

Join our committee!

If you would like to help in maintaining the character of the village against the threat of encroaching urbanisation, the Hurst Village Society remains an active forum where you can play a part.

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Published by the Hurst Village Society
www.hvs.org.uk

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. 110

www.hvs.org.uk

August 2009

WELCOME TO HURST PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY

After months of negotiation with Wokingham Borough Council, we have received positive news to introduce speed restrictions on our roads. Full details of these measures can be found on page 3.

Some of the measures mentioned will need to be funded by the Parish Council and the Hurst Village Society. *You can help* by joining the Society and making a special donation to contribute towards the improvements.

Membership

The Society is always looking for new members. You will have seen our flyer recently delivered to all households in Hurst, promoting the good work that the Society does. To date we have had 12 new members. But we need more. You can also help us with our membership drive by approaching your neighbours and asking them to join the Society.

Each year we try to support a new good cause for the village, but this always needs extra funds. In the last two years, we helped with the vehicle-activated signs, the new playground equipment, and the Loddon Valley Action Group in defending Sandford Farm.

Our next project is to support the measures to help *reduce speeding*.

HVS vigorously opposes threats to the village

At the Public Enquiry into the proposed Sandford Farm development, the Hurst Village Society and Hurst Parish Council made a strong case in opposing the development. Their arguments were the risk of flooding, the dangers presented by the removal of toxic waste, and the impact of increased traffic on our roads. A detailed report can be found on pages 4 and 5.

**Please help us to help our village – and join the Hurst
Village Society**

HVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Planning applications

At the AGM held on 15th May 2009, Jonathan Norris reported on the public enquiry in January into the Luff Farms planning application. Character and rural setting won the day in planning permission being refused. The endorsement of the “attractive” setting was made not once but twice.

Phil Challis, former chairman of Loddon Valley Action Group, joined the meeting to explain the position of the LVAG on the proposed Sandford Farm development. He was assured that the HVS was strongly opposed to the application and would attend the Public Enquiry on 23rd June.

Public amenities

Councillor Annette Drake reported on the following.

- Litter bins. New larger bins were to be installed to replace the existing bins. This would allow dog waste to be put into the main bin.
- Regarding boxes for recycling items, newspapers and card can now be put in the same box as plastics and cans.
- The Council was closing all public loos once loos were available in local shops and pubs.

Committee changes

This year Barbara Johnson and Brian Thomas were standing down and not offering themselves for re-election. Wayne Smith thanked them for all their hard work. Liz Chaderton was welcomed as a new committee member.

At a meeting following the AGM, Wayne Smith was voted as Chairman, Gisela Sharpe as Treasurer, and Carol Sheasby as Secretary.

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SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS, HURST

First Sunday of the month

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Second Sunday of the month

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Third Sunday of the month

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Praise

Fourth Sunday of the month

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

If there is a fifth Sunday of the month

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Please note that the Sunday Club will not meet during the month of August.

Sunday, 18th October

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Praise
4.00pm **Confirmation Service** with the Bishop of Reading

Sunday, 1st November All Saints Day

8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am Family Eucharist

Sunday, 8th November Remembrance Sunday

10.45am Family Eucharist and Act of Remembrance

Sunday, 22nd November Christ the King

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

Sunday, 29th November First Sunday of Advent

11.00am Family Eucharist and Sunday Club

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

Alpha Course

There will be an Alpha Course in the parish during the autumn. This popular course is a good way of exploring the Christian faith. If you would like to know more about it, please phone 0118 978 9453 or 0118 934 0017.

HURST GOSPEL HALL

What lovely weather we had for the Horse Show and Village Fayre. It was great to see and speak to so many people who came to see us on the Gospel Hall stand. The children enjoyed making animal masks and bookmarks. To those of you who took literature and details of various meetings and activities, we look forward to seeing you soon.

Mondays

6.15 – 7.15pm J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) for children of 5-14 years.
Recommences **Monday, 7th September.**

Tuesdays

7.45pm Bible Study. We study various topics from the Bible and have a time of prayer.

Wednesdays

8.00pm On the first Wednesday of the month, the ladies meet.
Recommencing on **Wednesday, 2nd September.**

Fridays

10.00 – 11.30am Mother and Toddler Group during term time.
No admission fee, free coffee. A very friendly and informal group. Please come along and see for yourself.

Sundays

6.30pm Singing and a message from the Bible

CAMEO is on 16th August, commencing at 5.00pm.

Come and meet each other.

There is time to chat, sing some favourite hymns, share a good tea together and hear Good News from the Bible. There is also a small library from which you may borrow books.

For more information, please ring Rachel Simms on 0118 977 2071 or e-mail David.Simms2@btinternet.com. Alternatively, you can visit our website at <http://www.hurstgospelhall.org>

CROW

12th September 2009 10am – 6pm

Cycle, Ride or Walk from church to church to raise money for the churches and chapels of all denominations in Berkshire. This weekend is also known as Heritage Weekend as English Heritage encourage other properties to be open as well as the churches of the whole country. They have been doing so for over 25 years. If you require more details or wish to take part, please contact Peter Langdown on 0118 934 5751.

