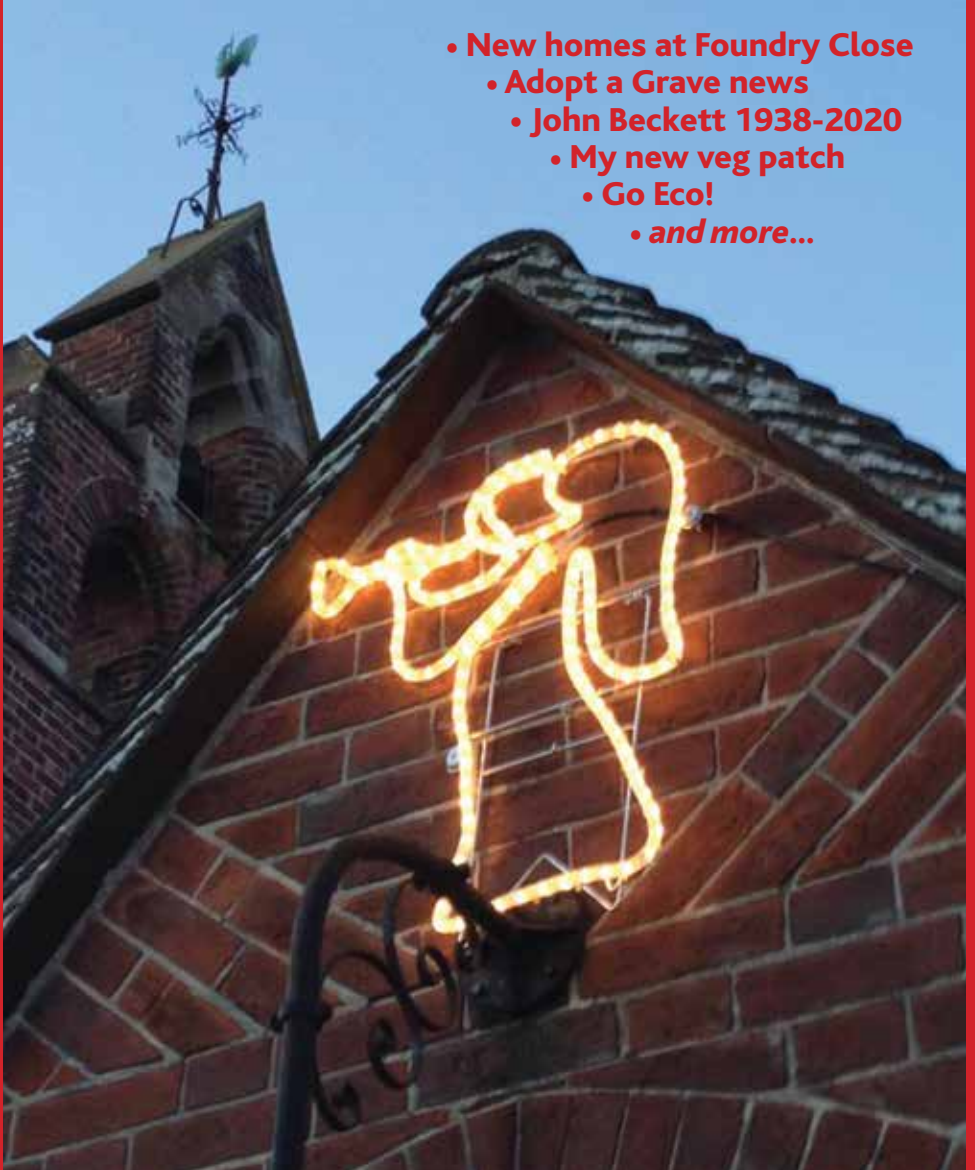


# *the* Hurst

ISSUE 11

DEC/JAN/FEB 2020-21

- **New homes at Foundry Close**
- **Adopt a Grave news**
- **John Beckett 1938-2020**
- **My new veg patch**
- **Go Eco!**
- ***and more...***



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

## EDITORIAL

Over the past few years, we have been increasingly conscious of the need to take better care of the environment.

Recycling is easier now, using biodegradable plastic or avoiding it altogether is still challenging but not impossible but why can't I buy Fairtrade bananas which are not wrapped in non-recyclable plastic? Sadly, we still see tons of rubbish along the road verges and now the increased pollution and danger to wildlife from throw away face masks and gloves! There seems to be a recurring theme in this issue!

