

# Hurst Life

Including Sayers Common & Albourne

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #17: August 2016

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Plans for new village parkland

**p.28**

St Lawrence Fair round up

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What's coming up for Hurst Festival

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# Hurst

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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

When I talk to people about this village I always remark just how much goes on here. This issue is proof of that, if proof were needed. We had so much content to fit in we just had to add more pages!

Firstly we should note and congratulate the **St Lawrence Fair** committee who, on **page 18**, celebrate what was a fabulous fair weekend. Thank you **Rachael Babister** for that report and to **Benny Coxhill** for the review of this year's run on **page 20**.

The next big thing on the calendar is, of course, **Hurst Festival**. A mammoth two-week stint of events of all kinds in September. We showcase what's to come in our article on **page 26**.

On **page 25** it's a pleasure to welcome in new columnist **Belle Amatt**. Belle, who will be known to many in Hurstpierpoint, will be sharing some easy-to-make recipe ideas on a monthly basis. Do try them and let us know how you got on. Email us or message us on social media, include a photo of your creations too! Thanks Belle, and I personally am looking forward to making the **mango and lime ice lolly!**

On **page 28** I have written an article about a very exciting project in the village. **Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council** have recently held the inaugural meeting of the **Parkland Advisory Board**. The group will advise the council about the development and use of some new areas of parkland which are shortly to be signed over to Parish Council ownership for, ultimately, enjoyment by residents.

Lastly, if you go on **holiday** this year why not take a copy of Hurst Life with you in your suitcase! Get a snap of you with it and let's see how far away from West Sussex we can get the magazine! Any entries that come in we will create a rogue's gallery. Email to [photos@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:photos@hurstlife.co.uk) or mention us on Facebook or Twitter (@HurstLife).

Have a lovely summer!

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**Hurst Life** Published by Kipper



Jackie Eke  
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fields around Hurst College

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

## Shops introduce Late Night Thursday

A number of High Street retailers have decided to start a late night of trading to encourage shoppers to use local businesses on the doorstep.

Millie Hampson, of Marram Trading, explained: "We want to particularly help those who have full-time jobs and find it difficult to get to the High Street during the week."

The later opening time will be until 8pm every Thursday and has been adopted by Marram Trading, BB Designs, Tina Bucknall and Hung On You and will be effective from this month.

## New playground due to open

The children's playground at South Avenue Recreation Ground has been closed for some weeks now but was expected to be reopened in time for the school summer holidays.

The area has been subject to a major overhaul of all equipment and enlargement of the playground by a third, in a project that has been managed by Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council.

Following a strategy set out in the local Neighbourhood Plan document, the council has received £100,000 in contributions from two major housing developers who are building in the village. This money was specifically ring-fenced for items which would directly benefit those living in the community.

Following a public consultation, three contractors entered a design competition which led to the appointment and work commencing in June. The new apparatus will be suitable for use by toddlers right up to teenagers.

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## Artists' Open Studios

This year local artists are each producing a piece of work, in their own style, to represent and support the shops in the village. These works of art will be on display in the village shops for two weeks, from Friday 2nd September prior to the Open Studios. Take a wander along the High Street to see them in situ and consider each artist's interpretation. The works of art will then be housed at each artist's venue, along with other work, for the

Artists' Open Studio weekends.

Hurstpierpoint Open Studios takes place on the Saturdays and Sundays of the 17th/18th and 24th/25th September. From 10am-5pm during the Hurst Festival period and across eight venues. Check flyers and the festival programme for details of the 18 participating artists or look out for the blue and white balloons!

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## Football club builds for future

Last month Hurstpierpoint Football Club informed the Southern Combination Football League (SCFL) of its decision to resign from the league.

The club has played in the league since the formation of Division 3 in 1983 and has enjoyed some enjoyable seasons at intermediate level, most recently in 2013/14 when it lifted the Sussex Intermediate Cup.

"Amongst the highlights," comments the club secretary, "there have been some difficult seasons for the club when we've finished at the wrong end of the league table. Often we've survived relegation on the basis that teams in feeder divisions have not had adequate facilities or other clubs were folding.

"This season has been no different for the club, and, rather than wait for a decision from the league, we have decided that it's time to step down divisions and rebuild the club in the Mid Sussex Football League."

The club's committee are excited about the future. In trying to survive in the SCFL the club has not been accessible to local players, particularly those from the village.

These players are now invited to come and enjoy their football with the village football club.

## Felling of Monterey Pine

By David Brown, St George's Millenium Garden Trust

A splendid feature of the Garden is a large Monterey Pine. As its name suggests this tree is endemic on the west coast of California, particularly around the coastal town of Monterey – made famous by being the setting for John Steinbeck's novel Cannery Row. This particular tree is some 150 years old and features in an old photo from the 1890s when it was in the garden of the house of the Hannington family, owners of the department store of that name in Brighton.

Sadly this iconic and much loved tree has reached the end of its days, and, following a detailed report from an Arborologist, the Management Committee has decided to have it felled. This work will be carried out during the first week of August and will necessitate the Garden being closed to the public for three or four days.

On a brighter note, we hope that this will not be the end of the story because the Committee is exploring the possibility of creating a 'living' sculpture from the lower parts of the four main trunks, and we are inviting people to send in ideas within the overall theme of wildlife. Please send any ideas, and even a sketch, by the 31st August to: [dandrbrown@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dandrbrown@tiscali.co.uk)

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# Calling all young and aspiring writers from age 8-15

By Belle Amatt

Loud Literature is an event to inspire young writers to have a go at creating a 500 word short story or a poem of shorter length. This could be fiction or non-fiction; it may be futuristic, imaginative, possibly scary or perhaps humorous. Poetry is welcome and could be any style of prose. Even Haiku is fine; this is a short three line poem about nature which is perfect for those who don't like to write long pieces. We may even have some comic strips heading our way! This writing event is open to any creative writing style. The main aim is to have fun, express yourself and make your piece stand out from the crowd.

Loud Literature is all about inspiration, so I will be SELECTING eight pieces. This is not a case of choosing the best eight. These entries will be those which will grab the attention of the listener and make for an interesting evening. Attending authors will be Chris Bradford, bestselling author of Young Samurai and The Bodyguard series, children's authors Helen Baugh and Sheila Rance, together with adult novelists Rebecca Ann Smith and Erinna Mettler. Our local authors will share some of their own work and provide motivational comments for each child. Further scripts will also be drawn from a

'blind selection box' on the night, and all work will be on display at Hurstpierpoint library, so there are plenty of opportunities to be involved.

