

# 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. 98**

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

**Christmas 2005**

## **Victory for Tape Lane hedgerow campaign**

Hurst Village Society and local residents were delighted to hear that two appeals against refusal of planning permission for an extra entrance into the field in Tape Lane have been dismissed.

The Planning Inspector, Christine Thorby, dismissed the appeal for the proposed new access a few metres north of the current unlawful access because it would “involve the loss of a section of important hedgerow and this would detract significantly from the character and appearance of Tape Lane.”

She dismissed the appeal for the current unlawful gateway created in February 2004 because continued use of the access so close to the protected Veteran Oak tree would increase risk to its health and survival.

The Inspector wrote: “I conclude that both appeals would result in the damage to or loss of landscape features of acknowledged importance and these are circumstances in which the effect on the character and appearance (of this area) is unacceptable.”

She was also concerned about highway safety, with the current and proposed sites giving little room for large vehicles and trailers to access the field, and risks to safety of school children walking in the road. The appeals would both be contrary to PPS1 (Planning Policy Statement 1) which seeks to ensure the maintenance and improvement of the local environment.

Our work isn't done yet! We now need to lobby Wokingham District Council to ensure the unlawful access is removed, the hedgerow re-planted with appropriate native species and ditch re-opened – without causing further damage to the roots of the Veteran Oak tree.

Hurst Village Society would like to thank local residents and the Parish Council who wrote letters objecting to these proposals, attended and spoke at the appeal hearing, and to Councillor Annette Drake for her support at Development Control meetings and the hearing.

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# Happy Christmas from the Hurst Village Society!

## St Nicholas and St Mary's Churches

Worship and Events Diary, December 2005

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent 9.30 am Holy Communion at St Mary's 11.00am Morning Praise at St Nicholas
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am Eucharist at St Mary's
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent 8.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's 9.30 am Morning Praise at St Mary's 10.45 Holy Communion at St Nicholas
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am Eucharist at St Mary's
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent 9.30 am Holy Communion at St Mary's 11:00 am Morning Praise at St Nicholas 6.30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Nicholas
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	9.30 am Eucharist at St Mary's
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve 4.00 pm Crib Service at St Mary's 6.00 pm Crib Service at St Nicholas 11.30 pm Midnight Communion at St Nicholas
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day 9:30am Holy Communion at St Mary's 11:00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am Eucharist at St Mary's

## Hurst Gospel Hall

The Ladies Evening on **Wednesday 7th December** at **8pm** will include Christmas crafts and hand-made embroidery and lace items from India for sale; proceeds go to the ladies in India who make them.

Carols for everyone on **Sunday 18th December** at **7pm**, followed by light refreshments.

On **Christmas day**, put the turkey in the oven then come along at **10:45am** for just 45 minutes to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

## Christmas Tree for Hurst

Following the success of the last two years the Parish Council plans to erect a Christmas Tree again this year.

Anyone interested in helping with this project please contact **Jan Martin:**

**0118 934 2851** or e-mail [clerk@hurst-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hurst-pc.org.uk)

## St Nicholas Christmas Fair



Please put **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November** in your diaries now. The Hurst Christmas Fair is taking place in the **Large Village Hall** from **2pm to 4pm**. There will be craft items available for early Christmas shopping, games for the children and of course a visit from Father Christmas in his fairytale grotto. The Hurst Village Society is running their traditional bran tub and the Brownies will be selling craft items and running games. The PTA will have craft items and the Playgroup will be there with the ever popular “Water or Wine?” game.

There will of course be a raffle with a weekend for two at a Brook Hotel as 1<sup>st</sup> prize with a meal for four at the Compleat Angler in Marlow coming a close 2<sup>nd</sup>. Other prizes include a meal at the New Mill, Eversley and a box of Riverford Organic vegetables.

Please come along and support this event. Money raised will go to the Church and Restoration fund. It's a great chance to catch up with fellow villagers, let the kids have some fun and get ahead with the Christmas shopping. For further information or offers of help, please call **Caroline Speer** on **0118 934 3886**.

