

Hurst Life

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Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #1 : April 2015

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yourself!

GODDARDS GREEN
ANSTY
CUCKFIELD

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Meet Chris Bradford

p. 16

On your bike around Hurstpierpoint

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Good Friday community event

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Hello and welcome to something new for Hurstpierpoint!

I feel as if I've been talking a lot about **Hurst Life** (to anyone who'll listen) over the last month or so but I need to remember that this is the **first time** you have seen it.

Basically, Hurst Life is your **new community magazine**. My vision - which I hope you will share - is to create an **attractive and readable magazine** that will help to pull together the already amazing community of Hurstpierpoint. We will find and write **interesting stories** about people, organisations and businesses in the village. **But we will need your help**. To that end I have put together some information on how you can be involved in future editions on **page 23**.

Above all else I would really value your comments, feedback and article ideas, so do please email me on editor@hurstlife.co.uk.

I am also on the lookout for an **editorial assistant** - see **page 22**. I am extremely grateful to Hurstpierpoint residents **Linda and John Levett** for stepping in for the short term but if you are passionate about your community, can write copy and have some time to spare each week I'd love to hear from you.

Getting this first issue off the ground and packed with good quality Hurst content is certainly something I am excited about. However, what is genuinely exciting is the fact that I know, from having spoken to lots of folk from the village recently, that this is just scratching the surface of what goes on here.

I've now run out of space here already but I am extremely grateful to all those who have contributed to issue number one. Renowned local author **Chris Bradford** is featured on **page 16**, **Ashley Knowles** suggests a cycle route starting and finishing here on **page 10** and **David Saitch** rounds up this month's **Hurst Village Cinema** highlights on **page 12**, to name just a handful of our articles that follow.

I hope you enjoy finding your way around...

Issue #1 - April 2015 -
4,500 copies printed

Next magazine copydate:
18th April 2015

Next magazine published:
1st May 2015

Hurst Life

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within the magazine are of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the editors. Whilst the editors welcome contributions & photographs, this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to include them and that the item may be edited & that there is no breach of copyright. Neither the editors nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement.

Hurst Life Published by Kipper



David Tingley
Looking East at sunrise
down the High Street

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We'd love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to editor@hurstlife.co.uk

Fundraising Fashion Show

The whole village is invited to a celebration of fashion at the Village Centre later this month.

The fashion show is being organised by a group of caring members of the community as they seek to raise money to help Tilly, who lives in Hurstpierpoint with her family but suffers from Pitt Hopkins Syndrome. This condition is a very rare genetic disorder that causes significant learning and physical disabilities. It is thought that only around 200 people in the UK have been formally diagnosed with Pitt Hopkins.

One of the organisers, Gill Blackburn, said: "We are trying to help the family financially as they seek to adapt their home to enable Tilly to have everything she needs on the ground floor. She's such a sweet girl, we just want to do all we can."

The fashion show, which features all local models, is being held on Saturday 25th April and starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale now from The Mint House and Ashley & Thomas. The entry price of £15 includes your first glass of wine. All proceeds from the event will go to Tilly and her family.

Poetry for all afternoon

The Hurst Afternoon Club are hosting a special event this month: Rattlebag Poets 'Poetry for all'. The afternoon starts at 2.15pm on 7th April at the Village Centre and promises an interactive programme of talking poetry, reading poems, hearing memories and childhood poems.

The event is open to all, even if you are not a member of the Afternoon Club.

The Hurst Afternoon Club is a social network for people in the village to meet up to socialise and was established 45 years ago. Membership is £15 per year and there are meetings every month. As a group they would love members of the community to come forward, enjoy the group and also be on the committee. The patron of the club is Call the Midwife actress Judy Parfitt.

All are welcome at the the 'Poetry for all' event and folk are encouraged to bring along poems of their own, or their favourites, to the meeting.



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'The Big Clear Up' and Family Fun Friday

The annual big clear up and fun afternoon is back! Good Friday will see a flurry of activity in the Willow Way area as volunteers and residents get together to help clear out rubbish and tidy up the area. As always there's a free skip down at the Court Bushes Rec, this year funded by local company Bell Group, and there will be people on hand to help load, shift and clear rubbish.

In the meantime, while the hard work is going on, there's also lots of free family fun at the Melting Pot Cafe, based at Hurstpierpoint Ex-Servicemen's and Social Club. Outside there's all sorts going on - bouncy castle, football cage, live music, face painting, kids activities from local charity HOPE and much more. All this will be free, plus there's a pay BBQ, homemade cakes, tea and coffee in the cafe, and the bar will be open from midday too. The event is being run by the local churches working together in conjunction with the Social Club, Bell Group, HOPE and local residents, and is always a really fun community afternoon. One of last year's visitors said: "We were happy because the children were happy! And we got rid of a lot of junk into that skip - thank you!"

Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun, or even to come and volunteer! Bring a bin bag and some gloves and get on down to the Social Club. The rubbish clearing starts from 9am and the family fun is from 12-3pm.

A fun afternoon for everyone! More info at: www.facebook.com/willowwaycafe or email jules@thepointchurch.co.uk



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Stolen dog reunited at village vets

In September last year Jasper, a one year old whippet, vanished from Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. Incredibly, six months later he has been found right here in Hurstpierpoint.