Scripts will be chosen from the two age categories: 8-11 and 12-15. During August there will be at least one writing workshop to get things started. Look out for updates on Facebook.

The holidays are a great – and possibly inspiring - time to start writing! Three copies of your 500 word story or a poem should be submitted to Hurstpierpoint Library, Trinity Road by the 12th September. Don't forget to include your name, age and contact number.

The event takes place at 6.30pm on 22nd September at Hurstpierpoint Library. Go to [www.hurstfestival.org](http://www.hurstfestival.org) for more details.

Happy writing!



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## Playgroup ladies' big goodbye

By Deb Hollywood

Neither Rose Cottis nor Elizabeth Trott knew what was in store for them on the final day of term at The Cottis Pre-School last month. The day saw both ladies hang up their tabards and say a final goodbye to the current children and staff. They weren't going to be allowed to go quietly!

The Cottis Pre-School, under the stewardship of its current owner Sam Anthony, had planned a surprise presentation to both ladies.

Cottis Playgroup started in 1971 from Rose's house in Cuckfield Road. Having recently lost her husband, the start of the pre-school allowed Rose to both work and

be at home for her two children, Robert and Susan. Rose and Elizabeth were keen to offer a home from home setting, which included Rose's dog and tortoise!

Rose had previously helped Mrs Atkinson run a play group in Western Road, and Elizabeth had completed her NNEB in full care day nurseries. Married to Dennis (Hurst's own marathon man!) Elizabeth had her two children, Heather and Peter. Cottis, as it is affectionately known, started by initially offering morning sessions but due to demand this increased to include afternoons. There are many parents in Hurst today who have fond memories of their Cottis days. So much so that they send their own children off to The Methodist Hall, the current Cottis site.

It was in 1999, due to the increase in paperwork brought about by OFSTED, that both ladies decided that, after 29 years, retirement might be due. The pre-school was then passed on to Sam. Both ladies agreed to stay on for a year to aid a smooth transition and 16 years later that retirement date has finally arrived! Both Rose and Elizabeth are due to receive a memory book with contributions from current and past parents. The book, currently under secret compilation, will include messages and photographs, expressing warm thanks. Keeping this under wraps has been no mean feat for Sam!

Both ladies take an active part in village life. They attend a patchwork group and local coffee mornings. They are Friends of St Christopher's House, and Rose can often be seen walking around Hurst with her dog. They will definitely have more time to enjoy these activities and their families, including their own grandchildren. There is no doubt that, after 45 years of passionate childcare, they deserve it! So along with Sam Anthony, the current Cottis team and all those parents expressing their thanks, we too at Hurst Life, wish them an enjoyable and well deserved retirement.

Photo above from the earlier days of Cottis Pre-School

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The Alternative Healthcare centre in Haywards Heath has an extensive variety of treatments to help a whole manner of different ailments, from acupuncture, osteopathy, reiki, massage, to aromatherapy, etc but at the forefront of the centre is Ayurveda. Ayurveda is a 5000 year old Indian science of healthcare. It assists a person in identifying their disorder and with the aid of diet, herbs and treatment the disorder is literally detoxed from the system. The centre was created due to the miraculous results Ayurveda had on the founder's son when he was diagnosed with Arthritis.



In order to bring the authenticity, knowledge and wisdom of Ayurveda to the centre, we are incredibly excited to announce that Dr Shijoe Mathew will be joining the centre on 1st August. Dr Mathew has been the chief physician for the past 4 years at the world renowned Ananda Spa in the Himalayas, treating highly prestigious and celebrity clientele. He has resigned from his post at Ananda to reside at The Alternative Healthcare. His vast knowledge and experience in treating such disorders as arthritis, fibromyalgia, depression, stress, anxiety, eczema, asthma, colitis and many more will be a huge asset to the centre. Dr Mathew's decision to leave Ananda to bring Ayurveda to the UK and help enlighten as many people as possible to the healing science is testament to his passionate belief in the system. His diary has now opened for the beginning of August, with his impressive credentials, wisdom on the subject and logical manner in explaining disease and disorders, space may be limited. Please call the centre on 01444 474447 to make your appointment. He will also host a number of talks at the centre on Ayurveda and different disorders, so please do keep an eye on the website for times and dates of these.

The authenticity of the centre continues with the addition of Dr Shine Babu. Dr Shine will also be joining us from India in August. He is a naturopathic doctor, physiotherapist and Ayurvedic therapist, he will be the centre's resident yoga instructor, teaching various styles of yoga and meditation for varying abilities including therapeutic yoga for different disorders such as arthritis and other autoimmune disorders. This is addition to the current yogis will bring a well balanced variety of different styles for different people. He will also assist the Doctor in providing a comprehensive healthcare solution for almost all health issues.



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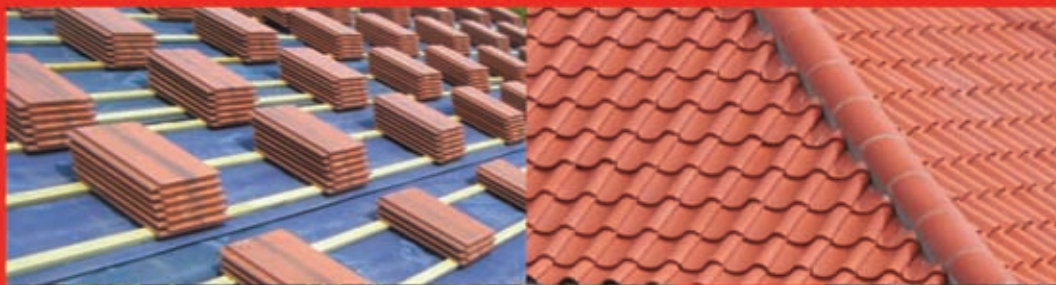
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# Steve Scott

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

By Deb Hollywood

We are lucky that we live in, what seems to me, an extraordinarily creative and talented area. There are some Hurstpierpoint residents who could grace the pages of the national media and be instantly recognised. There are many others who still deserve our recognition, and, for me, Steve Scott is one of these.

