

# 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. 93**

**[www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)**

**November 2004**

## **Fund raising for safety in the Village**

Hurst Village Society, in collaboration with Hurst Parish Council, has stepped in to fund one of a pair of Vehicle Activated Signs allocated for Hurst. The other sign will be funded by Wokingham District Council. This is a terrific opportunity for Hurst to be included in one of the most effective and advanced traffic calming schemes yet devised.

Although we don't yet have an implementation date, we are very pleased that we have been able to work with both the Parish Council and Wokingham District Council to get Hurst onto the list and to deliver one of the key commitments we made at this year's Annual General Meeting.

These signs will make an enormous difference to the village in terms of reducing speed on our roads and increasing safety for all users and residents.

**SO, we need your help in terms of funding this investment and will be mounting a number of fund raising initiatives in the New Year.**

**Remember this is your village and your safety we are working for!**

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**SNOW WHITE**  
(A Hurst Community Project)

**Thursday 13th January at 7:30**

**Friday 14th January at 7:30**

**Saturday 15th January at 2:00 and 7:30**

**Adult £8 Child/Senior £5**

Hurst is once again gripped by Panto fever! The Snow White cast and crew are all set to create another show extravaganza. Rehearsals are progressing well amidst much laughter and a few well aimed splashes of water from the more outlandish members of the cast!

The Twyford Advertiser has kindly agreed to sponsor the production by donating £500 to the Hurst Pantomime Group. The money will be used to purchase some permanent theatre lights which can also be available for other groups within the village.

Over 50% of the available tickets were sold in the first week of November, so if you haven't purchased tickets already it would be advisable to reserve them as soon as possible by contacting **Rita Bunyard** on **0118 934 5253**.

### **St Nicholas Church East Wall - Update from Mary Langdown**

At the beginning of October, English Heritage gave the long awaited clearance for some invasive investigative work on the wall. Revised costs were to be prepared for 24th November, which the Parochial Council felt was achievable. However towards the end of October we heard from the Diocesan level that there is no longer a consensus between experts at the Diocese, English Heritage and our own on the previously agreed work packages. We were asked to put all work on hold.

This means that our current grant application with English Heritage will lapse as the deadline cannot be met. In the meantime we are preparing for a meeting with all parties to agree a way forward ; we await a date for this meeting and some indication as to why the Diocese has problems with the work packages.

### **Hurst Bowling Club**

The green has now been “put to bed” with six tons of top dressing to help provide an even more level playing surface next year. We are pleased to report that, although the manager of The Castle has moved on, she has put us in touch with her parents’ bowling club on the Isle of Wight and we expect a fixture to be arranged next year.

For information about Hurst Bowling Club please contact the secretary **Ann Skidmore on 0118 934 3286** or visit **[www.hurstbowlingclub.org.uk](http://www.hurstbowlingclub.org.uk)**

### **Would your group like a website?**

As reported in the last newsletter, HVS was proud to have been selected to represent Berkshire in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) category of the Village of the Year competition. The Society was presented with a cheque for £100, which we would like to use to improve ICT in the village.

If you are a member of a Hurst-based group or society that would like to have its own website, then perhaps we can help you to get started. Please contact Duncan Kendall to discuss your plans.

### **Hurst Village Halls**

A new Village Halls caretaker, **Donna Marner (telephone 0118 934 0844)**, has been in residence since the beginning of September. There is also a new web site **[www.hurstvillagehalls.org.uk](http://www.hurstvillagehalls.org.uk)**

Events for next year are already being planned: a Barn Dance in February and, by popular demand, a return of last year’s musical comedy review “Two for the 1/9s”.

### **Scouting Christmas Evening and 2005 Family Camp**

This year’s Scouting Christmas evening is taking place in the Scout Hut on **Tuesday 7th December**. The evening will feature entertainment by all of the girls’ and boys’ Scouting groups from the village and is aimed at their families. A collection will be made in aid of Feed the Children.

There will be a **family camp** next year at **Chalfont Heights**, Buckinghamshire from **20th - 22nd May**.

As always the scouting groups would be grateful for more help. A new Group Scout Leader is required as well as general help for the Scouts and Cubs. Contact **Barbara Loring on 01188 934 0650**.

### **Senior Citizens Open Forum (SCOF) for Twyford and District**

In October Councillor Bob Wyatt spoke about the approach to provide **Care and Accommodation for Older People** in the district. The council acknowledges that the majority of people wish to stay in their own homes, so it has adopted policies and developed strategies aimed to help that happen.

The November meeting allowed members to present their ideas for 2005.

SCOF meetings are held in **St Thomas More's church hall, Twyford, at 2pm** on the **fourth Thursday in each month** (except in August and December).

There is a need to listen to people who are isolated in the community and cannot get out to meetings. If you know someone in this situation who has views that they would wish to be considered, please ask them to call (or perhaps call for them) **Janet Potter** at Twyford & District Age Concern on **0118 934 4040**, or **Suzanne Snell** at Age Concern Berkshire on **0118 959 4242**.

