pub garden. Where free, you might show appreciation by contributing to their **2023 charity, Katharine House Hospice**, which supported HUMP's youngest member's mum.



If you're inspired to try out Morris dancing, put **21st and 28th September taster sessions**, 8pm in the Hurst Village Hall, in your diary. All genders, generations and backgrounds welcome.



All dates and venues, including three Hurst 'locals': Wheelwrights Arms, The Castle and The Jolly Farmer, are listed at www.hump.org.uk. Give us a #HurstMorris social media shout out, follow us on Facebook @hurstmorris or email: contact@hump.org.uk.

Hurst Football Club

The Hurst Football Club - a fun and friendly local club - currently has space for new players in the following age groups and would love to welcome new players for next season:

- U6's
- U7's
- U8's

They all train Saturday mornings, first session free, £2.50 a week thereafter.

Other age groups train as follows:

- U10's - train Thursday evenings
- U17's – train Monday evenings

Matches are held on Saturday mornings. For further information please contact hurstfc2@gmail.com

Party in the Park is set for 1st July, at Hurst FC ground (Stow Bridge). We currently have an early bird price of £18 for next 2 weeks:

Ticketing link is <https://buytickets.at/partyinthepark/894256>



Hurst Pantomime Group

Help Needed to Save Hurst Panto!

Looking for a new challenge? Love organising projects? Great with people? Sounds like you?

Then **"Oh yes you could!"** be part of Hurst Pantomime Group's next production team!

Hurst Panto is a local group that has been putting on brilliant performances every 2 years since 2003. However, their next production scheduled for January 2024 will sadly not be able to run unless a new production team can be found.

The Group is looking for a team of up to 3 producers, no specific theatre experience necessary, just energy, enthusiasm, and organisation skills!

The outgoing producers would be more than happy to have a no-obligation chat with anyone interested and can provide support and advice to the new team.

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



Ponkey Parade at St Nicholas Church

To celebrate Palm Sunday, commemorating Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the St Nicholas Church congregation took part in a special procession.

Our palms were blessed in the old churchyard and scripture was read, and we were led across the road towards church waving our palms and singing, by a pony pretending to be a donkey, commonly now known at St Nicholas as a 'ponkey' (donkeys are in high demand for Palm Sunday!!). Last year the pony was called Pinkie, so she became Pinkie the Ponkey.

Thank you to the Turner family for the loan of our star attraction, and to Evie for a very well behaved pony - Blackjack. It made our procession very special. Thank you.



Hurst Cricket Club

Unfortunately all Junior teams have been unexpectedly cancelled this year at Hurst Cricket Club. We are working hard to save it. But we need your help.



It is a brilliant cricket facility. The envy of many village cricket teams in the area. We are desperate for the cricket club to remain the social hub of the village. Junior coaching takes place on Friday evenings. It is also the night the entire community comes together to enjoy a cold drink and a chat. It is such an important event for both the kids and the community.

Please help us in our campaign

There are four simple ways to help us reach our target, and make this project a reality.

1. **Make a pledge here:** www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/hurstjuniors. Don't delay if you're going to support us because momentum is key to our success!
2. **Spread the word:** Share our project on your social media pages and tell the world to get behind us! The more people we reach, the more support we will get.
3. **Offer rewards:** Get involved if you are a local business by donating things we can offer to our supporters. We will give you a shout out!
4. **Fundraise for us:** If you want to run your own fundraiser – maybe a sponsored activity or similar – use the 'contact project' button at the top of our page to let us know.



All money raised will be ringfenced and will only be used to ensure the survival of junior cricket in Hurst.

If you have a young person who wants to play. PLEASE get in touch by email:

hurstccjuniors@gmail.com.

And please be patient with us. We are working hard to get things in place.

NB: All information correct at time of going to press

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

The Hurst Scout Group received its Spring Clean this month and is ready for another term of fun activities and adventures for **Beavers (6-8 yo), Cubs (8-10) and Scouts (10-14)**.



We have spaces available, so if you would like to bring your child along to try out then we'd love to hear from you. Equally, 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 Bowling Club circa 1747



In February 2022 storm Eunice destroyed our Victorian outhouse toilets. A shock for us as we had not anticipated this, and so began our quest to replace this essential facility. There was not much time to think through the best way to organise the bowling season in April. We needed a toilet. Thankfully, the Castle Inn's landlord, Matt, offered us the use of the pub's toilets during opening hours. Still needing to consider the green keepers, maintenance, gardening and housekeeping members we hired a portable toilet.

