

# Hurst Life

Including Sayers Common & Albourne

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #13 : April 2016

Free  
Please help  
yourself!



Alexa takes on the London Marathon

p.5

Bags to make you think

p.7

Village People: Kevin Carey

p.12



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# Hurst

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By David Tingley, Editor

Hello and welcome to your **April issue** of Hurst Life.

Many of you will already be racing to the back of the magazine to find out **what's going on** here this month! If you hear of something going on, or see a poster which you want to help promote, do please email it in to us at [editor@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@hurstlife.co.uk). We'd rather know about it twice than not at all!

And still the many events going on locally keep coming! In particular this month we feature the forthcoming concert by **Downbeat Swing Band** - check them out on **page 14**.

**Lucy Webb** shares what she's learned from our Village People guest this month: **Kevin Carey**. Well known to many as he's been involved in Hurstpierpoint village life for many years. It's a pleasure to be able to tell his story on **page 12**.

We have a great story from the **High Street traders** on **page 7** where they have already started a very successful local shopping bag campaign. You can also see some of them on this month's cover too!

One shop - **Clive Miller Family Butcher** - has two useful new initiatives for local residents - see **page 8**, and the **Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council** also explains where it is at with this subject in a helpful article on **page 15**.

Plus, on **page 20**, we put the usual questions to Ashley & Thomas shop owner **Gill Blackburn**.

On **page 19** you can find out about a local farm with **lambing open days** coming up this month - **Camilla Puzey** introduces Saddlescombe Farm.

**Pete Hanson** shares a **new recipe** on **page 16**. Give it a go and let us know how you get on either by email, or post your cooking photos to our Facebook or Twitter pages.

**Enjoy the magazine** this month. Do keep in touch with ideas and suggestions for future months.

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**Hurst Life** Published by Kipper



**Alistair Veness**  
Hurstpierpoint Traders  
showing off their new bags

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# NEWS

We 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](mailto:editor@hurstlife.co.uk)

## Pupils and parents work on textile wall hanging

Pupils at Hurst College spent a week with artist in residence Mandy Bangerter to create a textile wall hanging for the 20 Years of Girls celebrations. Parents joined the group over a weekend to take part in the event.

Head of Art at Hurst College, Jo West invited Mandy to respond to a brief to create a textile wall hanging for the College to celebrate the anniversary.

Mandy commented: "I spent a fabulous week with some motivated and talented students who really embraced the concept of adding stitch skills and using sewing machines into their art and photography work. Painting, printmaking and photography, together with ICT skills, were used to transfer imagery on to fabric to begin our composition with stitch."

Many of the students had not used a sewing machine before but within minutes were excited by the expressive mark that can be made using free machine embroidery. The finished piece now hangs in the Art School at the College.



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# Hurst agent runs for charity

One of the village estate agents really is going the extra mile later this month when she takes on the Virgin Money London Marathon to raise money for Arthritis Research UK.

Alexa Mallet, who works at Marcus Grimes Estate Agents on the High Street, is hoping to raise £2,000 for the charity which is very close to her heart, when she runs 26.2 miles with her friend Heather Smith on 24th April.

Two years ago Alexa's mum passed away. She suffered from osteoarthritis, and she always said that she would like to do something to help other families going through similar situations. "This year was the year," Alexa explained, "and I've been training since October." Reflecting on the hard winter training on the dark and cold mornings, she commented: "My mum went through far worse – how dare I complain?"

"My poor mum went from being the central point around which our family revolved, and a dynamic force of nature, to constant pain, immobility and utter reliance on others."

Alexa is keenly supported by both her marathon buddy Heather (who is running for Epilepsy Research UK in memory of her daughter Faith) and her close family; pivotal to this is her dad, Maurice Pound. Marcus Grimes is organising a charity golf day to help Alexa achieve her



target. If you would like to sponsor Alexa, or read more of her story, you can do so at: [www.justgiving.com/AlexaMallet](http://www.justgiving.com/AlexaMallet). Heather's just giving page for Epilepsy Research UK is <https://www.justgiving.com/heather-epilepsyresearch>

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## Boogie wonderland

By Lucy Webb

Last month the good people of Hurstpierpoint put on their favourite disco trousers and shimmied down to the Village Centre for an evening of DJ-ing and dancing. The St Lawrence Fair Committee transformed the hall with a fully licensed bar, DJ decks on a podium and a sea of glittery disco lights.

Hurst Life represented on the decks a little too early in the evening, and the reception to the tracks chosen were less than lukewarm (who knew Beyonce could practically clear a dance floor?). However, many of the other DJ competitors were well received, with a random mix of three tracks each that kept the dancers up on their feet.

Hats off to Emma Warner, DJ extraordinaire, who remained unruffled whilst coping with nervous DJ apprentices called up to the podium to spin their tracks. She probably had to repeat the instruction 'just press that button' a few too many times, and, frankly, her very clear explanation of how the decks worked was probably lost on the less sober contestants.