### Hurst Brownies

For the first time in ten years Hurst Brownies won the District Swimming Cup on 7<sup>th</sup> October. When they last won it they shared first place with Charvil Pack. 2005 is the first time they have won it outright in their own name. Well done Brownies!

On 20<sup>th</sup> October they had a sponsored 26 minutes of Dancing/Movement in aid of Children with Leukaemia.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November they took part in the District Fun and Sports day in Hurst Village Hall to a theme of Fireworks!!

Further Brownie details can be obtained from Caroline Speer:

**[carriespeer@waitrose.com](mailto:carriespeer@waitrose.com)**

# Buying locally produced food and drink

## Reducing food miles and enjoying the taste of really fresh quality produce

More people want to know where they can buy locally produced food and drink – and there are a couple of useful websites to help you find the shops and markets.

[www.local-food.net](http://www.local-food.net) is the website of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire (BBO) Food Groups. They publish an annual Food Guide, which is free and contains lots of information about where to buy local produce.

[www.tvfm.org.uk](http://www.tvfm.org.uk) is the website for Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative. TVFMC runs dozens of markets, including Reading on the first and third Saturday each month. This is located in Great Knolly's Street. There is car parking behind the market, either free in the auctioneer's area or paid-for in Reading Borough Council car park a few yards away.

You can search both websites for more information about producers whose products are now on sale in Hurst. Two Hoots Farmhouse Cheese is sold in P&D Jennings butchers (and at Reading's Farmers' Market), along with lamb from Hurst and eggs from Theale. The Hurst Bakery and Provisions now sells wines from the Valley Vineyard at Stanlake Park and ales from the Loddon Brewery. The Binfield Vineyard features on the BBO Food Groups website.

Woodley Town Council runs a monthly farmers' market in Coronation Square on the third Wednesday of the month. Wokingham Town Council runs a monthly farmers' market in the Market Square on the first Thursday of the month.

Reading-based True Food Co-op now has sales of organic food and household materials at the URC Church Hall, Church Street, Twyford on second and fourth Wednesdays from 5pm to 8.15pm. Take along your own containers to refill with organic rice, meusli, dried fruit and nuts etc. In addition to fresh fruit and vegetables, there is a wide range of packet and tinned goods including tea and coffee, and household items such as washing powder and toilet rolls. [www.truefood.coop/truefood.html](http://www.truefood.coop/truefood.html)

## Recycling unwanted possessions!

They don't all have to go to the tip or in the skip outside the Village Hall!

Liz Chaderton from Whistley Green is a member of the East Berkshire Freecycle Network. This network, which operates via the Yahoo Groups on the Internet, enables people to offer unwanted things to people who do want them. No money changes hands – this is a free exchange of goods.

A recent list of offers included: kitten food, a unicycle, and a toolbox. The list of wanted goods included: a tumble dryer and leaves and grass cuttings for composting.

To join the Network go to [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eastberks\\_freecycle/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eastberks_freecycle/) and click on the "**Join the Group**" button. This goes to the Yahoo Groups page where you can sign up for **free membership** of the network. You then have access to the list of messages that shows items currently available. There are 1,115 members in the East Berkshire Freecycle Network.

## Hurst in the 1940s (part II)

In 1941, having survived much of the Blitz in Chelsea, Ted Lukey moved with his mother and sister to live in Tape Lane. In our June 2005 newsletter Ted recalled some memories of his time in the village. Here is the next instalment:

“My sister went to the girls school and I went to the school at the bottom of Church Hill. Mr Green (always smartly dressed) had a Morris 8, which he kept in a garage at the back of the school near his garden and actually gave my mother and I a lift once. I used to wonder where he got the petrol from as there was no petrol for private vehicles in those times.”

“At the top of Tape lane on the right there were allotments and Hurst school owned some and we were taken there and taught to grow things (dig for victory was the motto as I remember) I grew potatoes and shallots. I had never seen shallots being a Chelsea boy!”

