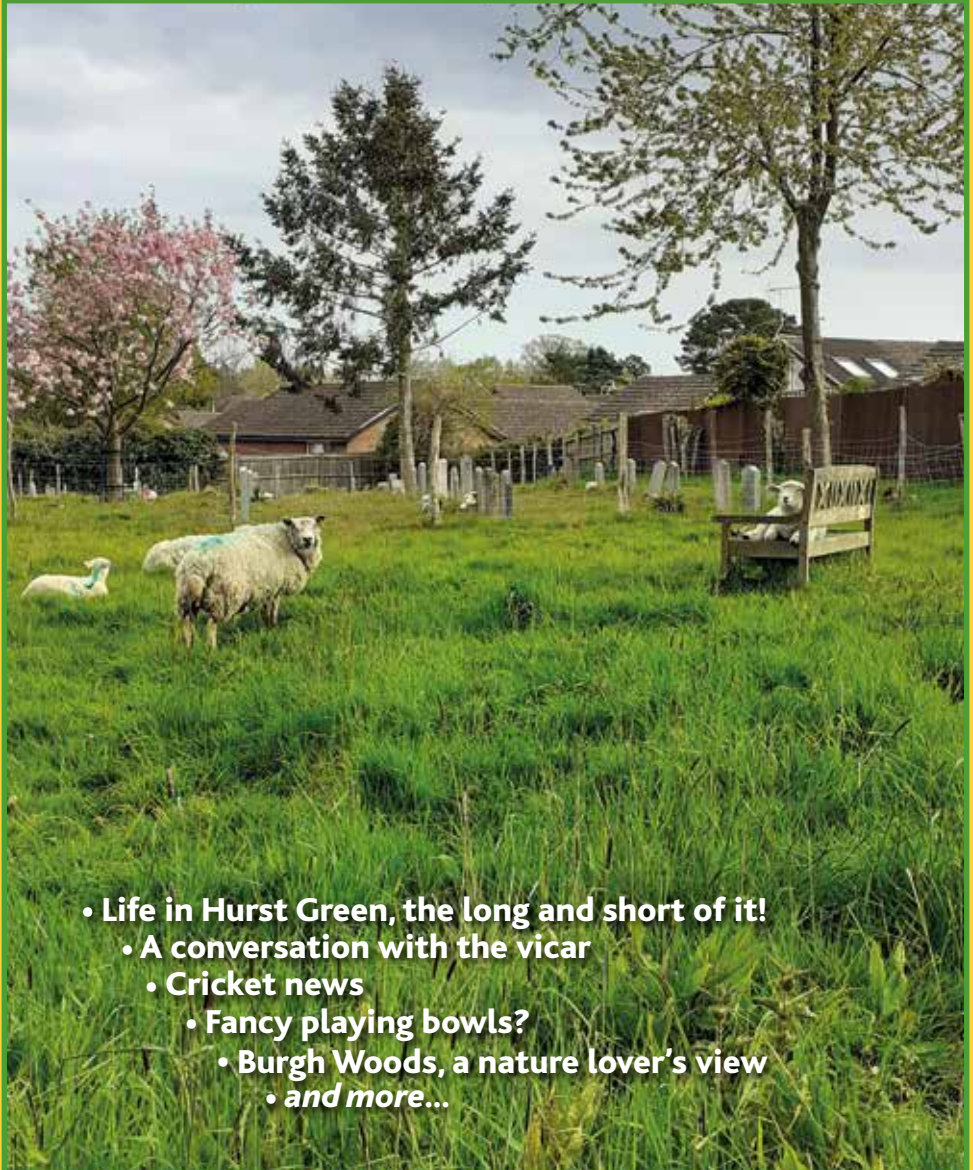


# *the* Hurst

ISSUE 13

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2021



- Life in Hurst Green, the long and short of it!
- A conversation with the vicar
- Cricket news
  - Fancy playing bowls?
  - Burgh Woods, a nature lover's view
  - *and more...*

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

## EDITORIAL

**Having recently met some newcomers to the village it got me thinking about how the place must have developed over the years, who has lived here a long time and seen these changes, what are the impressions of people who live here now?**

We moved from Maidstone 15 years ago but were still commuting to work so did not integrate or make any attempt to get involved with village life. It was only after retirement that we had the time to get stuck in! Throughout the past year we have been so grateful to be living in such a beautiful part of the world, numerous walks, woods, and fields have kept us fit and sane! Read what three other residents have shared about living in Hurst Green. Maybe you can add to the story and we can create a bigger picture?

