

# Hurst Life

Including Sayers Common & Albourne

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #19 : Oct. 2016

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yourself!

## Changes to shops on the High Street

**p. 12**

## Katie Hecht - Village People

**p. 20**

## On your bike

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By David Tingley, Editor

Well, it's October and, in some ways, it seems unbelievable that we are getting right into the autumn months now.

However, in communities like this, there is always plenty going on and things change all the time - just like the seasons.

I know that many of you will have been expecting to see a round up of the wonderful **Hurst Festival** in this issue - however, I am sorry to say that the timings just didn't work out to make that possible. The end of the festival and our copy date and print deadlines mean that we will save that treat for our next issue. We would love **your own comments** about the festival and photos too. Email them in to editor@hurstlife.co.uk before 18th October please.

Clearly the **High Street fire** has been a hot topic in conversations throughout the village in recent weeks. The response that **Lee and Andrew Tite** have felt since their shop and livelihood was gutted has been amazing. Read some more of the story on **page 9**.

Elsewhere on the High Street there are more positive changes to be seen too. With a **secondhand dress shop** (p.23) and also a **gift shop** recently opened (p.13), not to mention the new owners of **The Fig Tree** (p.12).

**Page 20** sees **Katie Hecht** get the **Village People** 'treatment' by Deb Hollywood as we hear more about her life and involvement in Hurstpierpoint. Thank you Katie for allowing us to print this fascinating article.




**Michael Bonsor** shares with us one of his favourite bike rides on **page 32** - proving that the end of summer doesn't mean the end of outdoor exercise! And, on **page 21**, **Jonny Kemp** gives us his quick-draw answers in '5 minutes with...'. Thank you both - our magazine is always better with valued contributions from the village.

Don't forget - **Danny Bonfire** on 30th October!

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Published by Kipper



 **David Tingley**  
 Holy Trinity Church in the distance, across the fields

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)

## Fair AGM this month

By Nic Stenning

St Lawrence Fair AGM will be held on Thursday 13th October in the back room of the New Inn from 8pm.

We will present all of the trophies that were won over the Fair weekend and at some of the events held in the run-up to the Fair. We would welcome feedback on this year's Fair and ideas for a theme for next year, along with ideas for 2017.

Everyone is welcome, especially those people who have expressed an interest in joining the committee and helping us out next year. We don't pressure anyone to join, just come along and share your ideas with us! We would also love to see our local traders attend to hear ideas from them with respect to joint events. Individual invitations will be sent out to all trophy winners and to those people who we will present special thank-you gifts to. We really hope to see you there as this is YOUR Fair and has been for over 700 years, we just help steer the ship a little but can't do it without fresh input every so often. Come and see us, we really are a nice bunch and a bit bonkers too!

## All change at the crossroads

The application for a fish and chip shop, to be known as Crossways, at 57 High Street has been approved. The premises will still be home to the UK Cook Shop. At the time of going to press, Dave and Nikki Sharp had no further news but asked villagers to watch this space!

## Want an extra copy?

Did you know you can also pick up copies of Hurst Life from the following places? Hurstpierpoint: Post Office, outside Hair Obsession, The New Inn, Richards, JanTon News, Holy Trinity Church, Marcus Grimes and The Working Men's Club, Willow Way. Albourne: Wickwoods & Pop Up Pub. Sayers Common: Duke of York & Community Shop. Burgess Hill: Tesco superstore.

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# Family bonfire and fireworks at Danny

By Andrew Hair

The 21st Hurst Family Bonfire & Fireworks evening will take place on Sunday 30th October 2016 at Danny Park, Hurstpierpoint.

Families are again welcome to share the event to be held in Danny Park, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. The event is organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club with assistance from Oldland Mill Trust and the Burgess Hill & District Lions. Benefiting from your support are The Trust, the Gym Club and local schools in Albourne, Hassocks & Burgess Hill.

The Hassocks Pub will be running their ever popular BBQ, so come and enjoy the evening.

Take a 'Guy' to the Best Guy Competition before 5.50pm and one child will be given free admission.

## Timings:

5.30 pm	Gates open
6.00 pm	Best Guy Competition Judging
6.30 pm	Fireworks Display
6.50 pm	Bonfire lit (with all the Guys)



Advance tickets prices are by far the best value - still unchanged at last year's prices and available locally from Poponin in Hurst High Street and Hurstpierpoint Pet Supplies (from their new temporary address tba).

Children Under 3 or with a Guy are free (one Guy gives admittance to one child). Children or adults £5 on the gate or only £3 in advance. Families including up to two adults and three children £15, but only £9 in advance.

Free parking available on-site (ground conditions permitting).

For safety reasons, we must ask for no private fireworks or sparklers etc.

In the event of bad weather check the website [www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk) for the up-to-date news.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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## Changes to school place applications

West Sussex County Council are urging parents to make sure they've done their homework when submitting school place applications.

Recent changes mean that schools will no longer send out reminder letters and so it falls to parents to ensure that applications are submitted on time.

If your child's date of birth is between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013, it's now time to apply for a school place. This can be done online at the website [www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions). If access to the internet is a problem, free access to apply is available at all West Sussex libraries and Children Family Centres.