Steve, wife Annette, daughter Francesca and son Ollie arrived in Hurst 25 years ago with youngest daughter Emily making her appearance four weeks after their move. At that time, Steve was a Detective Sergeant with Sussex Police. Hurstpierpoint felt like the ideal place for him to access work across the county without uprooting the family every time there was a change in his work role. It is clear from chatting with Steve that his introduction to village life came from his involvement in his children's school life and activities. At many times over the years this has been as one half of a double act – think Barker and Corbett, Morecambe and Wise, Flannagan and Allen (look them up if you don't know!) – alongside none other than Jerzy Lewandowski. Having met the Lewandowski family through their respective children (combined think Family Von Trapp), Jerzy approached Steve to help with the St Lawrence School PTA Fete, saying: "We need a van!" Steve came up trumps with a Police Carrier, not fully knowing its intended use, but all became clear as he drove across the school field, the back doors were flung open, and an assortment of parents and teachers dressed as 'Gladys-ators' jumped out in full fancy dress! (As you read on, you'll see fancy dress is a recurrent theme!)

From this, Steve, pleased to help out, started to MC the school summer fetes for a few years. He says now: "I should have known with Jerzy as a friend that it wouldn't end there!" When Jerzy took over as chair of the St Lawrence Fair, he asked Steve to take on the position of vice chair. Short of time, but with his arm twisted, he agreed to help out! It was during this period that Steve, and you may well recognise him from these as opposed to his 'civvies', led and MC'd the fair as Captain Hook, Judge Dread and Michael Schumacher!

Just as now, pre St Lawrence Fair fundraising was much needed. At that time junior team football didn't feature in the village. Paul Dyer, St Lawrence Primary School Headteacher, allowed the school fields to be used for both football and netball matches. After a group effort from John Adams, Dick Creaton, Jerzy and Steve, Hurst's first junior football tournament took place. The final was played in the arena on St Lawrence Fair day, and although this went well initially, the second year saw an elderly resident almost felled. Steve says: "The ball



was powerfully booted out of the arena!" He took off his huge Judge Dread gloves and threw one to the ground. Over the tannoy he called out to the crowd, laying down the gauntlet for somebody to take on the junior football teams at a more suitable venue! The British Legion generously stepped forward. Ultimately the boy's parents, with the likes of Ken Bartram heavily involved, took over the coaching. And so Hurst Colts, as we know it now, was born.

The annual tournament hosted by Hurst Colts at Court Bushes moved there when it became clear that it was too much for the St Lawrence School field to take. More fundraising was needed! Steve says: "No one person works alone in the village. You ask one person for help and there will always be more who are happy to pitch in." Eight riders including Iain Couper, Alison Gillham, Dave Billington, Claire Hampson, and Celia Bartram entered a team for the London to Brighton (2000) bike ride. They put in some extensive, and often traffic stopping, training around the village! Steve is quick to add that he takes no credit for the development of Hurst Colts: "You get involved when your children are young and then pass the baton on to the next set of parents, but I am delighted to see that the tournament is an established fixture in Hurstpierpoint's annual calendar."

A sadder occasion prompted Steve and three friends, Dave Billington, Neil Leaphard and Ian Saville, back on to the saddle – the untimely death of good friend, Simon Vevers. Tandems at the ready and sporting fluorescent pink tutus, they hit the roads again. The community rallied behind the 'bicycle made for tutu' to raise funds for Hurstwood Park Neurological Unit. Another two 'Steves' (Dutton and David) were on hand as ride mechanics.





Once in Sussex they would all stop off at various pubs for refreshments. "It's fair to say, we were never the fastest team!" Steve laughs, adding: "I'd invested in a really comfy gel saddle and after a 45 minute refreshment break, in Turners Hill came out to find somebody had made off with it. I had to finish the last 25 miles with a ropey old saddle!" £5,000 was donated to Hurstwood Park and Steve says: "It's lovely that a small amount was used to buy a bench in Simon's memory."

Steve retired as a Detective Superintendent from Surrey Police Force in 2007 and went on to work part time at Lewes Crown Court, managing a team of 40 volunteers who offer Witness Support. He fully retired in 2015. With more time on his hands, Steve enjoys playing golf at Pyecombe, and snooker with a former neighbour, Dave Richards. The latter became a firm friend in spite of early wake-up calls from Annette's Skoda, which failed to start most mornings, back in the 80s. Steve laughs when he comments that: "It did take a number of years before Dave confessed that he and his wife had moved to their back bedroom, so their start to the day didn't coincide with Annette's early starts at the airport!"

The number 13 is one that features strongly in Steve and Annette's lives. They met, became engaged and married on the 13th of various months. Seemingly a lucky date for them. This luck almost ran out on their honeymoon in Rio. Three robbers snatched a gold chain from Steve as he and Annette were sightseeing. Steve gave chase to one thief but pulled up quickly when he heard the gunshot which had been fired at him! Turning, he saw a further bullet fired at the ground. Annette was now pinned to the wall by the other two men with a gun held to her head! Shocked, Steve stopped his chase and

for a few seconds no one knew which way the situation would turn. The gunmen, seeing their fellow crook had disappeared with the jewellery, rapidly left the scene. Steve and Annette are, naturally, thankful for their lucky escape! At this time they didn't have children. They hadn't moved to Hurstpierpoint. With an alternative outcome, not only could their futures have been different but ultimately ours too.

Steve is modest about his involvement in village life, commenting that: "Everyone does their small bit and it all comes together. Some ideas are taken forward and merged with the new with the best possible outcome for any given event." I ask Steve if he's tempted to offer his help again for future events, and he says that he has been giving it some thought! I sincerely hope he does. His sense of fun and choice of fancy dress costumes can only bring good things to the mix!



# Keeping it in the family

## OPEN FOR BUSINESS

James Verrall always wanted to run a family business. His grandfather and father together owned the restaurant Beech Hurst Gardens in Haywards Heath for many years and he'd seen first-hand the benefits of that experience. Now newly married James & Carla are creating a business of their own at Haywards Heath Golf Club.

The story starts right at the beginning, with the pair being born just four days apart in the former Cuckfield Hospital. They were introduced by a mutual friend in 2011 and James told his friends the next day: "I've met my wife!". James and Carla were married in Barcombe last year.

Carla went to school at Downlands in Hassocks and is a beauty therapist by trade, but has also worked as a carer and most recently an estate agent.

James also grew up in the area and was always into sport playing both football and cricket. Nine year old James was introduced to golf by his grandfather and he soon had to choose which sport to focus on. He began working for a local golf club as a teenager on Saturdays but it became clear that professional golf was all he wanted to do.

James completed his PGA (Professional Golf Association) degree from the PGA National Golf Academy at The Belfry at the age of 24, and he took up the position as head professional at Haywards Heath Golf Club (HHGC) nearly three years ago.

However, in January the couple made a brave move; they decided to work together to own and run the golf pro shop at HHGC.