To build the new toilets, there were Health and Safety, risk assessments, insurance assessments, specialist asbestos assessment and clearance. Considerations. We had to submit a planning application and design in keeping with Hurst conservation, tree protection order and tree root protection. We are pleased to say we adhered to all regulations.

Thanks to Martin Brooks and Mark Cooper we have new toilets standing today. Martin researched and vetted builders and we delighted with Kamil and his team for working to a very high standard, a job well done. Our two toilets are unisex, one of which will accommodate anyone with special needs.

Berkshire Community Foundation supported us, our heartfelt thanks for considering us.

With so much wet weather our building is very damp underfoot and mould is becoming obvious. We appeal to Hurst villagers, local businesses, the council, philanthropists and benefactors to consider supporting us as we are part of village and sporting history. A donation to us will ensure your name is added to our honours board in perpetuity. Contact us through our website www.hurstbowlingclub.co.uk, or contact **Ronnie Ashley** on **07751 653 613**. v.m.ashley@btinternet.com

Summer @Dinton Pastures Country Park

Our philosophy at Dinton Activity Centre is to offer a variety of activities that are both educational and fun for all ages. Located in the beautiful Berkshire countryside we can offer action packed activity days amongst our lakes, meadows and woodland. We have a whole host of activities to offer including:

- Boat Hire
- Indoor Climbing
- Archery
- Courses

- Holiday Clubs
- Parties and Events
- Schools and Youth Groups



Find out more at www.wokinghamcountryside.co.uk/activities

Hurst Horticultural Society

The Sap is Rising in Hurst! There`s early movement amongst the organisers in the village who are busily planning to make this year`s show even better than last year`s popular event. Now in its 110th year, this show continues to be one of the main events in the village`s calendar, whether you`re entering an exhibit or just spending a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon marvelling at the displays enjoying the relaxed friendly atmosphere of the show, or both.

There`s live music from the ever popular EMC Jazz Band, cream teas, hot food, a wine and beer tent, local stallholders displaying their wares and of course the famous Hurst alpacas plus the auction of vegetables, fruit and cut flowers at crazily low prices at the end of the show.

This is not just a horticultural show as over half the entry categories are a mixture of baking, preserves, handcraft, art and photography together with sections for children and young people.



Pictured here is the winning entry from last year`s `Art for All` poster competition created by Andrew Dearman which will appear on this year`s publicity material and printed schedules. Full schedules will soon appear on our website www.hursthorticulturalshow.org and printed copies will be delivered to houses in Hurst in due course.

HURST
HORTICULTURAL SHOW
12.30PM AT HURST VILLAGE HALLS
SATURDAY 19TH AUGUST 2023
WWW.HURSTHORTICULTURALSOCIETY.ORG

Last year we raised £1,000 for local charities and hope to repeat this again. So please note the afternoon of **Saturday 19th August** in your diary for a relaxing and fun afternoon.

Hurst Gospel Hall



Once again, we extend a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to come and attend any of our services or activities. We are a friendly group of Christians who believe that the life changing message of the Bible is that Jesus Christ came into the world to offer forgiveness and eternal life to anyone who puts their faith in Him

Maybe join us: **Family Service at 11.30** for refreshments and 11.45 to 12.30 on any Sunday except the third Sunday in the month

The third Sunday is **CAMEO tea at 5.00**, with some hymn singing and a Bible message

Term time we have Coffee and Toddlers on **Mondays 10.00 – 11.30**

Monday evening is JAM (Jesus and Me) This is a fun time for children over 5 years old and includes games, singing, Bible stories and more.

There are opportunities for Bible studies for different ages, please see the website, www.hurstgospelhall.org

Coronation: We have some “**Coronation**” editions of the New Testament and Psalms. If you would like one of these, please email David.simms2@btinternet.com, with your name and address and we will be pleased to deliver one.