Jasper was brought into Heath Veterinary Clinic after being found by Wendy Jones. On arrival vet Rhian-Mai Jones immediately scanned him for a microchip. The details of his owner, Michael Ford, popped up and she immediately got in touch to let him know Jasper had been found. Michael and his family were shocked and elated.

Later that evening, local resident Natasha Carr came into the clinic stating she had lost her dog. It transpired that Jasper was indeed the dog she described.

In October last year, Natasha saw Jasper (to her family known as Blue) chained to a caravan in a carpark close to Hurstpierpoint and was immediately concerned due to his malnourished appearance. She handed over a sum of money to the person who appeared to be his owner in order to take him home straightaway.

Natasha commented: "He looked so neglected I had to do something and immediately took him home, it never occurred to me he may have been stolen."

On learning that Jasper had been stolen from Michael and his family, Natasha said goodbye in what was an emotional farewell. Michael added: "We honestly thought that we'd never see Jasper again and cannot thank Wendy and Heath Vets enough. We thought he had been stolen but had no proof, now we know the truth."

Cancer Charity Golf Day

A Hurstpierpoint charity is holding a Charity Golf Day at Cuckfield Golf Centre on Thursday 28th May.

Cancervive, which was started seven years ago by resident Paul Huggett after he had been widowed twice by cancer, offers help and support to the family, friends and colleagues of cancer patients.

"After my own experience," Paul explained, "I knew there was a need for those who care for and survive the patients they have been looking after to talk about what it's like to be on the other side of cancer. We bridge that gap and offer a telephone helpline, online forum, home visits and support groups."

Bookings are now being taken for the Golf Day in Cuckfield, which starts at 9 am and costs £45 to include a BBQ. Call Cancervive on 01273 834912 or email paul@cancervive.org.uk.

For more information with regard to Cancervive please visit the website at www.cancervive.org.uk.



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New wine bar opening on High Street

There is something new coming to the High Street this month as a Hurst resident prepares to unveil Morley's Wine Bar and Bistro.

Toby Payne knows he's got a huge task on his hands as he is completely gutting and refitting what was T'Hurst at 42 High Street. "This place has had a lot of change in recent years, so I have decided to almost completely start again," Toby commented. The whole kitchen has been thrown out and replaced. The bar is reduced in size and redesigned, and the courtyard outside is also being renovated. The tones for the new interior will be simply pale gray and white.

"We want this place to be all inclusive," Toby continued. "We will be serving breakfast and morning coffees, lunches and afternoon cakes right through to sophisticated dining in the evening. We look forward to

welcoming mums and toddlers, dogs and their owners in the courtyard and retirees out for lunch - and anything in between!"

Toby, who grew up with both parents working in the hospitality sector, is used to the drill of running a restaurant. He spent 13 years working for Virgin Atlantic in their global catering division and, before moving down to Hurstpierpoint from Wimbledon, he was running three private members' clubs in London.

The refitted restaurant will have capacity for up to 50 diners inside, plus plenty more in the south-facing courtyard and garden, and will be managed by Kate Howard (pictured with Toby). Morley's opens on Good Friday and will be available for reservations from Easter Saturday 5th April.



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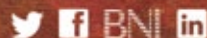


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Round Hurstpierpoint by Bike

SUSSEX NOMADS CYCLING CLUB

Hurst Lanes
Introduction
21 miles / 34 km

By Ashley Knowles

So you've been watching the weather for months, your bike cowering at the back of the garage, cobwebbed and unloved? Well, it's time for that to change; there's a feeling in the air of a new season with fresh promise. It's time to grease your chain, pump up your tyres and head out into the countryside.

This ride is a relatively short introduction to the beautiful, secret lanes that surround you. Avoiding the main roads, you'll find peace, quiet and a sense of exploration. You can ride the route with any roadworthy bike and you should manage the distance if you're at least moderately fit ... but don't underestimate the steady ascent in the middle! Take a snack and plenty to drink, and remember that you're doing this for fun. Pace yourself, and take a break if you feel you're overdoing it.

From the centre of Hurstpierpoint, head east towards Hassocks. After the sharp left-hand bend at the entrance to New Way Lane, turn left on to College Lane. Be careful as you pass the houses here, as there's very little room for cars. At Hurstpierpoint College, take the left turn on to Chalkers Lane, then the first right on to Danworth Lane and relax; you're now in countryside proper.

You don't need to navigate now for a mile and a half, until you reach the end of the lane. Turn left on to Gatehouse Lane and almost immediately go across the Goddards Green crossroads by the Sportsman Inn. Mind your head as you cycle under the vehicle barrier, and carry on along Bishopstone Lane until you hit the A2300. Cross carefully on to the continuation of Bishopstone Lane, then immediately turn left on to Job's Lane, a hidden back-way parallel to the A-road. After two-thirds of a mile, turn right on to Stairbridge Lane and continue north for two and a half miles, in the process crossing the A272 onto Buncton Lane. You should detect a change in the landscape; you're seeing the same unremarkable but charming Sussex fields but the road has started to head upwards.

