

Hurst Life

Including Sayers Common & Albourne

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #16 : July 2016

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Street Party photo round-up

p. 16

Meet Carole in Village People

p. 12

plus all the rest of the village news

p. 4

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Saturday 16th July

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

I know that I will not be alone in looking forward to the **St Lawrence Fair** which is coming up on **Saturday 2nd July** - although a lot of the fun starts on Friday night! Do pop by our Hurst Life stall and say 'Hi'; we'd love to see you and hear any suggestions you might have.

We have **plenty of news** on our pages this month, with two books written by village residents. **Becky Smith** has written a novel about her experiences after becoming a mother. **Page 22** gives you the full story.

On **page 8** another villager, **Belle Amatt**, explains a little of her book - *Balloon Girl* - which is a reflective tale on the variously troubled life of a teenager.

They say everyone has a book in them, and these ladies have certainly done their bit for Hurstpierpoint's quota - well done both!

Deb Hollywood spent time with **Carole Lewandowski** as she takes the stand in our popular **Village People** feature on **page 12**. Thanks Carole for letting us tell your lovely story of true family right here in the village.

Page 18 features a local woodcarver - **Roy Martin** - who has taken on some amazing projects all around the country - his work and his story are told here.

I mustn't sign off without reference to the fabulous **Street Party** which took place last month - thanks in the most part to **Gill Blackburn** and a few close friends. We have pleasure in featuring an image from the day on our cover - thanks **Jane Willis**. There are also lots more photos (thanks to local photographer **Roy Sullivan**) so you can play the game 'How many folk can I spot who I know?' on **page 16-17!**

My final words go in the form of a plea - we always need **more images** for the cover - so do please email in your shots to photos@hurstlife.co.uk. Also, when you use our amazing advertisers, **please mention Hurst Life** when you contact them! Thank you.

See you at the Fair!

Issue #16 – July 2016 –
4,500 copies printed

Next magazine copydate:
18th July 2016

Next magazine published:
1st August 2016

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



 Jane Willis
Fun at the Queen's birthday
Street Party last month

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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

Yay, it's Fair Day!

The first weekend of July is going to be busy!

In addition to the events listed in the June edition, the evening's events on Friday 1st July start with the Junior Disco (age 4 plus) from 6pm to 7.30pm on South Avenue Recreation Ground. The Family BBQ and Live Music starts from 6pm. Take a rug, family and friends and enjoy an evening's entertainment with live music, BBQ and the now famous Hurstbarpoint.

Saturday 2nd July is, of course, Fair Day and, from 12noon, the fun starts! Watch the procession – we can't wait to see the interpretations of the 'Sixty' theme – check out the main arena events, join in the Fun Run and be spoilt for choice with a fantastic array of food and drink. And the Harris Fun Fair will be there of course!

Full timings can be obtained from the Fair Programme. Hurst Life will have a stall so come and say "Hi" to us, we look forward to seeing you there.

Have a great Fair Day!



Cause for celebration

Roslyn Stenning's (pictured) 80th Birthday was one of the causes for celebration at last month's Community Charity 21st Anniversary Songs of Praise, held at Holy Trinity Church.



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Community Cafe opens on High Street

One Hurst resident has brought back a little more community to the High Street with the opening of Community Cafe late last month.

Ian Jury, who moved to the village two years ago from Camden with his partner Richard, has spent the last year or so finding the right location and planning the new venture – which is the latest café in a chain of community focused ventures managed by Ian.

After working in the youth care sector in Brighton, Ian created his own plan for a social enterprise cafe and was responsible for launching Community Diner at a youth hub in Islington.

Community Cafe here in Hurstpierpoint has many of the same principles, most notably providing a place for young people who may have had trouble with school or previous employment to find a way back to work. "We focus on ability, not disability," Ian said, "as we take those who may have dyslexia, be on the autistic spectrum or just have not felt comfortable in an academic environment. We pull them out of that rut!"

Ian (pictured here with supervisor Leah Knight) insists that everything is top notch and finished at the refurbished shop at 124 High Street.

Community Cafe, open 9.30am-5.30pm Tuesday to Friday and 10.30am-4.30pm at the weekend, will serve organic coffee and loose leaf Sussex tea alongside artisan breads, jacket potatoes and kids' ice creams.

"Above all," Ian continued, "we want to be welcoming to all. From family friendly fun to OAP afternoons, water bowls and treats for dogs to mother/baby mornings - we want to create a great vibe here in our modern, urban environment."



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Two images of modern kitchen interiors. The left image shows a kitchen with white cabinets, a teal backsplash, and a dining table with white chairs. The right image shows a kitchen with teal cabinets and a dark countertop.

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Head Boy and Girl announced....

By Nicky Burston

Following a very tough selection process at Downlands School, involving interviews and speeches to their Year 10 Peers, Louie Garnett and Jo Goad (both pictured) have been awarded Head Boy and Head Girl and Ben Miller and Emily Chinn have been awarded Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl.

The students lead a very select group of senior prefects who perform a number of duties around the school, from hosting many events through the year to giving speeches on Awards Evening and supporting the teaching staff in their duties around the school and in the community. The senior prefect team include Beth Coffey, Anya Wood, Anneka Kelly-Noakes, Molly Fullard, Hana Smith, Izzy Scorer, Oliver Tagarsi, Joe Miles, Adam Scott, Tom Wright, Charlotte Bates, Jemima Edwards, Isabella Makin, Zara Nikolic, Jess Taylor, Cerys Halls, Poppy Haward, Hetty Lucas, Aimee Porter, Georgina Burnett, Ben Tagarsi and Laurence Bates.



