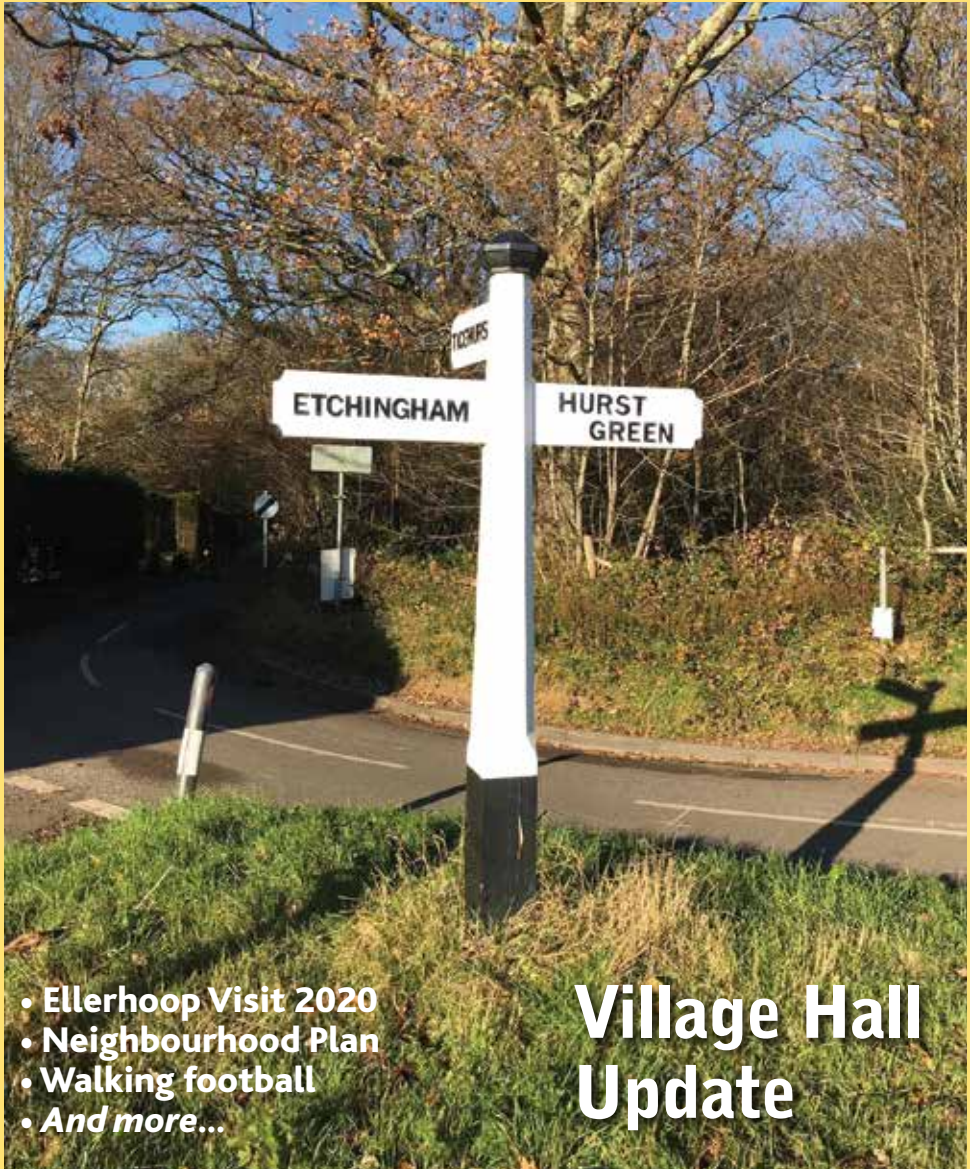


# *the* Hurst

ISSUE 8

MAR/APR/MAY 2020



- Ellerhoop Visit 2020
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Walking football
- *And more...*