This is the preferred method as the website provides the required information for completing an application, including details of all schools in West Sussex, the criteria for each and the relevant catchment area. Alternatively, a paper application form can be obtained by calling 03330 142 903.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 15th January 2017 and if received on time will take priority over those that are late. Online applications can be made from 3rd October. Contact should be made to schools directly for prospectuses and details of open events.

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## Neighbourhood Watch coordinators needed locally

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme aims to prevent crime, reduce the fear of crime and improve safety by bringing neighbours together to create strong, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour is less likely to happen.

Currently there are about 25 coordinators covering the Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish but more are needed, particularly for the western side of Hurst. The Parish Council says that it is not a time-consuming role but access to email is important in order to pass messages on from the police about crime and safety to scheme members. Promotional material is also available to Coordinators to help residents.

If you are interested in becoming a Coordinator and would like more information, then please contact Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council: Tel: 01273 833264 Email: [hurstpierpoint.pc@btinternet.com](mailto:hurstpierpoint.pc@btinternet.com)

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# Village pulls out all stops in wake of fire

## HIGH STREET FIRE



Photos by Sophie Smith

By Deb Hollywood

Friday 9th September saw a dramatic turn of events in the High Street. Afternoon school buses were diverted via Burgess Hill, and neighbouring shops and flats were evacuated as a fire broke out at Hurstpierpoint Pet Supplies.

Fire crews arrived swiftly at the scene, as plumes of black smoke filled the sky above. Extinguishing the fire was obviously the priority, and it was a sorrowful sight witnessing residents and shopkeepers unable to re-enter their premises.

By now, no doubt, most residents are aware that, at the time of going to print, the pet shop is closed until further notice. Lee and Andree Tite who run the shop, ably assisted by daughters Tallulah and Roberta, are hoping to open a temporary shop in the village until they are able to return to their original site.

Resident Jacqueline Small responded swiftly, speaking for many, when she suggested creating a Just Giving page online to help Lee and Andree get back on their feet. Additionally, Tony Brown responded by setting up collection buckets at various locations in the High Street. It is a testament to the popularity of the family and the generosity of the community that this fundraising was taken up so positively. Within a week donations exceeded £3,365. Way in excess of the original £500 aim.

Lee and Andree were overwhelmed by the response saying: "We can't believe all the love! The most important thing is that everyone was safe and managed to get out in time, especially Stella the dog. The fire forensics will hopefully be able to give us some answers.

"The fire has completely ruined the Coop and the back half of our shop, and the rest of the shop is completely black with smoke."

From the view of the rear of the building it's clear that the fire service did an amazing job in stopping the fire from spreading further, protecting both lives and premises.

Other village traders have responded by having more of their usual stock available, particularly staple items, to minimise any inconvenience for local shoppers from the closure of the Co-op.

Shoppers should also note that parking in the short-term Brown Twins Road car park has recently increased from two to three hours. Traders hope that customers will stay loyal to local shopping in the meantime.

Lee and Andree have recommended Pet Supplies Sussex in Burgess Hill until they are up on their feet again.

Along with village residents, we at Hurst Life also wish all those affected a speedy return to normality.





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## New ownership of The Fig Tree

Under the new ownership of James and Jodie Dearden, The Fig Tree reopened its doors last month. James has previously worked at the Michelin Star Ockenden Manor Restaurant and continued on to become the head chef at the highly regarded Ginger Fox. Jodie has worked in the hospitality/catering industry with James in France and on a Greek Island and most recently has been nursing at the Princess Royal Hospital. Jodie will be known to many as she has worked for many years with her father, Clive Miller, in his butcher's shop.

The Fig Tree already has a strong reputation for exceptional quality and presentation, and James and Jodie and their team are looking to continue this with a new menu sourced, where possible, from local suppliers with the freshest and highest quality ingredients. Seating for 40 and with a private dining room will soon be open at the restaurant. "In this area diners will enjoy the very best of fine dining cuisine and excellent wines in an informal and relaxed setting with excellent customer service," Jodie explained.

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## New shop on High Street

Marie France has opened a real Aladdin's den in what was the former fish shop, between Marram Trading and Hampers Delicatessen. Marie France commented: "Everyone – fellow traders and villagers - has been encouraging, supportive and kindly from the moment I opened." Marie France describes her

stock as decorative goods with character and they are certainly eclectic, which makes for good browsing! Marie is pleased to be in the High Street and fill what had been an empty outlet since the beginning of the year. Do drop in, you'll be assured of a warm welcome from both Marie and her wire-haired standard dachshund, Corto, which is French for shorty!

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# Downlands School Update

By Nicki Burston

We are delighted to welcome our new cohort of Year 7 students to Downlands this September. We have an additional 30 students on top of our usual intake of 210, which makes the total number of students in Year 7 240. They have made a great first impression and certainly look very smart in their brand new school uniforms.

We are excited about the planned building works, which are scheduled to begin during October half term. The need for new buildings arises from our increasing roll, which is due to changing demographics and new housing in our catchment area.

