

# Hurst Life

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Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #21: Dec. 2016

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What's On in Hurst this Christmas

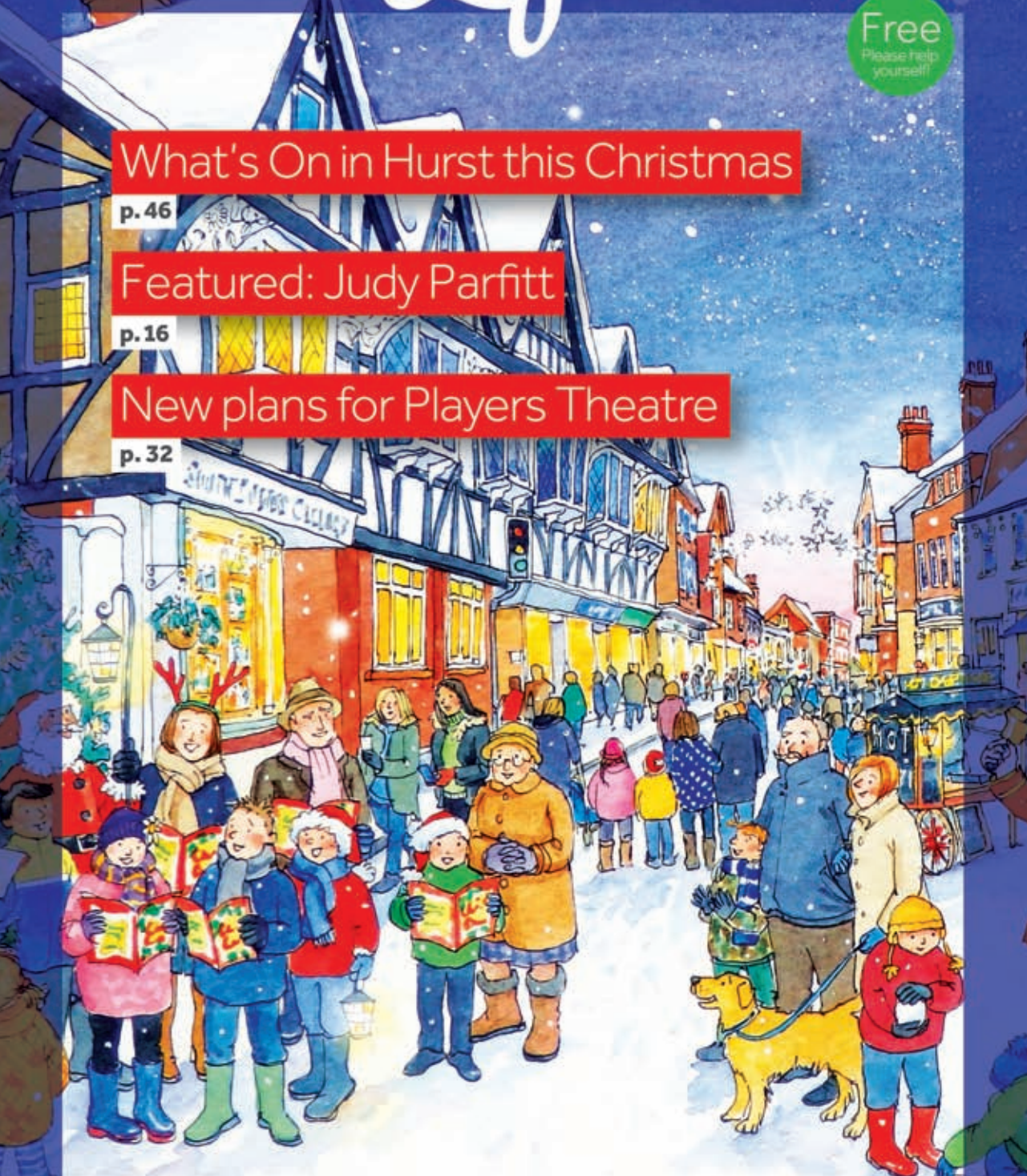
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Featured: Judy Parfitt

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New plans for Players Theatre

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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

So Christmas is very nearly here! Great news for some, although not so good for others I'm sure!

However, **Christmas** does mean there is a lot going on - as you'll see from this month's magazine.

Whether its a **Christmas Concert** at the Village Centre on 11th December (see **page 4**) or **Santa's Fun Sunday** on the High Street on 4th December (see **page 6**) - there's plenty to do. And that doesn't even mention all the **church services** in the immediate vicinity - see **page 23** when all is displayed on our centre spread.

I hope you like **our cover** this month - an amazing painting by **Lyndsey Smith** - which features on a fundraising Christmas card being sold this year by **Hurstpierpoint Society**. The details are on **page 13**.

Back to normal photos for the cover next month - as ever do send in your **great photos** of the village we love to [photos@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:photos@hurstlife.co.uk).

Its a pleasure to feature local actor **Judy Parfitt** in our regular **Village People** feature on **page 16**. How lovely to hear what show business is like from the other side!

**Mike Thatcher** has very kindly put together an article highlighting what happened when **Hurst Village Cinema** was entered into an independent cinema awards recently. Read the amusing tale on **page 20**. Cheers Mike!

If cycling is your thing - you'll want to turn to **page 28** - where local cycle shop Proper's **Ross McCracken** shows us a ride to try this month. Maybe a route to try out that new racer you got for Christmas!

There wasn't space to mention it inside the magazine, but I would like to say congratulations to **Christine Hall** who won the family ticket to see Holiday on Ice next month in our November reader competition.

Thanks to **Margaret Taylor** for her contributions to this issue too - if history is your thing, see **page 38**.

