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

• VE Day Celebrations
• Hurst Green Twinning
• Cricket Club News
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Lockdown in Hurst Green

ONLINE EDITION

What’s going on in Hurst Green • News, views and information
EDITORIAL
Challenging Oppressive Vicious Isolating Dangerous are some words to describe the current pandemic. Most of us are living day to day, sometimes feeling up and on top of things and other times a bit down and in a sort of void. Plans have been put on hold, work is carried out in social distancing or not at all, relationships can be strained due to lack of physical contact or too much! Having said all that, it is clear that in communities around the country, people are showing care and support for one another in a myriad of different ways.

We have seen that here in Hurst Green. With the creation of a local Food Bank and volunteers willing to run errands and shop for the socially isolated, there is a lot to be thankful for. People are hearing birdsong louder than before; they are breathing cleaner air and realising just how important getting outdoors can be for our well-being. We are beginning to spot the potential of a better life on the other side of this. In a recent YouGov poll, only 9% of Britons want life to return to ‘normal’ once the lockdown is over.

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury said,’After so much suffering, so much heroism from key workers and the NHS, we cannot be content to go back to what was before as if all is normal. There needs to be a resurrection of our common life.’

I for one am up for it!!

PS thank you to everyone who sent in photos, poems and stuff! Patricia Barnes, Robin Cruse, Mandy Janes, Matthew Skinner, Ray Young. Cover pic and pics on pages 3 & 5 : Danielle Samson

Annabelle Blackaby
thehurst.hg@gmail.com

The copy deadline for the next issue is 31st July
Editor: Annabelle Blackaby Design: John Hawkins
Wednesday 25th March
6.00am Glowing red sunrise lighting up the budding hornbeam trees. The rain-soaked ground is beginning to dry up. Primroses and violets brighten the dark shade where the roots of a hornbeam reach down to the murmuring stream which runs through the wood to the Kent Ditch and eventually the River Rother.

Excerpt from The Brook by Tennyson
I chatter over stony ways
In little sharps and trebles.
I bubble into eddying bays
I bubble on the pebbles...
I chatter chatter as I flow
To join the brimming river.

Also spotted a pair of dunnocks building a nest in which to lay their richly blue eggs.

Friday 27th March
A frosty sunrise and a cold east wind.
A magnificent pair of pheasants scratching in the field, the male’s brilliant colours highlighted by the rays of the sun.

The wild daffodils are in full bloom. Their pale, creamy outer petals and deeper yellow trumpets are fluttering in the wind.

Saturday 28th March
6.45am Grey skies and a drop in temperature.

The number of birds appearing in the garden is increasing. A willow warbler appeared on yellow winter flowering jasmine, having flown all the way from sub-Saharan Africa. Its lovely song has been described as “soft as summer rain”.

Excerpt from Little Trotty Wagtail by John Clare.
Little trotty wagtail, he went in the rain,
And tittering, tottering sideways
He ne’er got straight again.
He stooped to get a worm, and
Looked up to catch a fly,
And then he flew away ere his
Feathers they were dry.

Also spotted a pair of dunnocks building a nest in which to lay their richly blue eggs.

Sunday April 5th
Old saying... “April weather, rain and sunshine both together.”

Brilliant sunshine. The sweet scent of spring is in the air. The peace and beauty in the woods is warmed by the early spring sun. Bluebells are flowering above their gleaming, curved, pointed leaves. Lady’s smock (cuckoo flower), wood anemones (wind flowers) and celandines, all in bloom before the emerging tree canopy of leaves takes away the light. The pungent leaves of wild garlic create a deep, green carpet from which to gather a bagful of leaves to turn into a pan of potato and garlic soup and two jars of wild garlic pesto.

Tuesday 9th April
4.45am The night is lit by the bright glow from the ‘pink’ moon. The whole garden is bathed in the wonderful, pure light.

5.30am The first bird to sing is a robin. The moon is huge in the west. With dawn beginning in the east the moon is tinged with pink from the rising sun. By 6.30am the moon has disappeared below the horizon. The pink supermoon is a northern Native American reference to the early blooming, pink wild ground phlox in North America.
There are some scattered sites in West Sussex. The other stronghold is in the Chilterns.