Rachael Babister, who, among others, organised the event, admitted that although not as many turned out as she'd hoped, a substantial amount was still raised for St Lawrence Fair. She added: "Thank you to everyone who came to the event! It was such fun, and everyone got right into the spirit of choosing their songs, either having a go at playing them themselves or just having a good dance to them. I for one had rather sore feet the following morning - always a sign of a good night. Hope there weren't too many sore heads to match! Thank you again from the St Lawrence Fair Committee."

Winner of the night was 19 year old Jake Lyons, who told HL a bit about himself: "I have lived in Hurstpierpoint all my life and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. It has great pubs like The Poacher, and the best Fair around!

"I saw the ad for the Hey Mr DJ competition on the day, and my love for music took over and I couldn't stop myself getting on the decks. My winning tracks were Africa by Toto, Rio by Duran Duran and Message in a Bottle by The Police. All the songs were dedicated to my best mate Fin, who's been out in Australia for a while. The event was really enjoyable, a great idea for raising money."

# Think first shop Hurst!

By Lucy Webb

Columbines beauty salon celebrated its 25th year of trading last month, so who better than its founder and owner Ann Winney to come up with a fantastic idea to promote shopping in our High Street?

You may have started to notice some great little jute bags on people's shoulders recently with the words: 'Think First, Shop Hurst and support local!'. Indeed, they have been spotted as far afield as Burgess Hill, but what is the story behind them?

Ann explained: "I was conscious that there were a lot of new properties being built in the village, so therefore lots of newcomers. I felt it was important to encourage these new residents to shop locally. Then I came up with the idea of the bags to help bring our High Street to people's attention."

Available for free to new residents, they are distributed by estate agents and development sales offices, so when you collect the keys to your new home you get a jute bag full of goodies. Each one contains contact information, special offers and free samples from many of our High Street businesses. These include wild bird seed from the pet shop, toothbrush and toothpaste from the dentist and a wooden spatula from the Cook Shop.

The bags themselves are also available to everyone from many of the High Street shops for £3, and are a fantastic, environmentally friendly way of spreading the 'shop local' message.

The bags, although the brain child of Ann who rallied High Street businesses to get involved and filled them all too, were paid for by the Parish Council, Hurst Community shop and the Co-op, with all proceeds from sales going back into buying more bags.

## New development supports local bees

A new community in Hurstpierpoint is creating a buzz with local wildlife as well as homebuyers. David Wilson Homes has made its Spireswood Grange development bee-friendly as part of its pledge to support British wildlife.

The sales arena and show home garden at Spireswood Grange, off Chalkers Lane, feature bee-friendly plants and shrubs, such as Skimmia Japonica, Hebe and Cotoneaster, in a bid to help the area's population of honey bees. In addition the herbaceous perennial planting and climbers at the new community, such as Bergenias and Clematis, help to give pollinators a food source throughout the summer months. Prunus trees also provide an early blossom for bees, helping to support them on warm spring days.



Ann commented: "Our High Street has seen a lot of changes over the years, with shops coming and going. At one time we had a lot of banks and then most of them closed. Everyone thought it would be the end of the High Street; but we're still here. We are all doing what we can to make Hurst a real destination for local shoppers."

It's no doubt that Ann's positivity and drive have contributed towards her business being so successful over the years, and this can-do attitude is an important factor in helping the High Street to become as great and profitable as we all know it can be.

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# Busy school celebrates World Book Day

Downlands Community School was delighted to learn that once again it will be welcoming a full cohort of students into Year 7 in September. Plus, for the first time, there will be eight (rather than seven) new classes of students (240 children) joining the school.

Those children can look forward to joining in with events such as last month's World Book Day, which the generous students at Downlands raised an amazing £423 for International Book Aid - the most successful World Book Day event to-date.

Students were invited to come to school dressed as a famous book character. There were several Harry Potters, a group of Minions (including Deputy Headteacher Rob Davies as Gru), a sprinkling of Hunger Games and Maze Runner participants as well as a fabulous Skuldugery Pleasant (Year 9 student Miles Alfrey), Sherlock Holmes (Year 10 student Ben Tagarsi pictured), several Thing One and Thing Twos (including the Resources Department staff, Mrs Parker and Mrs Molloy), a gang of Mad Hatters and other Alice in Wonderland characters following on from the successful 'Alice' drama production.

A special well done has to go to 7CHW - the whole class came dressed up, including Ms Hambly Walker!



## Village butcher makes shopping easier

Hurstpierpoint butcher Clive Miller is introducing not one, but two new things to enhance village shopping this month.

Firstly, you can now order their locally sourced products online – via [www.sussexbutcher.co.uk](http://www.sussexbutcher.co.uk) – and the shop will deliver products in the evening at no extra cost.

"We know people are busy," Clive commented, "so I wanted to make it possible for local people to still have the convenience of ordering online with the added bonus that we can deliver after they are back from work straight to their door."