## Village Hall Update

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

## EDITORIAL

As I was debating what to write for this 8th edition of the Hurst, an article popped into the inbox and got me thinking about some more unusual pastimes. There are a lot of us who enjoy walking but 'Walking Football', now that sounds fun! Also did you know that the High Weald Archery Club is on our doorstep at Stonehouse Farm, just down Merriments Lane? Check it out at [www.thwac.co.uk](http://www.thwac.co.uk) or maybe you fancy the old Sussex team game of Stoolball dating back to the 15th century. Stoolball is similar to 20/20 cricket with willow bats, small hard ball and two wickets standing at shoulder height about 14 metres apart. Find out about the nearest local club at [www.stoolball.org.uk/brightling](http://www.stoolball.org.uk/brightling).

A year ago, in response to the growing need amongst families who are living in poverty, we launched a couple of Hygiene Bank boxes in the village. Since then we have added a Food Bank box for the Hastings Foodbank. If you would like to donate items for either or both boxes, they are situated in the church. Tinned and packet food, cartons of long-life milk and juice; shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet rolls and sanitary items will all make a huge difference to a struggling family. The church is open on Wednesday mornings from 10am-12 or Sundays 9-11am. There are also donation boxes in Sainsburys St Leonard's, Morrisons Hastings and Jempson's funeral directors in Battle. Every little helps!

**Annabelle Blackaby**  
[thehurst.hg@gmail.com](mailto:thehurst.hg@gmail.com)

The copy deadline for the next issue of *the Hurst* is 30th April

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## USEFUL CONTACTS

- Allotment Association 01580 860251  
Breakfast Club (75+) 01580 860760  
Brownies 01580 860742  
Comedy Capers 01580 860221  
Cricket Club 07796 976809  
First Responders 07837 224905  
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 Association 01580 860977  
Village Hall Booking Agent  
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## Village Hall Update

**It is over twenty years since the extension was built at the hall. Time flies.**

**We are halfway through a four-year program to repair, replace and decorate.**

We have already had the windows replaced in the large hall, which has resulted in a reduction in our annual gas bill. The old windows were the original ones from when the hall was built in 1928, so of course were single glazed.

The exterior has been painted and most of the interior – small hall, foyer, kitchen and toilets. It just leaves the large hall to be decorated but before we do, we are looking at insulating the ceiling as there isn't any and the heat goes straight up and out!

We are also looking at having a heat saving system installed that will save on the gas bill. (We did have two new gas boilers fitted in 2012.)

I'm sure that most of you will have noticed HURST GREEN VILLAGE HALL on the gable end of the hall – no excuse for not knowing where we are!

We have had sensor lights fitted outside all exterior doors. We also need to replace some of the chairs, they are looking tired and a lot are split.

We are applying for grants and will be doing fund raising events during the year, which we hope will be well supported. The first of these is a Quiz Night on Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm.

This year we will not be having a Village Fete in June, but it will be back next year.

There will be a V.E. Day celebration on 9th May. More details on page 7 of this issue of *the Hurst*.

Don't forget that the Village Hall is for the use of everyone. If you have a celebration or special event coming up give me a ring – 07541 800537.

Thank you for your time in reading this update.

**Sue Deane**



## WHAT'S ON

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays
Brownies 6pm Short Mat Bowls 8pm	Pilates 8:45 & 10am Jive 7pm Parish Council Meeting 7:30pm (last Tue of month)	Upholstery 10am Fitsteps 6pm Historical Society 7:30pm 2nd Wed of month
Thursdays	Neighbourhood Plan	Saturdays
Pilates 8:45am Short Mat Bowls 2pm Jump Squad 6:30pm Zumba 8pm	7:30pm (3rd Tues of each month)	Yoga 10am
Sundays	Comedy Capers 10am	

## HURST GREEN VILLAGE HALL

Hall is available to hire for parties, meetings and other special occasions.

Call 01580 860425 To Book.



# Ellerhoop visit 2020

On Thursday 28th May 2020 a group from our partner village in Germany, Ellerhoop, arrive for their biennial visit to Hurst Green. They are staying until Monday 1st June and we have a fantastic, action packed itinerary for them and their English hosts. We would like to invite any Hurst Greeners or people from surrounding communities to get involved in the visit this year!