The Parish of St Nicholas CofE Church



Services and events for Spring/Summer 2023:

- 11 am First, Third & Fifth Sunday Holy Communion service with Sunday Club or access to an Activity table for children. Please check our Notice Board for up to-date information
- 11 am Fourth Sunday Messy Church is a nationwide creative expression of Church, enabling all ages to come, to make, to eat and to celebrate God

For more information or to enquire about a baptism, wedding or funeral please contact a churchwarden **Sue Payne** on **07850 072 096** or **Jenny Beasley 07909 915 516**, or email via our website at **www.achurchnearyou.com/stnicholashurst**



Saturday 17th June

After the huge success of the Walnuts with Bells on in 2022, where we raised £3,000 for local causes, the band have agreed a return gig on Saturday 17th June, 6 -10:30pm, to raise money for CLASP and St Nicholas Church.

Tickets are available at **www.buytickets.at/stnicholasparishchurch/857976**

Walnuts with Bells On

The Walnuts With Bells On this year is working to **support the church and CLASP**, an advocacy group for adults with learning difficulties in Wokingham Borough. We've been lucky enough to spend time (singing and eating cake) with CLASP and have got to see first hand the great work they do.



They make sure that members have access to everything they need to live their lives to the full, providing a community where they know they have friends, and mostly, having fun in each others company. Music is such a big part of what makes CLASP so special, so it's natural that we should use our music to raise funds for them. Their concert at the Whitty Theatre a few weeks ago was a very special evening, one of the highlights of the year so far, which allowed us to witness the huge talent within the group, and share their joy in performing.

We hope our evening can be half as much fun. As before, we'll be **starting in The Castle, piping over to the church accompanied by the bells of St. Nick's** with drinks in hand, and



then seeing where it goes from there (usually back to the pub). It was lovely last year to see so many familiar faces from the village, mixed in with so many new friends from elsewhere to make a really inclusive event. We hope for the same this June. Everyone over 18 is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you all.



Yours with love, The Walnuts and Friends.

St Nicholas CofE Primary School



The children in Year 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Windsor Castle in January. Their history topic was brought to life as they explored the castle's State Apartments, saw Queen Mary's Dolls House and had the opportunity to see Queen Elizabeth II's resting place in St George's Chapel.

Additionally, it was noted that the children were excellent representatives of our school where they demonstrated our value of Respect when listening to adults and while walking around the castle.

Year 6 had a trip to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to learn more about Ancient Egypt as part of their work on Egypt for History and English.



We have a packed diary ahead of us in the Summer term for children to enjoy. This includes whole school assemblies, Sports Day, swimming lessons, various educational trips and events including a trip to the Museum of English Rural Life in Reading and an exciting residential trip for our Year 4 children.

The children are enjoying being part of local sporting tournaments against other schools. The Year 5/6 boys are through to the semi-finals of the Wokingham Schools Cup. Well done and good luck!! They have also been participating in the Thames Valley Running League events held at various local venues.



Funding raising events have taken place including 'Bag2School', 'Children In Need' where the children could wear spots or stripes and 'Red Nose Day' where they could come to school with 'wacky hair'. World Book Day is always very popular too when a variety of costumes and outfits are worn.

We are extremely fortunate to have a very active and supportive PTA. Fundraising events that have already taken place are a school disco which the children thoroughly enjoyed, bake sale and the ever popular PTA Quiz Night where we welcomed members of the community. Future events include a Bettle Drive and a visit from the Easter Bunny. We are also looking forward to getting involved in local community events such as the Easter Church Service, King Charles III Coronation and the Hurst Show & Country Fayre.

The children are enjoying a range of enrichment opportunities which we have been expanding over the past year which include judo, fencing, choir, Forest Fun, zumba, yoga, Spanish adventures and a variety of music and sports.

As always we are keen to hear from any local residents who are able to listen to the children read. Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved. It would be lovely to welcome you to our school.

Our thanks go to Hurst Village Society for providing a mug to each of the children at St Nicholas Primary School to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.



Burglars Don't Need Brains - They Just Need an Opportunity

They seek out any opening they can take advantage of, specifically doors and windows that are left open, unlocked or are easy to force. It really doesn't take much to deter these thieves – just smart thinking.

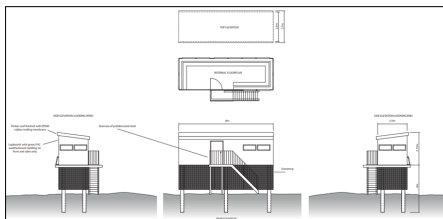
Please contact us if you have any information relating to crime, suspicious vehicles or activity in your neighbourhood at www.thamesvalley.police.uk, call **101** or in an emergency **999**. Alternatively, call **Crimestoppers** anonymously on free phone **0800 555 111**.