Downlands School welcomes Watoto Choir



Year 7 & 8 students were treated to a fabulous concert as Watoto Choir visited the school. Made up of Ugandan orphans who have lost parents through HIV, AIDS or war, and aged from 7 to 14 years of age, the Watoto choir sang songs full of hope and joy. Not only were Downlands students invited to join in but three of our teachers also made a trip to the stage to join in the dancing. The Watoto choir are currently touring the UK - if you get the chance to see them, don't miss it!





New Head Chef appointment

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Mid Sussex Golf Club is proud to announce Peter Howard MCGB as the new Head Chef.

Howard, 45, is highly experienced having worked at some of the country's top restaurants and establishments for over 29 years. His portfolio includes Head Chef at the Michelin rated Manley's in Storrington, London's Café de Paris, Harley Street Clinic and Bryce's Old School House (to name a few), and has chef managed local restaurants such as Limes Bistro in Lindfield and Kew at Wakehurst Place.

Peter is also a full member of The Association of Master Chefs of Great Britain, formed in 1980 – an organisation that furthers professional development through training and guidance and promotes the very best of British cuisine. Election to Full Master Chef status is by invitation only and is open to working chefs who can demonstrate they are at the top of their profession.

Peter has stated: "I have a real, sincere aspiration and vision for the food offering at the club. I want to re-energize the kitchen and restaurant by introducing different foods and some newer trends to the menu. I would like to focus on local produce and suppliers, and hope to offer an opportunity to explore a new and more varied dining experience. I look forward to being part of the team to move the food offering at the club forward."

Peter joined the team last month and is pictured here with general managers Lee Andrews and Andrew Smith. The club's motto is: 'Where everyone is welcome'.

Mid Sussex Golf Club is open to the public for coffee, breakfast, lunches and afternoon teas. Plus lots of free parking, and wifi inside. The venue is available to book for weddings, events, parties and Sunday carvery lunches.

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Balloon Girl by Belle Amatt

BOOK REVIEW

By Belle Amatt

Balloon Girl is a modern day tale, a 21st century fable if you like, which charts the lives of a troubled but enchanting teen, Sylvie, and her mother, Anna. Through a series of flashbacks and memories, Sylvie explores how she became the 18 year old girl who stands on Brighton beach broken and lost in the depths of melancholy and regret. The journey we are taken on will explore our position as parents, our responsibility as role models and whether we can really blame our parents for our misgivings, and, if we do, can we forgive?

What inspired the premise you may well ask? Many years ago I led a series of child obesity projects in Sussex, working with both children and their families. The aim of the 12 week course was to offer a framework in which families could find the causes for the weight gain and so use this knowledge to push forward with helping their child's weight loss. I learnt a huge amount about role-modelling, blame, denial and the drivers of success, those being honesty and open-mindedness.

What works in these cases? A willingness to press the pause button at times, reflect on one's own behaviour and consider how change is needed. The process requires a lot of self-acceptance, so is not always the easiest path.

This was the seed which prompted the theme. However, like all healthy seeds it grew into something bigger. This novel is much more than a tale of body image. It is about intricate family relationships, belief systems and conventionality. It may even evoke in some that depth of teenage passion which is all consuming and capable of reaching deep into the core.

Balloon Girl by Belle Amatt is available to download as an e-book from Amazon.

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Fergus now on prime time TV

Following on from last month's edition of Hurst Life, featuring Fergus Anckorn's recent visit to Buckingham Palace, we are delighted to see that Fergus is still making headline news! In the recent Britain's Got Talent Final, on Saturday 30th May, Magician Richard Jones performed a series of tricks leading him to win the final. He will now appear at the Royal Variety Performance in December.

Not only the audience but also the judges were captivated by Richard's poignant trick, which paid homage and respect to his 'hero' Fergus as he told some of Fergus' story of showing his captors in a Japanese PoW camp magic tricks which, ultimately, helped keep Fergus alive. The finale, for those who missed it, included Fergus on stage where he received a fitting standing ovation. Fergus is a local hero and clearly now a National Treasure, and it just goes to show that Simon Cowell has friends in high places! Fergus' story can be found in Peter Fyan's book *The Conjuror On The Kwai* which has gone into reprint in paperback and, since the BGT final there is now talk of a film, so watch this space...



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Summer Family Music Festival at the school

"Come and join an afternoon of great music and refreshments!" say the St Lawrence CEP School PTA.

They are pleased to announce their forthcoming Family Music Festival on Saturday 16th July from 12-4pm on the school field. There will be music from a variety of artists, including Sam Nixon, Breeze In and DJ Emma Warner.

But stop, wait a minute (in the words of Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars!), it's not too late to join the line up! If you are a local band, play an instrument, sing, a seasoned performer or looking for more onstage experience this is a fantastic opportunity to join, what promises to be an exciting afternoon.

In addition to an open mic hour, DJ Emma Warner will add to the mix ensuring that, even if you didn't think you would, you'll likely to be up on your feet dancing!

Plans for the day include a bar – with local ale – and the ever popular PTA BBQ, so take a rug, family and friends and prepare yourself for an afternoon of great entertainment.

Tickets cost £10 per adult and £5 per child and includes a burger/hot dog and your first drink.

More information about joining the line-up and tickets can found from Kate Halls at stlawrencehurst@gmail.com



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Your best Queen portraits...

Hurstpierpoint craft shop Poponin got residents' creative juices flowing last month when it held an open competition for the best portrait of HM The Queen, to be voted for on the day of the village street party. Owner Jess Adams said: "We had lots of terrific portraits and were really pleased when over 110 votes were cast on the day by members of the public."