I just love the aroma of some of the essential oils and often sprinkle a drop or two of Patchouli or Bergamot around the house! Here is a story of a wonderful mix of oils commonly known as 'Thieves Oil'.

Back in 1413 the infamous Bubonic Plague devastated a large portion of France. During this time, four thieves were captured and charged for stealing from the sick and dying, a crime punishable by being burnt alive! The thieves never contracted the plague which intrigued the judge who told them if they shared their secret, he would spare them of this punishment.

The Thieves told the judge they were perfume and spice merchants, unemployed due to the closure of the seaports because of the plague. They had prepared an essential oil recipe that when applied to their hands, ears, temples and feet and with a mask over their mouths, kept them safe from infection. The judge stayed true to his word and hanged them instead of burning! **Annabelle Blackaby**  
thehurst.hg@gmail.com

Deadline for next copy is 31st January

Editor: Annabelle Blackaby Design: John Hawkins

## 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

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BAILEY VW

## Grave News!

With a lot of TLC, elbow grease and sheer determination, this is what can be achieved! Amazing work from the Skinner family.

Since launching the 'Adopt a Grave' project, the transformation of some old plots and the cleaning of the stonework has been remarkable. So far, a dozen families have been taking part, but it is not too late to get on board, so if you fancy a challenge, come and take your pick! Contact Richard on 860649.

There is also the potential to do some research about the names on the graves.



We are so grateful to Mandy who has offered to use her expertise in this area. This is what she found out about just one family!

## THE OAKLEY GRAVES RESEARCHED BY MANDY JANES



In  
Loving Memory  
- - of - -  
**ALBERT OAKLEY**  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> 1912  
AGED 55 YEARS  
AT REST  
ALSO  
**LOUISA OAKLEY**  
WIFE OF THE ABOVE  
DEC 11<sup>TH</sup> 1938  
AGED 78

After his marriage, in 1888, Albert and his family spent his whole life in Hurst Green. He worked as an Iron Founder in the Hurst Green foundry and in 1887 he took over the foundry's lease. In the 1939 register 3 of Albert's 4 sons were working as Agricultural Engineers while the 4th one was an Automobile Engineer.



**FRANK OAKLEY**  
18. FEBRUARY 1893  
2. DECEMBER 1958  
**VIOLET EMILY OAKLEY**  
15. MARCH 1904  
4. APRIL 1987  
"TILL HEAVEN'S PORTALS"???

One of Albert's sons, Frank (1893-1958), according to the records I found at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138745112/frank-oakley> is also buried in Holy Trinity's churchyard, with his wife.



## Go Eco!

by Annabelle Blackaby

Have you ever wished for a simple, easy to use, eco-friendly cleaning system? Many cleaners are based on chemicals that are harmful to the environment – both for humans, animals and plants. When you use these chemicals in your toilets, sinks, dishwashers, or other appliances, the chemicals are eventually rinsed down the drain. Even with wastewater treatment, some of the contaminants will make their way back into the rivers and lakes, and over time they can build up to have a substantial and negative effect on the wildlife. On top of that there is the packaging!

Though the plastic used in most products is technically recyclable, many people still throw the products away when they are empty and only a small percentage actually gets properly recycled. Since plastic is not biodegradable, it occupies landfills indefinitely, and accumulates in mass quantities over a period of years. It is obvious that locally sourced and homemade products will have a substantially reduced impact on our environment.

So, what is the alternative? It has long been accepted that substances such as vinegar, lemon and salt can have multiple uses and not just on our fish and chips! But there is more...

I recently met Joanna who introduced me to her 'Everything Cleaning Spray', a pure cleaning spray in a reusable glass bottle which can be used on all surfaces,



freshening the air around you and supporting your wellbeing. The ingredients are simply purified water with 10-20 drops of 'Thieves Blend' Essential Oil (see Editorial). The toilet and bathroom Cleaning Powder is just Bicarb of Soda on its own or mixed with equal amounts of Epsom Salts in a reusable glass jar.

I tried these out and they really work, I am totally hooked, in fact my family will be receiving GOeco Kit gifts this Christmas!

Joanna would really like to help people be more eco-friendly and to use products that don't cause harm.