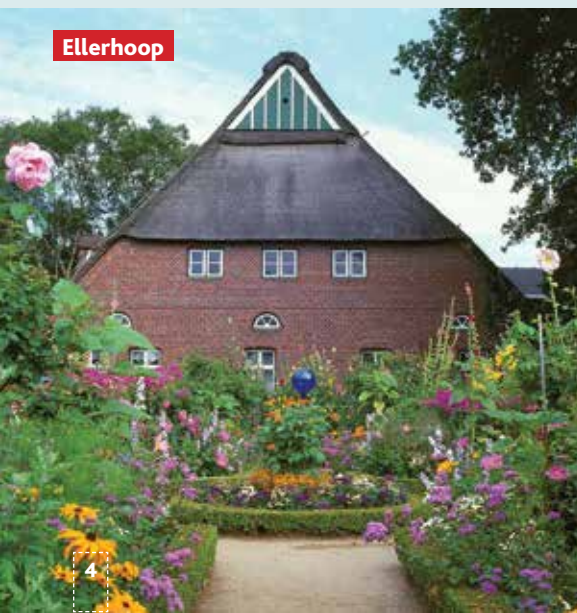
On Friday 29th the group will visit London with their hosts, which is always a favourite for our guests, be it a visit to the Tower of London, a museum tour or a shopping trip to Oxford street. The next day, on Saturday 30th, the group will visit Canterbury, the beautiful UNESCO world heritage site. That evening, the Twinning association will be holding a community event at Hurst Green Primary School to which everyone is invited regardless of their connection to the twinning. We plan to have bingo, food, drinks and activities for adults and children.

It would be great to see lots of people from the village come along and make our



guests feel welcome. On Sunday 31st we are planning a trip to the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch narrow gauge railway – great fun for adults and children alike! Again, if you would like to come with us and our guests please let me know! We will be having traditional fish and chips at the Pilot pub in Dungeness – the very best of British!

If you have never been involved with the twinning before, or if you have been in the past and wish to be again, please get in touch so I can let you know about events and the details of this visit. It would also be great to hear from anyone willing and able to host either this year or in future years – and of course next year when we return to Germany it would be lovely to take lots of Hurst Greeners with us! Email [hurstgreentwinning@gmail.com](mailto:hurstgreentwinning@gmail.com) or contact 07496 390069 for more information!



## Letter from the Vicar

As usual the days are flying by and by the end of February Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday will be upon us and the Church will enter the season of Lent, a time when many people, even those who aren't Christians, decide to give something up.

This has started me thinking about the difference between discipline and habit. Obviously there are good habits and bad habits but I guess that discipline infers that more effort is needed. One dictionary definition says that discipline is a controlled behaviour; self control, while habit is an action done on a regular basis. So one might need discipline to break out of or change a habit.

An article in *Psychology Today* by Iliana Simons Ph.d says, "We typically define discipline as the ability to give up immediate pleasures for long-term goals". It is so important to develop this ability and especially to install it in children. Delayed gratification is constantly challenged in a world where we all expect everything to happen instantly.

As Christians we talk about Spiritual Disciplines, and there are a long list of them – most of them can however be gathered under 5 headings. You won't be surprised to hear that Prayer is a vital spiritual discipline. Prayer is about making time to have a conversation with God, both to talk and to listen. It is easy to get in to the habit of praying without it being a discipline. Sometimes we reel off a quick list of requests as if God is some kind of holy vending machine, where we put in our prayer and hope that He will dispense the answer that we want.

The second spiritual discipline is Fasting, this is all about delayed gratification. Sadly many Christians only ever practice this discipline during Lent and then they give something up, fast from something, without understanding that the whole point of fasting is to do something positive. To go without a meal in order to spend more time praying and focusing



on God. To go without a pleasure or treats such as alcohol or sweets for a period of time in order to give the money you save to the poor and again to be able to focus more on God.