First prize was won by Maureen (no age given); second prize went to Scarlet, age seven, and third prize had joint winners – Freya and Molly, both age six.

Poponin is planning on scanning the entries and sending them to The Queen. Jess is also looking forward to planning more competitions for the community to vote on after the success of this one.

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Carole Lewandowski

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By Deb Hollywood

If you have children you probably know Carole Lewandowski, and if you have pets you may know her too, but if you have neither there is still a good chance you'll recognise her because Carole is very much part of the tapestry that makes up Hurstpierpoint.

Carole spent most of her childhood in Burgess Hill, attending what was then London Road Primary School (now London Meed) and Oakmeads Secondary school, so grew up as very much a local girl. On leaving school, Carole went straight to Roger Green's veterinary practice in Haywards Heath and trained as a veterinary nurse. Living in Burgess Hill, Carole, through school friends, met Jerzy (you probably know him too!) and they went on to marry. And it will be no surprise to those who know them that they started out working together, running various Off Licences in Sussex, and Carole still kept her hand in with locum veterinary nursing. They moved to Hurstpierpoint in 1983 with their daughter Hanya. On arriving in Hurst Carole took up part-time employment in the local grocers (now the co-op), and having added to their family with Janek and Chay, Carole decided to combine work with family by becoming a childminder. There are so many grateful parents whose transition back to work has been made so much easier by Carole. All children in her care become extended family and Carole's warmth is demonstrated by those then children, who are now young adults, who hold her, as do their parents, in such high regard. Carole and Jerzy's family grew to include Marezk and Tad and with each child they have met numerous parents within their children's peer group. It does feel like Carole knows everyone!

Carole has been a familiar face in the St Lawrence playground having collected her own children between 1986 and 2012 (surely a long service award is due?!), and she can still be seen there today collecting her 'minded' children. In 1994, alongside her love of children, Carole returned to Veterinary Nursing for Roger Green. When he sold his Haywards Heath practice and moved to Hurstpierpoint, where he lived, she came with him, working on alternate Saturday mornings. When Sarah Soloman purchased the Heath Veterinary Clinic, Carole carried on working Saturdays, which she has done since 1994 to the present day (that's an awful lot of animals!). As you can imagine, journeys along Hurst High Street take time for Carole, as she stops to chat to both people and pets. It can take her hours to buy that pint of milk, and her family now know there's no need to send out a search party!

Both Carole and Jerzy are community-spirited, and



this has certainly been passed on to their children. Janek, their eldest son, returned from travelling and 'out of nowhere' announced he was going to become a funeral director. To many, this will be no real surprise as he is calm and respectful when dealing with people, and he now oversees several branches, including Frank Davey here in the village. Son Chay left Hurst to attend the Brit School and, having graduated from Chichester University, cut his 'performing teeth' as a holiday camp entertainer. He is currently working with the Rainbow Theatre group taking drama into schools but has yet to perform at St Lawrence Primary School! It was through her son Marezk that Carole spent many balmy, and also some freezing, evenings on Shoreham Beach, watching



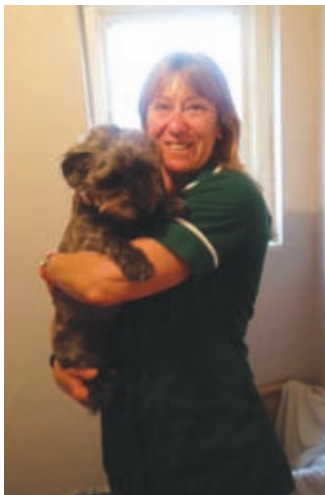
him row with the team that went on to win the Coastal Amateur Rowing Association Under 16s at Dorney Lake, the Olympic venue. Since leaving college, Marezk has travelled and worked with Camp America, and, although currently in New York, Carole says: "I see more of him via Skype probably than I would if he were at home!" Tad, the youngest of their children, is currently in Year 10 at Downlands Community School.

An initiative that Carole and other mums started, when Marezk was in the same school year, was a drinks night for those with children in Year 10. As is Carole's way, this is not an exclusive evening but welcomes all parents, and it does seem to appeal to mums! It's about the adults having the opportunity to swap notes, meet each other and talk about other things than their children! As a

Year 10 parent, I can vouch for the friendliness of these meetings, and all are welcome on the first Tuesday of each month in Morley's wine bar.

Daughter Hanya will be known to many not only for her work at The Cottis Playgroup (she too loves children!) but also as a driving instructor, ultimately taking Marezk and then lots of his friends through their driving tests – first time! Hanya's wedding, which took place at Holy Trinity Church in 2014, was another moment of great pride for Carole and gave her the impetus to take up another activity (where did she find the time?!) which has become a focal part of her life.

Spurred on to look her best for the big day, Carole decided to try Yoga. Lying down on a mat at that first class and moaning and groaning her way through various positions, she decided that she just couldn't do it! However, encouraged by a friend to persevere, and under the tutelage of Yoga instructor Nicola Hobbs, Carole is considered something of an expert. When Nicola decided to write her book, Yoga Gym, she wanted to include students whose Yoga journey would be inspiring to others and chose Carole as one. Carole is not only proud of her own inclusion in the book – as all those family members who received it as a Christmas gift will vouch – but also the positive changes that Nicola has made to so many through her local classes. Achieving her goal for Hanya's wedding, Carole realised that Yoga had become an essential part of her life and says: "Taking that hour a week for myself is wonderful. Yoga recharges my batteries without leaving me exhausted, plus I always sleep well after a class and wake the next morning feeling really good."