Secondly, the shop is starting a special discount day on the last Saturday of every month. The first Clive Miller 'Tray Day' will take place on Saturday 30th April, and Clive hopes it will soon become a much-loved fixture with their customers.

Tray Day will be a focused day of sales, when products will be bundled together offering great value. "Trays could be almost anything," Clive said. "From pork steaks, bacon, chicken fillets – one offer this month will be two whole legs of lamb for £30!"

These two initiatives are Clive's own response to the local traders' 'Think First, Shop Hurst' campaign. "I am trying to help the many residents who want to shop local but aren't walking the High Street every day."

## Open Gardens event needs more gardens

By Prue Heron

It's that time of year already. We are looking for volunteers to come forward and open their garden for this annual village event - this year on Sunday 12th June. Your garden does not have to be immaculate. It can be any size or shape or type.

Last year, eight gardens were open and Hurstpierpoint was buzzing with visitors carrying plants they had bought! The event was well supported and over £5,000 was raised for charity. It would be amazing to be able to repeat that success this year.

New gardens are needed to keep the event 'fresh', so do think about helping by opening. It's great fun. We would ideally like to know by the end of April if you decide to open, and we could particularly use them between Randiddles Close and the top of Cuckfield Road.

Also any donations of plants and/or cakes really help swell the coffers.

The charity is St Peter and St James Hospice at Wivelsfield, who provide such a wonderful, caring support service for our local community.

Please contact Alison Truelove on 01273 832962 or Prue Heron on 01273 835064 if you are interested. See our website [www.hurstpierpointpengardens.org.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointpengardens.org.uk)





# A new way for health

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This is the inspiration of a woman who took her nine year old son to India for a month to find a cure for the chronic illness, polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis, that had crippled him affecting 27 joints throughout his body.

After returning to Sussex and continuing treatment with an Ayurvedic doctor in London for a further three months, Louie's numerous swollen and painful joints had completely disappeared. To this day, three years later, he remains 100% healthy, participating in many active sports such as football, kick boxing and kung fu.

Melissa Toleman put her faith in Ayurveda, an all-encompassing holistic healthcare system from India. Ayurveda can be viewed as an umbrella discipline of many other modern day alternative therapies.

Melissa did everything possible to recreate the experience they had in India understanding that it isn't achievable for people to visit India to heal from diseases and wanted to bring this invaluable information over to the UK and so The Alternative Healthcare was born. A 2,700 sq ft centre at 70 Oathall Road in Haywards Heath, it incorporates everything that helped Louie to heal in India and is simply beautiful, within stunning surroundings and is a true testament to her faith in the system.

The centre's seven treatment and consulting rooms offer many different natural therapies including acupuncture, osteopathy, EFT, hypnotherapy, thai massage, nutrition, holistic massage, reflexology, astrological counselling, reiki and many more. These treatments compliment Ayurveda, giving people many different options to find the root cause of their health issues.

The modern facilities also include a serene and peaceful yoga studio where a whole host of instructors teach many different forms of yoga, tai chi, pilates, qigong and meditation. Baby massage and baby yoga are also on offer together with children's classes in yoga and kung fu.

At the heart of the centre is a delicious and nutritious health food café that serves its clients. As Hippocrates said: 'Let food be thy medicine, and medicine be thy food'. This is the inspiration behind the café, with a menu designed to create health. The café is run by the wonderful Merry who previously had the Frootie Juices stand in The Orchards in Haywards Heath. It is also Haywards Heath's first Happy Café, joining the Action for Happiness movement in providing a hub of happiness in the heart of Mid Sussex.

"I believe that disease is an imbalance in the body, but in conventional Western medicine it is encased in a scary word, for which doctors then prescribe drugs. Symptoms need to be listened to and not swept under the carpet with medication."

Melissa's mission now is to introduce people to another way of looking at their health, whilst taking responsibility for it to enable them to heal.

"The NHS is an amazing system, but it is struggling. I believe they perhaps may not deal with disease in the right way though. We need to change the way people consider their health and, in my experience, Ayurveda's recommendations and advice for healthy living are as relevant today as they ever were, if not more so."

The Alternative Healthcare provides a very friendly approach so you feel you are really looked after the minute you walk through the doors. The relaxing feel to the café leaves you wanting to while away the hours in this truly healing environment.

The centre is hosting an Open Day on Saturday 14th May from 10am - 5pm to welcome everyone to the centre. It will provide taster sessions in all the treatments and classes, together with inspirational talks on Ayurveda and other therapies throughout the day, as well as samples of all the delicious food and drinks on offer.

For further information or to book an appointment call The Alternative Healthcare on 01444 474447 or visit [www.thealternativehealthcare.com](http://www.thealternativehealthcare.com)



# Tennis Club second teams' success

Both second teams at Hurstpierpoint Tennis Club are celebrating promotion from their respective divisions in the Sussex County Winter League.