"This is James' dream," Carla commented. "It's what he's always wanted to do." Since January much has changed in the pro shop, including a total refurbishment (inside and out) and major refresh of the stock carried. James says: "For me it's about making every customer feeling valued and taking pride in my work. That means the little things as well as the big ones." For instance, there's always a tube of sun cream freely available in the shop to golfers who've forgotten their own. Little things that make a big difference.

The shop is one of the largest golf retailers in the area, and they have many customers from across Sussex, not just Lindfield where the shop is based. Carla has brought in new clothing lines to the store, and they now boast an impressive range of both men's and ladies' golf wear. The couple's goal is to become the destination for golfers across the south who want great choice and superb customer service.

The pro shop is very much a partnership with Haywards Heath Golf Club itself, with James being just the fifth golf pro in the club's 94 year history. "The members have been so welcoming since I joined, and we both really feel like part of a larger family here," Carla said.

The couple will continue to improve the reach and remit of the pro shop, which, of course, also boasts an excellent golf coaching programme for all ages and abilities - including working with six West Sussex schools. James is joined by fellow pros Jack Martin and Dan Croucher and assisted by the Junior Vice Captain from the club Harry Tyler.

A new website has recently been launched - [www.jamesverrallgolf.com](http://www.jamesverrallgolf.com), and the new autumn/winter range of golf fashion will be in store next month.

Pop down to the shop (open 7.30am-6pm every day) or call 01444 414866 or email [james@haywardsheathgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:james@haywardsheathgolfclub.co.uk) to ask about golf teaching or to hear about other golf events. There will certainly be a warm, family welcome in store!







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# Fair weekend

ST LAWRENCE FAIR



By Rachael Babister

What another fantastic Fair weekend we had... despite the downfalls of rain we had at various moments throughout Fair Day we still had an amazing turnout of people who came and enjoyed the day's events. The procession looked amazing - everyone made such an effort with their themes, so well done to you all! Congratulations to the winning floats - Top Hats & Tutu's with their Disney themed motorised float and the Beavers with their Elvis themed walking float.

It was such a shame the Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Display wasn't able to go ahead due to the wet weather. We know the children were all disappointed but safety has to come first. We are happy to say they will be able to come and do their display at next year's Fair, so we can all look forward to it then.

We have to also talk about Friday's events too - this has become such a big part of the Fair and we get so much feedback from locals about how much this is enjoyed; both the Teddy Bear's Picnic for the younger ones, and then the evening's entertainment. Thank you to everyone who came along to these events, and a huge thank you to the singers and bands who sang for our entertainment gratis.

There are always so many people we want to thank over Fair weekend, as with only a 15 strong committee we have to rely on volunteers to help with many aspects of the Fair. We would love to personally name each and every one of you but there are so many we would run out of space! Without your help though, the Fair literally wouldn't be able to run as smoothly as it does, so we thank you immensely.

Not only is it the committee and the volunteers that make the Fair what it is but also our amazing stall holders and entertainers. Thank you all too.

One group we would like to give special thanks to however, are the Sussex Army Cadet Force. They were incredibly helpful all day, working tirelessly for the committee and stall holders right to the end. We are so very grateful for their help and wish them well with their Cadet and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

It goes without saying, of course, that without the love and support of our village the Fair wouldn't still be going as strong as it is, so a big thank you has to go to YOU! The committee work hard all year and this is always rewarded when the time comes to see so many people out enjoying themselves.

We are always on the look out for new committee members, and this year we have specific roles to fill. If you would be interested in finding out more, please email us at [stlawrencefair@gmail.com](mailto:stlawrencefair@gmail.com)







Check out our video of Fair Day on the Hurstpierpoint Blog [www.hurstlife.co.uk](http://www.hurstlife.co.uk)





# Going the distance

## SLF FUN RUN



Photos by Claire Brewer Photography

### By Benny Coxhill, Race Director

I know what you are thinking – "It never rains on Fair Day!" What was going on?

The going was heavy in surely the wettest ever conditions for the St Lawrence Fun Run but the runners were not put off. All gathered for the start in the arena beside the procession lorry that was stuck in the mud. Before the lorry's rescue provided original Fair entertainment for the spectators, we joined in the traditional countdown from ten and a lap of the arena before setting off on the tracks and bridleways across Danny Park and up Wolstonbury Hill.

In the short race the winner was, for the fourth year in a row, Tom Roberts with, considering the wet conditions, a great time of 12:18, slightly outside his previous course record of 11:23. He was followed by Ben Herbert (13:26) and Ryan Armstrong (13:33). Some of these boys will be moving on to the long course soon. First girl was Imogen Read (14:54) who had earlier helped set up the finish area - thanks and well done Imogen! Behind her were Anna Watts (20:51) and Katherine Tefler (21:01).

We were delighted to see eight families take part in the new family event, some children as young as four. They all finished with a smile on their face and mud everywhere else. The donated prizes of wine (Morleys Bistro), chocolates (the Coop) and hoodies for the children (Aspire Fitness) went to Ruth and George Corke.

The adults endured a particularly challenging stretch near Foxhole. Special mention here to Eileen Adlam, who had to be rescued and her shoe dug out from the mire. Ahead of her the first lady was once again Sally Norris, who previously won in 2015 and 2013. Again the conditions meant it was not a personal best, but still an excellent time of 40:25. Second and third ladies were Deb



Moller (48:22) and the ever present Catherine Kempton (48:56) who is here every year. Elle Thomas had a great time but unfortunately missed the start and joined in later.

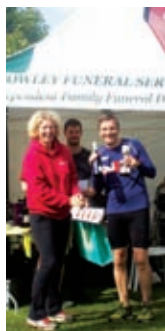
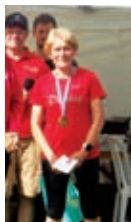
The first man, winning Wine from Morleys and vouchers from the Jog Shop, was Paul Prosser of Burgess Hill Runners in a great time of 35:54. Close behind were Tom Batten (36:19) and Andy Baty (36:27). Special mentions also go to some more regulars who turn up each year – among them Dave Tibbals, Ian Murray, Penny Herbert, Peter Jenkins, Robert Shalloe,

Jonathan Cawthra, Terry Avey and Roger Ockenden. More club runners are always welcome!

The Blue Army of Burgess Hill Runners were out in force, including Paul Prosser, Jonathan Lelliott (39:17), Oliver Day (39:45), Garry Woolven (42:40), Stephen Troake (44:53), Catherine Kempton (48:56), Alice Birdsall (49:46), Liz Hayward (1:13:28) and Eileen Adlam (1:25:54).