Sunday 20th April
Wild cherry blossom is in full bloom. The blackthorn blossom promises an abundance of sloes for gin lovers, provided there are enough bees about to pollinate them. The pink buds of apple blossom are showing.

Excerpt from *A Shropshire Lad* by A.E. Houseman

*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now Is hung with blossom along the bough, And stands about the woodland ride Wearing white for Eastertide... And since it looks at things in bloom Fifty springs are little room About the woodlands I will go To see the cherry hung with snow.*

Tuesday 28th April
A great drop in temperature from 22°C to 12°C. Welcome rain to encourage growth after the much-enjoyed warm weather through most of April. It rained all day. The early woodland flowers are fading as their exposure to light is dimmed by the green tree canopy excluding the sun. Now it is the turn of frothy cow parsley and pink campion to flower at the woodland edges and on verges.

Friday 1st May
Daisies, buttercups, speedwell are the jewels of early May. God gave us these treasures and we love them all.

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**THOUGHTS, POEMS AND SONGS FROM THE LOCKDOWN**

*by Matthew Skinner aged 9*

Lonely as a rock. Only home can defend us from Coronavirus. Can we survive this catastrophic crisis? Keep it up NHS, you can win this war. Down in the dumps? Don’t worry it won’t last forever. Our lives have been locked away in our home jails, When will this all end? Nobody knows...

*Three adaptations by Mandy Janes:*

**Right Said Bob**
*(to the tune of Right Said Fred)*

Right said Bob what we gonna do now This here’s lockdown’s driving me insane Done the shopping, even done the washing Still got all the housework. So we had a cup of tea... & right said Bob we’ll have to work together You do vaccing, I’ll get rid of dust. Did my best then had to have a rest So we was getting nowhere & so we had a cup of tea. & Bob had a think and said we ought to empty out the vac bag While he went out for a fag. Came across a snag, I couldn’t find the bag. Right said Bob, have to think about this What we need is a really thought out plan. After several deep frowns, tried to write it all down But his pencil had no more lead. So Bob & me had another cup of tea & we went to bed!

**Fun! Fun! Fun!** *(to the tune of The Beach Boys’ song of the same title)*

We were getting on with life when the Covid bug suddenly came, now And we all should do exactly what we’re told like just staying at home, now Use the radio or TV to tell us just what we need to know, now

**Chorus**

And we’ll have fun, fun, fun when the Covid bug finally goes away (Fun, fun, fun, when the Covid bug finally goes away) We know being at home can become very boring now Not passing the bug on is the most important thing now There’s plenty we can do to enjoy this lovely Spring now

**Chorus**

And we’ll have fun, fun, fun when the Covid bug finally goes away (Fun, fun, fun, when the Covid bug finally goes away)

This Covid bug pandemic has been here for quite a lot of days now All the care givers and medics deserve lots & lots of our praise now The community spirit this has brought forth we must ensure it stays now

**Chorus**

I’ll be able to meet up with some friends And have lots of fun No more entertaining for one No, no, no I don’t know what else to do I’m going crazy it’s true

**On the subject of the Lockdown, Ray Young writes:**

Back in March, I received a letter from the NHS telling me that I was at "Extreme Risk of contracting Coronavirus due to my recent small operation.” I have to stay indoors for 13 weeks. This also meant that Alysoun has to do the same, to prevent bringing the virus home. She is however allowed to walk our dog in the woods behind us but never in the street. This immediately caused problems of how to maintain food and medical supplies but here our wonderful village volunteers and others came to our help. I believe the group was started by Talena Sharp and Christy Cole, and what a help they have been. So far we have been helped with our shopping by young Claire, Aaron Parker, Clive, and Annabelle Blackaby, and other assistance by neighbours Andrew and...
Colleen Burt, Julie and Melvyn Smith, and Daniel at 32 Ridgeway, for posting letters, picking up bread, picking up box meals and picking up compost for our hanging baskets. Our sincere thanks to you all for coming to our aid when we most need it.

It’s strange isn’t it that only a few weeks ago our country was being torn apart by the Brexit business. Now we are all brought together again but by a cruel and ravaging pandemic.

To end on a brighter note, may we bring a smile to all your faces with some notices we saw some years ago. Seen on Church notice boards up and down the country...