The GOeco kit is available for a minimum donation price of £3.69. She can be contacted via email: [girling.joanna@gmail.com](mailto:girling.joanna@gmail.com)

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## Letter from the Vicar

**As I write this we are still hoping that the present lockdown will end on December 2nd, but unfortunately we cannot be sure. Maybe by the time you read this the lockdown will be lifted in our area, although of course other areas with higher numbers of coronavirus cases are likely to continue facing restrictions.**

Without a doubt it has been an incredibly difficult year for everyone, and whatever happens Christmas will be very different this year. But whatever happens there will be Carol Services, online if necessary but hopefully in Church. There won't be Christingle in Church but every child in the school will receive a Christingle kit and can join in a Zoom Christingle event at home. Maybe it is a good year to think a little less about the commercial bonanza that Christmas has become and a little more about the reason we began to celebrate it in the first place. The fact that people had strayed so far from God that He came Himself in the person of Jesus to demonstrate His love for us and to show us the way back in to relationship with Him. Jesus is also called Immanuel, which literally means, 'God with Us'. And we know that God is love, and that all He wants from us is to turn away from our selfish desires and wrongdoing, to turn to Him and accept His love and then to love others because He loves us. And when we turn to Him He gives us peace and hope even in the most insecure and troubled times.

The village of Hurst Green is a very caring place to live and this has been wonderfully demonstrated over the months of lockdown. Some people organised food collections or delivered prescriptions alongside many individuals who looked out for their neighbours and volunteered in all sorts of other ways – we are truly blessed.

At Holy Trinity this Advent, as we wait for



Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus, we are going to be thinking about homelessness. The Church of England's theme for Christmas this year is 'Comfort and Joy', thinking about the comfort and joy that Christians experience in knowing God's love, but also our responsibility to spread that comfort and joy to others as much as we are able to, and that must include the 170,000 families and individuals who are currently experiencing the worst forms of homelessness in Britain (and there are countless others who are in unsuitable or precarious accommodation). The causes of homelessness are many and varied but whatever the cause might be it is simply unacceptable in a caring compassionate society that it should exist at all. If you want to help then please consider making a donation to Shelter, Crisis at Christmas or Seaview in St Leonard's. Seaview do a wonderful job looking after vulnerable people and Holy Trinity support their work financially in a small way every month. Thank you, and I do hope that you experience comfort and joy and have a Happy and Blessed Christmas!

If you would like to talk to me about anything at all or would like us to pray for you do please get in touch anytime God bless, **Rev Annette**  
[annette@jhbd.co.uk](mailto:annette@jhbd.co.uk)  
01580 880282 / Mobile 07900 332791



# Holy Trinity Church update

The return of four very woolly sheep in October has helped to keep some of the grass down, so thanks to Graham Browne, and we have been able to trim and mow the rest to maintain a tidy churchyard!

Having had two months of open-air services we moved back into the church building at the end of September. Keeping to the rules, we moved pews and spaced out the chairs, wore masks and could not sing! However, we managed to listen to uplifting worship songs, hear some great preaching and pray together. We also continued to have the Bible Study group on Wednesdays. Then lockdown happened again! So currently we are back on Zoom, Facebook and YouTube, connecting via WhatsApp and waiting to see what happens next!

A massive thank you to Steve Ripley who has sorted out the peeling plaster and paint at the west end of the church which has transformed that end of the building.

At the time of writing this, we are

in the second lockdown. Planning for Christmas is proving a little challenging, but we do hope that on Sunday 20th December we will be able to have a Carol Service in the church at 9am. Sadly, the school will not be able to come up to the church for their Carol Concert this year, but every child at Hurst Green School will receive a Christmas goody bag and Rev Annette will be presenting Christingle on Zoom at 4pm on Christmas Eve, so watch out for that!

In such a time of uncertainty our faith in God is a sure and certain hope. He who promises never to leave us, never changes and is always with us. He is love which never fails, never gives up on us. As we approach the season of Christmas it is good to remember that God became a human and lived among us. The birth of Jesus was a pivotal point in the history of our planet. Immanuel means God is with us; he was then and is now and will be forever.

## My new veg patch with grateful thanks to upcycling

**Lockdown was a strange time for all of us, tough in so many ways, but let's not forget the good things that flowed from that period. Without doubt we all found ourselves with more time – a commodity that is in normal times all too scarce.**

I grabbed the chance to use this extra time to fulfil a project which I have been putting off for too long – grow my own veg.