With many new and inexperienced players the ladies team had been struggling, but captain Claire Brewer has built up their confidence for competitive matches with tough training sessions that the players responded to enthusiastically. So much so that they won four of their five games this winter, which was the cause of much celebration. Claire said: "I am so proud of them, they worked so hard." The photo below shows Cath Abbott, Claire Brewer, Tracey Payne and Lucy Amos celebrating promotion after winning their last game against Steyning 4-0.



## Large development refused

Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council has welcomed the decision by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to endorse its Neighbourhood Plan and refuse permission for the development of 120 houses and a 120 bed care home at Sayers Common.

The application was initially refused by MSDC in 2012 but later approved by the Planning Inspectorate on appeal by the developer in October 2013. However, in November 2013 the application was called in by the Secretary of State and the Inspector's decision was overruled in September 2014, largely on the grounds that the number of housing units involved in the

The men's second team, captained by Sam Wotton (right), also got promotion and ended the season as division champions, beating Southdown of Lewes by the narrowest of margins - the same points but winning one more rubber out of 28 played across seven matches! Team manager Alan Bedford said: "The team has done really well in a division that included first teams from Cooden Beach and East Grinstead."



Hurstpierpoint has a thriving club, with the new floodlights enabling play all year round. There are around 200 adult and junior members, coaching for children and adults, and the club is one of the focal points of village life. New members of all ages and standards are welcome.

Anyone interested can call Alan Bedford on 07768 957681 or look at [www.hursttennis.org](http://www.hursttennis.org)

application was in conflict with the then emerging Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan (now 'made').

The Secretary of State decided that the application should still be refused, and has cited the importance of Neighbourhood Plan policies in reaching his decision, in particular the policy designed to protect the essentially rural character of the village. He considers that the size of the proposed development is in direct conflict with this policy and should therefore be refused.

Stephen Hand, Chairman of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common PC, commented: "By rejecting this application the Secretary of State has sent a strong message that overdevelopments which so blatantly ignore Neighbourhood Plans and the wishes of local people will not succeed."

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HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

By David Saitch

April will be a wonderful month at the Village Cinema.

Our first film, on Thursday 7th April, is the wonderful Japanese drama **Departures** (12A). Departures is a quiet, heartfelt, profound and beautiful film, which is also filled with humour. When his orchestra disbands, Daigo Kobayashi moves back to his hometown to look for a new job. Seeing an advert entitled Departures, he mistakenly thinks it is a potential entrée into the travel industry. Instead it is a job in a funeral home, preparing bodies for burial. Too embarrassed to admit his new career to his family, Daigo keeps his job a secret, until he's faced with a difficult situation that compels him to reveal it. Winning the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2008, this surprisingly funny film is the perfect blend of story, visuals, performance and music. No-one who has seen this film does not love it - do not miss it.

We have a real treat on Sunday 17th April, the brand new Steven Spielberg film, **Bridge of Spies** (12A). In this terrific drama inspired by true events, Tom Hanks stars as James Donovan, a Brooklyn lawyer thrust into the centre of the Cold War when the CIA sends him on a near impossible mission to negotiate the release of a captured American U-2 pilot in exchange for a Russian spy. Steven Spielberg masterfully captures the atmosphere of tension, mistrust and misunderstanding prevalent in the Cold War era, with Hanks brilliant as the down to earth Donovan and Mark Rylance superb as the Russian agent, a role for which he won the Best Supporting Actor award at this year's Oscars.

Our last film in April is the superbly gripping thriller **99 Homes** (15) on Friday 22th April. A single father, desperately trying to support his son and his mother, goes to work for the ruthless businessman who evicted them from their home. He is seduced by the glamorous world of high finance and seeks the chance to provide for his family's security - but to get it, he will have to deprive other families of their homes.

Tickets for our weeknight films are £4 members/£6 non-members. Doors/bar 7.30pm, film 8pm. Tickets for our Sunday Cinema films are £3. Doors 3pm, film 3.30pm.

Tickets for our films can be bought online at [www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com), at Mishon Mackay on Hurstpierpoint High Street or call us on 01273 835875.

You do not have to be a member to come to the Village Cinema, but membership is still only £10 per annum which gives ticket price reductions and advance booking.

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## Kevin Carey

### VILLAGE PEOPLE

Hurstpierpoint has a fair few very recognisable residents, and who no doubt get stopped for a chat often on their way to the Co-op. Lucy Webb has yet to reach this level of local fame, but met with a man who is high on the list of VIP village people.

#### By Lucy Webb

My children often gasp at Kevin Carey as he walks down the street with his wife, Margaret. Partly due to spotting him in church and partly because of his trademark beard and windswept hair, they often whisper: "look mummy, it's Jesus!" Actually, they rather shout this loudly, as whispering is a tone reserved for plotting against parents, but no doubt Kevin takes this kind of attention in his stride.