At the end of the lane, turn left on to Broxmead Lane, and cross above the roaring A23. Turn right on to the old London Road and keep climbing until you reach the roundabout by the Esso petrol station. Turn left here on to Jeremy's Lane and you're immediately surrounded by dappled woodland. Enjoy glimpses of the Downs in the



distance on your left and within half a mile you'll be able to congratulate yourself on having reached the highest point of the ride.

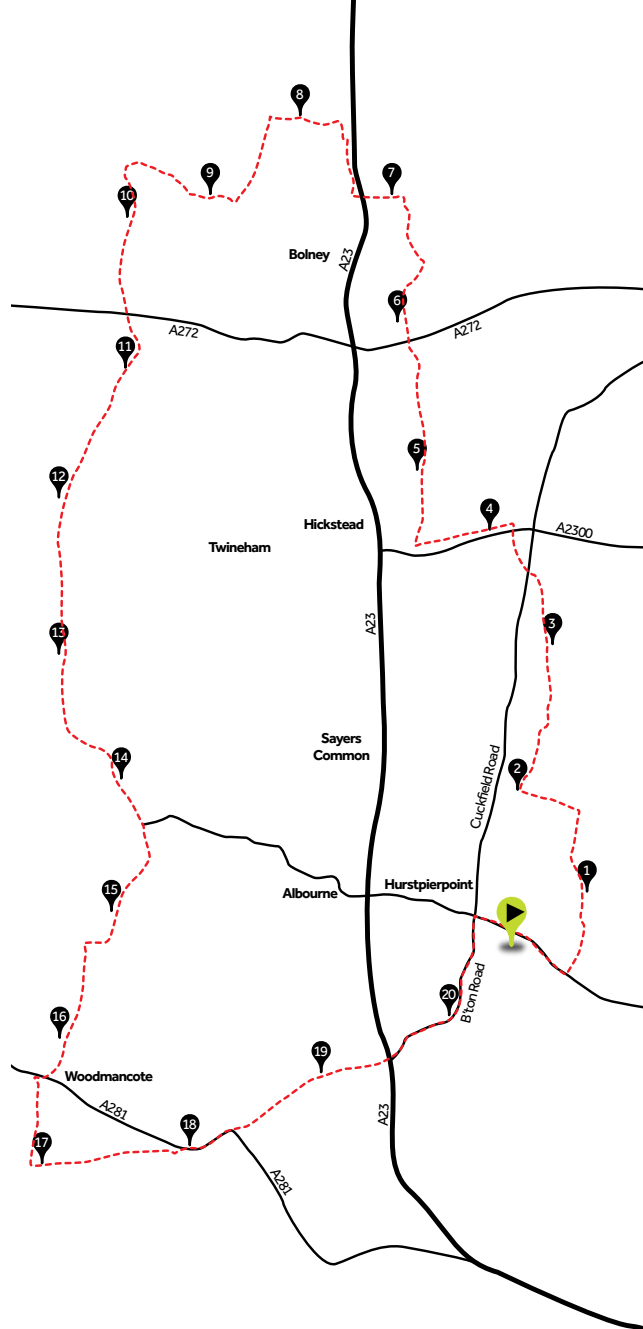
At the end of Jeremy's Lane, turn left on to Colwood Lane and drop down the hill, turning right on to Cross Colwood Lane at the end. Leave some energy in your legs for a short but stiff climb up to the end of the lane, where you'll turn left on to Spronkett's Lane. It's blissfully downhill now, crossing the A272 on to Wineham Lane.

Keep on Wineham Lane for three miles until the end, then turn left on to the B2116 and take the next right on to Blackstone Lane, signposted for Blackstone. Enjoy riding through the small village and keep on to the end of the lane at Woodmancote, where you'll turn right on to the A281 and then immediately left on to Bramlands Lane. Bear left after about 100 yards to continue on Bramlands Lane, then at the end of the lane a mile and a half later turn left on to Clappers Lane and immediately right on to the A281.

At the Ginger Fox, bear left on to the B2117, climb gently past Shaves Wood and follow the road back to Hurstpierpoint and home.

Follow this link to see a detailed map of the route, which you can download to a GPS device:

<https://connect.garmin.com/course/8965822>



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The Sussex Nomads Cycling Club is a long-established club based around Ditchling with over 100 members who cycle for pleasure, fitness and sport.

Prospective new members are always welcome on club runs – just turn up at 9am any Sunday at Ditchling Village Hall, or visit our website at www.sussexnomads.org.uk and follow the link to our online forum for full details of coming events. If you're new to group riding, our Come & Try It rides are for you – they're normally held on the first Sunday of the month throughout the summer.



By David Saitch

The Spring film season at the Village Cinema kicks off with a brilliant, taut and satirical thriller that is destined to become a classic – *Nightcrawler* (15).

Jake Gyllenhaal shed 30 pounds to become the lean, mean, career hungry anti-hero Lou Bloom.

Lou is looking for a job and will try to talk his way into anything. He is a self-help book junkie and is fluent in all the patter they provide, but it isn't working for him and he's getting desperate.

Then one night he comes across a nasty traffic accident and notices a film crew jostling with emergency crews to grab some footage. Nosily enquiring, he discovers that these are freelance operators who try to find the grimmest events in the underbelly of the city, film them and sell the footage to whichever TV news station will pay the most. Lou decides to muscle into their cut-throat, dangerous world and will do whatever it takes to get a good story, which leads him into dangerous territory.