The new facilities will include eight new classrooms including purpose built music accommodation and ICT facilities, a larger refurbished staff room, enlarged library/resource centre with an ICT suite, wider corridors and improved circulation. There will also be a new Dance Studio which will be a great boost both to students at the school and to the local community, bookings for which will be administered by Freedom Leisure. Community bookings will be available during the day, after school, at weekends and in the school holidays. Our community café is also being extended and an external seating area is being introduced. The entire project will take approximately a year to complete but the works will

be phased so that we can move into the new buildings as soon as each separate area becomes available.

As well as the new buildings providing extra capacity, we are thrilled about being able to introduce state of the art 21st century facilities which will benefit the whole of our school community. At Downlands we place learning at the heart of everything we do, so our priority over the course of the year will be to ensure continuity of education for all so that students continue to make outstanding progress. Disruption to our students will be kept to a minimum and our extremely talented and committed group of staff will continue to work tirelessly to support students.

Our Open Evening takes place on Thursday 6th October from 6pm and we are looking forward to opening our doors to all prospective parents and students.



Year 7 pupil Molly Beattie



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## Pre-School reaches milestone



Hurstpierpoint Pre-School enjoyed its 50th anniversary celebrations at the beginning of September. It provided a wonderful opportunity for former committee members, staff and parents to take a walk down memory lane. Current parents also attended with their children, who couldn't believe their luck that all the usual play equipment was available to them on a Saturday!

On behalf of the pre-school, Ebony Buscema commented: "We would like to thank all those who attended and donated cakes and photos." She added: "Here's to the next 50 years!"

STOP PRESS! The next pre-school event is its fashion show on the 8th October. Models are urgently required in the 50 and 60 years age group. If you know of someone or would like to have a go yourself, then please call into the pre-school. It meets in the Village Centre, Monday – Friday.



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## Overwhelming 'Yes' vote for Albourne plan

By Nikki Ernest, Cllr, Albourne Parish Council  
Albourne has become one of the latest Mid Sussex villages to give a thumbs up by voting by an overwhelming 96% in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. Villagers voted on 1st September for the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan to be used when deciding planning applications in the area.

The turnout was 43.4 percent, with 228 residents voting 'yes' and 9 voting 'no'. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies that will guide and shape the future of Albourne, such as how many and where new homes should be built in the plan period (2014 – 2031). The final stage is for Mid Sussex District Council to formally 'make' the plan at the next council meeting.

Albourne Parish Council would like to thank all residents for their engagement and support during the Neighbourhood Plan development stages and the referendum itself.



## Marram art preview

Marram Trading was delighted to welcome art lovers to a preview of work by Annie Mendelow as a precursor to the Hurst Artists' Open Studio weekends.

Opening her doors for her regular late night Thursday opening, Millie Hampson welcomed guests with a complimentary glass of fizz to savour whilst viewing the exhibits. A lifelong artist, Annie's work has latterly focused on screen printing, where she makes different screens and then prints layer upon layer of colour. Annie was born in South Africa and says: "The rich colours I use in my work are directly linked, I think, to the strong sunlight of my homeland."

# Welcome to Frocktober!

Hurstpierpoint resident Carolyn Roberts is getting ready for a special sale month in her dress shop in Hassocks.

Carolyn has named this month 'Frocktober' as she gives a rare opportunity to make some giant savings on many dresses in store.

Her background is in fashion retail, working for both Marks and Spencer and House of Fraser since she began her career. Carolyn took a ten year break from the industry to work in teaching but, two years ago, launched herself fully back in by realising her dream to run her own dress shop.

"It has been an enormous amount of work, that's true," she explained, "but it's so great to do something I love."

Mayfair, at 42 Keymer Road, stocks a large range of evening, prom and mother-of-the-bride dresses plus also smart business day dresses too – starting from just £149. "We cater for customers from the 16 year old 'Prom Queen' right up to the 85 year old who's got an invite to Buckingham Palace, and everything in between," Carolyn explains.

During the month of October (aka Frocktober) there is a great opportunity to bag a bargain from the shop as many dresses are being sold at half their label price. Carolyn prides herself on the quality of her products and in-store service too. Mayfair can offer outfits for all special occasions in sizes from 0 to 30.



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## Katie Hecht

VILLAGE PEOPLE

### By Deb Hollywood

Katie needed no introduction to the thespian way of life when she married local actor Dominic Hecht as it, too, is her profession. The Hecht family are known locally for their involvement with Hurst Players as Dom's parents Malcolm and Helen were actively involved with Hurst Players in the 80s and 90s and sister Bernie still treads the boards. Dom grew up in Grapevine Cottage, near The Players Theatre, but after to-ing and fro-ing between London and the village, Katie and he put down roots here in 2011.

Katie (whose stage name is Foster Barnes) met Dom at The Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough. Both were cast in the leading roles of Ginny and Greg in *Relatively Speaking*. Fate definitely played a hand in their meeting as Katie had cancelled her first audition due to a film promotion in the States. However, returning to the UK she received 'that' call. Her second audition was at the home of Director Alan Ayckbourn, whose work is strongly associated with the theatre.