He and Margaret invited me to their house for a chat, and I was shown to Kevin's 'snuggery', as he calls it. It's an amazing room, a conservatory that looks out onto the rooftops of Hurst high street, the perfect hub for Kevin's many and varied projects. His walls are lined with classical music and Braille books, and in front of him sits his keyboard, a specially adapted computer he is working on getting manufactured at a fraction of the current market price. More about that later.

Kevin tells me: "I have four jobs, and the one I care about the most is being a lay minister in Holy Trinity Church. I preach and teach there, and being a Christian is the most important thing in my life."

Kevin is also the chairman of the board of the RNIB, commuting often into London to work at the charity which supports blind and partially sighted people. I've often wondered what it must be like for a blind person to enter the mayhem of a London commute, but he tells me that the staff at Victoria know him now, so they help him through barriers without being asked.

I ask the question that I'm assuming often goes unasked in our very British way, how do people react to his blindness day to day?

"I find it uncomfortable at times, people tend to compound the issue by their own discomfort, and I find

myself burdened by this as well as my blindness, making it more difficult to function."

Indeed it seems Kevin's own perception of his capabilities has no limits, with a lifetime of achievement that is very impressive. His energy and drive to achieve is perhaps not coming from a deep seated wish to prove himself able, but more because of his boundless and inspiring self-belief.

Kevin runs a business simplifying websites such as BBC iPlayer, Sky programme guide and NHS websites for easier use; he says that engineers tend to over-complicate things.

He is also a prolific writer having written three novels, several books of poetry and theology and a play he describes as 'a nativity play for adults'. Indeed, one generally looks at the nativity in terms of how children portray the story, but it's an interesting take on one of Christianity's best known stories.

He loves classical music, singing in the parish church choir, and has written as a music critic for a braille music magazine. His passion is Mahler and Bach, and he describes himself as 'a bit arty, among other things'!

Kevin and another great village personality, Michel Olszewski, 'dreamed up' the Hurst Festival, which his wife Margaret currently chairs. She is also a church warden, a well known and active member of the village community in her own right.

I want to know a bit about Kevin's journey to Hurstpierpoint, so I asked him a bit about his background up to this point.

He explained that he was born in Yorkshire into a strict Roman Catholic family and attended a boarding school run by nuns. I pondered that this kind of upbringing



sometimes has the effect of putting people off religion, but he tells me: "It didn't make me react against it, being a Christian has always been part of my DNA, I've always know this."

Kevin went on to study History at Cambridge university, then spent a year at Harvard on a scholarship, where he ran the university radio station playing eight hours of music a night in 1973.

Kevin's all night show was a favourite of 'bakers and lorry drivers', playing a mix of art rock and jazz, and comedy from the likes of Lennie Bruce and Bill Cosby. Here he discovered Miles Davis, Keith Jarrett, and it was through the conductor and composer, Leonard Bernstein, who was at Harvard giving lectures on the history of modern music, that Kevin was first introduced to Mahler.

On returning to the UK, he applied to the BBC and worked as a broadcaster for two years.

The loss of this job in 1976 coincided with the complete loss of his sight (he was partially sighted before this), and Kevin was forced to re-think his life.

It was at this point that he was head-hunted by Sight Savers, an organisation which aims to improve the lives of blind people and prevent blindness, to head up its Caribbean office.

On paper this sounds like a fantastic gig, but in reality Kevin found it hard going, but threw himself into work. He tells me: "Out there, if you're not working, you're drinking, so I became a workaholic." British radio and cricket kept him going, but admits if you're not a fan of Calypso you're pretty much stuffed out there.

He returned in 1984, and in 1987 decided he should revive some of his political aspirations, and stood as SDP candidate MP for Brighton Pavilion. Like all the rest of his local colleagues, he lost!

Kevin and his first wife arrived in Hurstpierpoint because they drew a circle round Haywards Heath and explored the surrounding villages until they found what they wanted.

A typical week for Kevin consists of two to three days in his RNIB office in London and in the past three

years, frequent trips to Boston, US, where he's working on behalf of RNIB to develop a cheap computer which produces Braille. The idea is to get it manufactured for a fraction of the price it currently costs, opening this life changing technology up to a wider audience of blind people. The potential for this is huge, and when you imagine that current technology is heavily visual, you can really understand the need for this project.

Kevin admits he loves the corporate side of life, enjoying being part of a big organisation like RNIB, although likes to keep his life varied, with teaching, writing and freelance IT work being important in the mix. He admits he hates doing one thing at a time, keeping his work stimulating by juggling multiple projects.

Outside work, he describes himself as a 'foodie' and has a wine cellar in his home, and it goes without saying that he loves travelling. Having visited and worked in around 80 different countries, his favourite destinations include Italy (for the food and the people), Peru and Japan. A varied list, and one that perhaps reflects the multi faceted aspects of his character.

He reflects on his personality, and admits that he gets more radical (politically) as he gets older, but hates to push these or his views down people's throats. "I prefer to help guide people towards making the right decisions for themselves about how to live a good life. How to tackle the major questions in life, and help and encourage in the process of achieving this."