As the cover photo shows, the sheep are once again grazing in the churchyard and saving us some work keeping the grass mown. However, there is still much to be done so if you feel able to help do contact Richard.

How are you feeling about getting up close and mixing with people again? There might be a little bit of fear and trepidation or it could be excitement and relief. However we choose to react to the current easing of restrictions, lets hope and pray that the light at the end of the tunnel will guide us wisely and bring us safely through to the end of this pandemic.

**Annabelle Blackaby**

thehurst.hg@gmail.com

**Deadline for next copy is 31st July**

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Cover photo: Annabelle Blackaby

## 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

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## Life in Hurst Green, the long and short of it



Clive and Sian

**Clive and Sian, with 18-month old Charlotte, moved into Vicarage Way in December 1979. Here are some of their memories...**

'The front garden was just mud and there was no fence between us and the churchyard.

At the bottom of the twitten was The Woolpack public house. Turning right onto the main road was Harper and Eade, later to become Ernest Doe. Next came Avars the bakers and the antique shop was Bracons the dental technicians.

The Indian restaurant was The Bull public house and next to this was the Post Office which is now a rather lovely private dwelling. The two new houses next to this used to be a trug making premises. The Court House was a business involving self-build properties.

Along Station Road on the right there was a large property with a swimming pool. McMichaels Way was built on that site. Dr McMichael was a GP in Hurst Green. His wife helped out at the baby clinic held in the village hall.

The little general store as it is now used to be a hairdresser, and some will remember Dick and Diane who owned it, although Dick was a fireman not a hairdresser! Diane had a photo of the premises when it was previously a butcher's shop. Next door was a greengrocer and further along past the Village Hall and Catholic Church there was a dairy which is now a house.

Haremere Hall was still a going concern with Shire horses stabled there, and a café.

Back on the A21, going towards the school on the right-hand side, the fish and chip shop which has always been there was next to a small general store. When the post office closed this was moved there. There were a couple of houses next to the shop and then there was Jenner's builders.

Going further towards the school there was a garage and behind that a tyre place where Coleman's Way now is. Just before the school there were premises that made beds.

Both our children attended the school; Colleen Burt was incredibly lucky to have taught my son!!! They had a good childhood in Hurst Green and have made lifelong friends. They made good use of the playing fields and the woods and feel glad to have been brought up in the village.

There are several people who moved in when we did who are still living in the village.

Going out of the village towards the Pashley turning there was the Cross Keys Pub which again has been converted. The car wash used to be a little garage with a couple of pumps. It was immaculately kept.

The new continental restaurant that is due to open, which was the Diner previously, was a Little Chef'. **More stories overleaf...**

"The front garden was just mud"



# Life in Hurst Green, the long and short of it



**Christiane and Blair have lived here for the past 6 years.**

'We moved to Hurst Green in June 2015 having fled from Paddock Wood before the planned housing developments to build over 1,000 homes on our doorstep got underway. The village ticked a lot of boxes – beautiful countryside, lovely views from our garden, close proximity to the station for my London commute, and equidistant from Tunbridge Wells and the south coast.

Within days of moving in, I had been press-ganged by Clare Vidler, the manager of the Community Shop, to become both the shop treasurer and a volunteer. As a result, I – and then my husband Blair who also became a shop volunteer – got to know more people in our local community than we had ever done while living in London.

While we enjoy living here and feel privileged to have such beautiful landscape around us, the relentless growth and speed of traffic through the village is daily becoming a bigger issue for which the only solution will be to move away in a couple of years'.

**Sue, a hairdresser and Allan, a retired retailer, both from Tunbridge Wells joined our community in January moving into their lovely cottage on London Road.**

'Despite the restrictions of lockdown, we received a warm neighbourly welcome and felt immediately at home.

