

Hurst Village Society

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

Newsletter No. 101

www.hvs.org.uk

October 2006

Lodge Road Footpath

For the last 15 years Summerlease Ltd has operated a quarry and landfill at Whistley Court and Lea Farms adjacent to Lodge Road, Hurst. During this time, through the forum of a liaison group, Summerlease has kept residents of the parish informed as to what activities and progress were being made on site. Summerlease was keen to provide something for the Hurst residents, following the closure of the site, which would be appreciated and well used; hence the construction of a footpath on Summerlease land set back from the busy Lodge Road.

To help in achieving this Summerlease was able to gain funds from landfill tax credits through the Groundwork Trust, who designed and project managed the construction of the footpath.

The path is over 700m long and 2m wide. It is a permissive footpath across land owned by Summerlease and provides a tranquil and safe alternative to walking on the grass verge of Lodge Road.

The path has been designed for use by pedestrians and cyclists, and is also wheelchair accessible. Unfortunately the path has not been designed to be a bridle path, and the surface can be easily damaged if used by horses.

Wildlife is abundant along the route - watch out for dragonflies and damselflies, and spot red kites and buzzards gliding over the nearby fields.

It is hoped that this new path will help to link up other public rights of way in the area, which will benefit all the inhabitants of Hurst and its surrounds.

HVS Dinner Dance Saturday 2nd December

This year's Hurst Village Society Dinner Dance is taking place on Saturday 2nd December in the Large Village Hall, featuring entertainment from the Mark Tait Band. The event will start at 7:00pm for 7:30pm this year to allow more time for dancing. Carriages at midnight. Dress: Lounge Suits or Black Tie.

Tickets will be available after 10:30am on Friday 3rd November from Barbara Johnson on 0118 934 5104. Groups will be limited to Hurst Village residents and a maximum of 6 tickets.

*** News Bites ***

St Nicholas Christmas Fayre

This year's Christmas Fayre will be taking place on **Saturday 25th November** at the **Hurst Village Hall**, starting at **2:00pm**. There will be crafts for sale, a Santa's Grotto and the bran tub, among many other attractions. Please come along and show your support.

Party in the Park

Hurst Romans Football Club would like to thank everyone who attended the Party in the Park live music evening on 1st July and for making it another huge success. The date for next year is **Saturday June 30th** ... details to follow. The football season has now commenced and all the boys have had a good summer training ready to get going. The Club is looking to recruit more players in all age groups from U6 to U14 (boys). Please call **Deborah Wyatt** on **0118 958 1154** or email for more information to deborah.wyatt@btinternet.com. Alternatively visit www.hurstfc.org.uk

Morris Dancing

Fancy having a go at Morris Dancing? Now's your chance to take part in some free workshops with your local Morris side - the Hurst Morris People. No experience needed. Men. Women, dancers and musicians all welcome. Come along and have some fun with us. See www.hump.org.uk for more information.

Hurst Horticultural and Cottage Garden Show

The 2006 show was a great success. The standard of exhibits was very high and, considering the dry growing conditions, entries in the flower and vegetables classes did not suffer. Sadly visitor numbers were less than last year, an overcast day and discouraging weather forecast no doubt played a major part. However those who attended enjoyed the customary traditional village event with musical entertainment from the Trinity Concert Band, craft stalls, cream teas and for the first time a kite flying demonstration.

To commemorate one hundred years of village horticultural shows, a colour booklet has been published and was launched at the 2006 show. The booklet, which would make an unique Christmas gift, contains a wealth of village history and is for sale through the Horticultural Society costing £10.00. Please contact **Rita Bunyard** telephone **0118 934 5253**.

The **2007 Show** will be held on **Saturday 18th August**, the first show planning meeting is on **Thursday 1st February, 8pm at the Cricket Club**. Subsequent meetings are the AGM in April and the mini show in July. All are welcome to attend the meetings and encouraged to get involved.

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## **www.hvs.org.uk—What's On in Hurst ?**

The HVS web site provides information about events in the village and important dates to note, which are posted in a monthly email. There is also a skills register showing all the local skills we can call on within the village. So log on today and register for your regular email updates and find out more about Hurst and what's on.

# Hurst Pantomime Group Production 2007

## "ALADDIN"

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm and 7.30pm

**Adult £10 Child/Senior £5**

Roles have been cast and rehearsals have begun for the Hurst Pantomime Group's 2007 production of "**Aladdin**".

The group has received a grant of £3,380 from **Awards for All England** (National Lottery funding) to be used towards the cost of lighting, scenery, paints and sound equipment. The new equipment purchased will also be available for other groups within the village.

Tickets will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> November from **Rita Bunyard** on **0118 934 5253**.