Inspiring stuff from an inspiring man.

Photos: Kevin on a skydive fundraiser for RNIB, Kevin and Margaret Carey at a charity awards dinner, Kevin meeting HM The Queen and Kevin showing a blind girl to how read braille.



## Swing Band coming to town

Downsbeat Swing Band are in Hurstpierpoint every week – it’s just that no one gets to hear them usually!

But the band, which consists of 12 musicians, will be converting their practice venue at the Village Centre into a concert hall later this month.

The band is a full swing band, but is unusual in that it is made up of seven saxophones and there are no trumpets or trombones in the group.

Downsbeat has always had its heart in Hurstpierpoint, having first been called DC7 after its founder Daniel Clark.

Today Peter Everett takes the role of leader: "It is a privilege to be able to lead this band. The atmosphere is very friendly and the music is that which I first encountered in my teens - so I love it!"

The group play a number of gigs throughout the year but Hurstpierpoint Village Centre on Monday 25th April will be the first in 2016.

"We have called it An Evening of Swing, and the audience will be able to hear great songs like Night Train, Someone to Watch Over Me, Over the Rainbow and the classic Blue Moon."

The event promises to be a great concert, which starts at 8.15pm at the Village Centre on 25th April. Tickets are free with donations requested for Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Band members come from all over Sussex to be part of Downsbeat Swing Band, but Peter says they are always looking out for deputies. "We work from scored arrangements so a reasonably good level of sight reading is a must for membership of the band, as is an instrumental skill level of intermediate or above. Most important is the sense of swing and a desire to play and enjoy this type of music," Peter explains.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the band should call Peter Everett on 01403 257387 or email [everett.peter@gmail.com](mailto:everett.peter@gmail.com)



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# High Street trade issues

Stephen Hand, Chairman of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council, explains the current status...

## Background

Last summer's project to redesign the road layout resulted from many residents telling us over many years that they were fed up with risking life and limb on the narrow pavements in the High Street. From 2012 the Parish and County Councils prepared a joint plan to address the issues, taking on board many suggestions from local groups and people during public exhibitions and meetings, and the advice of transport consultants. A number of options to the selected plan were analysed by professionals, including traffic lights, and all were rejected for various reasons.

## Current situation

It is clear from the public response since September that, although many people find the changes beneficial, some serious issues still remain in the public perception. These issues fall into two categories

1) High St Retail Economy – It has been reported that retail business turnover fell in August (the month of the changes) and September across all shops by between 10% and 60%. Currently, across all shops, it appears that this is still down by between 10% and 30%, although some report no drop in business. Several shops have closed, but it does seem that most are reopening in different ownership.

2) Continuing safety concerns – Regrettably, stories of pedestrians being brushed by cars, lorries and even buses climbing the pavements to squeeze past other vehicles continue. There is evidence from residents of the High Street that these incidents are less frequent than before the changes. Typically these are caused by bad - if not dangerous - driving rather than the road layout.

## Parish Council response to issues

The Parish Council believes that, while the adverse publicity that has accompanied the road layout changes has deterred some people from coming to the village, there are a number of factors that are contributing to the current situation. The Council has resolved at its meeting of the 25th February to develop a joined up plan in conjunction with County and District Councils to address the concerns of Traders and Residents. The areas to be addressed will include

1) Business Promotion and Development

- Many rural High Streets are suffering serious downturns in business and many villages have vacant shops. Trends toward online and Retail Park shopping are affecting village shops everywhere, and the Parish Council will work with Economic Development staff from MSDC and WSCC to understand the wider economic picture for rural high streets and work with County and District Councillors to promote our High street and village generally using lessons from others.

- The Council is keen to work with traders to promote the attractiveness of our parish villages. We will initiate and support projects with this aim. For example, the

Council has contributed to new 'welcome bags' for people moving into the village containing information and samples from the traders and information on services and societies.

- Lack of parking has been cited as a reason for falling trade in our High Street. The Council has requested MSDC to create '3 hour' car parking bays in Brown Twins Road car park. This would allow people to stay longer to visit hairdressers, shops and cafes or restaurants. The Council will also look for ways to create parking at the east end of the village, which would help bring people in from Hassocks and mean less traffic having to use the High Street.

2) Traffic Movement

The Council has commissioned an independent review of High Street operation to address concerns and make recommendations for improvement, including:

- reviewing the operation and improving the marking of the loading bay outside the New Inn
- improving the visibility of signing for the current car parks in Trinity road and Brown Twins Road
- continuing to press MSDC for better parking enforcement in the High Street and elsewhere
- continuing to press Sussex Police to support eliminating the dangerous and antisocial driving taking place

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This month Head Chef at the New Inn, Pete Hampson, gives us a tribute to his very famous chef cousin from Ireland, Kevin Dundon. This was declared the national dish of South Africa by the United Nations Women's Organisation in 1954.

Pete has lived in Hurstpierpoint since he was two and his ambition is to complete his recipe book before he gets too old to remember all the recipes!