I quickly learnt that my husband was not 'on-board' with my plan (put off himself, he tells me from his childhood days of watching his father slaving over a quite substantial vegetable garden and echoes of "potatoes won't grow themselves you know ...").

Oh dear, so a strong handyman down already. Onto plan B; my 19-year-old son. Rory was unable to get out to Asia as part of his travel plans and no job options during lock down, so very much kicking his heels. Result: teenager's spare time 'upcycled' and workforce problem solved. Digging up of lawn commences (with noises off/grumbings from James).

Many friends chirp on at me about their 'raised beds', which always, I think, sounds rather grand but clearly the best way to go. But with all timber/hardware shops closed,

cue quite a lot of redundant fence posts and panels lying around the garden (thanks to storm damage over the last few years destroying sections of our main fence) to make the sides for each of the three newly dug beds. Upcycle success story 2!

I had sourced a good number of potato tubas from Merrimts, which were chitting away on a windowsill as word was spreading about my mini garden adventure, and the offer of seedling plants came in from friends. I gratefully accepted courgettes, tomatoes, kale, cucumber peas and bean plants. Upcycle success story 3!

Well-seasoned manure was sourced from a friend with horses in Etchingham, to enrich the topsoil. Upcycle success story 4!

And voila! My home grown veg garden was born.

Have we been self-sufficient with our Good Life existence? Well not exactly, so far. Mistakes have been made (planting too early/late, overcrowding the raised beds, insufficient watering – I could go on), but I have learnt along the way so roll on next year, could be a blinding crop!!

It has been a lovely journey; a pleasure being in the garden with the fabulous weather during lockdown (and during the quietest period without traffic in Hurst Green I have ever known), a delight spending one-to-one time with my son and – I won't lie – feeling just a little bit pious that my upcycling achievements have raised the Acock household's eco-friendly green credentials to a new height in 2020. Claire.





# A fond farewell to John Beckett

13th April 1938-22nd October 2020

John had lived in Hurst Green since the late eighties and since his retirement in 2003, he loved to spend time outdoors growing his own vegetables and was a vegetable pioneer at the new village allotment. He would share his produce with family and friends including the GP in Burwash. He was an extremely early bird and would often disappear without telling Ann of his whereabouts and it would transpire that he had been out visiting again for a cup of tea and a chat. He enjoyed many overseas holidays and was always interested in people and wildlife on his travels. In his later quieter years, he was an avid TV cycling fan. He especially liked



the Tour de France and would often have a chuckle with Ann about collisions that happened! He adored his last rescue dog Breeze.

John lived a long and happy life, overcoming various illnesses with the help of Ann. John and Ann had been married for 58 years and John only succumbed to ill health at the very end. Ann, their three girls, and their families will miss John dearly. He leaves 5 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. This poem was recited at his funeral:

### His Journey's Just Begun

*Don't think of him as gone away  
his journey's just begun,  
life holds so many facets  
this earth is only one.*

*Just think of him as resting  
from the sorrows and the tears  
in a place of warmth and comfort  
where there are no days and years.*

*Think how he must be wishing  
that we could know today  
how nothing but our sadness  
can really pass away.*

*And think of him as living  
in the hearts of those he touched...  
for nothing loved is ever lost  
and he was loved so much.*

Ellen Brenneman

# The Hurst Green Cricket Club

Thoughts from Ian Hirst

**I suppose looking back on this season the best we can say is that we were unbeaten, but of course we didn't play any games!**

All the action has been off the pitch this year. Unfortunately, the grass did not stop growing even though we were not playing. We kept the ground maintained for the enjoyment of dog walkers, families and people exercising during lockdown when they could not travel far from home.

A new club committee has been formed to steer the future of the club. Importantly, the chair (Gareth Skinner), secretary (Ryan Newman) and treasurer (Ian Hirst) are all village residents and to us it is clear that the future of the club lies in finding more players in the village.

We think the duration of the games on a Sunday (sometimes up to five hours) can put people off; you have to be really committed and quite a hardcore cricketer to do that, so next year we're going to be playing shorter games and hope this will attract more casual players. We will also be running some sessions next spring to help introduce interested players to the game and give people confidence before playing a match. We'll be announcing dates through this magazine and on our facebook page [www.facebook.com/hurstgreencricketclub](http://www.facebook.com/hurstgreencricketclub)

All of this is, of course, dependent on the Covid-19 situation. Fingers crossed there will at least be some end in sight to the lockdowns and restrictions by then.