### **Hurst Bakery and Provisions**

A warm welcome to John Shuckburgh who moved into the Hurst bakery in May this year. The bakery is now transformed from the "Bakery and Gifts" to a "Bakery and Provisions" and a selection of new items are available such as olives, olive oil and other delicatessen items. An application for an off licence is in progress to enable the provision of fine wines. You may also be pleased to hear that opening hours have been extended.

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### **.A View from the Bench (Hurst Romans Football Club)**

We now have over 70 boys and girls signed-up and playing regularly, which is an amazing result given that we started in January with a small group of 7 boys. Our under 8s team led by Martin "Arsene" Rayner have won all their matches and are top of their division. It looks like Martin and the boys will be promoted at Christmas to a more challenging division. For the other boys teams we expect to be moved into more appropriate divisions and hopefully our results will start to emulate our under 8s.

As well as the regular footballing side of the club we also will be looking to make our contribution to the village's social life and in conjunction with our friends in the senior team we will be hosting a **black tie May Ball** (more details to follow) . This will be our key fund-raising event and we hope to make this event a cornerstone of the village social diary.

Hurst Romans Football Club has a range of teams for girls and boys from ages 5 to 13. They train on Sunday morning (on St. Nicholas' School field) with league games on a Saturday. Everyone is welcome. Should your child be interested in joining the club or if you would be interested in helping with sponsorship, coaching and/or management of one of the teams please contact **Paul Squires** by email **paul.squires2@btinternet.com** or call **07836 674452**. We are particularly keen to see any of the new arrivals in reception and year 1 at St Nicholas.

# Christmas Services

## St Nicholas and St Mary's

**Regular services** will continue throughout December:

9:30 am, St Mary's, Winnersh  
11:00 am, St Nicholas, Hurst

**Christmas services** are:

Monday 6th December	9:30 am	St Nicholas School Christmas Service at St Nicholas church
Sunday 12th December	3:30 pm 5:00 pm	Christingle Service, St Mary's Christingle Service, St Nicholas
Wednesday 15th December	6:30 pm	St Nicholas School Carol Service
Sunday 19th December	6:30 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols, St Nicholas
Friday 24th December	2:00 pm 4:00 pm 11:30 pm	Crib Service, St Mary's Crib Service, St Nicholas Midnight Communion, St Nicholas
Saturday 25th December	9:30 am 11:00 am	All Age Family Communion, St Mary's All Age Family Communion, St Nicholas

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## Hurst Gospel Hall

|                        |         |                                |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 19th December   | 7:00 pm | Carol Service for everyone     |
| Saturday 25th December | 10:30am | Christmas Service for everyone |

The children's J.A.M. club, the Ladies evening and other activities will also be enjoying Christmas events. For more details please visit our web site at **[www.hurstgospelhall.org](http://www.hurstgospelhall.org)**

Regular services are also listed on the web site.

# Environmental News

## Dog Fouling

You may remember reading extracts from an Email that the HVS committee received from a regular visitor to Hurst, printed in the April 2004 newsletter. The visitor said *'imagine my dismay when I found most of your beautiful walking trails and pavements befouled with dog poo, old gear boxes, refrigerators...People are using Hurst as a dumping ground and your residents walking their dogs are carrying doggy poo bags for show – not for picking up the poo'*.

Whilst the HVS realises that responsible dog owners are picking up their dogs' mess, it has to be said that there are areas in the village where there is a dog fouling problem. In response, the HVS has investigated what the law says in relation to dog fouling in Hurst:

*Wokingham District Council adopted the Dogs (Fouling of Land Act) 1996 to cover the **whole** district. It is an offence, therefore, to allow a dog to foul and not clear up the mess anywhere in Hurst (with a few exceptions). The law applies to roadside verges, footpaths, byways and bridleways because they are deemed to be the public highway. Offenders can be issued with a fixed penalty fine of £50 or liable to be prosecuted in court where they can be fined up to £1000 and receive a criminal record.*

There are a growing number of council employees who are trained to enforce the law on behalf of Wokingham District Council. If you are aware of any persistent offenders or would like to report instances of dog fouling please contact the **Wokingham District Animal Warden on 0118 974 6382**. Instances of **fly tipping** can also be reported to **Wokingham District Council on 0118 9746340**.

## Hedgelaying project in Hogmoor Lane

The Society has been awarded a grant to enable the hedge that was planted in 1998 by volunteers to be laid. The grant money has come from the Environmental Trust for Berkshire (landfill tax) and the landowner, The Lady Ingram Trust. Richard Girdler, the local hedge layer, will lay the hedge during November/December this year.

### ***Why lay a hedge?***

Hedge laying is a traditional technique for managing a hedgerow. Hedge laying promotes dense regrowth from the base of the hedge as opposed to flailing which leaves a hedge sparse at the bottom with the majority of regrowth coming from the top, creating a haven for wildlife.