Traffic and Speed update

By Wayne Smith, Chairman of the Parish Council

In June, Annette Drake and I met with Keith Baker, Executive Member for Highways and officers from Wokingham to investigate how matters were progressing, following the petition that was presented to Wokingham Borough Council last September. I have to say, it was one of the most productive sessions we have had. Listed below are the steps to be taken.

Roundels

- Warning speed signs known as Roundels to be painted on the roads mentioned below, to alert drivers to 30mph zones.
Broadwater Lane, Lodge Road, Wards Cross, A321 Wokingham Road, Hinton Road, Church Hill, Broadcommon Road, Hogmoor Lane.

Signage

- New improved signage at the junction of Sawpit Road and Lodge Road. Wokingham have also agreed to tackle the vegetation that causes sight line problems.
- Introduce new GREEN signs with the wording '**Welcome to Hurst Please drive carefully**' on A321, Davis Street and Broadwater Lane.
- Introduce new gated type signs at Broadwater Lane, Davis Street and A321, like those installed in Shiplake. The Parish Council would have to agree to maintain these. Awaiting approval by Wokingham Borough Council.
- The existing vehicle-activated sign on the A321 Wokingham Road has not been functioning correctly for some time. We have been presented with two options.
 - (a) Move the unit closer towards Orchard Road or
 - (b) Remove the sign completely and have a mobile unit that can be moved around the village to tackle speeding issues.We favoured the mobile unit solution, although normally they are attached to lamp-posts, which we don't have in Hurst. We are now looking for other options to site the unit. If we cannot find suitable fixings, then the only possibility would be a new unit close to the Orchard Road junction.
- All existing signs will be checked, cleaned and replaced as required.

Further measures

SAFE CROSSING FOR CHILDREN At the junction of A321, Hinton Road and School Road, options are limited due to the width of the A321. I am urging Wokingham to support our own Lollypop person and I will keep you updated.

Our new Police Community Support Officer, Anne Chalmers, has agreed to carry out a number of speeding checks similar to those that recently took place in Lodge Road. You have been warned!

I would like to thank everyone involved in this project. Special thanks go to Liz Chaderton, Jules Barton and Paul Martin, who have spent much of their precious spare time moving this agenda forward.

SANDFORD FARM

Public Enquiry

The Public Enquiry into the Sandford Farm Development opened at the Oakwood Centre, Woodley, on Tuesday, 23 June 2009. The outline planning application by Woodley Developments Ltd for 492 dwellings, retirement complex of 150 units, community hall, energy centre, and other facilities, was refused by Wokingham Borough Council on 7th January 2009.

The Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Planning, Building and the Environment, was Mr David Nicholson.

Mr Nicholson stated that the main issues under consideration were:

- Effect on character and environment
- Whether the remediation could be safely and effectively carried out
- The extent to which development would be in accordance with planning infrastructure and any other conditions

Opening statements

Miss Nathalie Lieven QC for the Appellant started with the layout and benefits of the proposed development. She said that the dwellings were designed to a high standard, following up-to-date urban design principles. Regarding the Council's objection to the harsh transition between buildings and countryside, she said that there were 'green fingers' and scope for the landscape to be enhanced. With regard to remediation of the landfill, both the WBC and Environment Agency had passed the proposals. On the issue of traffic, the Highways Agency had raised no objection.

Speaking for Wokingham Borough Council, Mr Guy Williams QC said that refusal of the Planning Application was on the following grounds:

TRANSITION – Building was planned right up to the boundary with the landscape. Large-scale blocks made a hard edge to the settlement.

EFFECT – Relationship with the existing settlement should be considered. Woodley was low-density domestic housing. The effect of the new development was not a transition towards countryside, but a new urban environment.

DENSITY – the planned housing was too cramped.

Speaking for Loddon Valley Action Group, Miss Lisa Busch QC said that she would give evidence on Highways and Remediation. The LVAG were dissatisfied with the WBC officers on these issues. Regarding the status and character of the site, she said that the Appellant had been derogatory about the landscape. The Council took the completely opposing view and regarded it as rural and part of the Loddon Valley wildlife protected green area. Local residents valued the landscape. Regarding transition between housing and landscape, the development would extend beyond the building boundary and there was no transition.

THE VIEW FROM SHUTE END

Your Council services

Each year the Audit Commission conducts an assessment called the Comprehensive Performance Assessment [CPA]. This government initiative, which is designed to improve performance of local authorities, measures how well the Councils are delivering services. Each Council is awarded a score, between 4 and 0 stars, depending on performance (4 indicates the highest score). This Council was judged to be improving adequately and received a 2 star overall performance. Details can be found on the Audit Commission website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk

With every 1% of Council tax collected, £700k is generated for Council services. Therefore it is vital that we keep collection rates high to minimise the burden of bad debts on good payers. We achieved collection rates of 99.2% in 2008/09, which was the highest collection rate of all Unitary Authorities in the country.

Council investments

EARLY IN OCTOBER 2008, the Icelandic banks Landsbanki, Kaupthing and Glitnir collapsed and the UK subsidiaries of these banks, Heritable and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander went into administration. The Council had £5m invested in this sector at the time. Based on the latest information available, and in accordance with accounting practice, the Authority deemed that it was appropriate to consider an impairment adjustment to the deposits.

In relation to Heritable bank (with whom the Council invested £3m), the Authority has received information that it will recover a total of 80p in the £ by 2012.