Three months in and we are familiarised with our new surroundings and have found much to delight through our love of the outdoors and nature. Imagine our surprise on our first foray into Burgh Wood meeting a local cake maker who asked if we'd found the waterfall (Devils Leap?). Tucked away off the beaten path we discovered this amazing gem in full flow casting its spell on us.

Further walks (and occasional runs) from home, along the extensive public footpaths, unveiled the full extent of unspoilt and intriguing countryside we are blessed with.

We've rescued two sheep so far and discovered eels.

"We received a warm neighbourly welcome"

In stark contrast are the transport arteries which still flow at full throttle through the heart of the village. The much-mourned aborted bypass, a blessing afforded to our more fortunate neighbourhoods up the road, seems a forlorn hope.

But in our short time here I believe there is support for better control of those passing through who are unable to observe our legal speed limits. The well documented recent evidence clearly indicates stronger measures are needed to calm but still allow the easy flow through the village. Thus allowing safer conditions for all for years to come'.



## A conversation with the Vicar

**Annabelle** So Annette, we know that you are the Vicar of Holy Trinity here in Hurst Green and at St Mary's Salehurst. What made you take up this vocation?

**Annette** Well, the short answer is that I believe this is what God is calling me to do. The slightly longer version is more complex. I originally trained and worked as a nurse but after about 12 years I knew that my back was getting bad, and I couldn't do it for much longer. I decided to do a degree in education and train as a teacher. I loved doing my degree and learnt so much, but I knew by the end that teaching in school was not the right job for me. I went into project management and development, first with a local charity working with adults with learning difficulties and then with a national childcare charity, working as an early years and childcare consultant to three Sussex LAs. At the same time, I was taking on different roles in my Church. I trained as a Youth Leader and did that for quite a few years during which time I started to preach and lead services and was invited onto the leadership team. I had a feeling that all these things whilst being good in themselves were helping to prepare me for something else. I increasingly felt that there was something that God wanted me to do. One day I stayed behind after church and asked God to tell me what it was. I said I would do whatever He wanted. When I came out, I bumped into the Vicar who looked at me and said, "I think it's about time you were ordained as a Vicar!" I was amazed, but when I told my husband, he said that he thought so too. So, I began the discernment process, which was quite long and difficult but eventually led to me going off to college, and training as a Vicar.

**Annabelle** What are the best and worst aspects of your role as a church leader?

**Annette** That's quite a hard one, there are so many things that are an absolute joy. It's an amazing privilege to walk alongside people at key moments in their lives, and taking weddings is very special. I love being involved with the local schools and working with the children and teachers. It is wonderful to be able to share the Good News about Jesus and the love of God with people of different ages, but it's very hard if they are not really interested and don't want to know or even have the discussion. Fortunately, there are people who do enjoy, or are good at, doing some of the things that I really don't enjoy, such as finance and buildings. We are a team, and everyone works together using the gifts that they have.

**Annabelle** What are your hopes for the church here in Hurst Green?

**Annette** That we will grow in every way. That those of us who come already will grow in our faith, understanding and love for God and that many more will join us. Being a disciple of Jesus is quite an adventure and although, obviously, it isn't exciting all the time, it is never boring and sometimes it can be very exciting indeed. We would love to see more and more people join us on this journey.

**Annabelle** John, tell us what it is like being married to the Vicar?

**John** Well, I get the usual jokes about whether I make the tea (yes!) and serve cake (no!), but I'm convinced that we were called to work together for God, because we have complementary gifts – of course a big part of that calling is to be a support to Annette. I also do a lot of the admin, and being a graphic designer, I'm able to produce all the publicity for church events. I also have a passion for preaching, something for which I trained as a Lay Reader, and for music, so I help lead worship when it involves the more modern guitar-led hymns and songs.

[annette@jhbd.co.uk](mailto:annette@jhbd.co.uk)

01580 880282 / Mobile 07900 332791

"An amazing privilege to walk alongside people at key moments"

# Finches...

This lovely bird has inspired others to write a 'haiku', a short Japanese poem, capturing the brilliance of goldfinches in a few words.



*I passed a dancing sunflower  
on my walk today  
Out sprang a goldfinch.*

*Blooming and bobbing  
flower power head turning  
feasting goldfinches.*

Not only goldfinches are drawn by sunflower seeds on a bird feeder or thistle seed heads in the garden. Green finches love to feast on seeds too and frequently visit bird feeders and thistles.