The bright lights of acting had definitely been calling Katie for a long time. Growing up in Exmouth, Devon with her mum, dad, sister and two younger brothers, she says: "I'd wanted to be an actress for ever and I was a rubbish waitress!" She always knew that leaving the area would be inevitable as there were fewer acting opportunities available in the West Country.

Her first role on leaving Liverpool's Institute for Performing Arts was in J B Priestley's *Dangerous Corner* at The Garrick Theatre. Katie's passion is unmistakable when she says: "It was an incredible start to my career, acting alongside Dervia Kirwan and Steve John Shepherd in a play produced by Nica Burns (the current chief executive of Nimax Theatres). Katie continued to concentrate on drama, and her work has included film, stage and television roles. She acknowledges that she has been fortunate with her career to date. "Acting is a serious craft, fame is a byproduct but not the aim of the job," she comments.

In 2014 Katie and Dom's daughter Ginny was born. Named after the character Katie had played when she and Dom met, Katie says: "We weren't so sure about the name Greg had she been a boy!" Ginny loves stories and may well, when older, find herself listening to her mum's audio work. Katie's recent work has included recording radio plays such as Beric the Briton, one of the 99 historical adventures by G.A. Henty. Bringing these scripts to life could be on Katie's agenda for some time as she is currently recording adventure number nine! Katie's love of the written word and bringing text to life was equally put to good use via UK charity Interact Stroke Support, where she would read to stroke patients in London hospitals.

Latterly Katie and Dom have returned to work together in their own business, Real Transfer. This service offers to transfer footage from cine films to a digital format. Katie says: "We've been privileged to see some wonderful local footage including floods in Lewes during the 60s, the St Lawrence Fair Silver Jubilee procession and, less locally, the 1960 Monaco Grand Prix!"

Some footage, with permission, has been kept with the aim of collecting enough to create a local yesteryear film. Katie is anticipating a busy end to the year saying: "It's from now that cine films are dusted off and brought to us to transfer them into digital gifts for Christmas." The business has brought them into contact with many Hurst residents. The same can be said of both Ginny, who attends Erskine Nursery, and their dog Mary. Katie was surprised, however, to find she already knew two Hurst residents when she first moved to the village. One, Gwyneth Powell (featured in the December 2015 edition of Hurst Life) had been on the same film tour that caused Katie to miss her first Alan Ayckbourn audition!

Katie, like many mums, juggles work and family commitments. However, this year she is digging deep to find extra time to train for the 2017 London Marathon, raising money for the charity Best Beginnings.

Under the umbrella of Park Runs, a national scheme, Katie has started training with 5K runs. "These runs are great! They don't focus on ability but are more of a coming together of runners," Katie comments. "I'm enjoying this more relaxed approach at the moment as a more intense 16 week training programme will begin at the end of November!"

Fundraising is directed by the charity, and nearer the marathon date Katie will update her Facebook page to give details of how to donate. It's a charity that resonates with Katie as a newish parent. Best Beginnings aims to develop and provide parenting tools to support expecting parents, and those with children aged from birth to three years. It has also joined forces with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry to launch the mental health campaign Heads Together.

In the meantime Katie is again putting her professional skills to good use working with the charity Christmas for Kids which performs tailor-made sensory shows in children's hospices.

Where we live can often be an extension of working life or an antidote to it. For Katie it's the latter, and she says of Hurst: "It's a friendly place after the hubbub of London life." An example of this occurred not so long ago when the Reverend Jane Willis made contact via Facebook. She had received, in error, a letter addressed to Katie and then went on to deliver it by hand. "Fantastic," says Katie, "one of the joys of living here in the village. Another joy is being able to shop locally, particularly at Gibsons!" Other High Street traders will no doubt be pleased as Katie adds: "It really is great, you can shop, eat, walk and visit the pub without getting in the car." It's clear Katie has taken to Hurst!





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# Hurst Festival opening event and next year!

By the time you are reading this we hope you will have had a fantastic Hurst Festival fortnight! The programme was packed with a wide variety of events, hoping to whet the appetites of all.

A launch evening took place at Holy Trinity Church, with Margaret Carey, Michel Olszewski and Colin Matthews who have co-chaired this year's festival all in attendance. The church itself has been a Festival venue showcasing the exhibition entitled 'Reflections', a fusion of painted antique glass, memorial war poetry, photography, sculpture and artwork marking the Centenary Year of the Battle of the Somme. The glass artwork from Elizabeth Lamont, the words of award winning writer Vanessa Gebbie, sculpture from Helen-Mary Skelton and artwork designed and made by residents of The Dene have been available to view for the festival duration. In addition to highlighting this exhibition, Michel Olszewski thanked all those without whom the festival wouldn't be possible. He also said that it is the intention of the co-chairs to head up the festival committee next year but that new ideas for its continual successful involvement are always needed.

The aim is that 2018 will see a new chairperson at the helm. If you are interested or would like more information about the role, please make contact via the website [www.hurstfestival.org](http://www.hurstfestival.org)

Hurst Life will be featuring the festival highlights in the next issue. If you have festival stories or photos to share please send them to [editor@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@hurstlife.co.uk) by the 10th October.