The race couldn't take place without the fantastic support from the volunteers and marshals who all love the event, including a huge and enthusiastic contingent from Aspire Fitness and We Run! Hassocks who were all over the course, even at the top of the hill making a noise. Thanks to ROCC Computers for paying for the big chunky medals, the finishers loved the bling. Hartley Off License provided water, Gibsons the bananas and Coop the goodie bags. Thanks to you all.

Next year perhaps we will remember to order the weather, but, hey, mud is fun too!





# A truly bespoke home

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Traditional woodcarver and master craftsman Roy Martin is based in a workshop near Hurstpierpoint. He has more than 30 year's experience and has worked on projects which range from Medieval Gothic to Art Deco. He can make more or less anything from wood!



Roy recently revisited the site of an installation in nearby Fulking.

Roy worked with the clients - Ted and Yvonne Ratcliffe - very closely and helped them create their dream home.

He was commissioned to create and carve a set of three gable ends which they wished to reflect the couple's life together but also the surroundings in which the property was to be built.



Roy explains: "It was a lovely project to work on. The building is situated in the heart of classic Sussex woodlands and so Yvonne was keen to use the oak leaves throughout the design in addition to angel wings, horses

and the main feature being large majestic stags heads on each gable end."

In total Roy carved 26 metres of oak for the project which took 16 weeks to complete.

"Roy seemed to know exactly what we were after," said Yvonne. "He clearly has an amazing talent working with wood, but he's also a highly skilled artist. Each character and detail were so well considered. We even watched him as he worked on our project in his workshop!"

To talk to Roy about a woodcarving project call him on 07729 724186 or email [royjamesmartin@gmail.com](mailto:royjamesmartin@gmail.com). You can see more examples of his work at his website: [www.bespokewoodcarving.co.uk](http://www.bespokewoodcarving.co.uk)







## Dazzling festival marks charity's 21st anniversary

### FESTIVAL 21 FEATURE

Friends of Sussex Hospices comes of age on Saturday 3rd September, with a dazzling day and evening of thrilling family entertainment marking the charity's 21st anniversary.

Festival 21 will include a spectacular Son et Lumière and laser light show, air show with replica First World War fighter planes, vintage fun fair, massive classic car display and historic battle re-enactments. There will be a big top circus, strolling jesters, medieval musicians and children's entertainers, plus delicious food and drink, a licensed bar and tea and cake served in a giant 'hospicetality' marquee. Enjoy live music from the Swingtime Sweethearts and local bands. Festival 21 even welcomes the 100-strong Pendryrus Male Choir, coming all the way from Wales to perform in a concert with a repertoire that includes 'Sussex by the Sea'!

The festival will be held in the grounds of Danny House, a splendid Elizabethan manor beneath the South Downs near Hurstpierpoint. In the evening the sound and light show will project colourful images on to the historic façade of the house, telling the story of Sussex from ancient times to modern days. Look out for Roman legionnaires, Saxons, Norman conquerors, great galleons of the Spanish Armada, scenes from the English Civil War, First World War and the Battle of Britain.

The invaluable work of the 12 Sussex hospice care providers will be celebrated during the evening and a moment of reflection will see 3000 lights twinkle in the night sky as we remember friends and loved ones. The evening's finale is a spectacular laser light show.

Friends of Sussex Hospices chair Kathy Gore said: "This is the 21st birthday year of FSH and we want to mark it with a brilliant event where there will be a host of attractions for the whole family to enjoy. All 12 Sussex hospice care providers have been involved in planning Festival 21, which will celebrate the work they do and the care they give to young and old across East and West Sussex."

Tickets are £22 per adult if booked in advance or £25 on the day. Children under 16 go free if accompanied by pre-booked adults or £5 on the day.

Friends of Sussex Hospices is run entirely by volunteers and since 1995 has distributed £1.6 million to assist with hospice running costs. In June the charity was given The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest honour that can be given to a voluntary organisation and the equivalent of an MBE.

Photo below: Supporters and Committee members, Friends of Sussex Hospices Courtesy of Graham Franks ([www.grahamfrankspics.co.uk](http://www.grahamfrankspics.co.uk))





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Children under 16 free accompanied by pre-booked adults or £5 on the day

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# 'Wild Woodies' summer holiday clubs

There's magic in the air at Woods Mill nature reserve in nearby Henfield this August. Let your children enjoy a fun-packed outdoor activity day with Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Harry Potter fans (aged 6-11 years) can learn how to use woodworking tools to whittle their own magic wand to cast spells in the forest and forage for magic potion ingredients.



Or learn how to build a campfire and practise lighting it using a fire steel; once the kettle is boiled there will be hot chocolate to share around the fire circle. Be inspired by birds and insect sounds to make a musical instrument from natural materials. From bug hunting to bushcraft, there will be plenty to keep the children busy.

Places are available at Wild Woodies clubs on Tuesday 9th and 16th August from 9am – 4pm. Children do not need to be accompanied by an adult as the clubs are fully supervised by our trained and experienced staff. Booking is essential. See [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson) or call 01273 497561.

## Property Co just started

Hurstpierpoint residents Michelle McCartney and Rachael Dennett have recently created a new business to be based in the village.



Huluki Property Group specialises in residential property management, holiday-home management and home staging. The business brings together a wealth of previous experience to create a property organisation company dealing with bespoke requirements for individual clients.

"Home staging is huge in America and Australia," commented Rachael. "It is said to achieve approximately 10% more on the resale value. We can provide a free no obligation home staging report for all residents that mention Hurst Life."

Huluki provides long-term and short-term letting solutions acting as a local contact to manage all the day-to-day running of a property whether it be paying a utility bill, serving notices, organising maintenance or finding new tenants.

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# Mango & Lime Ice

FINE FOOD



Belle Amatt is a Hurst resident and nutrition consultant, author and lecturer in Naturopathic Nutrition. She holds workshops and talks on a variety of healthy eating topics.

It's summer, so we may be reaching for ice lollies or ice creams each time we hear the chimes from the ice cream van.

If you are keen to choose healthier options there's always the potential to whizz up your own version.

Creating your own lollies is great inspiration for the kids and a great way to up your 5 a day for all.

This is one of my favourite healthy lolly recipes containing plenty of vitamin C and is of course dairy free, yet still creamy and delicious.

**You will need:**

- 2 fresh mangos
- zest of 1 lime
- ¼ cup of lime juice (or 1-2 limes)
- ½ cup of coconut milk (note: the best bit is scraped from the tin lid!)

**Method:**

Just 10 minutes to prep - then six hours to freeze!