In relation to Landsbanki (with whom the Council invested £2m), the Authority expects to recover between 90 and 100% of the principal invested by 2012, and therefore has assumed a mid-point recovery of 95% by 2012. The government regulations have the effect of deferring the impact of the impairment charge on the General Fund until 2010/11.

The General Fund is the main revenue account and includes all the Council's services with the exception of the Council housing and is mainly funded by Council Tax. The Council has a policy of maintaining a prudent General Fund balance to provide for unforeseen requirements to aid longer term planning. In setting the 2008/09 budget, the Council reviewed the level of balances that should be maintained and the recommended level was agreed at £7.8m based on a risk assessment.

Cllr Annette Drake

Borough Council Member for Hurst

Walden Acres, Wokingham Road, Hurst. RG10 0RU

Contact numbers 0118 934 1036 and 07753 861 961

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Wayne Smith, Chairman of Hurst PC, Tel: 0118 934 0840

School Road/Junction A312 update

The good news is that we hope to complete the landscaping around the gas governor and park by the end of September.

I must apologise for the appearance of this area. As reported in previous editions of the newsletter, it has been beyond our control.

Dog fouling in the Park

Despite previous requests, we still have a big problem with fouling in our park. There are notices at either end of the park that dogs must be kept on leads. We also have our own dog bins at both ends of the park – so there is no excuse!

After conversations with Wokingham Borough Council, the only solution would be to completely **BAN dogs from the park**. This would be a shame for those who do use the park in the correct manner, but there needs to be a solution to **protect the children**.

Planning Update

F/2009/0323 Oak Cottage, School Road – Refused

F/2009/0448 Four Acres, Dunt Lane – Approved

F/2009/0724 Park Cottage, Sandford Lane – Refused

F/2009/0953 Keyzers Bridge House, Wokingham Road – Approved

F/2009/0899 Acorn Cottage, Warren House Road – Approved

Clear the ditch debris

One of the benefits of the dry weather during June and July is that the ditches in Hurst have almost no water in them.

This reveals not only the odd drinks can and crisp packet, but also plenty of vegetation and debris such as tree branches.

In the winter, when the ditches are full, this debris collects at culverts and creates dams, causing flooding onto roads such as Islandstone Lane.

Could landowners and anyone with a spare hour or two remove the worst of the vegetation and debris now, while it's relatively safe to get into and out of the ditches? Townsend Pond is also drying up in places. In the past, this opportunity has enabled a working party to clear rubbish safely. Does the Parish Council plan to organise anything similar this year?

By the way, congratulations to everyone for the spring-cleaning and planting at Townsend Pond. It looks very attractive and has encouraged more wildfowl to breed on the pond. It's these coots, moorhens and mallards, which are eating the bright green pondweed.

Wendy Tobitt

What impact on Hurst

Hearing of objections

SPEAKING for the Hurst Parish Council and the Hurst Village Society, Jonathan Norris emphasised that both the Parish Council and the Village Society were wholly supportive of Loddon Valley Action Group. He explained that Hurst was an area of 650 hectares east of Loddon and Old River with 850 homes. There was immense concern as to the impact of development at Sandford Farm.

With regard to remediation of the site, flies, smell and the dangers of toxic waste presented an unknown health risk. Flooding was also a problem with the added risk of contaminated water leaking into the waterways.

Increased traffic through Hurst

Mr Norris said: 'The greatest threat is the increase of traffic through Hurst with its fragile road infrastructure. People leaving the development would be heading down Sandford Lane. Once on B3030 Lodge Road/Davis Street, they would probably want to go east. But there are no routes travelling east, with poor congested access through traffic lights to the north and south through Twyford and Winnersh. The whole area is full of access only and width restricted routes. The road past the church is a conservation area. Recently, the B3030 was closed for four days because of a construction vehicle falling off the edge of the road. It is totally unacceptable to put traffic through an area not built for it.'

He asked that the following conditions should apply if the Appeal were to be upheld: 1) No construction vehicles along Sandford Lane, B3030 or through Hurst village itself; 2) Sandford Lane should be for access only to Dinton Pastures; 3) Financial guarantee/bond to protect the environment in the event that the developer defaulted on its obligation to safely remediate the site.

Other objections

A resident in Sandford Lane gave evidence of flooding in Sandford Lane. She said: 'At normal level it is 35.8. When the flooding starts it goes up to 37.6. The entrance of the bridge, at capacity, is at 37.6 so it is impossible to measure any higher. The plans for the development show the development would be built at 36.0 heights, which would therefore flood.' She added that with more houses, the water would not be able to disperse. Even now, after snow, flooding occurred because of new buildings at Winnersh. A Woodley resident and chemical engineer by profession stated that he was not fully satisfied with previous submissions regarding remediation. The impact on reed beds had not been fully investigated. With regard to the mobile heat/power plant, no full report had been submitted or testing carried out. Materials stored on site had so far not caused any toxic run-off. But there were unauthorised deposits and commercial waste and no figures were available on waste monitoring.

A resident of Mohawk Way said that faced with the prospect of more traffic with the accompanying noise, flies and dirt, he had considered putting his house up for sale. The estate agent had told him he would be unable to find a buyer. Another resident even proposed that an access road should be built directly out onto Lodge Road.