## Out with the old and on with the new!



If amongst your wardrobe you have high-end clothing brands which are taking up much needed space then this new shop in the High Street may be the solution!

Based at 56 High Street (next to Ashley & Thomas), Audrey's Fashion Exchange will take upmarket clothes, shoes and handbags in tip-top condition and then, for an agreed price, sell them for you. The profit on each item is split between you and shop owner Audrey Wright.

An open invitation is extended to all and there is the promise of frequent stock changes.



# Chicken Biryani

FINE FOOD

## Ingredients

300g basmati rice  
25g butter  
1 large onion, finely sliced  
2 cloves of garlic, crushed  
1 bay leaf  
3 cardamom pods  
small cinnamon stick  
1 tsp turmeric

1 tsp teaspoon curry powder  
½ tsp cumin powder  
1 fresh chilli sliced (if you like a kick to your curry!)  
4 skinless chicken breasts, cut into large chunks  
50g raisins  
850ml chicken stock  
juice of half a lemon  
chopped coriander and toasted flaked almonds to serve  
salt and pepper to taste

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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.



Last month's Basque Chicken recipe will have left you with some valuable chicken bones. The bones can be put to use. I suggest you pop them in a saucepan, cover with water and a tablespoon of white wine vinegar. Leave overnight then boil up to make chicken stock (herbs can be added during this process). This stock is rich in nutritious minerals, great for bone health and extremely versatile. Try using fresh stock to cook up this delicious biryani.

## Tangy Chicken Biryani with fresh chicken stock

### How to:

Soak the rice in warm water, then wash in cold until the water runs clear. Heat butter in a saucepan and cook the onions and garlic with the bay leaf and spices for 10 mins or until onion becomes translucent. I add a little water in order for the onion to cook slowly at a low temperature. Then add chicken and chilli, and cook until aromatic.

Stir the rice into the pan with the raisins. Pour over the stock a little at a time, stirring continuously. Place

a tight-fitting lid on the pan and bring to the boil, then lower the heat to a minimum and cook the rice for another 5 mins. Turn off the heat and leave for 10 mins. Stir well, mixing through half the coriander and the lemon juice. To serve, scatter over the rest of the coriander and the almonds. Add a dollop of plain yogurt to serve.



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## Sussex stroke survivor tackles two marathons

A former airline pilot, who was forced to retire after a stroke left him with a devastating brain injury, is set to tackle not one but two marathons with his wife to thank the charity that supported them after brain injury tore their lives apart.

Jennifer and Richard Fewtrell from Hurstpierpoint will complete the Great North Run and Royal Parks Half-Marathon to raise funds for Headway the brain injury association, after Richard suffered a haemorrhagic stroke in 2013. The stroke left Richard with a life-changing brain injury, which ended his career as an airline pilot with British Airways.

The duo are hoping to raise £1,000 for the charity, which supports people affected by brain injury and their families, as they ran the 13.1 mile routes together in Gateshead for GNR on 11th September, before taking on London Royal Parks later this month on 9th October.

The couple got involved with Headway after reading a book published by the national charity's Vice President, Olympic double gold medallist James Cracknell, and his wife, LBC presenter and Telegraph columnist Beverly Turner.

"Brain injury caused my husband to lose much that was dear to both of us," said Jennifer.

"This included much of his identity, some of his sight, his driving licence and many of his hobbies. Losing his job as an airline pilot due to cognitive difficulties after brain injury, such as co-ordination, was particularly hard for Richard as it stripped him of his independence and daily routine.

"Reading James and Beverly's experience of navigating life and marriage helped us come to terms with our own understanding of brain injury. Even things like the fear as a wife of travelling to hospital on your own

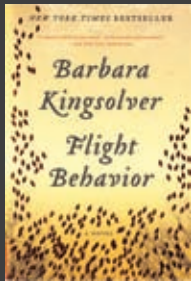
into the unexpected, not knowing how ill your husband is or how brain injury will affect his character or behaviour.

"After much struggle and improvement following counselling support from Headway West Sussex, a local group of the national charity, life is on the up. As we know, and wish more people would realise, brain injury is ongoing and not something that just goes away like a cold.

"We both completed the Great North Run in 2014, but this year we dearly wanted to run for Headway to reach out and help other families experiencing similar life challenges after brain injury around the country."

**To support Richard and Jennifer's Two Halfs for Headway fundraiser, please visit their JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RichF-2Halfs4HEADWAY](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RichF-2Halfs4HEADWAY)**





## Flight Behaviour by Barbara Kingsolver

### BOOK REVIEW

By Clair Stanton

Barbara Kingsolver has been nominated for the Baileys prize three times, most recently for Flight Behaviour.

The main character of the novel, Dellarobia, sets off in flight up a mountain, intent on derailing her life, but things don't go according to plan. When the outside world starts to take notice of the small town she lives in, and her in particular, she takes the chances that come her way. The changes her flight set in motion unsettle her family and the wider community.