Spiritual discipline number three is reading the Bible, and for Christians this is one of the main ways that God will reveal Himself and His will to us. Christian or not it has spoken to every generation, culture and age and has much wisdom to offer. Next comes Worship, much more than simply turning up at church, worship is about acknowledging who God is and placing Him above and before everything else. Finally comes Serving others – putting others first, forgiving them, treating them as you would like to be treated, going out of your way to help them whether it is convenient or not, this really can take discipline, self-control and an effort of will!

As always if you would like to talk to me about anything at all, then please do get in touch.

God bless, **Rev Annette**

[annette@jhbd.co.uk](mailto:annette@jhbd.co.uk) 01580 880282/07900 332791

If you would like to talk to me then please catch me at The Royal George 10-12 noon on 2nd and 4th Thursdays, or ring or email at any time.





## Neighbourhood Plan

### Early concept for six new family homes on Burgh Hill

**Rother District Council have allocated mandatory provision for 75 new homes for Hurst Green village. To respond to this, as many residents will already be aware, the Parish Council are actively in the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan.**

'Hurst Green to 2030' is the community initiative to produce the plan, which it is hoped will have a genuine influence on the development of and the positive transformation of our community, including Silver Hill and Swiftsden.

Following the professional site assessment in 2019 of possible housing sites, landowners were invited to put forward their concepts for consideration by the public. The first of these to be received is a concept proposal for six new homes from the landowners of the HG 11 site on Burgh Hill.

The site on Burgh Hill is currently grass pasture land, and was originally identified as a possibility for new housing in 2003 by the District Council. Today it is boundaried by mature planting and by an area of wetland forming the southern boundary between the site and open farmland beyond. The northern boundary (to the road) is currently screened by a 2 metre hedge.

Considered by some to form a natural infill between the existing residential developments to the north, west and east of the site along Burgh Hill, the landowner is proposing that each of the 6 possible new 4-6 bedroom dwellings could feature a site area of approximately a quarter of a hectare. They are also proposing providing

a new pedestrian public footpath along the front of the development.

Residents are invited to view these initial proposal materials on the [hurstgreen2030.uk](http://hurstgreen2030.uk) website or by contacting the Parish Clerk on 01580 860111. Anyone with comments to pass on to the landowner is warmly invited to contact a member of the neighbourhood plan Steering Group or any Hurst Green Parish Councillor.

Residents should note that while this site was identified as part of the Neighbourhood Plan call for sites process, the receipt of this concept proposal does not necessarily mean the site will be allocated for housing development.

*'Residents are invited to view the initial proposal materials on the [hurstgreen2030.uk](http://hurstgreen2030.uk) website or by contacting the Parish Clerk on 01580 860111.'*

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## V.E. Day Celebrations, Saturday 9th May 2020

**The Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee are joining forces (excuse the pun!) and organising a celebration for the village. The event is supported by Rother District Council and the Parish Council.**

It starts with a procession of floats, military vehicles etc from Planters on the A21 at 2pm, down Station Road to the triangle at the top of Burgh Hill and then back to the Village Hall layby and community shop car park.

Free tea and cake will be served in the hall and there will be a live band – Stormy T and Bluesman's Lane (Volume turned down a bit!),

time for a cuppa and a catch up with friends and neighbours.

In the evening from 7.30 pm there will be a dance in the hall to which everyone is invited. Music will be by Home Front Lindyhop. There will be swing, lindyhop and Jive. So dress up, dress down, just as long as you dress!

There will be a cash bar and maybe cakes (if there are any left from the afternoon tea). Brownies will be doing a tombola. Year 6 from the school will do a raffle.

I'm sure you won't be disappointed with the day/evening. **Please support this event**

## Our Trip To India

I am prompted by Annabelle's editorial in the Winter 2019 *Hurst*, wherein she quotes a couple of sayings by Mother Teresa. These were, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples!" and "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We only have today. Let us begin!"