Gyllenhaal is a revelation, giving an utterly compelling, electric performance as the morally ambivalent Bloom, and he is supported by a terrific, multi-layered performance from Rene Russo as the harassed news editor who is repelled by him but needs the footage he is selling.

The film is an acidly funny and scathing social satire on both the rolling news culture and the self-help literature industry, as well as being a pulse-pounding and highly entertaining thriller.

★★★★★ Guardian, Time Out, Empire
Friday 10th April 8pm Tickets £4/£6 non-members

Our NT Live presentation this month is Tom Stoppard's highly anticipated new play, *The Hard Problem*.

One of the most celebrated British playwrights, Tom Stoppard delivers a play every few years by choosing a subject matter, usually abstract, heavily researching it and then working out its dramatic possibilities. In this play, the 'hard problem' of the title is the problem of consciousness. Where is it? What is it? Is 'the mind' the same as 'the brain'? If there is nothing but matter, then what is consciousness? Stoppard wittily uses the private turmoil of his characters to highlight the clash between pure science and the workings of the mind.

★★★★★ Daily Mail
Thursday 16th April 7pm Tickets £10/£12.50 non-members

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Aspire to be fit for life

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Many parents choose a career in teaching because it fits in well after you have had children. For Jane Roweth that's exactly when she left! She realised that she wanted to choose the hours she worked so that she didn't miss out on spending time with Molly and Cam.

Jane lives with her husband Malcolm and children in nearby Hassocks and runs Aspire Fitness from a studio in the village.

Jane studied Sports Science at Loughborough University before going travelling in her 20s. Her travels took her around the world doing various things, including teaching watersports in the South of France, trekking on camels in India and working as a fitness instructor at the original Les Mills gym in New Zealand.

On her return to the UK, Jane decided to train as a teacher and completed her PGCE in 1993. More travelling followed, with teaching jobs in various schools in Australia, ski repping in the USA and teaching in London before settling in Sussex and taking a permanent job at Oathall Community College in 1997.

Jane loved the job, that was until she had children of her own. At this point she began to feel torn, and running after school clubs (something she had always really enjoyed) became tough when she knew her children were being looked after by someone else.

So in 2008 Jane completed a Personal Training Diploma, became one of the first qualified kettlebells instructors in Sussex and in early 2009 Aspire Fitness Solutions was born.

"It started with just a poster on a noticeboard in Hassocks and we trained in the park," Jane explained. "I soon realised that I was actually able to make a difference; people were telling me how they'd finally found fitness activities they enjoyed and could stick to." One of the first members of the original running group, Marina Bullivant, has since gained a 'UK Athletics' qualification and is now a running leader with Aspire.

Jane's mantra is being fit for the life you want to lead.

"This means different things for different people. For some it might be being able to play on the floor with the grandchildren, while for others it could be running a half marathon."

Zoe Holmes, from Hurstpierpoint, put it like this: "Before I began training with Jane I was convinced that I would never be able to run, never mind enjoy running. However, my attitude has been transformed as I now realise that anyone can run as long as they take it at their own pace - it's amazing! I still enjoy going for a run and love the fact that it fits in so easily with family life."

Aspire Fitness offers a number of options, including small personal fitness classes and running groups. You can also benefit from semi-private sessions in the studio where there are just one or two people with you. In a semi-private session although you are training with others, everyone is working on their own goals, which have been set with Jane early on. "Those sessions are very supportive and we all seek to encourage each other in the small setting," Jane explained. Traditional one to one training is also available.

Aspire now also includes yoga sessions, which are run by Mali Bowers who was teaching yoga in New York City for three years before moving back to Hurstpierpoint.

Last year Jane was able to reflect as she invited over 100 guests to the Aspire Fitness Solutions 5th Birthday Party. "I'm very proud of what my clients have achieved," she beamed. "Many had previously tried traditional gyms and not been able to stick with it; others believed that they would never be able to change but have proved themselves wrong."

So, one final tip from Jane: Get active with your friends or family every week. It's a social, fun and free extra weekly session!

Aspire Fitness Solutions has a studio on Keymer Road in Hassocks. Mention 'Hurst Life' and you can book a free consultation by calling Jane on 01273 844358.



World Story Telling Day celebrated in shop

A book group for young readers celebrated World Story Telling Day last month when local author Sheila Rance met the group and read some of her latest title. Sheila, who works part-time at Downloads School, was invited to the book group which meets every month at The Mint House bookshop. She was reading extracts from the third in her trilogy Story Singer, which is published next month.



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From chords to swords

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By David Tingley

"It was whilst travelling on a bus in New Zealand, entertaining the other passengers with my guitar. That's when I knew," Chris said, as he told me when he knew he wanted to be a professional musician. Yet somehow his journey led him to become a bestselling children's writer.

Chris Bradford lives in Hurstpierpoint with his wife Sarah and two sons Zach and Leo. Chris is an accomplished author with 23 books in print, sold around the world in 20 languages. He is best known for his Young Samurai series set in 17th Century Japan as Jack Fletcher trains to become a samurai warrior. However, writing fiction wasn't Chris' first dream.

