

the **Hurst**

ISSUE 1

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2018



Ellerhoop... not just
a name on a sign!

What's going on in Hurst Green • News, views and information

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of the new Hurst Green Parish Magazine.

We cannot go further without saying a huge thank you to Bob and Mandy Janes for their tireless commitment to the previous magazine which was produced and delivered to most homes in the village for the past 7 years. I am sure it is a mixed blessing letting go of something you have given so much to, maybe a portion of relief with a side order of regret? Thank you Bob and Mandy, you deserve a rest!

The aim of this quarterly publication is to bring news, views and information to the residents of Hurst Green. There is a lot going on in the village and the vision for this magazine is to join up the dots and showcase the variety of activities and events which sometimes don't get the publicity they deserve. Despite the Facebook page and the Nextdoor social networking plus various banners and posters displayed from time to time, getting information and publicity out there can be challenging. There may be a huge busy road running through our village but we are a community of ordinary people with varied interests, hopes and dreams.

I hope this magazine will help to link us up and bring the village together as we find out more about who's who and what goes on here.

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of this magazine, please email me: Annabelle Blackaby at:

thehurst.hg@gmail.com by 30th July

Editor: Annabelle Blackaby Design: John Hawkins
Print: Fastprint Hastings

USEFUL CONTACTS

Allotment Association
01580 860251

Brownies
01580 860742

Comedy Capers
01580 860221

Community Shop
01580 860070

Holy Trinity Church
01580 880282 (Vicar)/ 01580 860649

Hurst Green C of E School
01580 860373

Nursery School
01580 860375 x211

Parish Clerk
01580 860111

Rother District Council
01424 787000

Short Mat Bowling
01424 773478

Twinning Assoc.
01580 860977

Village Hall Booking Agent
01580 860111/860425



Limited number of places left in our Nursery!

There are just a few spaces left available at our popular Nursery based in purpose-built modern facilities at Hurst Green C of E Primary School.

Our friendly, qualified and experienced team provides exciting learning experiences and opportunities for children from age 2 until they transition to Primary School at around 5 years old.

Claim your 15 or 30 hours of Government-funded childcare here!

We welcome children from Hurst Green and all surrounding villages.

If you would like further information or would like to visit us please contact the Nursery Manager, Sheila, on (01580) 860375 - we'd love to meet you and your child.



Ellerhoop...

not just a name on a sign!



Thursday May 31st sees the arrival of a group of visitors from Hurst Green's twinned village of Ellerhoop.

They will be staying in

the village for four days, visiting London and enjoying the annual village fete on Saturday 2nd June. This is a biennial event, with a return visit for residents of Hurst Green planned for next year.

The twinning of the two villages is now over 30 years old, with the first idea forming as early as 1980. Since that time, successive generations of "Ellerhoopers" and "Hurst Greeners" have visited each other's homes and villages, making lifelong friendships in the process. My family and I have been involved in the project since 2011 and have visited Germany twice. My children, aged 5 and 8, have made friends with those we visited, learned some German and experienced a different country and culture.

Ellerhoop is a beautiful village in North West Germany, in the state of Schleswig Holstein, and about 20 miles north of the major city of Hamburg. Like Hurst Green, it is surrounded by countryside, with the wild North Sea coast nearby with breath-taking scenery and beautiful beaches, while the historic city of Lubeck lies to the east. The bustling city of Hamburg is a must-see location, with galleries, shops and fantastic places to eat.

This year the planned events for our guests are as follows:

Thursday 31st May Arrival and reception with refreshments at the village hall from 4pm- all welcome.



Friday 1st June Visit to London by train for guests and hosts.

Saturday 2nd June Hurst Green Summer Fete, followed by a relaxed social event in the village hall from 6pm for guests, their hosts and any villagers who want to come. There will be food, music, games and entertainment for children too.

Sunday 3rd June Free day with a BBQ planned for the evening from 5pm. Hosts and visitors only.

Monday 4th June Visitors return home.

It would be great to have more local people involved in this project; please feel free to speak to me at the village fete on Saturday 2nd June, where I will have a Twinning Association stall.

Joe Roper Twinning Association Organiser

HURST GREEN ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

A Tribute to Keith Harrison

With the allotment gardens now in their tenth year, it is clear that this is a much appreciated and popular addition to our village amenities. This initiative was started by Keith Harrison with the support of Hurst Green Parish Council.