Alysoun and I recently went on a journey to India and visited the Kisan Gat Memorial Park in New Delhi, dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi was a Hindu and a special man. The term 'Mahatma' means Great Soul, reserved for the holiest of men in Hinduism. He was a gentle but determined man who became a lawyer after training at the University College of London. He gradually became a social activist.

Around his monument are tablets with some of his dictums. For example, "My life is my message" and "Do not listen to rumours, but if you do, do not believe them".

He sought peaceful independence from Britain and in August 1947 achieved this goal – "In a gentle way – you can shake the world!" and "Be the change you want to see!"

Sadly, he wanted a United India but had to agree to partition to form Pakistan – "The soul dries up without the company of the good" and

"Selfishness keeps us worrying forever!"

On January 30th 1948 he was assassinated by a fellow Hindu who disagreed with him, which is strange, as Hinduism is a non-violent religion – "An eye for an eye will only make the rest of the world blind".

**Ray Young**

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# Gardening Tips for the Spring

by *The Gardener*

## MARCH

- If not already done, prune all hybrid tea roses. Remember the 3 D's, remove Dead, Diseased and Damaged. Prune to outer facing buds much as possible.
- Prune out inner facing wood (think of the bush as the shape of a goblet), keeping the heart open. This allows airflow through the bushes, which helps prevent a build-up of fungal problems.
- Multi-floras; prune following the 3 D's but prune less hard.
- Greenhouse: cleanse if not already done. Thoroughly wash the glass inside and out. Wash down benches, pots and seed trays for the new seasons planting.

## APRIL

- Dig over all vacant ground incorporating as much organic material as possible. This will help retain moisture in the soil. For vegetable growers, this is a good month for sowing many different vegetable seeds.

## MAY

- This is the month we think about planting out most of the bedding plants. If it is still frosty, wait until the end of the month or the first week in June for less hardy plants.

## Cricket Update

The days are starting to draw out, the daffodils blooming and thoughts turn to cricket after our winter hibernation.

Unfortunately the ground is not in a great state at the moment – the autumn rains came early and continued through November to January so we've been unable to prepare the pitch as we normally would. We're hopeful for a spell of dry weather (perhaps even some sun) to allow the worst of the water to drain away. Towards the end of May we should be in good shape and ready to run a few introductory training sessions for anyone in the village or surrounding area who might like to have a go at playing the game. Cricket is a great way to keep fit and socialise with the local community. Keep an eye on our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hurstgreencricketclub](http://www.facebook.com/hurstgreencricketclub) for more details closer to the time and why not pop in for a pint at our sponsors, the Royal George in Hurst Green?



## High Weald Probus Club

**This new Probus Club is being formed in the towns and villages around the Kent and East Sussex borders within the High Weald area.**

A Probus Club is a local association of retired and semi retired senior PROfessional and BUSiness people who have held positions of responsibility.

There are many Probus clubs in the UK and each one is autonomous and chooses its own rules and programme. Most clubs meet monthly over lunch often with guest speakers on a range of interesting subjects. Many organise social events and outings for members and their partners.

If you would be interested in becoming a founder member to assist in the formation of this new club please contact Richard Painter at [highwealdprobus@gmail.com](mailto:highwealdprobus@gmail.com) When responding it would be helpful to say how you meet the criteria for membership and your other interests.

## Holy Trinity News

**If you hear the church bell ringing out on a Sunday, you might wonder what is going on and who is taking part and why.**

There are around 20 local people who rock up each week to 'do church'. This entails worshipping God with songs, prayers and Bible readings and talks which help to give us a deeper understanding of what it means to live the Christian life. We also share the breaking of bread which is sometimes referred to as Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper.

We are all ordinary people who are on a journey of faith and meeting together helps us to support and encourage one another. We will never know all the answers to the big questions of life but feel church is a safe place to get closer to God and be able to explore some of the difficult issues we struggle with. We are also a bit like an extended family, supporting and looking out for one another.

Each Wednesday we open our Café Renew from 10-12 am. This is an opportunity to meet



up with friends and neighbours, chat around some hot topics and enjoy coffee and cake!