At 22 he left Exeter university with a degree in English Literature under his arm. "But not with any desire to write literature," Chris explains. No, music was his thing, but first he had to get some travel out of his system. He travelled around Africa, the United States, Australia and New Zealand - where he had the 'light bulb moment'.

On his return to the UK Chris turned his thoughts and energies into, in his words, "becoming a rock star"! He studied at the London Music School and soon formed a band with friends - Clearway. "We were a five piece rock band with a bit of funk thrown in," Chris explained. "A kind of cross between Coldplay and The Red Hot Chili Peppers. They were great years!"

He describes the success of Clearway as 'surviving rather than thriving'. They played to packed clubs and recorded a number of albums, albeit self-funded. The band's highlight was undoubtedly playing at the 21st Celebration of the Commonwealth in front HRH Queen Elizabeth at Kensington Gardens in 2001.

But Chris now had his heart set on becoming a songwriter and, through his carefully planned networking amongst the industry, he was invited to join the committee

"I've travelled the world but Hurstpierpoint is my slice of heaven!"

of The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA). Here he represented young songwriters and found himself sitting next to composers who had written for the likes of Cliff Richard, Elton John and Elvis. One of the first ideas he brought to the table at BASCA was for them to produce a book about how to write a definitive hit song. To his surprise they all loved the concept and he was tasked with talking to publishers about the book. To his even greater surprise publishers loved the idea too and it wasn't long before he was offered a deal!

This became a seminal moment in Chris' career as his BASCA colleagues asked him to put the book together. Without any previous experience of writing, he said 'yes' straightaway for one simple reason. Researching for the project would mean he'd get in front of songwriting heavyweights like Guy Chambers and Don Black - this would expand his network of highly connected people and therefore create opportunities for working with them in the future. It was a dream ticket for any budding songwriter.

It is at this point that both the book and the story take a brief pause.

Having signed the book contract, Chris then went abroad on a pre-arranged humanitarian trip to Nicaragua for six months. Working with sustainable development charity Raleigh International, he was part of the team building a school hostel in the town of Achuapa and it was here that he met his wife Sarah, as she worked as translator and project manager for the build. "I've long had the belief that travel is better when taken from a local perspective, so working on the school provided the perfect vehicle with which to see that part of the world. Being able to help that community was an amazing opportunity too. We all learnt so much," Chris told me.

When he returned he moved to High Wycombe, got on with the book project and also began teaching at the Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford.

The book - *Heart & Soul: Revealing the Craft of Songwriting* - was published in May 2005 and received much critical acclaim at the time. Indeed Tim Rice said of it: "This book offers a rare glimpse into the mind of the professional songwriter. I highly recommend it."

Chris' book was so successful that he was immediately commissioned to write four more on similar subjects by Sanctuary Publishing.

After an informal chat with a literary agent, he was invited back for a meeting in which Charlie Viney offered to represent him. "Charlie told me he saw potential in me. More so, in many ways, than I even saw in myself at that time."

It was clear to Chris that he wouldn't be able to make a living from writing books about the music business and so was exploring other areas of his life to see what gave him inspiration. "I suddenly realised that there were three strands that ran throughout my life: music, travel and martial arts," Chris explained. "Karate Kid came out when I was 10 and it was so inspirational for me as a child. So I explored the idea of fictional stories based upon real events from ancient Japanese times. When I mentioned it to Charlie, he just said: "Have you told anyone else about this? I hope not. This is gold!"

And so it was there that the idea behind the *Young Samurai* series was born. Since the age of eight Chris has learnt various martial arts and now it was becoming extremely useful. Chris has developed what he calls 'method writing'. He drew on his own skills and experience to carefully choreograph the fight scenes in the books because he understood exactly how they would play out. In fact, for that first book he spent three weeks in Japan as he researched the areas and history of the 1600s.

After writing and re-writing *The Way of the Warrior*, Charlie sent the manuscript to a few of his contacts in the publishing industry and told Chris not to expect to hear anything for at least a month. The very next day Puffin called and wanted to talk!

It was around this time that Chris and his wife-to-be moved into Hurstpierpoint. "We originally thought we would look at Lewes, but, when I saw the road sign pointing to Hurstpierpoint, I couldn't resist the unusual name! It was literally love at first sight for me," Chris says. Among other things the pair were struck by how friendly people were here. He loved the idea making a home in a



Photo: Rune Hallestad

Above: Chris meeting the Duchess of Cornwall at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London for a celebration of World Book Day

Right: Chris wielding the sword at one of my events

Below: Chris' first book, *The Way of the Warrior*

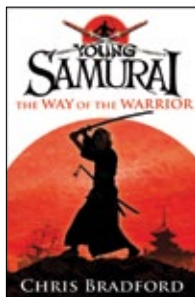


Photo: Mark Spooner

place where locals said "hello" regardless of whether they know you or not.

Chris signed the deal for the first in his fiction book series on 11th August 2007 and later that same day married Sarah at the Weald & Downland Museum near Chichester.

Way of the Warrior was published in 2008 and now has eight *Young Samurai* titles. This series was followed by *Ninja* and the more recent *Bodyguard* books, in which his method writing led him to qualify as a fully fledged bodyguard to get into the role. I caught up with Chris just before he left for Paris on a media launch tour of this latest series.