Keith worked tirelessly to build support from villagers and provided the knowledge to set up the Allotment Association, which continues to flourish. There is little doubt that without Keith's commitment and enthusiasm, the village would not have this facility to enjoy today. He is greatly missed and we would like to take this opportunity to pay public tribute for all Keith contributed to village life.

For those who are unaware of our allotment gardens, they are situated on the A21 to the south of the village. Currently all the plots are taken and with the warmer weather, many people are busy preparing the ground and planting their crops.

There is an excellent spirit of mutual help, with advice being sought and given in equal measures. We have a good mix of experienced allotment plot holders along with many who are facing the challenges of an allotment plot for the first time.

The provision of water helps to make the plots productive. With the addition of car standing spaces, all the facilities are in place to continue to make this a highly successful venture. If you would like to be added to our waiting list, please contact me, or any member of the committee.

Maureen Harniman Treasurer



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Letter from the Vicar

I read an article this week which said that according to research done by the Prince's Trust, many young people in Britain today are unhappy and lack confidence in themselves and their future. Some of the reasons given are: student debt, lack of mental health resources, lack of housing, social media, loneliness and Brexit. There also appears to be much greater academic pressure placed on young people than I ever experienced, and I really feel for them. It seems as well that society is becoming more and more fragmented, with gaps opening between the generations. Brene Brown, research professor at the University of Houston, who is a Christian, talks about the deep and sometimes bitter divisions that have come about between groups of people, communities and sometimes families over the election of Trump in the States and over the EU referendum in Britain.

Feelings over these issues run very high, people feel incredibly strongly about them and are easily angered by those holding an opposing view. In her book *Braving the Wilderness*, Brene Brown says that we are in danger of dehumanising those who hold opposing views to us and that we all need the courage to 'embrace our humanity'. It is not enough, she says, to agree to disagree, it is important to stay in conversation with those we disagree with, to push through our own vulnerabilities (we all have them!) and stay civil. It is important to ask others, not only what they think, but why they believe what they believe and feel the way that they do. We must ask the question, "why is this important to you" and really listen to the answer (not just be preparing our own comeback while the other person is talking).

It is possible, and healthy, to be in relationship with people who have vastly different opinions to us, to respect and accept those opinions, to understand why they are important and know that each person is so much more than their political leanings. It may not be easy, but it is possible. It requires us to be secure and confident of who we are and why we believe what we believe and at the same time try to value, listen to, understand, accept and care for others, even those very different from ourselves. Perhaps then we can begin to get back to living in caring communities where no-one of any age feels lonely, isolated or fearful of the future.

If you would like to talk to me then please catch me at the Robertsbridge Club, 9.30-11.30am on 1st and 3rd Thursdays, at the Salehurst Halt, 12-1pm on 3rd Thursdays or at Hurst Green Community Shop 9.30-11.30am on 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Alternatively feel free to give me a ring or email me.

God bless, Rev Annette
annette@jhbd.co.uk 01580 880282 / 07900 332791



Holy Trinity Hurst Green

WEEKLY SERVICES

1st Sunday • 9am • Holy Communion
2nd Sunday • 9am • Breakfast Church
3rd Sunday • 4pm • All Age Worship
4th Sunday • 9am • Holy Communion
5th Sunday • 9am • Morning Prayer
www.hurstgreenhtc.org



Your village team, Hurst Green Cricket Club, have played on the Drewett Cricket Field behind the Eurasia Restaurant for more than 100 years.

The club are looking for local players of all abilities, ladies and gents, to join us for friendly games on Sunday afternoons.

Ideal if you've been out of the game for a while and are wanting to play again, or don't want the commitment of playing league cricket.

The club also welcomes anyone wanting to help out anyway they can – to score or umpire the games, or to help out around the ground and keep it looking great for everyone who uses it.

FIXTURES (keep an eye on the village's Facebook group page for updates)

| Date | Opposition/Venue |
|-------------|-------------------|
| May 6th | Eridge/Away |
| June 10th | Netherfield/Home |
| June 17th | Clive Vale/Home |
| June 24th | Etchingam/Home |
| July 1st | Knockers/Home |
| July 8th | Langton Green/TBC |
| July 22nd | London Rams/Home |
| August 5th | Etchingam/Home |
| August 26th | Pakenham XI/Home |

Contact hurstgreenc@gmail.com or **Ian Hirst** on 07796 976809 to find out more.