You can contact your local neighbourhood team via: **WokinghamNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk** – please note this address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

Receive free crime and information updates by registering for Thames Valley Alert at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk. Consider joining a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme – visit www.ourwatch.org.uk for more information.

Lavell's Wetland Trust

Lavell's Wetland Trust has even more positive news to share – Our new proposed members hide planning application was successful and, assuming materials prices have not risen beyond our current budget, we plan to commence building in August 2023.



We spoke of the digger work to further improve the East shore of Lea Farm Lake (LFL), during last year's drought, this year we plan to bring in a small digger again to further boost our Phragmites reed transplanting, with a couple of manual transplanting sessions planned in late March and again in August. Anyone can join us to assist with planting and if someone owns a good 4x4 we could really do with help towing a trailer we need to hire to bring around the rhizome roots from Lavell's.

Once the reeds are developed, visitors will see many more Reed & Sedge Warblers and Reed Bunting in the summer, plus more Snipe, Teal, Egrets and Bitterns in the winter, Marsh Harriers have been seen twice in the last 6 months so we are hopeful one will linger for us to enjoy in the near future.

We are just ending an amazing winter for Bitterns, 5 have been seen across Lavell's and White Swan Lake. In less than 2 weeks we will see the first spring migrants such as Sand Martin & Chiffchaff, with luck a Wheatear or two, the odd Little-ringed Plover and at the first Swallows, House Martins & Willow Warblers.

Anyone can join LWT and visit our 2 viewing facilities, simply visit www.lavells.org.uk/participate/become-a-member

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 after 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

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.



Ageing well starts with having meaningful relationships and connections that bring joy into our lives. It's important to feel supported by others, whether through regular check-ins or visits, as this helps remind us that we are truly not alone. This contact can bring back a sense of purpose into someone's life and help combat feelings of loneliness and depression.

Social connection also helps boost confidence, reinforces self-esteem and encourages people to embrace the changes that come along with age. Ageing does not have to be lonely – it should be celebrated! We hope that by starting conversations about ageing well, more people will become aware of the importance of maintaining positive social connections throughout life.

If you are interesting 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

Twyford Age Concern

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

There are day-care spaces for new members offering friendship and interaction and lots of activities throughout the day. Our ethos for the community is to provide care and support for our older persons and respite for families and carers in a safe caring environment.



A big thank you to all that have supported the day centre through the past few years, to Polehampton Charity for all their generous support and to Mark and his team for laying then new flooring for our new treatment and beauty room. Also all that have made a donation.

if you, or someone you know, feels isolated or lonely do come and talk to us. Our team has plenty of skills and experience. General enquiries contact is: **0118 934 4040**, or email: **info@ageconcerntwyford.org.uk**

Hurst - Helping the Vulnerable

Many people will still be struggling after 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.**

Diana Brimblecombe Animal Rescue Centre (DBARC)



DBARC, formerly the Animal Rescue Group, Wokingham was founded over 60 years ago by Diana Brimblecombe who rescued many animals and kept them at her home. Mrs Brimblecombe was awarded the MBE in 2001 for services to animal rescue.

In 2003 the rescue moved to new premises in Hurst after it outgrew Mrs B's home and garden. The move was undertaken over the May Bank Holiday and took 3 days of hard work by many volunteers and staff, bringing the animals and many buildings from Wokingham to Hurst. We even had to contend with a fire in a barn next to Mrs B's home which stopped action for half a day!

Today our Hurst site is a fantastic temporary home for Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs and other small animals & birds. Covid had a massive impact on us – unable to take in and re-home animals for several months and unable to fundraise for even longer. DBARC relies solely on donations and fundraising so incoming funds dropped massively while the costs of caring for our animals stayed the same, it has been a real struggle.

This year we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary Year and are planning an open day in May - details yet to be confirmed and will be on our website in due course: www.dbarc.org.uk



If you are interested in adding a new family member – please check out our website for more information about the animals we have waiting for their forever homes. Perhaps you are not in a position to adopt but

would like to help us with a donation or by joining our **Careshare scheme so you are Sharing in the cost of Caring**. Details of animals for homing and ways you can help us are available on our website: www.dbarc.org.uk

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

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** ____/____/____

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