1. During the absence of the Vicar, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon, when Mr John Stubbs supplied our pulpit.
2. Twenty people were present at the Church Meeting held at the home of Mrs Marsh last evening. Mrs Marsh and Mrs Rankin sang a duet *The Lord Knows Why*.
3. The Choir invites any member of the Congregation who enjoys sinning to join them.
4. Don’t let your worries kill you – let the Church help.
5. God is good. The Reverend Hargreaves is better.
6. Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of new members and the deterioration of some older ones.
7. At 7pm this evening there will be hymn singing in the park opposite the Church. Please bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
8. A Song Fest was hell at the Baptist Church on Wednesday.
9. The Outreach Commitee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any Church. No offence meant!

**Alysoun and Ray Young**

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**The Old Brown Horse**

The old brown horse looks over the fence
In a weary sort of way.
He seems to be saying to all who pass:
“Well, folks, I’ve had my day-
I’m simply watching the world go by,
And nobody seems to mind,
As they’re dashing past in their motor-cars,
A horse who is lame and half-blind.”
The old brown horse has a shaggy coat,
But once he was young and trim,
And he used to trot through the woods and lanes
With the man who was fond of him.
But his master rides in a motor-car,
And it makes him feel quite sad
When he thinks of the days that used to be,
And of all the times they had.
Sometimes a friendly soul will stop
Near the fence, where the tired old head Rests wearily on the topmost bar,
And a friendly word is said.
Then the old brown horse gives a little sigh
As he feels the kindly touch
Of a hand on his mane or his shaggy coat,
And he doesn’t mind so much.
So if you pass by the field one day,
Just stop for a word or two
With the old brown horse who was once as young
And as full of life as you.
He’ll love the touch of your soft young hand,
And I know he’ll seem to say
“Oh, thank you, friend, for the kindly thought
For a horse who has had his day.”

by W. F. Holmes

nominated by Robin Cruse

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**Hurst Green COVID-19 Support Group**

Working with the Parish Council to help all those affected in any way by the current crisis

**WE CAN**

1. Do shopping and other errands for those in isolation
2. Signpost useful government and local agencies
3. Collect and deliver food bank essentials
4. Suggest activities to support mental health and wellbeing
5. Be a listening ear for those who feel lonely or anxious
6. Work with local businesses to get information on supply chains
7. Respond flexibly to the situation as it develops and add services as necessary
8. Provide you with up-to-date government guidelines on keeping safe

**WE CAN’T**

- Loan money
- Give personal medical advice
- Enter your home if you are medically isolating
- Knock on your door unsolicited

We have over 60 members waiting to help!

Call/message our contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Talena Sharp</th>
<th>Christy Cole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01580 860421</td>
<td>01580 860968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07502 847124</td>
<td>07495 620876</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Email: talenasharp73@gmail.com
It was with great sadness that the decision was made to cancel the planned visit from Ellerhoop, scheduled to take place at the end of May. At the time it was cancelled, we were at the height of the pandemic, with flights cancelled to the UK, and both Germany and England in lockdown. Thankfully, since then, we seem to have turned the corner, but it is clearly still the right decision to cancel the visit.

In the scheme of things, with many people losing their livelihoods, freedoms and, ultimately, their lives, this is a far less important news story, but it is sad that for the first time in 40 years a twinning visit has not taken place. Especially as recently, the twinning has seen many new, younger members, who had looked forward to seeing their German friends. We had a really exciting, fun-packed agenda planned for their visit, including trips to Canterbury and London, social events for the village, and a ride on a steam train! Instead, it is likely that their visit will be moved to either later in the year, or more probably until May next year. If you would like to announce the successful candidate.

This will still be run as a community venture project and a new lease will be negotiated with the owners. So, watch this space!

Covid-19 is surely a terrible and brutal threat to our way of life and lives, I can also see how this new feeling of camaraderie has strengthened us as a community. For me, this was shown most clearly in the ad hoc VE day celebrations we held in the village at the start of May. While maintaining social distancing we were able to speak to neighbours and celebrate the ‘best of British’.