“Nearby was the village hall which used to show Ministry of Information films and Laurel and Hardy, I can even remember I saw a film called The Haunted House there. It was always a great event when there were films on and my sister and I looked forward for weeks.”

“Also in the village was a general store called "Luffs" I think, and it had a grey petrol pump outside - it was pool petrol then with no brands due to the war.”

“American G.I.s appeared on the scene and I had never seen coloured people before. They called at certain houses in Tape Lane at all hours - I used to wonder why...”

“I remember my father (a great cricket fan) going to watch cricket at the village ground and I am sure he told me that Mr Palmer of "Huntley and Palmer" played there and was a big hitter sometimes putting the ball in the pond. I also believe that bombs fell on the cricket field at one time.”

“Before I sign off I would like to know if you have any knowledge of this - As you turned into the road leading to the Green Man there was a huge stripped tree trunk probably about 2 foot girth at the right hand side of the road one end was hinged and the other end had a wheel on it. It was always locked in position at the side of the road. On the other side of the road was some form of bracket and it was obvious even at my age then that it could be wheeled across the road and secured blocking the road. What was the purpose of this, I have heard that it was in case of invasion? Have you any knowledge?”

If you are interested in Ted's memories of Hurst, then you can read more about our village on the Village Society website ([www.hvs.org.uk](http://www.hvs.org.uk)). If you have similar memories and can answer any of Ted's questions, then please get in touch with him via the link on the website, or talk to **Duncan Kendall**.

### The Design for Hurst

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, **The Design For Hurst**, the Parish Design Statement, was approved by Wokingham District Council in the Spring of this year.

It is now available on both the Parish Council and the HVS web sites and in printed form for **£5 collected or £6 posted**. Call **Howard Larkin** on **0118 934 2172** to arrange collection or posting.

# Parish Council News

From **Jan Martin**, Chairman of Hurst Parish Council - contactable on **0118 934 2851**

## New Member of the Parish Council

We are very pleased to announce that Elizabeth Roberts has become the latest member to join the Parish Council. Elizabeth has recently moved into the village and is keen to get involved in local issues within Hurst.

## Young people in Hurst

Debbie Coleman and her team of Youth Workers continue to visit Hurst each Tuesday evening bringing the outdoor Mobile Youth Facility when it is available.

Debbie, with the support of the Parish Council, is trying to set up a **Friday evening Youth Club**. Any parents interested in helping please contact:

**Jan Martin** on **0118 934 2851** or **Debbie Coleman** on **07808 143631**.

## A PCSO for Hurst

Hurst welcomes its first **Police Community Support Officer Jackie Daniels**, who joined the Twyford team on 26th September 2005. Her area will be Sonning, Charvil and Hurst and she can be contacted on **0118 953 6424** which is the new number for Twyford Police Station.

PCSO's are civilian members of staff who are employed, managed and tasked by the police and are a welcome addition to the police family. They will provide reassurance and visibility in areas that need it the most and will have certain powers, which will enable them to enforce the law and increase **Community Safety** with a uniformed presence. They will complement the work of police officers by focusing predominantly on lower-level crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

## Maintenance Work on School Road Play Equipment

The Parish Council commissioned repair work to be carried out on the play equipment at the School Road recreation ground and are pleased to advise that the work has now been completed.

## New Parish Council Notice Boards

The new notice boards are now in place at the three sites within the village.

## **October Crime Update by PSCO Jackie Daniels**

There have been a number of burglaries in recent months where vehicle keys and, subsequently, cars have been stolen. The majority have been overnight, so please make sure windows and doors are locked. These incidents are being investigated, but here is a quick tip: take your keys and handbags, etc to bed with you at night. Just a small preventative measure like this could make all the difference.

Pub and supermarket car parks are still being targeted with thefts from motor vehicles, so please do not leave valuables in the boot or on show.

Please continue to contact me for whatever reason, or to inform me of any events you feel are relevant. I can be contacted at Twyford Police Station on **0118 953 6424**. The number for non-emergency police matter is **0845 8505505**.