Here are the Sunday service times just in case you feel like joining in – you would be very welcome:

**1st Sunday 9am** formal service with Communion; **2nd Sunday 9am** Breakfast Church informal gathering; **3rd Sunday 4pm** Family Service and Sunday Club for children; **4th Sunday 9am** formal service with Communion. Oh yes and we always enjoy coffee and cake after the services!

### Easter activities

**Good Friday 10th April** 10am – Walk of Witness through the village followed by hot cross buns and drinks at the church.

**Easter Sunday 12th April** 9am service with Easter Egg Hunt for children.

## Hurst Green – A personal view from Richard



Back in 1972 when I started working in Maidstone, I used to drive through Hurst Green on my way to my parents' house in West Sussex. Today, that's what many people do; drive through it! In those days I didn't stop to look around. Now, as a resident of almost 14 years standing, it's clear to see how the village has changed. There once was a High Street with shops and pubs which are now in most cases residential properties. Running through this is a mega busy main road that is being hammered to bits by ever increasing heavy traffic! Potholes keep appearing despite the occasional attentions of Highways England, and speeding is the order of the day!

However, despite all of this I find life here enjoyable. I am involved in a number of things in the village and I will say that whether it's pouring coffees in the shop (now sadly closed) putting fencing up in the churchyard or attempting to play cricket for the village I have been met with nothing but encouragement, friendship, support and kindness. I would say there are many blessings from living here, so let's hear it for good old Hurst Green! No complaints from this old fella!

*the Hurst* This quarterly publication, produced by Holy Trinity Church with the Parish Council, and partly funded by the advertisers, will be available on the church website: [www.hurstgreenhtc.org](http://www.hurstgreenhtc.org)



## Walking Football for the over 50's



**The Burwash over 50's Walking Football group was formed nearly three years ago and started with half a dozen old blokes kicking a football around with jumpers as goal posts.**

Since then we have found that the Walking Football concept has really taken off and fired the imagination nationally with teams and leagues all over the country.

We now have 15 in our 'squad'. We range in age from 53 to 75 and our average age is 64. Some work, most are retired, some look like they could still play 'proper' football and others look like they have never seen a football ever before! There's something for everyone.

We play indoors on a Tuesday evening at Ahrens Hall Etchingham and the rules are quite simple. No running, keep the ball under head height and no physical contact.

**The photo shows some of our group on a recent tour of Cellarhead Brewery...**

We play occasional games against other teams, where we have quite a good record. (It's brilliant actually, having lost only one in our last twelve matches!)

We also do other things and have arranged sessions of Curling, Archery and Bowls and as befits a highly competitive, physically elite group of trained sportsman – the odd curry after a match!

We currently have players from all over, being as far as we know, the only local group of Walking Footballers outside the main towns. So if you are at home twiddling your thumbs and dropping-off to sleep mid afternoon, get out there and join us!

Contact Steve Mintram for more information on 01435 882444

## Some helpful local services

**Plumber** Aaron Plumbing & Heating Ltd (Aaron Rowsell) 01580 230330

**Electricians** Tim Russell 07771 687636 trussell.5@btinternet.com

Ian Moore-Rushworth 07703 021767

**Building and renovations** Mark Roby 07453 458836. [Pioneeringcarpentry@yahoo.com](mailto:Pioneeringcarpentry@yahoo.com)

**Leather repairs** Zip replacement, leather stitching etc. Kay Lloyd, Wealden Saddlery 01580 860860

**Plastering & tiling** Edd Ripley 07875 494493.

**Dog minder** Holiday and day care. Lorely Watson 01580 880061 / 07796 392653

**Mobile Car Mechanic** Cliff Mercer 07909 911869

*If you or anyone you know would like to be included in this list of recommended local trades people, please email [thehurst.hg@gmail.com](mailto:thehurst.hg@gmail.com) This is a free listing. For a more comprehensive advert, the cost for 1/4 page is £25 per issue or £90 for a year (4 issues), payable in advance.*



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