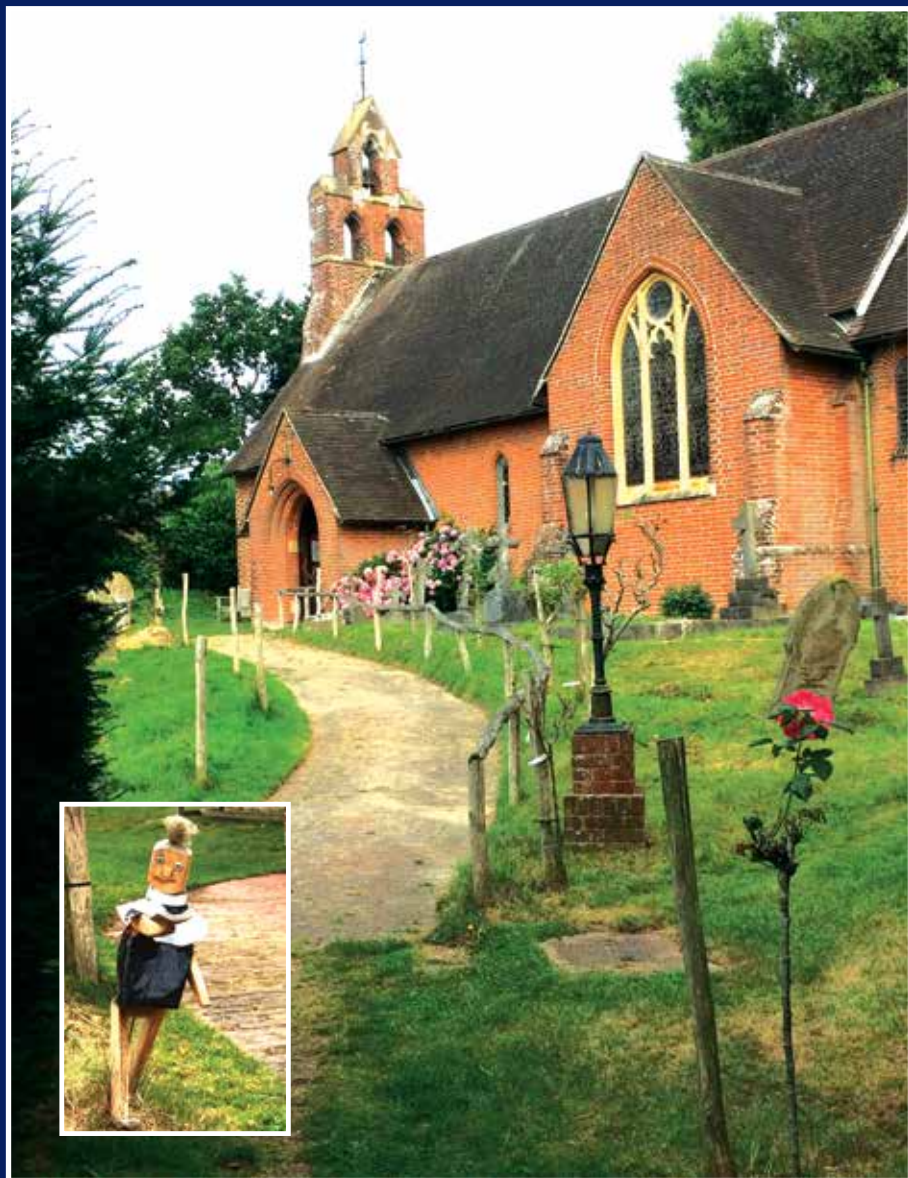


the Hurst

ISSUE 3

DEC/JAN/FEB 2018-19



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

EDITORIAL

Spoilt for choice

For a small village of less than 1300 people we can boast a great variety of Take Away food outlets! The Clay Pot for a tasty curry, Manyee for traditional Fish and Chips or a Chinese dish, Eurasia offering speciality Asian food, and Pizza Cucina is back on Tuesdays from 4.30 – 8pm outside the village hall! Not forgetting our very own burger van, Pete's Wagon, which is open during the day. You can also get hot drinks and food to go from the Community Shop/ Café and Eggs to Apples. Another good aspect of Hurst Green living!

For just over a year we have been running a Charity Shop in the church on Wednesdays.

RENEW was born out of an idea to make more use of the church building, raise funds to keep the structure repaired and be another local meeting place. Some of the designer labels and good quality high street brands have been adorning the rails throughout this time plus all sorts of knickknacks, but we haven't really seen a great influx of customers. So in the New Year we will regroup, relaunch and revive **RENEW**. Meanwhile, there will be a Christmas Market at the church on Saturday 8th December, 10am–3pm with a chance to find a festive frock, some homemade sweets and preserves, cards, books and crafts plus mulled wine and mince pies. The school will also be holding their Christmas Fair from 11am–2pm so once again we are spoilt for choice!