Place in a blender and pulse until combined, pour into the lolly moulds and freeze overnight. Run under warm water for a few seconds to remove from mould.

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# Festival highlights

HURST FESTIVAL 2016

Hurst Festival returns for its twelfth year on 17th September with more than 85 events.

Now firmly established on the Mid Sussex festival calendar Hurst Festival is back for its twelfth year in September 2016. This year's festival promises to be bigger and better than ever with over 85 events across multiple venues in the village. Categories this year include popular and classical music, arts and crafts, comedy, literature, film, theatre, kids' workshops and country pursuits.

Margaret Carey, Festival Chairperson, comments: "This year's Festival Committee has been chaired by a trio who have shared the tasks and greatly enjoyed the huge number of suggestions from people in the community."

The festival runs for two weeks from Saturday 17th September to Saturday 1st October and we have a whole host of highlights:

## Super Saturday

The Festival opens with a village-wide party called Super Saturday in a nod to this year's Olympics. Our Super Saturday will start Rio-style with Brighton's Barulho Samba band leading a parade up the High St to a range of party activities such as Human Table Football and Puppet Shows on the Recreation Ground. Back by popular demand is our Treasured Transport parade with all manner of vintage vehicles on show.

Super Saturday culminates in a 1980s night at the Village Centre with top-notch event DJ Mark Fellowes. As is traditional, many of our Super Saturday events are free to encourage everyone in the community to come along.

## Music

One of this year's musical highlights will be renowned composer and Hurstpierpoint resident Fraser Trainer as part of Between The Notes, a genre defying collaboration with acclaimed cellist Matthew Barley and others. Their

concert will feature extraordinary improvisations as well as solo pieces from the band in the Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre.

This year we welcome back the ever-popular Ensemble Reza as an Octet to Holy Trinity Church and the barefoot guitar maestro himself Richard Durrant in the beautiful setting of Sayers Common Church.

Other musical highlights include a proper Irish jig in the magical setting of the Albourne Estate Barn, Ben Socrates and Henry Melbourne piano and clarinet duo at Danny House and Mike Hatchard, jazz raconteur at one of our four intimate soiree concerts.

Concluding the Festival in rousing fashion are two very different musical experiences; Holy Trinity Church welcomes All Souls Orchestra and Choir who will combine the spirit of 'Songs of Praise' with the 'Last Night of the Proms' to perform a concert where the whole audience can join in with their favourite hymns and worship songs.

At the Village Centre the final night party is being kicked off by local singing sensation Kieran Murray who recently played with Jamiroquai. The Reform Club, fronted by ex Liberal Democrat Minister Norman Baker, take the headline spot for a session of good old British Rock n Roll.

## Kids

The children of Hurstpierpoint have plenty to look forward to with a show by one of the UK's best magicians, Max Somerset. Max is known to many as the star of his own hit Sky One show 'Max Magic'.

Budding performers can also take part in our 'Create Space to Dance' and 'Record a Track' workshops, which take place at St Lawrence Primary School.

## Battle of the Somme Centenary

2016 sees the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme and several events mark the occasion. Holy Trinity Church will be transformed by 'Reflections', a free art





exhibition featuring glass art by Elizabeth Lamont, memorial war poetry by award-winning writer Vanessa Gebbie, sculpture by Helen-Mary Skelton and artwork by residents at The Dene as well as photography from our very own Rev Jane Willis.

Hurst Library will be screening the UNESCO listed film *The Battle of the Somme*. Shot and screened in 1916, it was the first feature length documentary about war and in the year of its release it was seen by around 20 million people, almost half the population of Britain at the time.

### Hurstpierpoint Open Studios

A core part of our programme is without doubt Hurstpierpoint Open Studios, which takes place over the first two weekends of the festival. This year sees 18 artists open their studios to the community showcasing the wonderful artistic talent we have in our village, from jewellery making, sculpture and textile craft to photography, painting and stained glass art.

### Hurstpierpoint College partnership

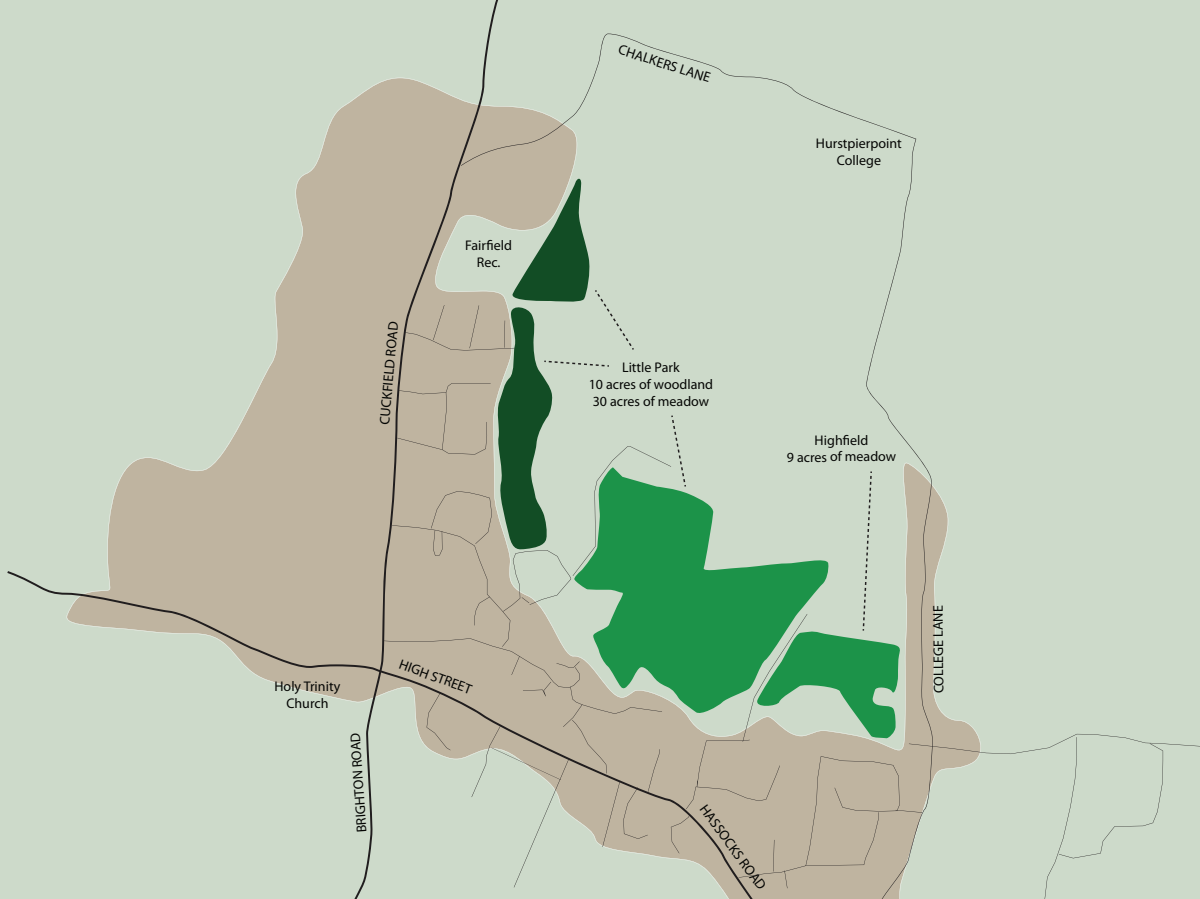
Hurst Festival is made stronger every year with the involvement of Hurst College in a variety of events showcasing the talent of pupils and teachers alike. This year we are holding seven events ranging from a theatre production of Stuart Henson's *The Silver Sword* to a Life Drawing master class and Music Scholars' concert.