## **View from Shute End**

### **Wokingham District Councillor, Annette Drake, reports:**

#### **NHS Foundation Trust Status**

The Government is making proposals to change the NHS, one of which involves a bid from the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH) for Foundation Trust status.

The concept behind Foundation Trust Hospitals is to increase the opportunity for local people to have a meaningful say in the operation of their local acute hospital. It is Government policy that all provider trusts *must* become Foundation Trusts by 2008. In summary:

- An NHS Foundation Trust is a completely new kind of NHS organisation
- Local people will have a real say in running their local hospital by becoming members
- The NHS become accountable to local people rather than to politicians in central government
- The Trust is accountable through a members' council
- Trusts are still accountable to Parliament
- This is not a privatisation of the NHS
- Trusts are free to capitalise on local resources and their own financial success.

As Chairman of the Health Select Committee I would be interested in your comments on this proposal.

#### **Tape Lane - Refusal of the retention of the field access**

I would particularly like to pay tribute to Wendy Tobitt, who spoke so well and in a very informed manner on the environmental impact the proposal would have, with the destruction of the ancient hedgerow and the probable damage to the veteran oak. I would also like to mention the residents who were present and very supportive: Wayne Smith from the Parish Council, Professor David Bassett, Mr & Mrs Davis, Mrs Prince and Mr John Wolff. My sincere thanks to you all; without your help and support the outcome would have been very different.

### **Hurst Baby & Toddler Group – What's On & Volunteer Needed**

Hurst's Baby & Toddler group is open every Wednesday from 10-12 (including holidays) in the Large Village Hall.

We have a number of different visitors to the sessions. Coming up this autumn/winter we have Usbourne Books, Phoenix Cards, a company taking videos of your child driving a car, Feet of Clay who make hand and foot imprints and are also bringing a mobile pottery painting service (ideal Christmas Presents!) and our Christmas Party which will include a visit from Santa on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Volunteer Needed!** We are looking for someone to help out with refreshments for the group. This would involve just 1 hour each Wednesday morning. If you can help us even if it's not every week we would love to hear from you. If you have any further questions please contact our Toddler Co-ordinator **Rebecca Vaughan** on **0118 932 0667**.

## Hurst Village Society Committee Members

David Bingham	3 Whistley Court Farm	0118 932 1267	Treasurer
david.bingham@wolseley.com			
Val Bowman	Little Farm, Hogmoor Lane	0118 932 1420	
vbowman51@aol.com			
Eddie Coe	4 Lodge Road	0118 934 5103	Membership
eddiecoe@talk21.com			
Duncan Kendall	6 Tape Lane	0118 934 2852	Web site
dk-hvs@bdksol.co.uk			
Wayne Smith	Woodville, Wokingham Road	0118 934 0840	Skills register
wayne.x.smith@centrica.co.uk			
Janet Spiller	3 Hogmoor Lane	0118 934 2438	Environment
janetspiller16@aol.com			
Brian Thomas	The Retreat, Forest Road	01344 453256	Secretary
brian_thomas55@hotmail.com			
Wendy Tobitt	17 Martineau Lane	0118 934 2381	Planning
wendy_tobitt@compuserve.com			
Jane Tweddle	Brer Lodge, Davis Street	0118 934 2487	Editor
cjtweddle@aol.com			
Sheila Whittaker	Apple Tree Cottage, Hogmoor Lane	0118 932 1937	
frank.whittaker@lineone.net			
Nick Willson	The Gables, Wards Cross	0118 934 0319	Chairman
nm.willson@virgin.net			
Ex-officio:			
Annette Drake,	Walden Acres, Wokingham Road	0118 934 1036	WDC Councillor
anndrk@dsl.pipex.com			

*Published by the Hurst Village Society.*  
*Chairman: Nick Willson, The Gables, Wards Cross, Hurst, RG10 0DS*  
*Tel: 0118 934 0319*  
**www.hvs.org.uk**