## **Biodiversity survey news**

This summer 3 more Great Crested Newt breeding ponds were found which is further evidence of Hurst being a hot spot for this species. The pair of Barn Owls that bred successfully in Hurst last year hatched two chicks this year. Elsewhere, there was a decline in the number of Barn Owls using the artificial nest boxes for roosting. Nationally, Barn Owls have had a poor year in the south of Britain but have fared better in the North.

## **Parish Council News**

**(from Jan Martin, Chairman)**

### **Community Shelter**

Action has been taken with regard to the shelter, having taken into consideration the comments from the local residents.

### **Townsend Pond**

The Parish Council has employed a local contractor to refurbish and paint the rails around the pond which is a vast improvement.

### **Christmas Tree**

Thanks to a local businessman, the Parish Council is able to provide a Christmas tree for Hurst again this year. With more lights ordered, we hope it will look even more spectacular than last year.

### **Support for Police Activity**

The Parish Council is fully supportive of our local beat officer, Sandy Craske, who held a surgery in the Small Village Hall on Saturday 20th November (see below).

As you will notice from the monthly crime reports submitted by Sandy, which can be viewed on our web site, the majority of crime in Hurst is theft of goods from parked cars. Therefore, we urge you to support the **“Empty car campaign”**.

Visit the Parish Council web site at **[www.hurst-pc.org.uk](http://www.hurst-pc.org.uk)** for further details about Parish Councillors and information about the activities of the Council.

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### **Police Update**

The first Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators meeting was held on Thursday 4th November. Although numbers were lower than anticipated, positive feedback was received from those who did attend. Sandy also held the first of her Surgeries on Saturday 20th November, designed to give residents of Hurst the opportunity to meet her and introduce their children, and also air their views and concerns about policing matters in the village. Sandy is planning to run her next surgery in January and looks forward to meeting more of you then.

There have been 2 non-dwelling burglaries, reports of damage to property and vehicles by ball bearings, and four reported thefts (one of a vehicle from the A321) as well as thefts from vehicles in the village pub car parks.

Non-crime related incidents include two traffic accidents, one in Lodge road and the other in Davis Street. Persons were taken to hospital from both incidents.

**Overall Hurst is still well down on the crime table which is where we want it to stay !**

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### **Residents' Views**

We have had feedback from residents about their concerns over the Community Shelter in the recreation ground, the activities of the youths in the area and the potential impact on the more elderly residents. This remains a concern as does the continual siting of the youth bus in School Road. We understand that these issues are being discussed with the Parish Council.

## Planning Matters

**New access into the field between Lodge Rd and Tape Lane:** On 10 November Wokingham District Council Development Control committee refused the most recent application to move the current illegal and unauthorised access with a wooden five-bar gate away from the oak tree. The reasons for refusal are that this would mean removing more of the important hedge and damage to the street scene. **Thank you to all residents who responded** to the information flier we delivered and turned up at the meeting, as well as those who wrote letters to Wokingham District Council about this matter.

Unfortunately, although this application was refused, the landowner is appealing against Wokingham District Council's refusal earlier this year of a retrospective application for the unauthorised access next to the oak tree. The appeal will be heard in Wokingham in August 2005 and the decision made sometime in the autumn.

The field in question continues to be used for grazing horses, but one watchful resident spotted bore hole drilling on the field in November. This may be connected with a proposal (which has not been applied for) to split the field into plots and sell them off for housing. HVS will continue to watch for developments!

**Manor Farm, Binfield Rd** was the subject of an application for three houses from converted barns and a new-build. HVS objected because this would be intensive development in the countryside. Wokingham District Council refused the plans, and a new application for one house has been made.

**Rosevale, School Rd** is one of the bungalows that Millgate Homes want to destroy and replace with a three-storey house. HVS has objected to this over-bearing, massive house in a semi-rural road, and Wokingham District Council is likely to be considering this application in the next few weeks.

**Houses in back gardens.** The new owner of 1, Laburnums in Whistley Green has applied for a detached house on the tiny plot between 1, Laburnums and A321. HVS objected on the grounds of inappropriate infilling.

Fairbrook, Wokingham Road: HVS objected to a proposal for a large detached house in the garden south of Fairbrook and this was refused by Wokingham District Council. However a revised plan has since been approved.

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### **View from Shute End** **Wokingham Unitary Councillor, Annette Drake, reports:**

We have demonstrated exactly what a strong force we are in Hurst as you can see from the planning update above. Most notable is the battle we have won (bear in mind it is only a battle and not the war!) with the refusal of the application to make a new access into the field between Lodge Road and Tape Lane.

Another major success is that, through the co-operation of the Parish Council and the Hurst village Society, we are getting closer to the time when we will have Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in Hurst (as outlined on the front page).

Thank you all for contacting me with your problems, comments and views. I am happy to help you if I can ! I can be contacted by email at **Anndrk@dsl.pipex.com** or by 'phone on **0118 934 1036**.

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