LOCAL FLAVOURS FESTIVAL

1 – 30 September 2009
A Celebration of Food and Drink

For the harvest month of September, there will be many events going on across the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire – all celebrating their finest food and drink. The Festival will promote food events organised by farmers, restaurants, shops, pubs, and farmers' markets. Visitor attractions will host local food events, and there will be tours around farms, orchards, breweries and vineyards.

Below are some of our local events. Full details of all events and features throughout Berkshire can be found on www.local-flavours.net.

Food for Thought – Reading **Central Reading throughout the day**

Tuesday, 1st September 2009

'Local Flavours' menus in restaurants, brasseries and bistros. There will be wine tasting events, sampling events, world food demonstrations, a food-book fair, and celebrity chef demonstrations

Wokingham Farmers' Market **Market Place, Wokingham**

Thursday, 3rd Sep 2009 9am – 2pm

Stanlake Park Wine Estate 30th Anniversary **Stanlake Park, Twyford**

Saturday, 26th September 2009 10am – 5pm

Peter Dart says: It's 30 years since the first vines were planted! Come and join the celebrations. Free tasting of our wide range of wines. No need to book. See our website www.stanlakepark.com for full details.

Harvest time with the family

Enjoy a family day out, picking your own fresh fruit and vegetables. Popular Grays of Wokingham, Heathlands Road, Wokingham RG40 3AN was started by Donald Gray and is now being run by his son Peter and grandson Paul. Take empty bags and a knife to cut vegetables such as runner beans, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, new potatoes, carrots, courgettes, spinach and sweetcorn. Raspberries, strawberries and rhubarb are also available. www.graysfarm.co.uk

"I do not like broccoli. And I haven't liked it since I was a little kid and my mother made me eat it. I am President of the United States, and I'm not going to eat any more broccoli." - George W. Bush

POLICE REPORT

From PCSO Anne Chalmers

Some introductions

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce PC 6762 Victoria Murphy (Vicki) and PCSO Ben Chalker. Victoria is a student officer and as part of her ongoing training, she is here on attachment. Ben will be starting with the team in August, supporting Twyford. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Vicki and Ben to the area.

Speed checks

On 14th May, members of the Police Neighbourhood Team and Road Police Officers conducted speed enforcement on Lodge Road and Broad Common Lane, Hurst. This was a successful operation (depending on your view point) in that many disappointed motorists were stopped and fined for exceeding the speed limits. We will continue to monitor and work on speeding enforcements within the village. Using a Speed Indication device, we will be conducting speed checks in Hurst over the coming months, issuing advisory letters to offending drivers.

Safety concerns at St Nicholas School

We continue to monitor parking issues at the start and end of the school day. I will be working closely with St Nicholas School to ensure that parking restrictions are adhered to and that the rules for using the 'Drop off' point are followed correctly. We hear from parents' feedback that space and time are limited during these periods. However, we would reiterate that action taken against individuals for not adhering to parking regulations is taken in the interests of pupils' safety.

Horse Show

Congratulations on a very successful Hurst Horse show! Sadly, there was one theft reported of an amount of money taken from a stallholder.

Watch your property

The car parks at Dinton Pastures in Hurst have experienced a number of visitors' cars being broken into. Police Community Support Officers have patrolled these car parks, leaving crime prevention leaflets on vehicles. These remind owners not to leave valuable belongings on show.

Leading on, there have been a number of shed and outbuilding break-ins in the Hurst area. I urge all residents to ensure that their property kept in sheds, garages and outbuildings is fully secured. Remember your tools – even your ladder – could be used to access your house.

Meet your Neighbourhood Team

The Neighbourhood Team held a successful street briefing at School Road, Hurst, on 20th May. We will continue to conduct crime prevention activities and meetings within the village (dates to be published). These meetings are a great opportunity to meet your local Police team.

Members of the Twyford Neighbourhood Police Team can be contacted on

0845 8 505 505

CENTENARY OF GIRL GUIDING

The first weekend in September marks the beginning of our Centenary celebrations throughout the world.

On this date a hundred years ago, a group of girls gate-crashed a Scout Rally, which Lord Baden Powell was holding at Crystal Palace. These girls were, in the main, sisters and friends of Scouts. They had devised a uniform of navy skirt, white blouse, navy neck scarves and Scout hats (the old pointed variety!) and, again like their brothers, they carried batons.

Typical of those involved with Guiding, these girls wanted a similar movement to that of the Scouts, to develop their skills, and to enjoy outdoor activities. Baden Powell acknowledged their arguments and appointed his sister Agnes as the First Chief Guide, later followed by his wife Olave.

By 1910 the Guides had a formal uniform of navy skirt, blue blouse, scarves and wide brimmed hats and went on their first official Guide Camp.

Here, in the Bulmershe Guiding Division (Woodley and Loddon Districts), we are celebrating with a Lift Off party on Saturday, 5th September. Later in the year, there will be a Loddon District camp (Sonning, Twyford and Hurst) and a County production of 'Joseph'.

Other exciting outings and activities are planned, too many to mention.

Change the World

During the past year, we have been taking up various challenges to *Change the World*. The aim was to put the needs of others before our own self-indulgence.