Nearly 30 years ago, having formed the Cuckfield Road Babysitting Circle with a group of fellow mums, one of the husbands, Mike Hudson, suggested that they enter a float in the St Lawrence Fair procession. Over the years, Adie Rowe has driven the flatbed truck, neighbours Rosemary and Richard have given up their house to accommodate all sorts of props and all members of the group have congregated at various houses in the run up to Fair Day, sewing, sawing and enjoying a few glasses of wine! Finally, in 1995 the Cuckfield Road Babysitting Circle came first! However, this is not the

only reason they are well known, they have been the float with the water! If you've lived in Hurst for the last few years you may well have been on the receiving end of a well-aimed water pistol or water bomb! Carole sheepishly apologises! Of course, as to be expected, residents of Hurst (and particularly Western Road) were not going to take this lying down and would be ready to retaliate, hose pipes at the ready! I don't know what the weather will be like for this year's Fair, but the Babysitting Circle won't be responsible for any drenching's as now that most of their children no longer need babysitting the group is less active and so, residents of Hurst, you can hang up your towels to dry!

Carole and her family have lived in Hurstpierpoint for 33 years and I ask her what it is she likes most about the village. Her reply is instantaneous: "The friendliness," she says and then pauses, "that sums it up really!" Carole is one of those people who will smile and chat to everyone. When greeted with that it's hard not to smile back, so it's only natural that Carole should find Hurstpierpoint friendly, it's just mirroring back what she gives out.

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Pre-loved clothing available on High Street

Sam Holland's Hung On You has recently opened up at Marram Trading, in the High Street, and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

Sam moved from Brighton to Hurstpierpoint 10 years ago with husband Justin and has been running her own business, Hung on You, since leaving her investment banking job in the city in 2012. Primarily a jewellery business, it has recently transformed into pre-loved designer clothing and accessories, which are taken on a consignment basis. So you take your pre-loved clothes to her and she sells them for you, for an agreed commission.

Sam initially introduced her business to Hurstpierpoint at the Jam Pot and, although she is now based at Stanmer House Museum & Brocante, Sam is pleased to be spending some time back in Hurst High Street. The pop up shop at Marram Trading is proving to be a popular feature, set in the lovely garden at the rear of the shop. Sam is always interested in hearing from new clients looking to sell their pre-loved clothing and accessories. Do feel free to give her a call on 07860 596908 for a chat, or why not just pop in!



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Ruby Watts – on the move!

Sophia Marks lived in Hurstpierpoint between the ages of 12 and 18, and is now back!

It's a testament to her love of the village that her first choice of location, when she decided to open her own shop 12 months ago, was Hurst. And so Ruby Watts was born!

In addition to an online business, the shop stocks beautiful lamps, candles and a whole host of lighting options for the home. Sophia lives in Hurstpierpoint and is excited by the businesses' expansion with more space to showcase even more stock. Ruby Watts is moving from its current location, but only to 126c High Street next to the new Community Cafe on the first of this month.

Save the date for the Albourne Summer Fete!

Book 10th September in the diary for Albourne's Traditional Summer Fete with a flower show, baking competitions, home made jams and wines, apple pressing, vintage vehicles, craft tents, children's games and entertainers; three bands and a Fun Dog Show.

Tea, cakes, a barbecue and a beer tent are open throughout the afternoon all supported by local businesses with a Grand Raffle Draw at 3.30pm.

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The village out to play

STREET PARTY

By Gill Blackburn

The Queen's Village Street Party was a huge success – thanks to the all the villagers who came and supported us. What a lovely day for young and old, it made me very proud to live in this beautiful village.

As well as celebrating Her Majesty's 90th birthday, we were fundraising for an amazing local charity, St Peter and St James Hospice.

What a weekend!

The Church organised a wonderful concert on the Saturday and raised £2,000.

The Open Gardens had an amazing turnout and raised the most amount of money to date from this event – £6,000.

The party and entertainment cost £3,200 in total to put on, and we not only covered these costs but raised £1,500 for the Hospice, thanks to the generosity of so many people and so many traders.

In 24 hours this village raised £9,500 for St Peter and St James Hospice!

Thank you for supporting us. It's what makes Hurst so special.

Of course these events don't happen on their own and so thanks go also to: Steve at Trident Marquees, Burgess Hill... total star who put up all the marquees in terrible weather, and Harris Fun Fair – lovely people who offered the children's carousel for free, and we look forward to seeing them again at The St Lawrence Fair on Saturday 2nd July.

Advertising of the Event: huge thanks to Tanis Banham and her team at Sussex Living and More Radio and to David Tingley and the team at Hurst Life, also The Village Voice, none of whom made a charge, they just wanted to help and they did. Thank you.

The management and staff of our Co-op store who raised £800 towards the event.

Our village Community Charity shop, who donated £500 to the event, which is much appreciated.

Pru Heron and the team who organise the Open Gardens who always do such an amazing job and to all the people who opened their gardens.

All the stall holders who arrived on time despite the weather and raised money.

Babs and her staff and customers at the Poachers who raised £227 running a Tombola.

Very special thanks to a few very special people who worked extremely hard and all the lovely people who made and donated cakes and biscuits - thank you.

George, who organised all the music for the Green... Hurst does have talent!

To all the people who performed for free, thank you.

The children from St Lawrence CEP School who performed and their lovely teacher.

Sam Nixon and her dancers, Hurst Bowling Club and Rosemary Burns who helped sell a lot of cakes.

Steven of Gogglebox... Always game for a laugh!