### And that's not all...

In addition to the highlights above, the Hurst Festival line up also features a variety of walks, talks and tours featuring local authors, historians and nature lovers. A first for the festival this year is a sheepdog display in the glorious setting of Danny Park.

Tickets for Hurst Festival are on sale now. A full programme of events is available at the website [www.hurstfestival.org](http://www.hurstfestival.org) where you can also purchase tickets.





# New parkland to be created

**By David Tingley**

A special board has been created by Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council to advise on the development and maintenance of new parkland in Hurstpierpoint.

The group is formed of 14 members, including from the Parish Council, other groups with special interest and members of the public.

The inaugural meeting of the Hurstpierpoint Parkland Advisory Board was held last month in the Village Centre, where they were able to set out some of the structure of the group and also discuss the land itself.

The concept of the parkland has come directly from the Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Neighbourhood Plan (approved in 2015). During the public consultation for the plan, it was strongly felt that if the village was to have more housing, then the community should be able to get something back in return.

An agreement was reached with developers Bovis and Rydon Homes to hand over ownership of key areas of land near their new sites as countryside spaces which could be easily accessed by the community. The deeds for the land will state that it will not be possible to build on the land or use it for any commercial purpose. They will also act as a buffer for future development in the village.

The companies will also - in addition to the land itself - release around £400,000 to the Parish Council to facilitate any necessary work in setting up and maintaining the parkland.

A Landscape & Ecological Management Plan has already been commissioned and this forms the major schedule of works for the large project.

"Most of the work," explains Stephen Hoyles (Parish Council Clerk), "will involve planting hedges, mown footpaths, the addition of seats and finger posts. We don't want to change the landscape but it needs to be safe and simple to maintain. The plan also shows us the opportunities for local conservation too."

The advisory board will meet three times a year and seeks to bring the public into some of that decision-making process.

The ownership of the first parcel of land is due to complete in the next month or so. It is hoped that work will begin on the meadow later in the year.

Stephen continued: "We are very excited about this project and look forward to it becoming a major part of village life here in Hurstpierpoint in the years to come."



# TV urban ecologist offers flooding advice

Event hosts HKD Transition, Hassocks Amenities Association (HAA) and the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust (OART) discussed options and invited West Sussex County Council to give a local perspective.

By Lex Young

In early July at Downlands School in Hassocks, popular TV ecologist and self-styled 'Rain Chaser' Dusty Gedge was in full flow. Not for him the monotone durg or the text-heavy Powerpoint, but instead an enthusiastic journey through ways to manage flooding in our local area.

Explaining how climate change has left us with more intense weather, Dusty outlined some simple ideas, from converting grass banks into rain-friendly ditches to making living roofs where plants grow and absorb water. Garages, bin sheds, extensions and other flat-roofed buildings can be easily retro-fitted.

He showed us pictures from around the world of vertical gardens (literally a building covered in plants), rain gardens and bio-swales (a green form of water drainage that filters and absorbs polluted water).

The point, he explained, was to think of ways to stem the flow. The UK can relatively easily guard against situations experienced regularly in built-up cities such as Copenhagen where, after a twenty minute storm, life comes to a standstill as the city struggles to deal with vast quantities of surface water.



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# St Lawrence PTA Summer Family Music Festival



By Kate Halls

The air was filled with great music and the sounds of children playing on a glorious Saturday afternoon...

On Saturday 16th July, people of all ages gathered on the St Lawrence School field for an afternoon of music, dancing, eating, drinking and playing. There was an opportunity for an Open Mic, which was taken up by eight year old Barney Hall who played an amazing solo on the drums and by Maggie, a grandmother of previous pupils, who sang a super solo about love.

The line-up was a mixture of chilled classics and tunes that just made you want to dance and sing along.

To begin proceedings DJ Emz performed a popular set which got everyone in the mood for a party. Stuart, Kyle and Holly Barbour followed later, showing that they are a truly talented family. Kieran and Sid wowed the crowd with their set, which mixed Tracey Chapman with James Bay and beyond. The remarkable Nixons got people dancing with tunes like 'Walking on Sunshine' ... The 'Soul Men' of Breeze In then took to the stage to close a fantastic festival with classics of funk and soul.

An incredible afternoon!

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## After the Storm by Jane Lythell

### BOOK REVIEW

By Clair Stanton

The Village Read returns to Hurst this year. After the Storm is the second novel by Brighton based author Jane Lythell.

When Owen and Kim meet a couple of British holidaymakers they are broke and plan to sell their beautiful boat and return to the USA. Owen persuades Rob and Anna that chartering the boat to explore a far off island in the Caribbean will be a trip to remember. But ten days is a long time to spend alone with strangers. Especially when they are keeping secrets.....

This book is a fantastic read and there are lots of twists and surprises as the plot unfolds. Jane Lythell has a background in film and her prose is very visual. She brings her settings to life and I almost felt the tropical heat as I read.

It's hard to put this book into a genre; it has action and adventure but is also character driven. I was intrigued by the dynamics between the four main characters as the tensions between the two couples ebbed and flowed believably throughout.

Read the book then come along to hear Jane Lythell, the author of this year's 'Village Read', in conversation with Deb Hollywood on Tuesday 20th September at 7.30pm at Hurstpierpoint Library. Tickets, £6 (includes a glass of wine), available via [www.hurstfestival.org](http://www.hurstfestival.org)

Copies of 'After the Storm' are available to borrow at Hurstpierpoint Library. They also have a limited number of copies for sale (please ask library staff for details).