I have also been so impressed with how even the youngest members of our society have coped with such challenging changes to their lives. My daughter, Rosie, who is seven years old, has managed to keep in contact with her friends using technology and has been enthusiastic about doing her schoolwork. On the first day of lock down she was dressed and ready at the kitchen table at 8am! If only every school day was the same! Of course not everyone has found it easy (Joshua, my son, fits into this category), and I think it is important for people to be kind to themselves (and others) and just do the best they can – it doesn’t have to be perfect. Normal will come back eventually, and we will get there together. I look forward to the day when I can see friends, family and the people I love face to face. Joe Roper

COMMUNITY SHOP – WHAT’S NEXT??
The Parish Council have received 5 enquiries from interested parties to take on the shop and will soon be able to announce the successful candidate.

HOLY TRINITY ONLINE
During the present crisis we are putting all our services online. Please join us from your sofa! Sunday Communion at 11am Morning prayers at 9am, Mon-Fri On our Facebook page and on Youtube www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityHurstGreen Youtube: St Mary & HTC Parishes Zoom Breakfast Church, 2nd Sundays 9am, email Annette for an invite annette@jhbd.co.uk

Letter from the Vicar
I do hope that you and your families have all managed to stay safe and well during these strange and difficult times. There was so much change to get used to in such a short space of time, but then it doesn’t feel like a such short space now as the weeks drag on. Many of the things that we are experiencing, sudden change over which we have no control, social distancing and isolation, the stress of not knowing when it will end and what will happen next, these are all situations that are known to be bad for our mental health and well being. And yet lots of people have coped, are coping, remarkably well. The lockdown has brought out the very best in most people. Immediately it happened there were people organising how to get help to others who needed it. There were people volunteering to help however they could and others giving food and financial help to those who are struggling through no fault of their own.

Christians believe that the reason we have this inbuilt desire to help others is because we are made in the image of God. God is love and the love that we show to others is part of His handprint on us. When we look after each other we are being the people we are designed to be. We also believe that God made us to live in community with each other. This is something that many people have forgotten how to do over recent years. Some of us have maybe tended to keep ourselves to ourselves and not thought too much about our neighbours. I know this is not true everywhere and throughout this village there have always been little pockets of community. But it is sad that, generally speaking in this country, it has taken a pandemic for some of us to really start to get to know our neighbours and to make sure that everyone is looked after. And it feels good when we do, precisely because this is how we are meant to live – in caring communities.

In the midst of all the fear and uncertainty, Christians are able to hold on to the eternal truth and promises of Jesus. We know that no matter what happens, He is the same yesterday, today and forever. We know that even when we are isolated we are never alone, because we are known and loved by the one true God, who is faithful and steadfast and has promised never to leave us. We can bring all our fears and anxieties to Him and He gives us peace in our hearts and minds that is beyond human understanding.
None of us know what the next few weeks and months will look like, or how the world will be different after the pandemic has passed. Hopefully, however it changes, we will all continue to be more caring and sharing. I hope that the human race will learn not just to be better at looking after each other, but that we will be better at looking after the incredible world that God has entrusted to us. But most of all I hope and pray that many many people will turn around and come home to God, to their Heavenly Father who loves them and is longing to welcome them back. I pray that each one of you will experience the love, hope, peace and joy that comes from being a follower of Jesus.

If there is anything at all that you would like to talk to me about or that you would like me to pray about, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I would love to hear from you. And I do pray that you and your loved ones will continue to stay safe and well.

God bless,

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

Trefoil Guild - ‘Guiding for Adults’
The Robertsbridge District Trefoil Guild covers the villages of Robertsbridge, Hurst Green, Etchingham and Burwash, but sadly in almost 10 years of existence we have only ever had one member from Hurst Green, while all the other villages have been well represented.

You have a thriving Brownie Pack, and used to have a Guide Unit – surely there must be some of you out there with an interest in Guiding?

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm, usually at Robertsbridge Guide Hut – though we do get out & about and have a very varied programme.

It would be lovely to have some members from Hurst Green. For further information please contact Barbara Thomas:
e-mail barbiemeads@gmail.com or telephone: 01580 819124

The Hurst Green Cricket Club
Thoughts on the state of play from Ian Hirst

I don’t think we could have wished for a better start to the season, weather wise at least. After the storms of late February we were faced with an absolute bog of a pitch and thinking we wouldn’t get a game out of it until late June. Fast forward a couple of months and it’s amazing how the weather has turned – dry weather during March and lots of sunshine for most of April have dried things out a lot and allowed us to start preparing the pitch for... well, not a lot as it turns out.