Richard Sullivan, photographer, who covered the event for free - thanks.

Finally a HUGE thank you to three people who helped immensely and worked so hard on the day: Jules, her daughter Kat and Robbie who put up bunting in the rain and did not stop all day, selling raffle tickets, cakes and generally helping in whatever way they could. Thank you, it's really appreciated.

Sincere apologies to anyone I've missed by name but you all have my heartfelt thanks. I think we did Her Majesty proud.





Traditional skills, modern artwork in wood

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Just down the road in a workshop not far from here, a master craftsman is hard at work making plain old wood into something quite beautiful.

Roy Martin is now a highly skilled reproduction wood carver – but how did he get to that position?

Roy has always been good at art, with an appreciation handed down from both his parents and also his grandfather who was a traditional signwriter. He left Varndean High School with O Levels in Art, Design, Technical Graphics and English. The day before his last exam he attended an interview at William L Macleans, a widely recognised furniture manufacturer based in Brighton. Edward Colter told Roy later that he knew he would offer Roy the job as soon as he'd seen Roy's artwork!

Sure enough, the following Monday he started a five year apprenticeship as a woodcarver at the firm. "I learned so much during this period," Roy comments. "It was a fantastic opportunity for me."

At the end of this Roy was still technically only a journeyman in the trade, although he went on to become self-employed. During this period he worked mostly in the hotel trade but also on a number of projects for English Heritage, including Tadworth House, Goodwood House and Uppark House. "It was after a fire had ripped through the 17th Century Uppark House in Petersfield. My role on the project saw me restoring over 60 metres of acanthus leaf mouldings with ribbons and cherubs around fireplaces."

For the past 15 years Roy has worked in numerous workshops including Manbourne Custom Furniture, Brown & Harman and with other carvers including Roy Colferd and John Powell, before moving to a workshop on a beautiful Hurstpierpoint farm at the beginning of this year.

Roy has worked on pieces from Medieval Gothic, Tudor, Elizabethan, the Georgian styles of Chippendale and Rococo, Art Nouveau and Deco up to Modern Art. Roy specialises in Rococo and Chippendale style furniture, be it new or restoration. But he can turn his

hand to a wide range of projects from chairs, Tudor oak barns, signs, family crests or Gothic style claw feet for cabinets.

He has recently completed a restoration of a 13th century chair, after which he was asked to carve a brand new replica of the chair. "They were a beautiful pair with very intricate carvings including Gothic panels with fret work and intricate acanthus leaves on the finials. The customer was incredibly happy with the end result."

But it's not all antique work. Roy was commissioned by designers working for celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal to produce a hand carved table and 12 chairs for a special 'King's Table' at his London restaurant. He worked with the interior designers to create amazing pieces that were perfect for the space.

Roy is an extraordinarily talented craftsman based just down the road. The work on these pages shows the breadth of projects that he has worked on. If you would like to talk to Roy about furniture restoration work, or newly commissioned pieces which have real meaning to you, then do call Roy on 07729 724186 or email royjamesmartin@gmail.com

You can see more examples of his work at his website: www.bespokewoodcarving.co.uk



A client approached Roy after taking over a Brighton pub. The name was changed to The Mad Hatter to mark Lewis Carroll's 150th Anniversary of writing Alice in Wonderland. Roy was commissioned to carve the sign in the shape of a pocket watch with the Mad Hatter figure carved in the centre. Its over 2ft in diameter and is carved from Iroko wood.



Oak gable end on a mock Tudor property. The client specifically asked for the detail to be carved that was personal to her and her family. As the property is situated in the centre of a wood there are stags heads with oak leaves and acorns as the backdrop. In total there was 26m of carving, and the whole contract took Roy 16 weeks to complete.



Every individual chair had a different caricature wearing medieval attire, including a rabbit, toad, and salmon. The chairs had eagles claw arms and a Tudor rose carved on the back. The 12 chairs went round a large mahogany dining room table with a mahogany tudor rose in the centre. Around the rose the words 'The Kings Table' were carved in Gothic style writing.



Parts of the original chair (right) were made in 1480. After restoring it 18 months ago, the client was so pleased we were asked to make a copy. All the carving on the new chair was hand carved in English Oak by Roy and the finished chair was polished to match the original.



This mother and child sculpture is one of a number of modern style carvings. One was in walnut and the other English oak. The pieces were 11" high and were created to be on display on a mantelpiece. The elongated style of the limbs gives it its modern appearance.



5 MINUTES WITH...

Lucy Amos

How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?

Six years.

What's the best thing about being here?

Being so close to the South Downs, Brighton, Gatwick and London.

Favourite ice cream flavour?

Chocolate.

How many houses have you lived in?

11.

Favourite holiday destination?

Suffolk coast.

Your most enjoyable event in the village?

The Levellers performing as part of the village festival.

Do you share your home with anyone?

Husband, son, daughter, dog, three chickens and some monkeys.

Song you play the most?

Owl City - Fireflies.

Mac or PC?

PC.

Your most frequented village shop?

Greengrocer.

What's your proudest moment?

When I was ten, Barry Took read out my letter on the BBC Points of View TV programme complaining about Blake's 7 finishing!

Coke, juice or water?

Juice.

Your advice for life?

Have meaningful relationships and try to leave the world a tiny bit better than you found it.

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Twelfth Night or What You Will

LOCAL LIVE THEATRE

By Deb Hollywood

I wanted to catch up with Sam Nixon and Alasdair Carson Sheard to find out more about their forthcoming production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Naturally, an open air performance will need open air rehearsals and so I found them, with cast members, tucked away behind the tennis courts on the recreation ground at South Avenue. By the end of July, when the performances take place, I will expect members of the Bowls Club to be word perfect!