Annabelle Blackaby

thehurst.hg@gmail.com

The deadline for the next issue of the *Hurst* is 31st January

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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 860375
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

Footpaths – an overview...

The Editor is right in her Editorial last quarter to highlight the health benefits and joy to be found walking in the beautiful countryside which surrounds Hurst Green. Its name originates from the

Saxon word 'hurst' meaning 'rising ground topped by woodland'. When out walking you can imagine the generations that have gone before, seeking a way through dense woodland to their destination. There are many footpaths in Hurst Green which can be seen on the maps of Ancient Woodland and Public Green Spaces at hurstgreen-pc.org.uk/neighbourhoodplan.

Public footpath facts

1. Footpaths were created by people walking across the land to work, market, the next village, church and school.
2. Public footpaths are open only to walkers.
3. Public bridleways are open to walkers, horse riders, non-motorised vehicles such as bicycles and horse drawn carriages.
4. Today a public footpath is legally part of the Queen's Highway and subject to the same protection in law as all the highways, including trunk roads.
5. It is the Highway Authority's statutory duty to record, manage, maintain, protect and change public rights of way (but they don't unless pushed)

Parish Councils are given certain powers

1. Maintain any footpaths which are maintainable.
2. Create new footpaths in agreement with the land owner.
3. Signpost and way mark public paths.
4. Erect lighting on a footpath where appropriate, e.g. where a footpath leads to a bus stop.

Walkers' rights

1. It is a legal right to 'pass and repass

along the way'. You may stop to rest or admire the view, providing you stay on the path and do not cause an obstruction.

2. You may take a pram or pushchair.
3. You can take a manual wheelchair or mobility scooter if the surface is suitable.
4. You can take a dog with you, provided it is under control.

Walkers' responsibilities

1. Do not disturb or harm any wildlife, particularly ground nesting birds.
2. Take care not to disturb or dig up wild flowers.
3. Do not drop litter.
4. Keep dogs under control on the footpath.
5. Clear up your dog's poop out of respect for other walkers.

Landowners' responsibilities

1. Paths must be way marked to make the route clear.
2. Keep the path clear of vegetation.
3. Avoid obstructing the path.
4. Do not cultivate (e.g. plough) footpaths or bridleways that follow a field edge.
5. If a cross field path is ploughed it has to be reinstated.
6. Gates and stiles must be kept safe.
7. Bulls over 10 months old are banned by law.

Helpful information

Free online Ordnance Survey maps showing public footpaths, bridleways, and other rights of way are available online at footpaths.com and at outdoor shops. The map of the High Weald, Ordnance Survey Explorer 136, covers Hurst Green. The Countryside Code's online version can be found at Gov.UK. The rambling organisation *Ramblers* is at ramblers.co.uk.

Follow the Countryside Code – Respect, Protect, Enjoy

Wood you believe it?!

These carvings which sometimes appear mysteriously in strategic places around the village are none other than the work of Tim Croft. With off cuts of oak or tulip wood which most of us would use to light our fires, he fashions the most intricate and detailed figures, depicting local folk and their stories. Farmer Browne driving his tractor with his dog, a shepherd watching the sheep, the vicar preaching from the Bible to name but a few.



Tim has lived here all his life, working on a farm until he was 22 then in the Gypsum mine. His talent with wood is completely self-taught and he possesses no specialised tools. He began carving the figures about 20 years ago but long before that on a particular Valentines day, having forgotten to buy his wife a card, he created a heart tree! Even his bed is hand made with wood from a Douglas Fir tree which he gathered from Leeds Castle, after the storm of 1987.

Thank you Tim for letting us share your amazing gift and now, when we see a little wooden person, we will know where it comes from!



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Letter from the Vicar

470 words

God bless, **Rev Annette**

annette@jhbd.co.uk 01580 880282 / 07900 332791

If you would like to talk to me then please catch me at Hurst Green Community Shop 9.30-11.30am on 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Or feel free to give me a ring or email me.



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**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS

Saturday 8th Dec Renew Xmas Market 10am-2pm
Sunday 9th Dec Breakfast Church at 9am
Sunday 9th Dec Village carols 4pm at the shop
Thursday 13th Dec School carols 4pm at the church
Sunday 16th Dec Carols & Christingles at 4pm
Sunday 23rd Dec Holy Communion at 9am
Christmas Day Holy Communion at 9am?
Sunday 30th Dec Morning prayer 9am

www.hurstgreenhtc.org

Under the gazebo...

What a great space we now have at the Community Shop. With funding amounting to £4000 donated by Tesco thanks to the support of local people like you, there is now a beautiful wooden gazebo situated outside the shop. It has already been used as a pop up shop by Renew, Usborne Books, Flamingo Cards and is available for all sorts of events.