## Bobotie Serves 6-8

### Ingredients

2 slices of bread  
200ml milk  
1 tbsp sunflower oil  
2 medium onions, peeled and finely chopped  
1 tsp crushed garlic  
1 tsp freshly grated root ginger  
1/2 tsp curry powder  
1 tsp turmeric  
900g minced beef or lamb  
2 tbsp brown sugar  
1 tbsp tomato chutney  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
75g raisins  
Salt and pepper

### Topping

2 large eggs  
The reserved milk from soaking the bread

### Method

Preheat the oven to 170C, gas mark 3.

Soak the bread in the milk for about ten minutes, then strain, reserving the milk, and fluff the bread up with a fork.

Heat the oil in a pan, add the onions and sauté until soft. Add the garlic, ginger, curry powder and turmeric, and mix quickly to coat the onions in the spices. Add the beef/lamb and continue to stir over a medium heat until browned.

Add the sugar, mashed bread, chutney, lemon juice and raisins to the mixture in the pan and season with salt and pepper. Spoon the mixture into a casserole dish and bake in the oven for 35 mins.

For the topping, mix the eggs and the reserved milk together, then remove the casserole from the oven and pour the egg mixture over. Season with cracked black pepper and bake for a further 15-20 mins.



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## Spring time at Saddlescombe Farm

### OUT AND ABOUT

By Camilla Puzey

I love spring even though I know we are about to enter such a busy, intense time. It is the most special time as we welcome so much new life on to the farm. We nurture and care for our animals all year round, so when spring arrives and calving and lambing start it is immensely rewarding and sometimes emotional. We love sharing the whole experience with our visitors to the farm during our spring open days.

We are tenants of Saddlescombe Farm, which forms part of the National Trust's Devil's Dyke estate on the South Downs. Saddlescombe has a unique collection of traditional farm buildings, some of which date back to the 16th century. The buildings do not necessarily lend themselves to modern farming but we love working with them and the atmosphere they create, particularly during lambing time.

At this time of year, the first job of the day for Roly is to jump on the quad bike with Belle our faithful sheepdog and start his daily checks around the farm's sheep flock and herd of traditional Sussex cows. Recently the mornings have been misty and magical. Saddlescombe is in the heart of the South Downs, and often, at the highest points of the farm, we can see over the mist across the Downs. The animals always seem very quiet too at this time of day. Roly will often see lots of wildlife, which is always exciting to hear about back at the breakfast table before the school run.

As lambing gets nearer we bring the sheep back across the road and closer to the farm and our cottage so we can keep a very close eye on them. Gradually they will all lamb and we bring them individually into the lambing barns and put them in a 'mothering up' pen together. This is to make sure they have their special bond and the lambs are feeding well before we put them out into the fields again. By that time we hope the grass will be really growing and the mums can take all the goodness in and turn it into milk for their lambs.

We are open for four days during lambing this year, 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th April. Please come and join us, we love sharing what we do. It is a lovely family day out, with tractor and trailer rides (weather permitting) and delicious local produce for sale. Please see our website for more information [www.camillaandroy.co.uk](http://www.camillaandroy.co.uk)

The National Trust also holds open days, when guided tours are given around the buildings. Their spring open day is Sunday 24th April. For more information visit: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/saddlescombe-farm-and-newtimber-hill](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/saddlescombe-farm-and-newtimber-hill)



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5 MINUTES WITH...

## Gill Blackburn

**How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?**

Six years.

**What's the best thing about being here?**

Its kind and friendly people .

**Favourite ice cream flavour?**

Vanilla.

**How many houses have you lived in?**

Eight.

**Favourite holiday destination?**

Italy – love the atmosphere and the food.

**Your most enjoyable event in the village?**

It has to be St Lawrence Fair, it brings the whole village together and creates a real sense of community.

**Do you share your home with anyone?**

My two cats Edward and Guinness. Occasionally my daughter's dogs, Pig and Mouse, come to stay – I love entertaining!

**Song you play the most?**

The Duchess by Rachel Portman – the only woman to win an Oscar for a musical score. Her music is beautiful and always reminds me of my mum.

**Mac or PC?**

What is a PC?!

**Your most frequented village shop?**

I spend most of my time in my shop Ashley & Thomas, but I like shopping in all the shops! It is important to support them all. We have a great village High Street. Please, please use it. We need your support.

**What's your proudest moment?**

Watching my lovely daughter Katie marrying Martin last year.

**Coke, juice or water?**

Wine – am I allowed to say that?!

**Your advice for life?**

Life is short. Break the rules. Forgive. Love. Laugh. Be kind to others. Never regret anything that made you smile.

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reMEMber, the Hurstpierpont/Hassocks based charity for people with ME, will be presenting a fundraising evening called 'Good Rocking Tonight' at Danny House on Saturday 23rd April.