This year, Gin Palace Productions, the creation of Sam and Alasdair, will be inviting us to savour their interpretation of this Shakespearian comedy. Gin Palace Productions formed when, over a G&T, Sam and Alasdair decided to work together to create a memoir of Julie Andrews, or, as one audience member described it, 'a live biography with music' and I would add, having seen Practically Perfect, plenty of humour.

Following on from last year's open air performance of A Midsummer's Night Dream at The New Inn, Sam and Alasdair knew they had to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death this year. They have picked a play where there is scope for more of those laughs, provided by a cast whose experience ranges from local to the West End. Returning cast members from last year include Jamie Stafford (who can forget his Bottom!), Hannah Scott, Lyn Fernee, Ali Somers, Karinn Grierson, Simon Nixon and Alasdair. New cast members include Rose Hall-Smith (Head of Drama at Hurst Prep School), Luke Gasper, Charlie Jordan, Calum McManus and Becky Godwin. Their production stays true to the premise of the original, set on the Island of Illyria, but likened to Malta where the Queen and Prince Philip visited in 1949, and the chosen year for the setting of this adaptation. Sam says: "These were strange times, many people were still displaced after the war." As you would expect

with Sam's creativity and experience, contemporary themes of refugees and shipwrecks are weaved into the tale. Of course, there is the obligatory Shakespearian love triangle, mostly unrequited, where Lady Olivia falls in love with the messenger – who is a girl dressed as a boy - bringing a message of love from the Duke. This messenger is in love with the Duke but can't declare this as the Duke thinks she is a boy! As to be expected, the inevitable chaos and confusion ensues! The cast have clearly been working on their characterisations, with Ali taking a look at some of Harry Enfield's personas, and Sam herself says: "There are a few Rik Mayal moments!" With Sam there is always music, and this will be drawn from the late 1940s enveloping the play in that period.

Performances will take place at The New Inn on the 27th-30th July, starting at 7.30pm. Book a table directly with the pub if you'd like to eat, as food is available from 5.30pm. There are various ticket options, with VIP and champagne packages, but buy soon, as they are going quickly! Tickets are available from Vanilla, in Hurst High Street and online at their website: www.ginpalaceproductions.co.uk where you can also find information about other forthcoming events.





Inspired by her boys

LOCAL AUTHOR

By Becky Smith

Do you know that horrible Cyril Connolly quote about children getting in the way of our creative endeavours? 'There is no more sombre enemy of good art than the pram in the hall'.

For me it's been the opposite. Sure, kids can be demanding of your time and attention, but I found my experience of becoming a mother led directly to me becoming a published novelist.

I never intended to write a book about becoming a mother. But then, I hadn't anticipated what a rollercoaster it would be. After a traumatic first labour, I remember the early days at home with my newborn. It was like one of those dreams where every time you try to achieve a seemingly simple task, all kinds of ridiculous yet somehow insurmountable obstacles get in the way. A happy dream, at times deliriously so. But not like real life.

When something in my subconscious needs processing, it tends to come out in fiction. So, when my first child was about a year old, I wrote a weird little science fiction story about a doctor caring for a foetus in an artificial uterus.

I had a sense that my experiences in labour and early motherhood were actually quite common. Sure, the details of my baby's birth were specific to me, but so many of my friends had similar stories to tell. And although women make up the majority of readers – and purchasers – of novels, this subject seemed woefully under-represented in fiction.

Perhaps a different kind of writer would have put their experiences into a very different sort of novel. A poetic, literary novel, charting the moment-to-moment emotional journey of those first few days. I'm sure there are writers who could have made that very beautiful and moving.

But I'm not that sort of writer. If I was going to write a book about becoming a mother it would have to be the sort of book I like reading: a psychological thriller with a twisty-turny plot, high stakes and maybe even some unexplained, magical realist elements thrown in for good measure. It would have to be thrilling, scary and disorientating, like *Gone Girl* or *The Girl on the Train*, but with, you know, more breastfeeding.

The more I thought about it, the more I thought 'Why the hell shouldn't I write this book?' Sure my doctor-and-artificial-uterus idea sounded like an unlikely premise for a thriller. But what if I built a plot to hold it up? A story about new developments in technology, about big pharmaceutical company, the profit motive and the medicalisation of birth.

When my book was finished, I went looking for a publisher. After encouragement from big literary agents but no contract, I spotted a call for submissions from an independent publisher called Mother's Milk Books, asking for uplifting short stories about parenting and breastfeeding.

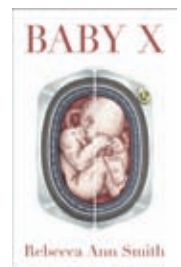
Of course, I hadn't written an uplifting short story about early parenthood. I'd written a full-length thriller, with a dark conspiracy theory at its heart, a complicated timeline and a borderline unreliable narrator. But it had lots of breastfeeding in it (along with a couple of gruesome medical procedures and a nasty bout of mastitis).

Not expecting much, I wrote an email to Mother's Milk Books and attached my manuscript. I was amazed when the editor emailed back to say she loved my book. There were things wrong with it, she said. But it was a brilliant idea, compelling and, she felt, important. Over the next eighteen months we worked together to shape my rough manuscript into a book.

Having a novel published has long been a dream of mine, and I'm so grateful to my kids for inspiring me.

Baby X is published by Mother's Milk Books and is available from the publisher, Amazon and selected bookshops – or even direct from the author if you spot her around the village!