"I've been lucky enough to travel around the world but Hurstpierpoint is my slice of heaven. It's perfect for me."

Chris loves to walk to the shops and has always been a supporter of the High Street businesses in the village. He tells me he's known locally as 'The Sword Man'. "Does your wife mind?" I ask. Chris smiles and says: "Sarah just laughs at me; she keeps me very grounded!"

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Tracey Tolman



Tracey from Unfield joined Potential in June 2014 and since then has lost 3 stone and 85 cm off her whole body! Tracey used to suffer from heart palpitations but doesn't any longer.

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#3 The Health Demon

You may have heard us talk about Cortisol before; it's a stress hormone and a lot of the time we don't like it very much. High levels of Cortisol in the body can have all kinds of effects on our health. These are the most common that we come across with our clients: lowered immune function, increased weight gain (especially around the middle), high blood pressure, increased cholesterol levels, heart disease & cardiac related issues, chronic stress, fatigue, depression, addiction, anxiety...The List is Endless. The GOOD NEWS however is that regular exercise outdoors significantly reduces Cortisol levels in the body!!!!

#4 Life Expectancy & Health In old Age

A Study carried out by the USDC looked at adults in their 60s who took part in the same amount of exercise over a period of time at regular intervals. Results from the study showed that the participants who exercised outdoors had a far greater level of fitness and all round health and well-being.

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Casino Night comes to Hurstpierpoint

ST LAWRENCE FAIR

By Linda Levett

Don your black tie, ball gown or slinky black number and join friends at the St Lawrence Fair Casino Night to be held on Saturday 16th May, from 7.30pm.

The venue will be the Scout Headquarters and you will be amazed! No sign of Arkala or any little boys with caps on... I went a couple of years ago and when I entered the hall I was hit by the WOW factor! Incredibly, it had been transformed into a casino with croupiers spinning wheels and dealing cards... and the champagne flowed! There was a real buzz and everyone dressed up and rose to the occasion! It truly was like a scene from a James Bond film! To add to the fun, you could bet on the tables without fear of losing a fortune.

The fair is obviously well known in the village and is possibly one of the best events of the year. It has recently come to light that the cost to running this amazing weekend is increasing more and more, and fundraising events like this one are necessary to keep the fair alive.

With this in mind, the fair needs your support so keep a look out for posters around the village, and be sure to follow their Facebook Group for more updates on this event.

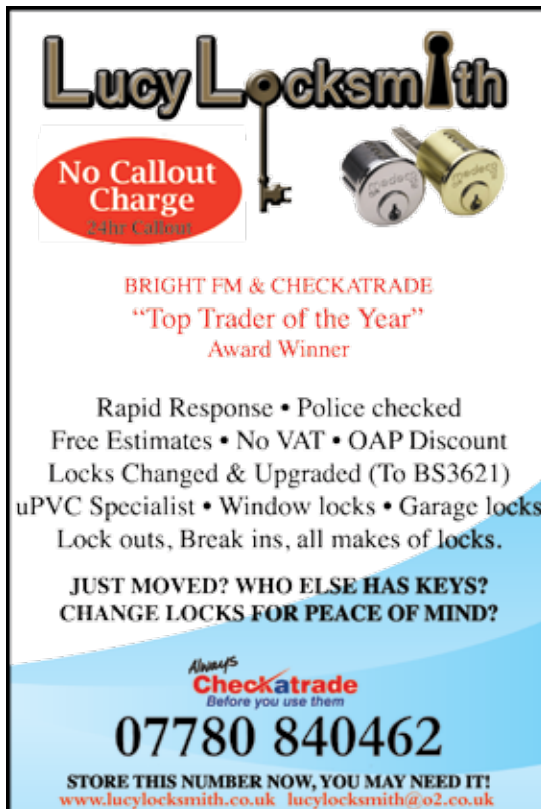
The 702nd St Lawrence Village Fair will be held on Saturday 4th July 2015 with the theme 'Hollywood'. Would you like to be involved in the procession? Do you have an old American Cadillac, or a car from a classic film? If you do, please get in touch with one of the committee members. Let's all get our thinking caps on and make this an even bigger event than last year.

If you want to join in the fun on the day and have the opportunity to be acclaimed 'Best Float', then get together with one of the pubs, shops or one of the many village groups and enter.

Another way the committee raise money is through sponsorship, and this year a new 50/50 raffle. They have many sponsorship packages available, so if you would be interested in sponsoring one of the oldest village fairs in England then please email stlawrencefair@gmail.com.

You'll be pleased to hear that 'Hurst's got Talent' will run again this year for children aged 14 and under. This will be held in The New Inn on Saturday 6th June from 4pm - after the St Lawrence School fete which finishes at 3pm. You need to get your children rehearsing now to become stars of the village, especially as the winner gets the ultimate honour of opening the fair and performing again in the arena!

Between now and July we will update you each month with what is happening and we welcome any ideas and suggestions you may have!



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Easter services in Hurstpierpoint

Hurstpierpoint Evangelical Church

149 High Street, Hurstpierpoint

Senior Moments event – Tues 31st March
11.15am-3.30pm – A lunch followed by an Easter message, plus quizzes, crafts and games. Cost £6 per person. Please contact Margaret Back on 01273 834485 before 27th March to book a place.