Do you have a daughter or granddaughter who is aged between 7 and 10 years old who

would like to make new friends, have fun and grow her confidence? Then she might like to join the Brownies.

Girls in Brownies have incredible experiences together, make brilliant friends and discover the world around them. They learn new skills and take on challenges such as Disability Awareness, Firework Safety, Cupcake Challenge and Cooking and Craft. They also have a chance to go have trips out and a holiday which can include a night walk and fun on a zip wire not to mention singing dancing and joke telling to entertain the residents of Burghwood House!

1st Hurst Green Brownies meet in Hurst Green Village Hall one evening a week during school term time and it costs £2.00 subscription per meeting.

So if you think you know a girl who would be interested in joining us you can register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/

Susan Eyres Brownie Leader



THE VILLAGE HALL

We are very lucky to have a community space in the Village Hall. Keeping it open and available for the wide range of groups and classes that use it every week relies on the Parish Council and the fundraising efforts of the Village Hall committee.

As well as regular events such as Comedy Capers' productions, Panto and Children in Need, the hall can also be booked for your own use, birthday parties, weddings etc. The building houses two halls, the larger one includes a stage. There is a kitchen which can cater for 80, and an in house bar. There are also toilets and baby changing facilities.

We've got big plans for the hall this year, including replacing the oven and redecorating inside and out, but we need your help to make it happen. We will be fundraising to help pay for the materials and we plan to do the painting ourselves to reduce costs. If you would like to help please call Sue on 01580 860425.

The committee is busy organising the Hurst Green Village Summer Fete on Saturday 2 June, from 1-5pm at the playground on Station Road. This is a community event with a bar, live music, food, sheep racing, rides, stalls and more! There is also a Bingo night planned by the School and Nursery for Saturday 23rd June at 7.30pm.

For more info or to get in touch please give us a like at www.facebook.com/hurstgreenvillagehall

What's on at your village hall?

Mondays Brownies meet at 6pm
Short mat bowls at 8pm

Tuesdays Pilates at 9am
Over 50's friendship club meet during the warmer months
Jive at 7pm
Parish council meetings last Tuesday of every month

Wednesdays Upholstery adult education classes 10:30am
Pilates at 7pm
Historical society meet once a month at 7:30pm

Thursdays Pilates 9am
Short mat bowls 2pm
Jump squad 6:30pm
Zumba 8pm

Saturday Yoga 10am

Parish Council Who and What?

Councillors: Graham Browne, Andrew Brown, Bob Janes, Derek Johnson, John Duddridge, Steve Wright, David Hilbourne.
Parish Clerk: Janet Ellis 01580 860111

The parish council meets on the last Tuesday of each month in the village hall. Each councillor has responsibilities for various areas of the village from crime prevention, footpaths and street lighting to bus shelters, playing fields and dog waste! Go to:

www.hurstgreen-pc.org.uk for more info.

Hurst Green is currently producing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan is a legal document that allows local people to have a say in the future development of the village.

A Steering Group for the Neighbourhood Plan is in the process of being formed. If you would like to volunteer to get involved, please do contact either the Clerk or any of the Councillors. We would be delighted to hear from you.

There is an ongoing dialogue with our MP Huw Merriman, the government minister for roads and Highways England, about the condition and dangers of our roads A21, A229 and A265. The Parish Council will never give up lobbying!

Community Shop, Café and Post Office

Many Happy Returns!

The community shop was 5 years old on 13th May 2018. Can you believe it? But the planning of this sterling community project goes back a few more years than that.



More recent residents to the village may not appreciate that this unusual building was formerly a Roman Catholic Church – the land had been given to the church by Lord Longford (living in the house behind at the time) in the 1960's. With congregations diminishing the church closed in 2008, at the same time that the small village shop on the A21 closed.

The family gifted the land to the church but were happy to offer the site to the village for a community purpose. In 2009 the Parish Council actioned a plan to resurrect a shop in the village, recognising the unique potential of this church building – with its spacious garden, car parking, perfectly situated in the heart of the village beside the village hall and the playground.

Fast forward through lease agreements, grant applications, building works and a recruitment drive for the manager and volunteers, to the delivery of our beautifully fitted out shop, café and post office.

"It's the best thing that's happened to this village for years" – village resident

So what makes this project special?