For further information see posters going up soon around the village or visit **www.hurstpanto.org.uk**

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### Exciting times at St Nicholas Pre-school

St Nicholas Pre-school, now in its fourth decade and held daily in the Small Village Hall, is going from strength to strength. Many sessions are fully booked and the lunch club is thriving.

The grassed area near the Scout hut, has been fenced off to provide a large, secure outside play area for the children. The work was carried out free by **Bovis Lend Lease**, as part of their community support programme, and a huge thank you goes to them for their generosity.

The team of staff has been further strengthened by the appointment of a full-time **Assistant Supervisor, Emma Dellman**. Emma is very experienced and well qualified with a strong background in a similar position at a local day nursery. She will take a key role in the day to day running of the pre-school, as well as working closely with **Sally Heaver (Supervisor)** on planning and curriculum development. The children will reap the benefits of increased stability and broader expertise.

The Pre-school is a registered charity and fundraising is always a priority. **Susan O'Keefe** has agreed to become our new **Fund Raising Officer**. Any ideas or offers gratefully received – Susan can be contacted on **0118 934 2282**.

Finally, changes have been made to the daily routine to allow the children more free play time and slightly less structure. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact **Jane Carr, Registrations Officer**, on **0118 934 1113**.

# Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre



For those of you that attended the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre this year, we hope you will agree that it was a tremendous success. We welcomed over **4,000 visitors** to the show during two glorious days in June, and following the show we were delighted to be able to distribute a total of **£12,000** to local deserving charities and of course our main beneficiary, St Nicholas School.

Village events like this are rare to find these days and we are very proud of what has been achieved with the show. Of course none of this would be possible without the considerable support we got from Hurst villagers with setting up and taking down the show site not to mention running the stalls, competitions and ensuring that all the attractions ran smoothly.

We also thank our visitors who make all the hard work feel worthwhile when they swarm through the gates and create a wonderful atmosphere across the show ground.

Our sponsors, stallholders and attractions are also an important part of the show and we thank local businesses for their support this year.

The Committee for the show worked really hard to bring in new ideas this year and we were delighted by the many positive comments about the new field layout as well as the wide range of attractions and refreshments available.

So what are the plans for 2007? ...Well of course the show goes on!!

The show dates for your diary are **23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007**. The committee has a **new chairman, Duncan Kendall**, who brings with him a wealth of experience from a variety of other village committees and activities. David Lochman, who has been the committee chair for the last 6 years has stepped down from this role but is still thankfully very much involved in organising and running the Horse Show side of things.

The **committee would welcome new members for 2007** to keep fresh ideas coming in and continue to make the Hurst Horse Show and Country Fayre an event to be proud of. **Planning starts in January 2007. If you would like to be part of the committee and help** shape your village show then please **contact Duncan Kendall** by telephone, on **0118 934 2852** or via email **duncan@HurstHorseShow.org.uk**

If you would like to find out more about the show then please do visit our website **www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk**

## Finding Hurst's oldest residents

It's strange to think that the oldest residents in the village are not people, but trees. Some of the largest trees in Hurst are hundreds of years old and date back to the time when the area was part of the forest of Windsor.

It is thought that the UK may have up to 80% of all ancient trees in Europe, but these are rapidly disappearing. They face threats such as careless developers, industry and road building schemes.

To help protect the oldest trees in the Wokingham Town area, the '**Veteran Tree Project**' was initiated. Volunteers have so far **located and mapped over 230 trees** with a diameter of more than 1 metre. A database has been created which will enable these trees to be monitored and protected.

Following this initial success, the project has been rolled out to other parishes within the District. The **Parish Council and Hurst Village Society have jointly funded the project** in Hurst. The money covers promotion, training, compilation and presentation of the results. The actual surveying will need to be done by volunteers. Volunteers will be trained to measure the girth of trees, record the results and pinpoint the tree with a grid reference.



## Hurst War Memorial

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

This is work in progress but there are summary details for nearly all of the sixty six Hurst soldiers and biographies for around twenty of them. If you would like to know more about the sailor who trained on HMS Victory and fought at the Battle of Jutland, or the soldier who was in Queen Victoria's Household Cavalry and died in a First World War air raid, then these and other stories of heroism and sacrifice are now on the web.

Hurst soldiers gave their lives in the major campaigns of both wars and died in a dozen different countries across the globe. They were young men, predominantly volunteers in their twenties, who gave their lives gallantly for their country and remain deserving of our remembrance. John would be pleased to hear from anyone who has information, questions or comments regarding this research. You can contact him via the web site **[www.warmemorial.org.uk](http://www.warmemorial.org.uk)**

## **Hurst Parish Council News**

**Chairman Wayne Smith Tel: 9340840**

### **Townsend Pond**

The parish council are monitoring very closely the situation with our pond. We have sought expert advice and been advised not to consider any major cleaning projects during a drought year. That said, during our Autumn clear up we will remove as much litter/waste materials from in and around the pond to keep the area tidy.