In Hurst, the Brownies followed a Kidscape programme in the Spring Term to help the girls spot bullying and to learn skills to tackle such situations. During the Summer Term they followed a WWF programme learning about pollution, global warming and the effect on animals worldwide. On Monday, 29th June, a Bring and Buy sale raised £111 – enough to sponsor a dolphin and a polar bear for one year and leave enough for a substantial donation, too.

The Rangers have followed an environmental project, whilst the Guides have been learning sign language to help the deaf.

Mary Langdown

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

The Hurst Sonning and Charvil NAG meeting was held on 20th July at the Cricket Pavilion in Pound Lane, Sonning. Rosemary Driver and Maria Land have joined NAG to represent Hurst.

Need more information? Call 0845 8 505 505 and ask to speak PCSO Anne Chalmers or a representative from your neighbourhood policing team



HOLIDAY FUN

This summer there is an extensive range of free and low cost play opportunities for families and children.

Play schemes at local schools

Free of charge open access play schemes, 5 to 13 years (unaccompanied) at St Nicholas C of E Primary School RG10 0DR

Free of charge family pop in and play sessions, 0 to 5 years (accompanied) at Colleton Children's Centre RG10 0AX

For full details log onto www.wokingham.gov.uk/play-development or call 0118 974 6185 and speak to the play team.

Spring in2 Action 09

The Sports Development Unit has arranged a programme of sports camps for four to 11 year olds. From netball to golf and all sports in between.

Full information may be found on www.wokingham.gov.uk/sports or call 0118 974 6264/6265.

DINTON PASTURES

Survival Skills

Setting Up Camp

Monday, 3rd August 2009

Join the rangers for a morning of shelter building. Learn fire-lighting techniques and how to create a comfortable camp.

Trails and Treasure

Monday, 10th August 2009

Hunting for treasure with a difference. Learn some basic navigation and map reading skills, then go out on a hunt for treasure.

Fire Lighting and Ready, Steady, Camp Cook

Monday, 17th August 2009

Learn the art of camp cooking.



For all these fun activities meet at the Café Garden, Dinton Pastures. 8.45am to 12pm for eight to 12 year olds. 2pm to 5.15 pm for ages 11 and over.

Cost: £12 per child. **Booking is essential.**

There are many other activities over the holidays at Dinton Pastures for both children and adults. For more details, e-mail: countryside@wokingham.gov.uk or call 0118 934 2016.

*** What's On ***

Tai Chi - SHINE initiative by WBC

Hurst Village Hall Tuesdays 10am

Since the last Newsletter, it has been possible to introduce Tai Chi at Hurst Village Hall. Currently 14 people (over 50s) are attending regularly, but not many of them are locals. As it is subsidised, it is a cheap session so make the most of it. Just turn up and you will be welcomed.

Undergraduate Open Days

University of Reading

Saturday, 26th September and Saturday, 24th October 2009

Thinking about going to university? Why not find out more about studying for an undergraduate degree by coming to an Open Day at Reading University.

All departments are open for you to view, from archaeology and classics to law and business, to pharmacy, meteorology and zoology. Academic staff and students are on hand and you can take a guided tour of our wonderful campus and facilities. No need to book. Just turn up.

To find out more, see www.reading.ac.uk/life/life-opendays.asp or speak to Nyola Stewart, Student Recruitment Officer, on 0118 378 6586.

Celebration of Age

Loddon Valley Leisure Centre, Lower Earley

15th October 2009 10am – 3.30pm

Hosted by the Older Peoples Forums. If you are aged 50 plus, come and join in. There are free activities, including access to the Swimming Pool, Tai Chi, Line Dancing. Free goodies and a Buffet Lunch are being provided. For more information or if you require transport, contact Amanda Gordon on 0118 974 6850.

Hurst Morris People celebrate their 20th Anniversary

Originally established by Chris and Tim Taylor of Hurst village, your local Morris dancers are this year celebrating their 20th Anniversary year. Made up of people of all ages and from all walks of life, our dancers and musicians have enjoyed another successful dance-out season, including evenings at our local pubs, The Castle, The Jolly Farmer and The Elephant & Castle. We also danced at the Hurst Horse Show.

Hurst Morris People have seen their numbers increase three-fold over the past few years. Who said Morris dancing was dying out? Not in Hurst! That said, we're always keen to recruit good dancers and musicians.

So, if you fancy having a go yourself, don't miss our **free Open Workshops** on **Thursday, 24th September** and **Thursday, 1st October, Hurst Large Village Hall, 8pm – 10pm.**

Carey Singleton

www.hump.org.uk

HURST ROMANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Season 2009/2010

Party in the Park

Our most successful event of the year was held on 4th July. We had a sell out event – no doubt assisted by the warm weather – and what a good night we had!

Lots of dancing to great live music, fantastic and lively audience participation in the Auction of Promises and the Raffle.

This is our biggest fundraising event of the year; helping us to raise money for the development of the Hinton Road site in the village and to equip teams with kit and training items for the forthcoming season.

Thanks to all who came, partied and helped to clear up the next day!

Tell all your friends to bookmark next year's date: **Saturday 3rd July, 2010.**

Hinton Road Development

News on the development of our new home is that a car parking area has been laid down in the field. This will allow parents easy access to the field when training and games start to be played.

We are really excited about being able to restart playing football in the village. On **Saturday, 15th August** at 2.30 pm, there will be a game between the 1st Team and the Reserve Team which will be the Club's first game in the village in over 15 years. Everyone is welcome to pop down and watch; it will be a memorable occasion.