Cricket (and life in general of course) has hit the buffers for now. The only certainty seems to be uncertainty and whilst no professional cricket will take place before 1st July, recreational cricket is currently suspended indefinitely. If it does return this year, it’s clear there will be social distancing measures in place in the changing rooms and out on the pitch. For Hurst Green Cricket Club, with the limited facilities and small changing rooms we have, we’re going to have to think creatively about how we can host a game.

Playing games and hiring the pitch to other clubs provides 80% of our income, then the rest comes from sponsorship, donors and other fund raising. It costs the club about a thousand pounds a year to pay the insurance, fuel for the equipment, electricity, water and various other maintenance costs. Unfortunately, none of these costs go away – we still need to cut the grass and insure the buildings and equipment whether we’re playing or not. The longer this situation goes on, the more precarious the club’s position becomes but there’s nothing we can do about that at the moment. We keep it all in perspective and thank those who are out there working for the NHS, in care homes, in shops, making deliveries, picking up the bins and all those other essential things we all need to live life.

I’m sure we all have our fingers crossed there will be a turnabout in the near future, one that will allow us all a bit more freedom and for the club to play some games later in the season. I’m also kind of hoping that by then everybody will be so thoroughly sick of being cooped up in their homes, there will be a stampede of players wanting to join a game! If you’re interested, drop me a line on hurstgreencricketclub@gmail.com and follow our page on facebook www.facebook.com/hurstgreencricketclub

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SUNDAY: 11:00 - 16:00
"My Pop up Children's Bookshop is still very much open for business and like everything else, is having to adapt to the current lockdown situation.

My son Charlie and myself have very much enjoyed hosting Online events to keep some of you entertained online. So far, we have had a Storytime, two kids quizzes, an Easter Scavenger Hunt and recently ran a cooking competition. Please take a look at my Facebook page www.facebook.com/thatsmypopupbookshop to see our latest events and special offers. Orders for books can be made via my website org.usbornebooksathome.co.uk/thatsmypopupbookshop

To get discounts and free postage on orders over £30 please contact me direct by email: Sarah.janeheasman@hotmail.co.uk

I also have a lot of stock at home, all kept in sealed boxes and only touched with sanitised hands. These books are all half price so do contact me if you live in the village and I will let you know what I have, to suit your needs.

Also, if you know of a local family who are struggling and would like a book treat to cheer them up, let me know. The most amazing thing about this whole experience has been finding out just what a lovely, helpful community we are. Stay safe everybody x"
Hurst Green Village Hall

Nothing much to report as the hall has been closed since the end of March.

There is of course the Food Bank that has been running from the hall. Many thanks to Talena, Christy and the many many helpers that have offered their services. If you know of anyone that needs their help please let Talena or Christy know. (Their details are in this magazine.)

We have taken this opportunity to have the large hall painted. Ron – our decorator - was able come in and do this as the hall was in lockdown. This means that the entire hall has now been decorated inside and out.

When will the hall be open for classes/ parties? Who knows is the answer. If all goes well (!) I do hope that we may be able to start in September.

As we all missed out on the VE Day party that was to take place in the hall, perhaps we can all have a celebration party when all this is over. Look after yourselves and stay safe.

Sue Endean Booking Agent

Gardening Tips for Summer

by The Gardener

JUNE

- In the greenhouse feed tomatoes with a high potash feed, to be done after the first flower truss has set. Keep cucumbers watered on a regular basis and mist spray on hot days. Keep an eye out for fungal problems, as cucumber can suffer badly from mildew infections. Grow them in a good rich compost.

Pruning of Spring flowering shrubs:

- Prune back Clematis Montana, Clematis Alpina.
- Flowering currants (Ribes) and lilac, Philadelphus. Prune out old non-productive wood but take out no more than a third of the total wood.

JULY

Lawns

- If there’s a drought situation, cut lawns less often and raise the cut height, as you would for the first cut of the season.

Herb border Cut back early flowering plants to encourage a second flowering.

AUGUST

If you have a glut of tomatoes, freeze them down whole and use them for soups etc in the dark days of winter; a memory of hot summer days.

This is a good month for sowing vegetables, spring cabbage and winter onions etc.

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
Ian Moore-Rushworth 07703 021767
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 This is a free listing. For a more comprehensive advert, the cost for ¼ page is £25 per issue or £90 for a year (4 issues), payable in advance.