Rebecca Ann Smith writes novels for adults, teenagers and children and blogs about creativity and other topics at www.rebeccaannsmith.co.uk. You can find her on Twitter @beckysmithurst or on Facebook at www.facebook.co.uk/rebeccaannsmithauthor





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HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

By David Saitch

Hello from the Village Cinema.

Do please come and see us at our stand at St Lawrence Fair on Saturday 2nd July, to find out about the terrific new season of films we will be launching in the autumn.

We continue with Live Broadcasts, and on Thursday 7th July the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company Live cinema season continues with a new vision of Shakespeare's heartbreaking tale of forbidden love, Romeo and Juliet. Branagh and his creative team present a modern passionate version of the classic tragedy.

Reuniting the stars of his celebrated film of Cinderella, Kenneth Branagh directs Richard Madden and Lily James as Romeo and Juliet and Sir Derek Jacobi as Mercutio.

We are also pleased to announce that the new season of NT Live broadcasts opens on Thursday 1st September with *The Deep Blue Sea*.

Helen McCrory returns to the National Theatre in Terence Rattigan's devastating masterpiece, playing one of the greatest female roles in contemporary drama. Tom Burke also features in Carrie Cracknell's critically acclaimed new production.

A flat in Ladbroke Grove, West London. 1952. When Hester Collyer is found by her neighbours in the aftermath of a failed suicide attempt, the story of her tempestuous affair with a former RAF pilot and the breakdown of her marriage to a High Court judge begins to emerge. With it comes a portrait of need, loneliness and long-repressed passion. Behind the fragile veneer of post-war civility burns a brutal sense of loss and longing.

This production has had absolutely rave reviews, so do not miss out on the chance to see it live at the Players Theatre.

Tickets for Live Broadcasts are £10 members/£14 non-members. Doors/Bar 6.30pm, Performance 7pm.

Tickets can be bought online at www.hurstfilms.com, at Mishon Mackay on the High Street or, if you can't use either of those methods, do 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 and with this expanding range of fantastic films and theatrical events, the ticket price reductions and advance booking makes it incredible value for money. Membership saves you £2 on ticket prices and £4 on Live Broadcast prices.

For more information and to buy membership, just go to the membership link on our website or contact us by phone or email: info@hurstfilms.com

Have a great summer.

Farewell concert in the church

To mark the departure of their current musical director, Katie Thomas (pictured), Brighton Consort will be presenting a concert entitled *Farewell Favourites* on Sunday 3rd July at Holy Trinity Church. The programme starts at 7.30pm and will consist of a selection of highlights from 16 of the choir's past concerts, and will include several beautiful choral works from the 16th and 17th centuries. There will also be pieces by Lassus, Guerrero, Lobo and Anerio, plus some modern works.



Tickets (£12, £10 concessions) are obtainable from www.brightonconsort.org.uk, or 01273 833746, or on the door.

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Hurst *Life*



AFC Hurst celebrates

After a cracking season, AFC Hurst (over 18s) football squad celebrated at the end of May with a fundraising BBQ at The Poacher pub in Hurstpierpoint.

AFC Hurst was formed two years ago, founded and now managed by two friends, Matt Handy and Sam Kerr, who are delighted that the team finished fourth in the Mid Sussex League. Having been 'robbed' by Montpelier Villa in the Somerville Cup Final, they remain stoic as the ethos is very much about enjoying the beautiful game, in a squad that has very much evolved from a group of friends. They are grateful to their sponsors, Boo Boos Café and The Poacher, the latter laying on transport for away games and food post-match, and Matt Handy added: "It would be great if the whole village gets behind us in our third season." Carnabys Estate Agents and Sussex Swim School were two local businesses who supported the barbecue raffle, which raised £375. Emma Pannell, responsible for fundraising, said: "We can't thank enough all the businesses who donated prizes and have named them all on our Facebook page." If you would like more information on joining the squad – they would like to have a second team – or offering sponsorship, contact Sam Kerr by email: samkerr32@hotmail.com



A new college?



A local performing arts academy has put together a proposal to take over the former Haywards Heath College site as a new primary, secondary and sixth form free school.

Suzanne Gielgud (pictured) has been running Gielgud Academy from The Hub since its inception in 2011 but, in the light of Central Sussex College's decision to close the Haywards Heath campus after the next academic year, she has seen a huge opportunity to create a facility that the whole of West Sussex can be proud of.

"I've seen so much talent at GAPA, their teachers are amazing and I fully support their bid to become a full-time performing arts free school."

John Partridge, actor

"Our proposal is to take over the site and turn it into an all-through school for ages 5-18 with a specialism in the arts," Suzanne commented. "According to West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) many primary schools in the area are at capacity already and more spaces are needed. Creating an all-through school not only meets the need to have an excellent sixth form in the area but will also relieve pressure for primary places too."

The new school would be a traditional, and non fee-paying, school but with a specialism in performing arts. "I genuinely believe that within every student there is always a particular gifting in the arts, be it dance, photography, art, music, film or design," Suzanne continues. "We want to create a school where those gifts can flourish alongside an outstanding academic education."

Suzanne has been featured on BBC local radio and TV last month as she seeks to promote what she is trying to do with the Gielgud Academy Free School. If accepted the school would open in September 2017. Parents in the area are asked to complete a very short (2 mins) survey at: www.gielgudacademy.co.uk



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Summer tours launched at Bedlam

LOCAL BUSINESS

Albourne-based brewer Bedlam, will be throwing open its doors to the public this summer, offering brewery tour packages from their scenic home in the heart of the South Downs National Park.