Players

New members are always welcomed. Feel free to contact us or just turn up at the appropriate training session and talk to the coach (see individual teams for details). Our U10s Black and U13s teams are especially keen to recruit some new players, and our U15s team is urgently looking for a goalkeeper.

Hurst Romans Football Committee

<http://www.hurstfc.org.uk>

HURST BOWLING CLUB

We had a very successful open evening on 12th May. This coincided nicely with the start of regular Tuesday evening coaching sessions and as a result we have attracted a number of new members. We are particularly pleased with recruiting more members who actually live in Hurst and who can benefit from the facility on their doorstep. Anyone who wishes to come up and take a look at us is most welcome, particularly on Tuesday evenings starting at 6pm.

This season the weather has been very good to us with no matches yet cancelled due to rain. We play in the "Manchester Unity League" and are currently 2nd in the table. You can follow our progress in this via the bowls pages of the sports section of the *Reading Chronicle*.

Anthony Boddrell, Captain, tel. 01344 311869

HURST HORSE SHOW AND COUNTRY FAYRE

*Hurst welcomed thousands of people to help celebrate
the 30th anniversary of the village Horse Show and Country Fayre*

Show chair Duncan Kendall said: 'This special show again proved that hundreds of Hurst villagers of all ages can work together extremely hard to put on a thoroughly enjoyable weekend and raise healthy amounts for good causes. We want to thank everyone involved in the show including the committee, the school PTA, Wokingham Red Diamonds Sports Association and all our visitors.'

One of the visitors was television star and former pupil at St Nicholas Primary School, John Altman, who plays 'Nasty' Nick Cotton in Eastenders. He met former classmate, Malcolm Phillips, 57, still living in Hurst.

Show visitors drank 840 pints of lager, 400 pints of bitter, and 400 glasses of Pimm's. They ate 1200 burgers and 600 sausages from Jennings the butchers. Hurst Scouts and Guides sold teas. St Nicholas Pre-School sold strawberries.

Entrants for the horse and pony events enjoyed some new jumps. Organiser, Catherine Lochman, said, 'The Saturday events are aimed at young and novice riders; our aim is that all the children should go home with a rosette and a smile on their face.'

Among villagers taking part, wood turner Richard Maynard displayed a mortar for grinding food. This was made from a section of an old oak bench, which had been by Hurst pond for more than 50 years. Michael Eustace talked about beekeeping and Vicky Cossey raised funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

The 2009 Hurst Horse Show and Country Fair raised thousands of pounds. For a list of the donations, please visit the website www.HurstHorseShow.org.uk.

1st HURST AIR SCOUTS

This has been a very busy year for all involved in 1st Hurst Air Scouts, both in terms of the many fun activities for the children, as well as in fundraising activities for our 'New Roof' Fund.

We passed our RAF inspection with flying colours, won the prize for 'best improvement' in the Henley Dragon Boating Competition, came second in the Scout raft racing competition, and met with the Woodley Air Training Corps to listen to a member of Ranulph Fiennes group of explorers.

The Beavers had visits from our local policewoman and from a BA pilot. They went pond dipping at Dinton Pastures and had their 1st Sleepover experience! The Cubs enjoyed various outdoor activities at the Oakwood Outdoor Centre and at the Look Out in Bracknell.

If anyone is interested in joining the 1st Hurst Air Scouts, either as a beaver (age 6-8), cub (age 8-10 ½), scout (age 10 ½ to 14) or adult helper, we would love to hear from you. You can contact Jane Melizan on 0118 934 9171 or Barbara or Andy Loring on 0118 934 0650.



HURST HORTICULTURAL & COTTAGE GARDEN SOCIETY 96th ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday, 22nd August 2009

The show will be held as usual in Hurst Village Hall and grounds with the Dog Show in the adjacent field. There are several sections to the show with classes for Horticulture, Flower Arranging, Cooking, Jam Making, Photography, Artwork, Needlework and Children's Crafts. With many newcomers to gardening, the novice classes are intended to encourage some to have a go at showing. Help and advice are available from the organisers.

For those who wish only to spend a relaxing afternoon, the show opens at 1.30pm. The Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band will play a varied programme of music and a children's music workshop session will be on hand. Refreshments, teas and ices will be served. There will also be stalls and a raffle. It all adds up to a traditional village event. The afternoon will be rounded off by the presentation of the prize-winner's trophy and a produce auction at approximately 5pm.

Show entries

Show entries need to be made in advance by **Wednesday, 19th August**. Use the entry form from the schedule, which is available from the village shops and pubs plus local garden centres.

The Companion Dog Show is held this year in aid of Greyhound Rescue. Entry is on the day itself from 11.30am and judging starts at 12 noon.

For schedules, help and information on any of the above please call 0118 934 5253, 0118 934 1498 or 0118 934 0707

For your Diary

Summer Orchid Fayre

Orchid Marquee, Dinton Pastures

Saturday, 29th August 9am – 5pm

Sunday, 30th August 9am – 4pm

Thousands of orchids in flower, from the bizarre to the most exquisite. Cultural and potting demonstrations, as well as orchids from top growers and support materials on sale. Small entry charge to Orchid Marquee.