Poet, Liz Brownlee, had a remarkable experience with a greenfinch. When she was still at school, Sharon, her friend brought two baby birds to her house. Their nest had been destroyed. Liz took the little naked sacs of pink skin, so translucent their veins could be seen, to the vet who said they were greenfinches.

Liz and her brother looked after them, feeding them with a half egg yolk, half milk mixture soaked into brown bread, every half hour. They were kept in a shoe box cocooned in a nest of cotton wool.

Both fledglings survived. The male flew away one day, but the female, named Grizelda, stayed. She lived in the kitchen in an open cage. She would sit on shoulders, fingers, fly up to trees, bathe in a saucer of water, sing long trills, hop on Liz's slipper, and loved sunbathing. Grizelda had many adventures and lived until she was thirteen!

## Greenfinch

*Sit in the tree green bird  
You don't have to sing  
just sit and spread your wings  
Sing if you like  
by Liz Brownlee.*

## Summer Flowers

The delicate froth of cow parsley, also known as *Queen Anne's Lace*, makes billowing waves against hedgerows and in fields.

*Queen Anne, Queen Anne  
Has washed her lace  
(She did it on a summer's day)  
And hung it out in a grassy place  
To whiten if it may.*

*Queen Anne, Queen Anne  
Has left it there  
And slept the dewy night;  
And waked to find the sunshine fair,  
And all the meadows white.  
Queen Anne, Queen Anne  
Is dead and gone,  
(She died a summer's day)*

*But left her lace to whiten on  
Each weed tangled day  
by Mary Leslie Heaton*



## Howzat!

Hopefully by the time *the Hurst* magazine is published we'll know how many new players we've attracted from our introductory sessions that were run at the end of May. As I write they're still a week away and the team have been busy posting leaflets through doors, and there's a new banner up on the A21 at the entrance to Foundry Close.

There's no other cricket news to speak of but we were delighted that the Parish Council have awarded the club a grant to spruce up the front of the pavilion.



We'll be replacing the old felt with some weatherboarding and replacing as much of the old rotten timber framing as possible.

There will also be some repairs to the roof to make sure we stay watertight.

As ever, we're happy to welcome new players to the club of any ability, men or women. Simply drop us a message on our facebook page at [facebook.com/hurstgreencricketclub](https://facebook.com/hurstgreencricketclub) or send an email to [hurstgreencc@gmail.com](mailto:hurstgreencc@gmail.com)

## Hurst Green Village Hall

**At last the hall is up and running!**

We welcomed some of the classes back on the 19th April, with most of the rest starting on the 17th May.

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>7pm</b> Short Mat Bowls
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>4pm</b> Children's Dance Class
	<b>7pm</b> Jive & Lindy Hop
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Upholstery (starting 9th June)
	<b>5.30pm</b> Brownies
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>2pm</b> Short Mat Bowls
	<b>6.30pm</b> Zumba
	<b>8pm</b> Zumba
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>10.30am</b> Breakfast Club (2nd & 4th Friday monthly)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>9am</b> Children's Dance Class

Now is the time to think of all those celebrations that we missed out on last year!!

Please use your village hall. Just make a booking now – no deposit – and if you have to cancel there will be no charge! We all need to let our hair down and enjoy ourselves. We will, of course, abide by whatever the government rules are at any time.

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# Fancy playing bowls...?

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give you a taste of bowls without it costing you a penny.

So, fancy playing Bowls?

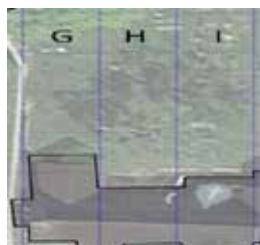
**Give Tracy, our Honorary Secretary, a call on 01892 785689 for more information.**

Here's a photo to show that we are all real people...



# Adopt a Grave News

**As part of the Adopt a Grave project, Mandy and Bob Janes are working on producing a log of all the graves in the churchyard.**



Mandy writes, 'Once we've got a grid reference for a grave, we enter the information into a document, including a picture of the headstone, and this document is in alphabetical order by surname. When complete, this document will enable people to find where any specific grave is located. I am also working on a small database so people will be able

to search for a grave with the names they are looking for, whether the name is a surname or maiden surname'.