The rest of the money has been spent on other garden improvements e.g. plants, although some of them were eaten by some visiting deer. Another of our outside projects, known as 'Dingley Dell', is our Wildlife Garden.



The Wildlife Garden is situated behind the Wendy House and is currently in the development stage which has taken hours of exhausting work clearing out all the stinging plants and litter. Dingley Dell is meant mainly for the village children but, of course, anyone can join in setting it up and running it. Soon we will contact the school and other organisations to see whether they would like to be involved by designing/making animal habitats e.g. hedgehog houses etc.

We have a lovely bird bath which was made by Bob Janes and we have already taken some short videos of the various animals using it! As soon as we are able we will display the best of these videos on the screen in the café.

If you are interested in giving up an hour or two to become a volunteer in the shop, please let Clare, Bob or Mandy know.

The shop can only survive and continue to develop if more people get on board. There are a variety of tasks which don't necessarily involve serving at the till or coffee making, e.g. clearing tables, washing up, shelf stacking, date checking and many more.



A poem by an anonymous author:
Ode to the Community Shop
Sample the coffee, soup and fare
Always a warm greeting you will find in there
Selling goods from stamps to logs
Come in and get your Freddo frogs
The bakery is fresh each day
And very reasonable for what you pay
Come and try our tasty fare
And say 'Hello' to the manager – Clare

Another Successful German Visit

In May, visitors from Ellerhoop, Hurst Green's twinned village in Germany, visited for four days, which coincided with our annual summer fete. The twinning partnership has been active now for over 30 years, and many of the visitors from Germany. As well as their English hosts, have been involved since their childhood.

This year, as well as a visit to London, our German guests enjoyed the summer fete, listening to the live music and watching the traditional East Sussex Morris dancing. Afterwards, a party was held in the village hall, and it was great to see not just people from the twinning association, but also local families and their children at the party. At one point, we had many of the grown ups doing "The Floss", much to the delight of the children! German-themed food was served, including Bratwurst and Bockwurst with Brotchen, Sauerkraut, German Cheesecake (yum!) and German Schnapps, which went down a treat!

During their trip to London, our visitors went to Tower Bridge, the West End and China town, and it was great that so many of our host families were able to come on this trip too.

Next year, it is the turn of Hurst Green to visit Germany, and we are planning to travel there on 06/04–10/04/19. If you are interested in coming with us, please get in contact! Our email address is hurstgreentwinning@gmail.com or you can call 01580 860977 or 07496 390069 for a chat.



English group



German group

A Tribute to Lilian Cruse



As reported in the last issue, Lilian Grace Cruse passed away just before the magazine was released after a long battle with illness.

Though some will not recognise the name, many in the village will know her from various roles from the early days of the Brownies as a helper, the stool ball team, as part of the twinning or village hall committees, short mat bowls, Children in Need and Comedy Capers or many other groups she was involved in over the 50+ years the family have lived in the village.

Lilian was originally raised in Chichester where she was an active member of the Salvation Army, and was also where she met her husband, Robin, the reason she fought as hard as she did over the last months of her life to try to get to their 60th wedding anniversary in September. It is unfortunate that she did not quite make it as it did not take much excuse for her to throw a party.

They moved to the village to allow them to raise their children in the countryside, to teach them the importance of appreciating their surroundings and to learn respect for people and their environment.

Many in the village will at one time or another have been to one of the parties or Bar-B-Ques that were often thrown by Lilian, and many times the house was over full of friends, relations of friends of friends, to a stage where tents were set up in the garden, or Lilian and Robin slept in the kitchen to ensure everyone had a bed for the night.

"In the end it was family she cared for most"

But Lilian was not just a housewife – during the hard times there was not the luxury of doing this, she worked around the area taking any job that she could find, from cleaning jobs to working at the cricket bat factory, but her biggest success came by chance when Little Chef opened their first café on the edge of the village.

Through some luck but mainly dogged determination and hard work, she persuaded them to let her manage the café when it opened, and though it took a lot of her time, Lilian turned it into one of their most successful restaurants in the area, So much so they asked her to go to other Little Chefs to train up the staff there.

But in the end it was family she cared for most, and when the trips started to affect them, she left the company and put her effort and hard work in to the village life and organisations. By this time life



in the village was changing, shops were disappearing such as the bakers, Blinks the butcher, the bike shop and grocers, and the village was growing with the development of Coronation Gardens, Great Oaks, etc.

As the younger generation grew Lilian and others understood that village life had little to offer them and tried to help them by talking to them. Many who are now parents still remember her as the Grandma that picked up her grandchildren, or the lady that made the 'cheese straws', and still talk about her fondly and say how much she is missed.