Hurst Horticultural & Cottage Garden Society

The Castle Thursday, 17th September 2009 8.00pm

All welcome at our monthly meeting.

Dinton Pastures marks 30 years of success

Major overhaul for Dragonfly Café

On the eve of its 30th anniversary, Dinton Pastures Country Park has received approval from Wokingham Borough Council to update the park's visitor facilities.

The revamp will start later this year to upgrade facilities at the Dragonfly Café as well as the nearby car park, both of which are currently in need of modernisation.

The first improvement phase will see a new wood-frame extension created, with extra seating and enhanced kitchens built at the café, as well as an improved car park and toilets. A second phase of improvements, subject to finance, will be carried out at a later date to extend the building further so that it can accommodate up to 200 people and can be used to host a wider range of events linked to the park.

The upgraded facilities will provide an improved hub for all visitors, including ramblers, dog-walkers, golfers, parents and children, elderly people and people with disabilities. It will give the countryside service the opportunity to arrange more activities including junior golf days, wildlife events and sporting activities.

The contract with the catering company Baking Waves has also been extended for a further two years, as the food and drink offered at the Dragonfly Café have proved popular with visitors.

A Date with Nature

First Saturday of every month 9am to 12.30pm

Join the local branch of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for a walk around the country park. Meet in the main car park.

Adults £1, accompanied children free (proceeds to RSPB)

Bat Walk and Talk

Loddon Room, Dinton Pastures

Friday 14th August 2009 8.00 – 9.45pm

Friday 28th August 2009 7.45 – 9.30pm

An illustrated slide show by Dave Endacott, to be followed by a walk to the lake listening out for wild bats. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost £3. Booking essential: countryside@wokingham.gov.uk or 0118 934 2016.

Star Gazing Talk

Sat 26th September and Saturday 24th October 2009

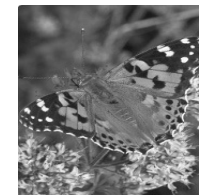
7.20pm till late (weather permitting)

Members of the Reading Astronomical Society will be in the Park with telescopes to help you interpret what you see in the night sky.

Cost: Free. Meet in the main car park, Dinton Pastures. Contact Gerry Bond on gerry@ryhill.net or 0118 986 4032.

Two glimpses of a long journey

David Lloyd-Williams reports on the spectacular phenomenon of the Painted Lady butterfly migration.



Early in May I was in the Dordogne region of France and, of course, on the lookout for butterflies. I noticed that every thirty seconds or so, a butterfly flew north up the valley, too high to identify, but determinedly following the same path. It was three days before I could say positively that they were Painted Lady butterflies. It was clear that this year there was a major migration underway from North Africa and South West Europe. The last migration was in 1996 and I have not seen even one individual butterfly in France since 2003.

At the end of May, there was a small snippet in *The Times* announcing that a cloud of some 3000 Painted Lady butterflies had been seen making landfall near Bournemouth. Some days later, some of them arrived in my garden in Hurst – 500 miles further north from my first glimpse. They were not, of course, the same ones I had seen in France, but part of the same huge trek. Overnight a clump of bugloss was transformed into a haven for dozens of these beautiful butterflies.

They stayed for a few days – I even managed a few recognisable photographs – and then they were gone again, leaving one or two stragglers to remind me and hopefully to stay for the summer. Some early migrants may have left some eggs here, which will emerge later in the summer, but few if any of them will survive the winter.

2009 was to be a magical year for Painted Lady migration. They are not uncommon in England but some years the migration is immense, some years only a few are seen. They have visited me here in five of the last twelve years, but I cannot remember seeing so many all at once. Probably there were many other havens in Hurst this year helping them on their journey.

Hurst Village Society

DINNER DANCE

Saturday, 12th December 2009

Make a note in your diary now! Music by Mark Tait.

We have already received 40 advance bookings, so we are expecting a sell-out. If you wish to reserve your tickets in advance with a £5 deposit, please contact Jennie Roxburgh-Smith on 0118 934 0840.

Hurst Village Society Membership Application/Renewal Form

Hurst Village Society was formed in 1971 to preserve and enhance the rural character of the parish. The current annual subscription is £5.00 per household. Membership of the Hurst Village Society is renewable on 1st January every year.

Complete Section A, then **either** Section B, **or** Section C.

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

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

Section A

Name

Address

Postcode Telephone

E-mail address

Section B

I enclose my cheque/cash for £5.00 being my subscription for 2009. I also enclose a donation for £.....to the Hurst Village Society.

Section C

To: Name of Bank

Bank Address

Sort code

Please debit my account, number
with the sum of £5.00, being my subscription to the Hurst Village Society, and credit Account Number 01349706 (Hurst Village Society No 1 Account) at Lloyds Bank plc, High Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1BT. Sort Code 30-91-11.

Date of first payment: immediately; and thereafter annually on 1st January.

Signature Date

SKILLS REGISTER

Accountant	Maria Land ACMA	Cadomin, Wards Cross	0118 934 1131 (CIMA)
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Small business accounts, sole traders, partnerships,
Small/medium limited companies, payrolls, self-assessments.
We have a diverse range of clients from builders to hairdressers.

Accountant	Gisela Sharpe FCCA	48 Martineau Lane	0118 934 3334 0776 5707642
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Accounting and taxation requirements for sole traders, partnerships,
small/medium sized companies, including starting in business, VAT,
Payroll and CIS services. All types of businesses dealt with.