Good Friday – 3rd April
10.30-11.30am, with The Lord's Supper.
Bible message: "The King's Ransom"

Easter Sunday – 5th April
10.30-11.30am – Bible message: "The King's Return"

Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church

42 Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint

Easter Sunday – 5th April
10.30am Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Parish Church

Hurstpierpoint

Good Friday – 3rd April
10.15am Walk of Witness for all ages beginning at South Avenue followed by coffee and hot cross buns in church
12noon Meditations on the Cross until
2pm The Last Hour at the Cross

Holy Saturday – 4th April
8pm The Easter Vigil with Renewal of Baptismal Promises and the first Eucharist of Easter

Easter Day – 5th April
8am Easter Eucharist – a simple said service
9.45am Easter Eucharist – a celebration with Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Melting Pot Cafe

(The Point together with Hurstpierpoint churches)

Good Friday – 3rd April – Annual Big Clear Up
All day from 9am with free skip at The Court Bushes Rec – we'll be pulling together to do some clearing of rubbish in the Willow Way area

Family Fun Afternoon 12-3pm at the Social Club, Court Bushes, FREE for everyone!
Fun & Games, bouncy castle, football cage, live band, kids crafts, face painting, Pay Bar, BBQ & refreshments



The WI celebrates 100 years

By Brenda Mack

Many people will know of the WI, an organisation which, in 1915, set out to give women a voice, and to be a force for good in the community. This year is their centenary and they are still going strong!

The WI has moved with the times and the many ways in which women's lives have changed but it still focuses on what really matters: helping women to lead the lives they want to, with all the advice they can get, and having a say in all our futures.

There are two WI's in Hurstpierpoint, an afternoon one meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, and an evening one (called Wolstonbury) meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. New members are always most welcome. For more information call 01273 832575.

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Got a news story?

By David Tingley

In busy communities like Hurstpierpoint many things change on a regular basis. Shops move in and out of the High Street, people retire from office, organisations celebrate anniversaries or take part in special trips. I have very quickly learned that there is lots going on here in the village and, at Hurst Life, we want to be able share these various events and information with all.

Whether you are responsible for the school PTA or just want to share something your own children have taken part in – we want to hear from you.

Perhaps you know someone next door who has been given an award, or your road is holding a street party in the summer – we want to hear from you.

If your business is growing or you are launching a new product – we want to hear from you.

If the charity you are great supporter of is putting on an event in the village, then let's try and get a larger turnout than you had last year – we want to hear from you.

I hope you get the picture! I personally have a real passion about bringing communities together and news stories like the above are the lifeblood of what will make this magazine both useful and interesting to other local residents.

Get in touch with us by email – editor@hurstlife.co.uk – or call the office on 01273 796026.

Are you passionate about Hurstpierpoint?

If you are, and you can write engaging copy, then we would love to talk to you.

We are in need of an editorial assistant to work on Hurst Life magazine. The role would suit someone who has some time on their hands during the week but can also be flexible with the hours they work.

The job involves meeting and talking to local people, seeking out potential stories and responding to emails and logging content which comes in from others.

You will need to be a highly organised person with access to a computer and who has 25 hours available per month.

For more information on the role please see the website: www.hurstlife.co.uk/jobs. If you think it's for you, then do get in touch as described on the job ad page.

How can I be involved?

If you like what you see of this first Hurst Life magazine, and its potential in the community, we would love you to be involved. Here are just a few ways that you might like to consider...





5 MINUTES WITH...

Jerzy Lewandowski

How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?

My family have been residents for 32 years and loved every moment of it.

What's the best thing about being here?

Friendly, lively village with a great High Street and all the pubs, restaurants etc are very welcoming.

Favourite ice cream flavour?

Chocolate, and the whole tub to myself!

How many houses have you lived in?

Two houses and four flats.

Favourite holiday destination?

Isle of Wight - the best destination for families.

Your most enjoyable event in the village?

Got to be the one and only St Lawrence Fair – if you have not been you are missing out. The committee do a fantastic job.

Do you share your home with anyone?

My lovely wife and two of my children (the other three have flown the nest).

Song you play the most?

'Don't worry, be happy'. I do try to follow the advice but sometimes lapse – ask the wife!

Mac or PC?

Mac without doubt.

Your most frequented village shop?

The local shop next to the White Horse - friendly and sells almost everything.

What's your proudest moment?

Becoming a dad each and every time. And I can't leave out walking my daughter down the aisle last year.

Coke, juice or water?

Err, water with hops in!

Your advice for life?

Enjoy it and everything you have in it.

If you'd like to take up the '5 mins' spot or recommend someone else – email in the answers and a photo to editor@hurstlife.co.uk

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Hospice celebrates 40th anniversary

Local care provider St Peter & St James Hospice is celebrating a very special year – 2015 is its 40th anniversary. The Hospice has an exciting calendar of events planned throughout the year and it is hoped that more people than ever will get involved and be part of the year of celebrations.

Last year the Hospice's Community Team made over 4,000 visits to patients at home. The Hospice provides over 1500 counselling sessions for patients and families and cares for 595 patients. St Peter & St James was also able to support over one third of its inpatients to return home.