But Christmas fast approaches, and she always loved this time of year, a time for friends and family to forget their 'troubles and strife' and to come together in joy and happiness. She would always go back to remember we were celebrating the birth of Christianity, but more important was to love, remember and be there for each other.

It will be a hard time for her family this year, especially her husband, she is greatly missed, but we will raise a class of 'port and lemon' or a 'Snowball' to her and Fred Goatcher, and wish them both, and everybody else a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. God bless.

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Unsung Heroes of Hurst Green

Every other week when the refuse bins are collected there is an extra black sack sitting outside the church on the A21. Who puts it there? Whose rubbish is in it?

The answer to these questions is Sharon and our litter. Vicarage Way, Ridgeway and the "twittens" that run between and through the churchyard are kept rubbish free because of the selfless act of this remarkable woman. So if you happen to meet her one day, a word of thanks and appreciation would certainly be in order.



For Sheila retirement doesn't mean sitting around, she is up and off to the Primary school three mornings a week where she helps the children with their literacy. This is such a valuable service and makes all the difference to each individual child who finds reading a challenge.

Sheila's love of children is very evident and they clearly love her too. You would think that she would be happy to have a week off at half term but, no, for the past two years Sheila has been helping at the Holiday Clubs, which has been such a blessing as she is brilliant at organising and leading the craft sessions. So we say a huge thank you to our hero 'Mrs Humphries'.



UP AND COMING EVENTS

A Christmas Market will be at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 8th December from 10am–3pm.

Hurst Green School

Christmas Fair is on Saturday 8th December from 11am–2pm.

Community Carols and Lighting of the Christmas Tree

4pm at the Shop on Sunday 9th December followed

by hot soup and mulled wine and tasty morsels! All welcome.

Carol Service will be on Sunday 16th December at 4pm in Holy Trinity Church, including an impromptu Nativity and Christingles for all ages!

RENEW reopens Wednesday 9th January 9am–12 in Holy Trinity Church

February Half-Term Holiday Club

Tues 19th–Thurs 21st

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY

6pm Brownies

8pm Short Mat Bowls

TUESDAY

9am Pilates

2pm Friendship Club over 50's

7pm Charleston Jive Group

7.30pm Parish Council Meeting – last Tues in month

WEDNESDAY

9am Pilates

10.30am Upholstery Class – term time only

7.30pm Historical Society – 2nd Wednesday in month

THURSDAY

9am Pilates

2pm Short Mat Bowls

6.30pm Bungee Bounce

8pm Zumba

Jive 07766881045

Pilates 07798663820

Short Mat Bowls

01580 860725

RING 01580 860425 FOR MORE DETAILS

Hurst Green Historical Society

Meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the village hall from September to May. All are welcome either as members or a one off visit (£21 membership, £5 single visit).

December's meeting is on 12th December and titled "Mafeking - Baden Powell and the making of a Boy's Own Hero" and will be given by Brigadier Hugh Willing. Do join us, we have too few members from Hurst Green. Contact Mary Newington on 01580 819498 or email: Marynewington@aol.com

Photo: Nick Day

Hurst Green Short Mat Bowls Club

hold their meetings on Monday evenings from 7.30–9.30pm and Thursday afternoons from 2–4pm in the village hall.

The club began in 2000 and was started by Graham Browne, Sue Endean, Fred Dodd and John Playfoot (nicknamed Pringle) with Colin Relf, Morag McLaughlin, Robin Cruse, Kathleen Sherwood and Derek Johnson being among the first members.

These bowling pioneers managed between them to secure various grants which amounted to about £3000 to get the thing started. They went over to Burwash Short Mat Bowling Club to get a feel of how it worked and the rest, as they say, is history! Graham's mum actually started a Junior Club which reached competition level but sadly when she passed away, there was no one to take her place.

Only three of these original members are still playing at the club, Morag, Robin and Colin. Graham is the only original still on the committee and Dave Bruker, who is the current Chairman, got involved in 2010 through his brother in law.

Apart from playing friendly matches each week, club members love a challenge and in January take part in a club competition with matches for ladies and men's singles plus doubles. They play for the Pringle Trophy which is named in memory of John Playfoot one of the founding members who unfortunately died before the project started.

Each Christmas members play in a competition to win a Hamper and a Social eve is held with plenty of food and drink.

Occasionally there are friendly matches against other local clubs such as Marden, Hawkhurst, Horsmonden, Burwash and Crowhurst. These events include



refreshments and are great fun. The annual membership costs just £12 with each session being £2.50 + 20p which is donated to the Air Ambulance. The club are very welcoming and would love to have some new members. If you fancy a try, come along on an afternoon or evening session and get your first 3 games FREE! If you want to know more details, contact Dave Bruker on 01424 773478.



theHurst This quarterly publication, produced by Holy Trinity Church with the Parish Council, will be available on the church website: www.hurstgreenhtc.org

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