There will be songs made famous by Elvis Presley and other rock stars from the 1950s onwards. Singer Michael Gverny will lead the live band. Michael is from Louisiana, USA, and he started his musical career singing on the Mississippi river boats. Janice Kent, Director of reMEMber says: "Come along to dance or just listen to some great music. There will be a grand raffle and a pay bar. Dress is optional, but wear your old rock'n'roll gear if you wish – and if you can find it! All proceeds will go to help people who have ME."

Tickets (£15) are available from Marcus Grimes Estate Agents on the High Street or by post from reMEMber, PO Box 1647, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 9GQ (please make cheques payable to 'remember').



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# What's on this month

## AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

## AND ELSEWHERE

### Regular events

- Sun **Sunday Afternoon Cream Tea Dance** – 2-4.30pm, nearly every Sunday
- Mon **The Sanctuary** – 9.30-11.30am, weekly (term time only) – a welcoming place where friendships can form over coffee and cake
- Tues **Afternoon Club** – 2-4pm, 1st Tuesday  
**Wolstonbury WI** – 7.30 pm, 3rd Tuesday  
**Scottish Dancing** – 7-10pm, weekly
- Fri **Star Dance School** – from 6.45pm, weekly
- Sat **Hurstpierpoint Dance Club** – 8pm, 3rd Saturday  
Ballroom and Latin dance, any skill level welcome

### April

- 5th **Hurst Afternoon Club** – 2.15pm.  
Belinda Sharp will be singing (01273 831705)
- 6th **LDN Wrestling** – doors open 7pm, bell time 7.30pm (www.ldnwrestling.com)
- 9th **Craft Fair** – 10am (Jenny Letton 01273 834703)
- 9th **RNLI Quiz Night** – 7pm doors open  
Tickets at £10 include a Ploughman's Supper – from Mishon Mackay or Pierpoint Pet Supplies
- 12th **Designing with Water** – 7.45pm  
An illustrated talk for Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society by Amanda Patton, a garden designer who has won awards at the Chelsea Flower Show
- 19th **Wolstonbury WI Meeting** – 7.45pm, Club Suite  
Downton Revisited by Katherine Collett  
Visitors welcomed (Brenda Mack 01273 834421)
- 23rd **Hurstpierpoint Society AGM** – 2pm  
As well as the short business meeting there will be the presentations of three Conservation and Design Awards, followed by a talk by Maggie Henderson on the history and architecture of the Mansion House, High Street. All members of the Society are encouraged to attend.  
(David Clarke, secretary: 01273 835200)
- 25th **The Downsbeat Swing Band Concert** – 8.15pm  
Free admission, refreshments. After the concert donations will be welcomed for Motor Neurone Disease Association (everett.peter@gmail.com)
- 26th **The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group** – 8pm  
A Talk by Steven Robinson, Warden of the Loder Valley Reserve. Entry is free, all welcome

### April

- 1st **Albourne Pop Up Pub** – 8-10pm  
Albourne Village Hall
- 2nd **Soul of the City Concert** – doors open 7pm  
Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint  
Tickets £6.50 / £5.50 concessions  
(www.soulofthecitychoir.com)
- 5th **Mid Sussex Ramblers** – 11am  
Seafront walk from Shoreham  
Meet at Norfolk Bridge car park (BN43 5LT)  
Spring seaside walk 5miles - easy  
(Frances 01273 842628)
- 8th **Albourne Pop Up Pub** – 8-10pm  
Albourne Village Hall
- 9th **Mid Sussex Choir 70th Anniversary Concert** – 7.30pm  
St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath  
Featuring Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Vivaldi's *Gloria* with full orchestral accompaniment
- 11th **Public Meeting about High Street** – 7.30pm  
The New Inn, Hurstpierpoint
- 15th **Albourne Pop Up Pub** – 8-10pm  
Albourne Village Hall
- 20th **Pub Social Mid Sussex Ramblers** – 7.30pm  
Jolly Tanners, Staplefield (Phil: 01273 835931)
- 22nd **Albourne Pop Up Pub** – 8-10pm  
Albourne Village Hall
- 23rd **Sayers Common & Albourne WI** – 2-4pm  
Albourne Village Hall. The WI have an afternoon of cream teas, homemade cakes, plants and books for sale. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the St Peter and St James Hospice (Jinette Guerrero on 01273 831185 or email endhouse1@hotmail.com)
- 24th **Saddlescombe Farm Open Day** – 10.30am-4pm  
Saddlescombe Road BN45 7DE
- 29th **Hurstpierpoint Historical & Geographical Society**  
8pm, The Guide Hall, Trinity Road Car Park  
'Cyprus and the Sovereign Base Areas' talk by Air Vice-Marshal Sir Peter Millar (Free to members, non-members entry fee £3)
- 29th **Albourne Pop Up Pub** – 8-10pm  
Albourne Village Hall
- May
- 3rd-7th **Hurstpierpoint Players: Snake in the Grass**  
by Alan Ayckbourn – 8pm, The Players Theatre  
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