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# Concerns over ancient woodland

By Chris Freeman

Nothing affects Hurstpierpoint life more than the loss of rural greenfield landscape, especially when it will also be at the cost of ancient woodland.

In recent years the northern aspect of the village has been heavily developed with builds both north and south of Chalkers Lane. Next will be Little Park Farm, which will receive 140 new homes.

Little Park Farm is a greenfield parcel of land that will sandwich ancient woodland between existing and new housing. The plan also includes extending the cul-de-sac Iden Hurst through the ancient woodland. For many in the village this is proving an emotive and very controversial proposal.

Ancient woodland is any wooded area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD.

The development was approved, after appeal, for its inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan and outline planning permission granted and by the Secretary of State.

The plan includes building a road through this ancient woodland by extending the cul-de-sac Iden Hurst east. This plan has now been agreed in full.

The developer under this application has now built a road that runs along the eastern edge of the woods. This road does not interfere with the woodland and is substantial. When the 140 homes are completed it will

remain in place (unused). So why build a road through ancient woodland when this provides a much less destructive alternative?

Whilst I do recognise positively the fact that ownership for this site is to be formally handed over to the community as part of 'sweetener' by the developers, this access just makes no sense! An alternative has been built that will completely irradiate any impact on the woods status.

The application for this site raised over 1000 objections but has been approved regardless. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community. Of the many reasons for people to object the overriding opinion was that ancient woodland should not be interfered with and that the new road made for a common-sense approach. Our only hope now is to approach the developer and appeal to them for a sympathetic reconsideration to the access road.

To achieve this and to make life as easy as possible you can visit the following website and have your say: [www.savehurstwoods.wixsite.com/sayno](http://www.savehurstwoods.wixsite.com/sayno) here you can help protect ancient woodland for future generations. Whilst additional housing is a required necessity, it should not be at the cost of historic landmarks.

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## HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

By David Saitch

We now set our sights on Hurst Festival, where our next season kicks off. The first ever screening at the Village Cinema was in Hurst Festival in September 2011, so this year's festival will be our fifth birthday!

We are delighted that the British Film Institute pianist Cyrus Gabrysch is returning to Hurst Village Cinema on Wednesday 28th September to perform live accompaniment to the blissfully funny Buster Keaton film Steamboat Bill Jr (U). The film contains some of the funniest and most breathtaking comedic feats ever committed to celluloid and, as anyone who came to see Keaton's The General in 2014 will tell you, Cyrus' superbly improvised playing really adds another dimension to the experience and a lot of fun to the proceedings. Don't miss this chance to experience a supremely funny silent classic, wonderfully restored to crystal clarity and with brilliant live music performed exactly as it once would have been.

Doors open at 7.30pm and the film starts at 8pm. All tickets for Steamboat Bill Jr are £8 and are available from the Festival Box Office and website.

On Tuesday 27th September, our first event of the Festival is the NT Live Broadcast of their bold new production of Brecht and Weill's landmark of twentieth century musical theatre, The Threepenny Opera. In this vivid and darkly comic new adaptation by award-winning playwright Simon Stephens, Brecht's book and lyrics meets Kurt Weill's extraordinary score. London scrubs up for the coronation. The thieves are on the make, the whores on the pull, the police cutting deals to keep it all out of sight. Mr and Mrs Peachum are looking forward to a bumper day in the beggary business, but their daughter didn't come home last night and it's all about to kick off...

Doors open at 6.30pm and the performance starts at 7pm. All tickets for The Threepenny Opera are £10 and are available from the Festival Box Office and website.

On Saturday 1st October, for families we have the gut-bustingly funny Bill, the knockabout story of the early life of Shakespeare from the Horrible Histories team. This film is like an early season panto, full of laughs for young and old alike.

Doors open at 2.30pm and the film starts at 3pm. All tickets for Bill are £4 and are available from the Festival Box Office and website.

There are also still some tickets left for the NT Live broadcast on Thursday 1st September of The Deep Blue Sea. Doors/bar 6.30pm, performance 7pm.

[www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com)

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# What's on this month

## AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

## AND ELSEWHERE

### Regular events

(may be subject to change during school holiday period)

- 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

### August

- 2nd **The Hurst Afternoon Club** – 2pm  
Margaret Watson, professional harpist
- 25th **The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group** – 7.30 pm  
An illustrated talk entitled 'Celestial Meadows' by Iain Parkinson, the Conservation and Woodlands Manager, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Come and hear this fascinating talk about one of the most quintessential features of our much loved landscape and its value to us all. Iain's role includes responsibility for restoring and caring for meadows in and around Wakehurst Place in Sussex, including the Prince Charles promoted Coronation Meadow. This work is reaping huge rewards for our natural environment and the talk will be of great interest to all who share our concern for its survival with 97% of all wild flower and grassland meadows having disappeared in the last 75 years. (Free entry)

Let us know so we can share it...

Do tell us about any events going on in September by sending us an email before 18th August. The information here is only as good as the information we hear about. To make sure your event is listed (it's free) - email details to [editor@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@hurstlife.co.uk).

### August

- 5th-7th **Pride Festival Brighton**  
[www.brighton-pride.org](http://www.brighton-pride.org)
- 5th-7th **Walking Pilgrimage** – from Fri 8pm  
Journey from ruins of Lewes Priory to the Holy Well of Eastbourne on this ancient and beautiful route. (<http://bit.ly/28UbvVv>)
- 7th **Woodcarving workshop** – 10am-4pm  
Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill, Henfield  
For those who want to learn the basic techniques of woodcarving on this two-day course whilst creating an achievable small relief design (01273 497561 [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk))
- 30th **Mid Sussex Ramblers** – 10am  
Pyecombe, Hurstpierpoint & Wolstonbury 13.7km. Please bring a picnic (BN45 7ED Erica 07885 595131 on the day)
- 30th-1st **Kids Summer Holiday Club** – 10-11.30am  
Ex-Servicemens Club, Willow Way, Hurst  
For children from Reception - Yr 6  
Club organised by The Point in partnership with Holy Trinity Hurstpierpoint. Wide games, stories, prizes, tuck shop, songs and more.  
(More info from [liz@thepointchurch.co.uk](mailto:liz@thepointchurch.co.uk))





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# WHAT'S ON... AUGUST

## Monthly Quiz Night

Sunday 7th August & 4th Sept

## Dining at The Duke

### Thursday 18th August

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### Friday 26th August

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### Bank Hol Monday

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