### **Youth Provision**

It has been decided jointly by our Youth supervisor Debbie Coleman and the Parish Council, to move the Mobile Youth facility from Tuesday nights to a Wednesday night to avoid clashes with other events going on - numbers of attendees have fallen over the last few weeks so hopefully this should do the trick.

***This change will take place from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of October. BBQ on 8<sup>th</sup> November.***

### **St Nicholas Day**

We are currently in discussions with St Nicholas Primary school regarding organising a **Carol Service** on the evening of St Nicholas Day - **6<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm**. The aim is to officially turn on the village Christmas tree lights, and hopefully the children of the village can join us with parents and Reverend John Coombs in celebrating this event.

***Mulled wine and mince pies will be available- not to be missed!!***

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News from the Village Halls

Kitchen refurbishment

We have just completed a make-over of the kitchen in the Small Hall. New units, cupboards, tiling and flooring make the room easy to keep clean. Main beneficiaries are the Pre-school group who use the hall every weekday but the rooms are also often booked for weekend parties.

Mobile furniture

We would like to thank the persons who 'borrowed' six of our upholstered chairs from the Committee Room some three years ago for returning them unexpectedly. If they are the persons who 'borrowed' four of our tables recently would they please return these soon?

Disposal of Spare plot

The Trustees are hoping to submit a planning application to construct a pair of semis on our spare plot of land adjoining Orchard Road. If successful the sale of the plot will raise sufficient funds to secure the long-term future of our valuable community asset.

The income from a sale could enable us to pay off our debts, undertake expensive remedial work to the roof of the Small Hall and the Caretakers house and still leave a nice lump sum to provide investment income. As a result we will be able to sustain a high standard of maintenance whilst still offering very competitive hiring rates.

News from the Village Halls (cont.)

The Management Committee would seek your support for this application.

Any parishioner wishing to comment on this proposal should write to the **Trustees, c/o Hurst Village Halls, School Road, Hurst, RG10 0DR by 18th November 2006.**

Vacancy for Chairman

John Edwards, who has chaired the Management Committee for the last 20 years, will be stepping down at the next AGM. We are seeking a person with some experience of management to devote a few hours each week to help maintain this valuable facility for the Village. If you are interested call **John** on **0118 934 0238** for a detailed description of the task.

Worship at St Nicholas Church Hurst

NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th The Fourth Sunday before Advent
8.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas
11.00am Morning Worship and Baptism at St Nicholas

Sunday 12th **The Third Sunday before Advent – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
10.45am Family Eucharist with Act of Remembrance at St Nicholas

Sunday 19th **The Second Sunday before Advent**
8.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas
11.00am Family Praise at St Nicholas

Sunday 26th **Christ the King – “Back to Church Sunday”**
11.00am Family Eucharist at St Nicholas

DECEMBER and CHRISTMAS

Sunday 3rd **Advent Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas
11.00am Morning Worship at St Nicholas

Sunday 10th The Second Sunday of Advent
11.00am Family Eucharist at St Nicholas

Sunday 17th **The Third Sunday of Advent**
8.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas
11.00am Family Praise & Christingle at St Nicholas
6.30pm Service of Carols and Readings for Christmas at St Nicholas

Monday 18th St Nicholas' School Christmas Service
6.30pm

Sunday 24th **The Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve**
11.00am Said Eucharist with short address at St Nicholas
4.00pm Crib Service at St Nicholas
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist at St Nicholas

Christmas Day
11.00am Family Eucharist at Nicholas (for all ages)

Sunday 31st **The First Sunday of Christmas**
11.00am Family Eucharist (joint service) at St Nicholas

The Family Praise services are short and informal and, we hope, are appropriate for people of all ages.

During Morning Worship and Family Eucharist there is a Sunday Club for children and young people - or they are always welcome to remain in church with their parents.

In common with many other churches we are keeping November 26th as “Back to Church Sunday”. This is a very special invitation to anyone who used to go church here or elsewhere to come and “dip their toe” into church once again!

If you would like more details about these services, or would like to talk about anything else, please do not hesitate to contact John Coombs at The Vicarage in Church Hill, Hurst, or call on 0118 934 0017.

Newsletter Editor needed!

Where are the column writers, news hounds, hacks and frustrated journalists? They're not all working for the British tabloid press, reliable sources inform us Hurst has its fair share.

So.... how about taking on the South East's prime journalistic role: **Editor of the HVS Newsletter** no less?

Yes, we need a new one. How about you? Or how about persuading the shy and retiring person you know who is really, truly honestly wanting to do the job? The salary is worse than lousy (nothing). The perks are no better. But oh! That sense of satisfaction; that community spirit; that making a difference factor.

Even if you are only slightly interested, please contact any **Committee member for further information.**

Hurst Village Society Committee Members

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