All the Hospice services are free of charge to patients and loved ones, and St Peter & St James relies on its local community for 86% of its funds as just 14% comes from the Government. St Peter & St James cares for patients from Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Lewes, Uckfield and surrounding villages. With a population of

200,000, if every person in the catchment area gave just £1 a month this would nearly cover the running costs.


Colin Burgess, Chief Executive of St Peter & St James Hospice, said: "In this our 40th anniversary year, we will be taking the opportunity to celebrate our past, as we plan and prepare for the future. And of course none of this would have been possible without our generous supporters, our dedicated staff and our loyal volunteers. So, as we look forward to the next forty years, we can do so with pride.

"It was in 1975 that Susan Dinnage opened the 'St Peter & St James Holiday Home for the Disabled' in North Chailey. Forty years on, what a difference we see! Whilst we still have the donkeys for which the site was originally best known, our focus has shifted to ensuring that the very best care and support is provided to local people, and their families, as they move towards the end of their lives."

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The Miniaturist by Jessie Burton

BOOK REVIEW

By Deb Hollywood

"There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed" ... On an autumn day in 1686, 18 year old Petronella (Nella) Oortman knocks at the door of a grand house in the wealthiest quarter of Amsterdam. She has arrived from the country to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt in what is pretty much an 'arranged marriage'. There is no sign of Johannes and she is met by his sharp-tongued sister Marin, outspoken maid Cornelia and Otto, Johannes' manservant, who was a former slave. Only later does Johannes appear and, as what seemingly appears in consolation for his reluctance to consummate their marriage, presents Nella with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home.

Fuelled by humiliation, Nella engages an elusive 'miniaturist' to furnish it. But when the parcels start arriving, exquisite Lilliputian items that somehow mimic, foretell and comment upon the events unfolding in the house, Nella becomes increasingly obsessed with the cryptic messages from the miniaturist, uncertain if she is prophet, guide or spy as her creations mirror the closed world of the Brandt household.

The book unravels at a cracking pace. Nella has only been in Amsterdam four months before the climax of the plot is reached and Burton does well to keep us guessing beyond this point as to whether the miniaturist will be the key to the Brandt household's salvation or the architect of their downfall. The backdrop of Calvinist Amsterdam is a place of fascinating contradictions, a trading city full of canting priests where greed and puritanism sit uneasily together, and it is important to remember these influences as these 17th century characters often display 21st century behaviour. However, the pace and suspense more than make up for this flaw. The Miniaturist is a work of fiction but Petronella Oortman's Cabinet House is on display in The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

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What's on this month

AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

AND ELSEWHERE

April

- 7th **The Hurst Afternoon Club**
Rattlebag Poets 'Poetry for all' - 2.15pm
Come along even if you're not a member.
More information from Pam on 01273 831705
- 25th **Charity Fashion Show** - 7.30pm
To support 'Tilly' and her family in Hurstpierpoint
(Tickets £15 from The Mint House and Ashley & Thomas - entry includes first glass of wine)

May

- 5th **The Hurst Afternoon Club** - AGM - 2.15pm

April

- 3rd **Family Fun Day** - 12noon-3pm
The Melting Pot Cafe, Willow Way
- 5th **Oldland Mill, Keymer - Open for viewing**
2-5pm. Volunteers will be on hand to guide visitors around the award-winning mill
(www.oldlandwindmill.co.uk)
- 10th **Hurst, Hassocks and Ditchling U3A** - 2pm
Adsatra Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks for their AGM and "Why is Church Lane so steep" with guest speaker Bill Avenell.
- 10th **Nightcrawler (15) - Hurst Village Cinema**
Doors/bar open 7.30pm, film starts 8pm
Run time 1hr 50 mins
(Tickets £4 members/£6 non-members from Mishon Mackay)
- 11th **Annual Coffee Morning & Mini-Market**
By Friends of St Christopher's Home for the Elderly - 10-11.30am - The Guide HQ, Trinity Road car park, Hurstpierpoint
A wide range of stalls including... cakes, books, dvds, cds, raffle, tombola, plants and gifts
(Entry 50p - more info Jo Kearns 01273 834200)
- 16th **NT Live - The Hard Problem** - Hurst Village Cinema - Doors/bar open 6.15pm, production starts 7pm. Run time 1hr 40mins with no interval
(Tickets £10 members/£12.50 non-members from Mishon Mackay)
- 18th **The Showtime Ball, Hickstead Racecourse**
Three-course dinner and a drinks reception.
Live music and dancing and a charity auction.
(www.hickstead.co.uk)
- 22nd **Alzheimer's Society - Dementia Café** -
Pauline Thaw Centre, Dale Avenue, Hassocks
6-8pm
- ### May
- 3rd **Hurstpierpoint Bluebell Circular - Mid Sussex Ramblers** - 10.30am - 5.5 miles
Meet at Hurstpierpoint Trinity Road car park.
(Route: Cuckfield Road - Hurstpierpoint College - Hassocks Golf Course - Danny - Tott Farm - Trinity Road car park)
- 3rd **54th London to Brighton Historic Commercial Vehicle Society Run** - drives through Cuckfield, Burgess Hill and Hassocks.
- 16th **St Lawrence Fair Casino Night** - 7.30pm
Scout Headquarters, Trinity Road

Let us know
what's going on,
and we'll tell
the village...

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