From all at the Cricket Club we wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and hope to see some of you playing cricket next year!

[hurstgreencricketclub@gmail.com](http://hurstgreencricketclub@gmail.com)



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## CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR TO HELP RESTORE YOUR LOCAL WOODLAND TO ITS FORMER BEAUTY?

**Burgh Wood, accessed from Coronation Gardens and Burgh Lane, is an ancient woodland, enjoyed by local people for hundreds of years.**

Sadly, in recent months huge quantities of garden waste, subsoil and household rubbish have been dumped along the paths near the entrances.

Not only does this spoil the natural beauty of the woodland but the tin cans and bottles are also potentially dangerous both to pets and wildlife, and the garden waste is introducing non-native plant species to an area which is carpeted with English bluebells in spring.

The Bellhurst Nature Conservation Trust, which manages Burgh Wood, has kindly offered to pay for a skip for a clear-up in January. If you would like to help, please contact Eleanor Wigram on [eleanor.wigram@btinternet.com](mailto:eleanor.wigram@btinternet.com) so that I can let you know the date when confirmed and coordinate a rota to aid with social-distancing.

## Macmillan Coffee morning



**We did it!!!!** A huge thank you to the Coffee Morning team and to everyone who supported our coffee morning despite the awful weather.

With the help of local businesses who donated fabulous raffle prizes and your generous donations at the coffee morning and online we raised a fantastic £1,045.

Macmillan need our help in these difficult times like never before. The money we raised will make a massive difference to people and ensure that no one must face cancer alone.

Many thanks for your support.  
*Elaine Ralph & Annabelle Blackaby*



## Some helpful local services

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

Steve Walker – Plumber 07564 405702

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

Ian Moore-Rushworth 07703 021767

**Building and renovations** Mark Roby 07453 458836. 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

**Pippin's Pet Sitting and Dog Walking** 07717681972 / Sarah.janeheasman@hotmail.co.uk

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## District Council approve 20 new homes at Foundry Close

**On the 29th of October 2020, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Hurst Green Parish Council received a planning decision notice from Rother District Council, the notice outlined the approval for the planning application at Foundry Close.**

In the works since the previous unsuccessful planning application by Millwood Designer Homes, the approved scheme features 20 new homes, and in a revision from the submitted application, this now contains 8 affordable homes.

The approved scheme is smaller than the original, that proposed some 60 homes, but larger than the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council recommended, who based upon a report written for the Parish Council from consultancy AECOM, noted that the site, based on size alone, could only accommodate a maximum of 18 homes. The Landowners, in a bid to obtain planning permission and an agreement around affordable homes, increased this to 20 new homes, with 8 of these to be affordable.

Despite the problems with parking in and around Hurst Green village, the scheme's parking provision is in accordance with, and higher than is required of new developments, as determined by the East Sussex County Council's Residential Parking Demand Calculator. The approved scheme has 29 car parking spaces to be shared by the 20 new homes, with 17 further spaces being provided as unallocated parking bays. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group despite pushing for further spaces to be allocated, feel this allocation is too small for the development, with most families in Hurst Green having access to, or ownership of more than 1 car. The unallocated parking

spaces include 5 bays adjacent to the existing Foundry Close, which according to the District Council's commentary, is intended to go some way towards meeting a need from existing local residents without on-plot parking to park their vehicles on Foundry Close.

Residents of Hurst Green may be surprised to learn that the planning documents reveal that both Highways England and East Sussex Highways were consulted in respect of the new development, and that neither raised any objections.

All the homes are to be two storeys in height, although three of the dwellings are to be 2.5 storeys in height, containing roof dormers. There is a mix of elevational treatments consisting of weatherboard, tile hanging, brick and painted render, and a mix of plain tiles or slates to the roofs.

The layout of the development retains provision for extending the site south to ensure that road access through the site to the adjacent Neighbourhood Plan HG40 site is provided and maintained.

The District Council have responded to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's comment in the planning decision notice, noting that respect of the size of the proposed area annotated on the plan as 'peace garden', remarking that *"as the applicant has pointed out this small public garden area has only been included at the suggestion of the Parish Council and there is no policy requirement to provide public open space as part of the development. Moreover, the applicant has stated that it would not be in the applicant's interest to leave this poorly landscaped or as a blank canvass as the applicants' aim is to make the landscaping as attractive as possible with a view towards selling the houses."*



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