The settings of the novel are vividly presented and its scope is remarkable - it encompasses rural poverty, sheep farming, scientific methodology, ecological protest and media manipulation. This may not make it sound exciting, but the narrative is strong enough not to get hijacked by the issues.

Dellarobia's character seemed unsympathetic at the beginning, but by the end of the novel I was completely won over by her. Her combative relationship with her mother-in-law, Hester, is well portrayed, and if this book were to be filmed I could imagine Amy Adams and Meryl Streep having a great time in the roles.

This is a beautifully written literary page-turner, brimming with humour and compassion and shows Barbara Kingsolver in sure command of her powers as a writer.

Pick up a copy on your next visit to Hurst Library, there will be copies on display throughout October.

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## HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

By David Saitch

Our first film on 6th October is an absolutely wonderful film from Japan, **Our Little Sister** (12A). It is the story of three very different sisters who live together in a rambling house. When they hear that the father who left them 15 years before has died, they half-heartedly travel to his funeral where they meet their shy teenage half-sister, Suzu. Sensing that their father's widow, his third wife and Suzu's stepmother, would not be a fit guardian, they impulsively invite her to live with them and, when she agrees, a new life of emotional discovery begins for the four siblings. This warm and generous film is a moving story of family love and loss effortlessly told with the lightest of touches. Wonderful performances combined with the totally assured but unobtrusive direction of Hirokazu Koreeda make this a film, and a family, you don't really want to leave. Those of you who adored the Japanese film Departures are sure to adore this one.

On 21st October we have **Blue Ruin** (15). Here's an utterly gripping thriller; a masterclass in thought-provoking suspense, which tells the story of a damaged man who discovers that the killer of his parents is being released from prison early and goes in search of revenge. But rather than being an empty genre re-creation of standard revenge films, this moody, atmospheric and skilfully constructed work is full of sly upendings that will keep you in suspense. You may feel you are starting out on a familiar journey, but your expectations are subverted as you are taken on a gripping and thought-provoking ride - both thrilling and intelligent.

On 29th October we have a halloween treat in store for families with **Nanny McPhee** (U), which we hope all our young filmgoers will come to dressed for trick or treat.

Our first Sunday film, on 30th October is the grin inducing, wildly entertaining tale of a Hollywood fixer, **Hail Caesar!** (12A). This scintillating comedy features an unmatched all star cast who revel in recreating 1950s Hollywood, a time when you could walk from set to set and discover a bizarre array of movie styles, each of which is lovingly and wittily pastiched...and not a superhero in sight.

Tickets for Thursday and Friday night films are £4 members/£6 non-members. Doors/Bar 7.30pm, film 8pm. Tickets for Saturday and Sunday films are all £4. Doors/Bar 2.30pm, film 3pm. Tickets for NT Live Broadcasts are £10 members/£14 non-members. Doors/Bar 6.30pm, performance 7pm.

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

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# Magazine seeks great writer



By David Tingley

If you are reading this, hopefully you 'get' what we do here at Hurst Life magazine. This issue represents our 19th issue since we launched in 2015 and its great to see the magazine expand both in terms of page count and popularity.

This month, however, I find myself appealing for someone to join the team in the editorial assistant role. Deb Hollywood has done a terrific job working on the last six issues but, sadly, she has decided to step down to create some more time in her week.

Our loss is undoubtedly her families gain, but it does mean I am on the lookout for someone from the local area to fulfill this vital role in the scheme of Hurst Life.

Our new editorial assistant should be; passionate about community, a fantastic writer, organised, confident when talking to new people and the sort of person who would enjoy sniffing out stories about this great village and its residents. The role is paid and it takes about 25 hours per month. So the successful applicant will need to have the time and space in their lives to get out and about to meet people and also to write up and tweak articles for print.

If this sounds like you, then I would love to hear from you. Or perhaps it sounds perfect for someone you know who lives locally. See [www.hurstlife.co.uk/jobs](http://www.hurstlife.co.uk/jobs) for more information and how to apply, before 10th October 2016.



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### 5 MINUTES WITH...

## Jonny Kemp

How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?

11 years

What's the best thing about being here?

The Downs

Favorite ice cream flavour?

Got to be Ben & Jerry's Cookie Dough!

Favourite holiday destination?

Sardinia. Beautiful.

How many houses have you lived in?

Three, but I've got time

Your most enjoyable event in the village?

St Lawrence Fair. No contest.

Who do you share a house with?

Two brothers, two parents, two cats; arranged in descending order

Song you play the most?

Currently Prejudice by Tim Minchin

Mac or PC?

PC, for money reasons

Your most frequented village shop?

Coop... Sorry

What's your proudest moment?

Being a part of a truly beautiful fireworks display

Coke, juice or water?

Juice at breakfast, water at lunch, Coke at dinner

Your advice for life?

Slow down sometimes

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# Hassocks Hillocks

ON YOUR BIKE

We may be staring right at autumn, but there is still time to get out on your bike. Our most local bike shop, Proper in Hassocks, gets out on the road on two wheels with a 25 mile ride that would be a treat for many cyclists. Give it a go, and let us know how you found it. Or send us your own favourite local bike ride.