- **It's a village 'hub':** with few retail amenities in the village and two busy roads it's hard for residents to integrate. They can now.

- **Living alone or without a car:** the shop and café has become a lifeline. Some drop in every day.
 - **For young people:** it has provided work experience for your teenagers from 14+, they gain customer service and personal development skills for their all-important CV personal profiles.
 - **A place of employment:** over 5 years it has provided local employment for a number of people.
 - **Apprenticeships:** one young person has been trained up under the apprenticeship scheme, rising into the position of shift manager!
- "The village asked for a shop. They have got their shop. And so much more."**

- **Volunteering:** the pleasure of "giving something back" is proven to enhance personal wellbeing.
- **A volunteer's remark:** *"After 15 years living in the village before the shop opened I knew 20-30 people. Now I know 100!"*
- **For new residents:** a number of the volunteers signed up to volunteer shortly after moving into the village – it's the fastest way to meet people. Just a 2 hour slot once a week is all it takes!
- **The Post Office:** the PO counter stays open 7 days a week – what service for a small village! And it has an ATM for cash withdrawals.
- **The garden:** a huge asset to the café. And children love the space, the trikes, wendy house, slide, table tennis.
- **Christmas time:** not many village shops have a stunning cone shaped 25ft

holly bush longing to be dressed up for Christmas. This shop does! The shop now plays host to the popular village carols event every year together with mulled wine, soup and mince pies on the house.

Hello, my name is Clare Vidler and I am the Manager and have been since we opened 5 years ago on the 20th May 2013. There are 4 other paid staff members who have various roles from Shift Supervisor, Relief Manager, Weekday & Weekend Cooks.

The rest of the staff are made up of a fantastic group of volunteers and Board members, who all give up their time to help make this happen. Volunteers

commit to anything from 1 hour to a 5 hour shift and all have their own reasons for supporting the shop. Most commonly it is to meet new people and feel part of their village.

If this is something you would like to do, please feel free to pop in and have a chat with one of our team members.

As the weather is getting warmer, the outside tables provide a relaxing environment to enjoy a drink, snack or a meal and there is a selection of children's toys to keep the young ones occupied. Look forward to seeing you soon!



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RENEW

Charity Shop at Holy Trinity Church

When the church reopened just over 4 years ago there were just a few of us meeting twice a month in a chilly building with no toilet or inside running water and no Vicar!

We are now a growing fellowship with services every Sunday, a fabulous toilet and kitchen area, heating, a Vicar and a great team of people who help maintain the building and churchyard. Whether you have a faith in God or not, the church is here to serve the village, meet the spiritual and often practical needs of the people.

The main reason we have started **RENEW** is to raise funds to help with the maintenance of the building which needs quite a lot of ongoing repair work. But that

is not all; it enables us to open the doors every Wednesday, serve some great coffee and cake and be a place where anyone can come, have a warm welcome and make new friends. Here is a date for your diary: Friday 15th June at 7.30pm we will be holding a Fashion Show. Tickets will be on sale in the Community Shop for £2 which includes a glass of Prosecco and snacks. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project so far, onwards and upwards...!

Holy Trinity Church Hurst Green

presents a *Cat Walk Show* –

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Sarah's Pop up Children's Bookshop

Have a look at Sarah's Books!

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I live in Hurst Green and have a stock of books for ages from birth to young adult; fiction and non-fiction, activity books, jigsaw puzzle sets, magic painting and educational books supporting your child's learning. Check out my website:

<http://org.usbornebooksathome.co.uk/thatsmypopupbookshop>

I have a Pop up Children's Bookshop, offer storytelling, painting and colouring activities in local markets, events and venues and have done themed events such as space and nature. You can also host a book party in your home, tailor made to your requirements day or evening. As a thank you, the party host receives:

- 10% of the total value of sales/orders in FREE books
- a FREE book from that month's choice
- a half price book of their choice if another party is booked within six weeks

One of my favourite jobs is delivering the FREE books to the school – they simply cannot believe the amount they get.

You can contact me via: www.facebook.com/thatsmypopupbookshop or on 07717681972. I look forward to getting more books into the hands of children.

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If you would like to receive a printed copy, please complete this form and return it to **The Community Shop**. It will then be delivered to your door.

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Alternatively there will be copies in the shop, church, school and village hall

If you wish to be removed from the database please contact thehurst.hg@gmail.com

Full data protection policy will be on the Holy Trinity church website soon