As we often get people visiting the church to search for a specific grave, this will make the job much easier! Thanks to Bob and Mandy for taking this on, but make sure you do not work your fingers to the bone!!



**Our lovely village church has a very extensive graveyard with in excess of 250 headstones dating back to the mid nineteenth century.**

Many of these are neglected and forlorn and could use a bit of TLC. Here is an opportunity for you to get involved, *Adopt a Grave* and transform it to its former glory! Discover the names, dates and history of our predecessors.

**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!**

Contact Richard on 01580 860649 or email [richard@blackaby.force9.co.uk](mailto:richard@blackaby.force9.co.uk)

# Hurst Green Brownies

**Did you know Hurst Green Brownies has spaces for girls aged between 7 and 10 years old?**

Following Covid 19 restrictions last year we were not allowed to meet face to face for some time, although we managed some meetings via Zoom.

I am extremely pleased to say that we are back to meeting face to face on a Wednesday for an hour every week in Hurst Green village hall.

We have got a small group including four new recruits and the girls are playing games, crafting, cooking, learning new skills, earning badges, making friends and above all else having fun!

And on the serious side we have a risk assessment in place, which adheres to the

current government and National Youth Agency guidance, which will be updated as and when necessary.

Our activities are spaced out and monitored carefully so we are keeping both ourselves and our girls as safe as we can in the current circumstances.

But we'd love to grow our unit, so if you have a daughter, granddaughter or know a little girl who would be interested in joining us, they can be registered at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/)



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## What's happening?

Well, we are now back in the church building, or outside if the weather is fine, every Sunday morning starting from 9am for coffee or tea, with the service commencing at 9.30am. The church building will now be open every weekday from 10am-4pm. It is a very peaceful space for private meditation and prayer so hopefully it will provide a safe place to enjoy.

**There will be a Cream Tea and Songs of Praise on Saturday 10th July from 4-6pm. See advert (right).**

The Adopt a Grave project continues and there are still several graves awaiting some TLC! Contact Richard for details 01580860649 or richard@blackaby.force9.co.uk

We would also welcome any extra help with the maintenance of the churchyard. Strimming, hedge cutting and mowing all hotting up at this time of the year. Thankfully, the sheep earn their keep which helps a lot!

The church and school link has been challenging during lockdown but the children did come up to the church for an Easter Scavenger Hunt and we had fun finding clues to tell the Easter story and plant some wildflower seeds which are beginning to peep through!

Our prayers for the village are that everyone will be blessed with good health, happy relationships and all their needs will be provided for. We continue to collect for the Hastings Foodbank and Hygiene Bank. As lockdown eases, we are looking forward to trying out some new ideas: Breakfast and Café church with space for discussion and exploring what Christianity is really all about. Why not come along and find out, we're a friendly bunch and you would be very welcome.

*Free Cream Tea*  
followed by  
**SONGS OF PRAISE**  
You are invited to come along to the church for a cream tea at  
**4pm on July 10th**  
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## Burgh Woods, a nature lover's view

**What a delight to have these woods on our doorstep and at this time of the year they are at their best.** Recently, we have been treated to an array of wildflowers such as celandine, wild garlic, wood anemones, violets and of course thousands of beautiful bluebells. Also, on the ground and in rotting tree stumps come the fungi. Agarics, ink caps, russula, puffballs and death cap; some of which are

"Take your litter home and put it in a bin!"

very poisonous! There are around 15 types of tree, sprouting buds, leaves, and blossoms. Bird song is at its height, over 20 species can be heard. Squirrels abound and traces of the more elusive foxes, badgers, hedgehogs, and field mice can be found.

Then come the bottles, drink cans, plastic bags, toffee papers, chocolate bar wrappers etc, etc, etc.

In the last four months, two litter pickings per week have resulted in 159lbs (72Kgs) and approx. 416 items being collected so far. Dropping litter is an offence by law and offenders can face prosecution. So, what can we do to prevent this damage to the environment?

It is quite simple, take your litter home and put it in a bin! Let's keep this jewel of a place free from rubbish and pollution so we can preserve the woods for all to enjoy!



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