By Michael Bonsor

This is not pitched at the expert cyclist, more the enthusiastic social rider. The ride described here is a shortish (25 miles is middle distance just) ride with a couple of hills to let the legs know that they have been working.

It starts out from Hassocks High Street, just by that very nice cycle café, what's it called again...?.. Ah yes, Proper Cycling & Coffee!

This first bit does go westward for a mile along the main road from the start, through the lights and then at College Lane you turn right and start to enjoy quieter roads. Lots of parked cars down here usually, so you may be lucky and meet nothing or may be pulling in a bit!

Through the college with a left turn, then right up Danworth. This is a lovely little lane with a nice short climb between steep banks and rocks just after going over Herrings stream. Carry on up and head left at the Give Way sign and past the pub, tempting though it may be to stop. I bet you will almost certainly duck as you continue straight under the height barrier, although unless you are very tall there should be no need.

At the end of this short track, you should take care crossing the A2300 before forking right up Bishopstone Lane. Another quiet lane.

Having meandered right and left and crossed the River Adur, you then come to what could be described as three steps as the road climbs up, levels, climbs, levels, climbs and then levels off. Lowish gear needed to get up this short sharp part of the ride, but take the time to look mostly left at the countryside that opens out for you at the top.

Continue along this lane and across the A272 into Pickwell Lane. Steady up on this lane which runs through woodland for most of its length and, again, don't rush and enjoy the views. This lane is a picture at bluebell time, so store it away in the memory for reuse in the spring.

At the top, left and left again sees you coming down

Bunton Lane. The road surface here isn't great, so take your time descending as gravel and potholes abound. Cross back over the A272 and down Stairbridge, turning right just before the A2300 to weave your way over the A23 without becoming car fodder. The cycle path here does stay on the pavement.

Having negotiated this, head on past Hickstead down Hickstead Lane, right at the junction and undulate your way to the A272 again. Cross over and head up Foxhole Lane. This is about halfway, so if you want to refresh yourself at the vineyards café, now is the time.

Suitably refreshed, head up Foxhole, and after a short down and up turn right into Colwood Lane. This goes up for a mile or so but when you go past Jeremys Lane you have done the bulk of the up. Usually a quiet road, so you don't need to hurry.

Left at the top into Warninglid, and then left at the crossroads to go through this pretty little village. Take care when coming down out of Warninglid as there is a lovely slope down, but there is quite a sharp right hand turn at the bottom, unless you plan on visiting through the large gates of the estate straight on!

Keep following the road along here as it undulates through more woodland, with more down than up you will be glad to know, bearing left on Spronkett's Lane as you pass Long House Lane on your right back to the A272. Having carefully crossed into Wineham Lane, where you will cross the River Adur for a second time just as you go through Wineham before reaching the B2116, Henfield Road. Go left.

This road is a touch busier, but you are also nearing the end now, four and a half more miles to go. Stay on this until the Albourne crossroads, then right and left at the lights to head on back towards Hassocks. One more bit of fun negotiating the squeazy bits in Hurstpierpoint, and then it's back to the High Street and that coffee and cake that you promised yourself at the start.



Get the detailed route from Garmin website: <http://bit.ly/2crMwfp>



Photos by John Barling



### Safety first

Consider using your front and rear lights on this ride. Many sections are in the shadows, making cyclists harder to spot.



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# Little Black Dress Project

The gloriously sunny days of early September provided the ideal backdrop for photographer Louise Sullivan's latest project. Hurst resident Louise became a full time professional photographer earlier this year. She focuses on wedding and engagement photography but decided to create a community project locally. Putting out a call for 20 women to enjoy a Little Black Dress photo shoot, she received an overwhelming response. Louise says: "It was about feeling wonderful and having a great experience." Photos have been taken at various locations around the village including the beautiful setting at Randolph's Farm. Each volunteer received a free photo of their choice, a glamorous reminder of a fun day out. Given the response, Louise says she is likely to run the project again, so if you're interested keep a look out for advertisements, including Louise's facebook page: Louise Sullivan Photography.



# UK bungalow shortage being tackled by housing developer in village

There is a little known but worrying issue of a shortage of bungalows in the UK. Unfortunately, many people are missing out on their desire for single-storey living because, at the moment, bungalows are few and far between. But housebuilder Rydon Homes is hitting back at the shortage with its Hurstpierpoint scheme, Laytonfields, which will comprise of two, three, four and five-bedroom homes, including three bungalows.

A recent survey found that roughly 2.85 million over 55s would like to downsize, with half of them identifying bungalows as their property of choice. However, due to the drastic shortage of bungalows, this could continue to be an unachievable aim. Over the past three years, the number of bungalows being built each year has tumbled by 90% and made up just 2% of new homes built last year (a mere 63 in total were classed as bungalows). This is down from a huge one in six in the 1980s.

Clearly there is demand, and Rydon Homes has put its foot forward to meet it. Laytonfields is its new development based in Hurstpierpoint which launched last month through Clifford Dann.



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## Ready, Steady, Cycle!