Led by Bedlam's head brewer Fabio Israel, the new brewery tours will offer craft beer-lovers an insight into how different styles of beer are made, from the locally sourced raw materials through to the maturation, bottling and kegging processes. Guests will also have the chance to try Bedlam's full range of brews as part of the package in a complimentary keepsake beer glass as well as purchasing beer on the day at a discount.

The Albourne-based brewery commands enviable views across rolling green hills and pretty farmland. As one of the only breweries in the UK to boast such a stunning location, the setting has proved one of the main inspirations for the range of beers.

Mindful of the setting, Bedlam currently generates its energy via solar power, grows its own hops on-site and distributes all its spent grain for free to local farmers as cattle feed.

Bedlam produces four cask-conditioned beers, a perfectly balanced IPA, a refreshing Golden Ale, a sessionable amber ale — aptly named Benchmark — and a robust and complex Porter. The brewery also launched its first kegged offering last year, in the form of a German-style Pilsner.

Managing Director Dominic Worall explained: "When people drink a pint of Bedlam, they're experiencing a true taste of southern England. There aren't many breweries that can boast a truly stunning countryside setting, so to be able to offer the public a chance to experience what we're doing here is great.

"Brighton has a brilliant beer offering right now, not only the variety available across the City's pubs and bars, but also with brewers making great beer. My aim for our beers is to be style-authentic. When they're brewed well, established styles like best bitters and pilsners are very

hard to beat — and they're beers that drinkers will return to time and time again."

The new tours mark the next stage in the brewery's growth, having increased their production levels by 300% over the last 12 months following deals with Metropolitan Pub Company, Indigo Leisure and Pigs Ears Beer Cellar which saw the brewery stocked in over 100 sites across London and the South-East.

Tours of the Albourne site start at £15 per person. A 50% deposit is required to secure all tours. For more information on the tours including pricing and booking please email the team on tours@bedlambrewery.com or visit www.bedlambrewery.co.uk



Reader competition for FREE beer!

Bedlam Brewery are offering the readers of Hurst Life magazine the chance to get their hands on a presentation pack to include six Bedlam beers – one of each of the range plus two pilsners.

All you need to do is email your name and address to competition@hurstlife.co.uk before 18th July. A winner will be picked at random, and notified shortly after this date.



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What's on this month

AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

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

July

- 5th **Afternoon Club** – 2.15pm
Talk by Ian Gledhill - The Strauss Family and Viennese Music
- 9th **Village Barn Dance**
Dancing to Touchstone Barn Dance Band with supper and a bar. Raising funds for Hurstpierpoint Bowling Club. Tickets (£12) will be on sale from Mishon Mackay and Feathers.
- 19th **Wolstonbury WI Meeting** – 7.45pm
Smuggling by Derrick Fulford
Visitors welcomed (01273 834421)

AND ELSEWHERE

- 1st **St Lawrence Fair Junior Disco** – 6-7.30pm
Family BBQ & Live Music – from 6pm
Both at South Avenue Recreation Ground, Hurstpierpoint. See Fair Programme
- 2nd **St Lawrence Fair Day** – from 12noon
Follow the procession and enjoy the Fair on South Avenue Recreation Ground
- 3rd **Brighton Consort presents 'Farewell Favourites'**
7.30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint
(Tickets www.brightonconsort.org.uk or 01273 833746 or on the door)
- 3rd **reMEMber sponsored walk** – 10.30am
Charity fundraiser from Clayton Windmills to Ditchling Beacon and back – 10km
Sponsor forms are available from reMEMber. Contact 01273 831733 or email me_cfs@hotmail.com
- 9th **Coro Novo Choir Concert** – 4pm
Danny House. Special concert marking 450 years since the death of Shakespeare (01273 833000 www.dannyhouse.org.uk)
- 9th **St Peter & St James Hospice Star Walk** – 10.30pm
Fundraising walk 2km or 10km - All entry forms must be received by 1st July (01444 470611)
- 9th **Charity Craft Show** – 10am-4pm
Burgess Hill United Reformed Church RH15 0JS
Exhibiting patchwork, knitting, crochet, cross stitch etc from various local clubs in aid of St Peter & St James Hospice
- 16th **St Lawrence CEP School Summer Family Music Festival** – 12-4pm, School Field, Trinity Road
Contact Kate Halls at stlawrencehurst@gmail.com for more information
- 16th **Italian Food Night** – from 7pm
Duke of York, Sayers Common
(Book by phone: 01273 832262)
- 20th **Charity Tea Dance** – 3-5pm
Danny House, Hurstpierpoint
In aid of St Peter and St James Hospice (01273 833000 www.dannyhouse.org.uk)
- 22nd **Sir Ranulph Fiennes tells us why...** – 8pm
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
(Tickets - £24.50 - 01444 455440)
- 23rd **Downsbeat Swing Band** – 2-4pm
Ropetackle Arts Centre, Shoreham
(This is a free, walk in, walk out, concert)
- 26th **The Longines Royal International Horse Show**
-31st Hickstead Show Ground (www.hickstead.co.uk)

Hurst Bowling Club Amendment:

In our previous issue we stated that Hurstpierpoint Bowling Club was founded in 1747. Newspaper articles support bowling in Hurstpierpoint from 1906 and more information can be obtained from the website www.hurstbowls.org.uk We apologise for the error.

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Dance, Cheer-leading, Danish Longball, Dodgeball, Arts & Crafts
and team-building activities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT sportscamps@hppc.co.uk or
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DOWNLOAD A FORM ON hppc.co.uk/events.asp
PLEASE APPLY BY 5 AUGUST 2016