Architect	David Noble	Folly Cottage Dunt Avenue	0118 940 4747
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Builder	Martin May	Pound Cottage, Forest Road	01344 306 214 07956 412086
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Reliable, experienced local builder. Extension, loft and garage
conversions, carpentry, UPVC windows, insurance work undertaken.
Free estimates. Testimonials available.

Building contractor	Glyn Crocombe	Furze Covert, Dunt Lane	0118 932 0245 07957 303 658
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sandkconstruction@hotmail.co.uk

General building works, extensions
and alterations, painting and decorating.

Caring	Debra Morley	1 Southview Whistley Green	0118 934 1389 07702 536733
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debra@live.be

Elderly day / respite care in our family home in Whistley Green.
Over 10 years' experience, fully insured, CRB checked, members of NAAPS.

Caring	T & S Support Service		
	Tracey Williams	West Hope	07786 931 060
	gtmanning@btinternet.com	Wards Cross	
	Shelagh Robinson		
	shelaghrobinson@btinternet.com		07525 211 568

Care and support to people in their own homes. 25 years' experience
with all client groups: elderly, dementia, mental health problems,
learning disabilities. Transport for appointments, shopping trips, etc.

Catering	Penny Curry	1 Tape Lane	0118 934 0866
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pennycurry3@msn.com

Dinner parties, canapés, desserts and buffets.

Counsellor	Rosemary Sturmer	Rosslare Davis Street	0118 934 1149 07950 762875
Member of British Association of Counselling & Psychotherapy and Association of Christian Counsellors			
Blue Flame Dance	Ruth Noble	Folly Cottage, Dunt Avenue	0118 934 1200 07834 900451
Dance Teacher. Group or private lessons. Street Dance, Tap, Jazz, Modern. Adults / Children. Birthday parties available.		info@blueflamedance.com www.blueflamedance.com	
KW Electrics	Pauline O'Brien	Unit 40, Grange Farm Nelsons Road	0118 934 4133
Electrical contractors. All types of work undertaken, domestic and commercial.		landpobrien@aol.co.uk	
Garden Care	Jonathan Lane	Toad, Hinton Road	0118 934 0654 07966 627883
Groundwork R and J Services	Barbara Kent	Rhoda Ryde Dunt Lane	0118 934 0079 07802 839571
Complete groundwork services. Landscaping, site clearance. Digger and dumper hire.			
Independent Mortgage & Life Insurance Adviser	Nigel Osgood	Old Place, Lodge Road	0118 903 4119 07768 277413
No brokerage fee charged. Software containing every mortgage product of every lender, which is updated daily.			
Piano Teacher	Christine Lambert	Hodge, Pound Lane	0118 934 0705
Plasterer	Spyros Divanis	1 Broadwater Cottage, Broadwater Lane	07760 426221
Specialising in internal plastering and external rendering. Also coving and decorating.		visualplastering@hotmail.co.uk	
Residential Letting and Property Management	Janet Walsh	7 Martineau Lane	0118 932 1349
		www.huntersproperty.co.uk	
Secretarial services	Carol Sheasby	8 Almshouses, Church Hill	0118 932 1647
Correspondence, filing, minutes, editing and proof-reading.		carol.sheasby@btinternet.com	

Sewing	Louise Kendall	6 Tape Lane louise@s-sewing.co.uk www.s-sewing.co.uk	0118 934 2852
Custom made curtains, blinds and soft furnishings. Range of fabrics available. Free home visit for advice and quotation. Alterations also undertaken.			
Sewing	Jane Carr	Hinton Farm House, Hinton Road jane.carr@zen.co.uk	
Curtains, cushions, patchwork quilts and many other soft furnishings made to order or altered. Also clothing alterations undertaken. Free quotations and advice.			
Toastmaster, Master of Ceremonies & Auctioneer	Roy Austin	Acre Wood, 2 School Road royaustin@hotmail.com www.britishtoastmaster.com	0118 934 4422 07961 144548
Nationwide & Worldwide Service. Available for Weddings, Dinners, Golf Days, Corporate Hospitality, Fund Raising, etc.			
Upholsterer	Anna Lockwood	Lockwood Design, Barn Farm, Wokingham Road www.lockwood-design.co.uk	07981 794268
Trained upholsterer specialising in traditional upholstery, offering a complete restoration service or simple re-cover for cushions, chairs, sofas. Free home visit for quotation and advice.			
Web design and Consultancy	Duncan Kendall	6 Tape Lane dk-skills4@bdksoil.co.uk www.yeswhere.co.uk	0118 934 2852
Hosting, e-mail forwarding, domain name management.			

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SKILLS REGISTER

As you know, the Society is dependent on membership, fund raising events and donations to support its activities. With that in mind, we have decided to charge an annual fee per entry in the skills register: £15 if you are a member of the Hurst Village Society, £20 if you are a non-member. For that you will get a yearlong exposure on our award-winning website and in our very popular newsletter, which goes out three times a year.

For all enquires, please contact Wayne Smith, tel: 0118 934 0840,
e-mail: wayne.x.smith@googlemail.com.

Cheques should be made payable to Hurst Village Society.

We welcome any new skills and services. However, you have to live in the village!