Oliver Huggett and George Disney certainly put in some pedal power over the weekend of 17th/18th September.

As featured in last month's Hurst Life both teenagers are participating, via West Sussex Scouts, in a trip to Uganda next year. The aim is to build a much needed kitchen and improve a borehole at an extremely rural primary school. Both George and Oliver, members of Hurstpierpoint Knights Explorer Scout unit took part in a cycling challenge at Borde hill where the team of fundraising cyclists clocked up an amazing 6,573 miles over the weekend.

These miles convert to a healthy £3,000 towards their £7K target. Fundraising continues, and if you would like to support Oliver and George, more information can be obtained at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ExplorersUganda2017>

## Sudoku #2

			5	4				
5					6		4	
	1				2			
1		7						
	4					3		
		6			9	1	8	
			1			7		6
7		9		5		2		
	6			7	4	5	9	

4	1	2	3	5	7	9	6	8
7	5	1	9	7	2	4	8	3
7	2	4	8	5	6	3	1	9
1	4	5	7	2	8	6	3	9
2	7	3	4	8	9	1	5	6
4	9	3	1	9	4	2	7	5
5	2	1	8	3	4	7	5	6
6	8	4	7	1	3	9	2	5
1	3	7	2	6	1	8	4	9

<< Puzzle #1 Solution

Courtesy of <http://andrews-sudoku.blogspot.co.uk>

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See more projects at: [www.stylorenovations.co.uk](http://www.stylorenovations.co.uk)



# 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

### October

- Hurstpierpoint Museum & Heritage Group**  
Fashion: Surely you didn't wear that 40s-80s
- 4th **Hurst Afternoon Club** – 2.15pm  
Sylvia Thornhill – local artist and sculptor (Pam 01273 831705)
- 8th **RNLI Coffee Morning** – 10am-12 noon  
Enjoy a cup of coffee among friends and take this opportunity to purchase your Christmas cards, along with lifeboat souvenirs. There will also be sales of cakes, bric-a-brac and books etc. (Entry is £1 to include coffee and biscuits contact Jo Kaddish 01273 843857)
- 8th **Fashion Show** – doors open 7.30pm  
Raising funds for Hurstpierpoint Pre-School  
Tickets are £5 which includes a drink on arrival, clothes will be current season stock from major High St brands, and range from sizes 6-18. Handbags and accessories will also be on sale. (Ebony Buscema on 07733 396221)
- 11th **Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society** – 7.45pm  
An illustrated talk on 'Hydrangeas' by Roger Butler
- 18th **Wolstonbury WI Meeting** – 7.45pm  
The 1950s by Graham Sergeant (Visitors welcomed. 01273 834421)
- 29th **Craft Fair** – 10am-2pm  
In support of Heber Opera. Entry 50p which entitles the entrant to free drink. A few stall spaces still available at £20 (Please contact jenny.letton@btinternet.com or 01273 834703)

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road BN6 9QT  
[www.hurstvillagecentre.org](http://www.hurstvillagecentre.org)

## AND ELSEWHERE

### October

- Fri's **Albourne's Pop Up Pub** – from 8.30pm  
Albourne Village Hall every Friday
- 6th **Downlands School Opening Evening** – 6pm  
Open to all prospective parents and students. (Tel 01273 845892)
- 8th **Vivace! Choir Concert** – 7.30pm  
St John the Evangelist Church, Newtimber  
They gave a fine concert of varied music last year and we are very glad that they are now returning. Light refreshments and a drink will be included in the ticket price of £10 for adults, £5 for those under 18. Our current project will help to fund a lighting installation along the church path. (Tickets from Lucy Dalrymple, 01273 831877 [lucydalrymple@icloud.com](mailto:lucydalrymple@icloud.com))
- 12th **Bridge Tea** – 2pm  
Danny House in aid of the NSPCC (Tel: 01273 833000)
- 16th **Hassocks to Hurst Ramble** – 10.45am  
Organised by Mid Sussex Ramblers start from Age Concern long stay car park (Contact: Frances 01273 842628 [www.midsussexramblers.co.uk](http://www.midsussexramblers.co.uk))
- 19th-22nd **The Weald of Sussex Art Club Annual Exhibition**  
The Martlets Hall, Civic Way, Burgess Hill (19th-21st 10am-5pm. 22nd 10am-3.45pm)
- 27th **Your Will and Inheritance Tax Seminar** – 10.30am  
Adastra Hall, Hassocks
- 30th **Danny Park Bonfire and Fireworks** – 6.30pm  
See p.5 ([www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk))

### November

- 6th **St Peter & St James Charity Concert** – 2.30pm  
Ditchling Village Hall  
Four local multi-talented singers: Julie Roberts, Ellen Hinton, Malin Maunder and Norman Armstrong have teamed up with famous instrumentalists Herbie Flowers and Michael Hinton to produce a show to banish the autumn blues and lift the spirits. (Tickets, £7, 01273 965036)

## Christmas Save the Date

Hurstpierpoint Traders are asking residents to mark Sunday 4th December in their diaries. The group is organising a special Christmas Street Party on that day for the village. More information to follow in next month's magazine...

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