Do **have a lovely Christmas** when it comes - and just a warning that, due to the Christmas break, our January copy deadline will be **Monday 12th December**.

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**Hurst Life**  
Published by Kipper



Lyndsey Smith  
One of four paintings  
commissioned by  
Hurstpierpoint Society

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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)

## Christmas Concert in Village Centre



Hurstpierpoint Singers will present its Christmas Spectacular on Sunday 11th December at 2.30pm in the Village Centre Hurstpierpoint.

Residents are encouraged to go along and enjoy the usual feast of seasonal music and readings, with lots of audience participation, including the now famous '12 Days of Christmas'.

Tickets are priced at £8 and include a glass of wine or soft drink and a mince pie. They are available from Janton News in Hurstpierpoint or Hassocks Hardware or on the door. Accompanied children under 12 go free.

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# Awards honour community champions

The Chairman of Mid Sussex District Council has marked the exceptional work of community-spirited individuals from throughout the district with a special garden party held in September.

The Council welcomed 54 community champions and their friends and family to The Ravenswood, Sharpthorne to issue them with Community Service Awards. Presented by Councillor Peter Reed, Chairman of Mid Sussex District Council, and Mark Spofforth OBE, the High Sherriff of West Sussex, the awards acknowledge the dedication to helping their community that has been shown by the winners.

The nominees were selected by Councillors from Mid Sussex District Council and local Town and Parish Councillors. Awards are presented to residents who have selflessly committed their energy, time and skills to improving the quality of community life.

Hurstpierpoint resident Paul Huggett was nominated by Councillor Colin Trumble for creating the charity Cancervive to provide support and help for those closely involved in supporting loved ones who are suffering with cancer. After his life was deeply touched by cancer in his family, Paul set up the charity as he believed that it was often family and friends who are forgotten when their close ones fight cancer.

Other village residents celebrated in the awards were Margaret Gaughan and Judy Leech, both nominated by Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council.

Margaret has devoted the last 42 years to St Lawrence School, starting work in the kitchen in 1974, firstly as the kitchen assistant and then as cook for 21 years. For the next 21 years she has worked tirelessly as the cleaning supervisor and has enjoyed watching the school grow over the years.

Judy has been a Leader of 2nd Hurstpierpoint Guides for 29 years. This involves weekly meetings and taking the Guides away on camps. She has held roles as District and Division Commissioner. An active member of the Mothers Union, Judy helps with their Toddler Group and fundraising for various projects.



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## Charity shop funds improve outdoor space

The Village Charity Shop recently gave a donation to the Cottis Preschool which has enabled them to replace the worn out grass area with artificial grass.

Owner Sam Anthony commented: "At Cottis we feel it is very important that children have the opportunity for outdoor play all year round. The outdoor provision can be a place where children can fully immerse in all types of learning, whether this is developing their gross motor skills, learning about living creatures or sharing a story in the cosy den area. We are very grateful to the charity shop for enabling this work to take place."

## Santa's coming Sunday 4th Dec

Coming up soon is Santa's Fun Sunday on 4th December. The High Street will be closed to traffic between 1-6pm as the traders and residents host a family day for Christmas shopping and festive fun.

The day, organised by Hurstpierpoint Traders, will feature many special events with all financial proceeds donated to Hurstpierpoint charity Cancervive.

A huge Christmas Tree will be erected on the village green as the centrepiece of the village festive decorations.

There will be a local band playing on the day, plus the Players Theatre has now also been added to the venue list - where there will be play performances throughout the day.

Amongst the celebrations will be a Father Christmas Grotto, Elsa from Frozen, an Open Mic on the Green, Hog Roast, Tombola and a Snow Machine.

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## 50% discount on all stock at Community Charity Shop

The village charity shop, located off the Millennium Green, is reducing all its existing stock by 50% of the original marked price. The sale will help clear stock, make some space and also enable villagers to bag some pre-Christmas bargains!

The shop will be open as usual for business, but also be taking a stall at Santa's Fun Sunday on 4th December to mainly sell it's bric-a-brac.

Browse through the stock on display! Don't hesitate to ask one of the volunteers - assistants in case they know of items not on display, as the shop has a large and wide-ranging stock.







## Flowers for all

There's a new shop on the High Street with the opening of Lewesiana last month.

The florist business was established in Lewes six years ago by Christian Hopper. However, when looking for new premises to relocate to he fell in love with Hurstpierpoint's High Street and has moved into the shop at number 52, next to Ashley & Thomas.

"The Lewesiana team are excited to start afresh here

and join this lovely community," Christian commented. "We are very grateful to traders and residents for making us feel so welcome already."

Hassocks resident Kate Osborn (pictured) will manage the shop, which will be open Tues-Fri 9am-5pm and Saturdays 9am-3pm. They will also be taking part in Santa's Fun Sunday on Sunday 4th December and the traders late night shopping on 15th and 22nd December.

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# Buy your Hurst Christmas cards now

Hurstpierpoint Society will be selling Christmas cards depicting the village scene pictured on our front cover.

Lyndsey Smith, a local artist, created a wonderful Christmas card for Westminster Abbey last year that truly captured its character. After seeing this, she was commissioned to illustrate four modern and lively pictures of the village to include iconic views and events throughout the year. As Lyndsey completes these, we look forward to reporting on them over the coming months.

Lyn Williams, Chairman of Hurstpierpoint Society said: "We are very grateful to Toby Lott for commissioning the paintings by Lyndsey Smith for Hurstpierpoint Society to use for fundraising. They are absolutely wonderful and will prove to be a significant contribution to help us sustain our efforts to continue to protect the historic fabric of the village, as the Society has done for over 50 years."

The Society takes a particular interest in planning issues that impact on the appearance and character of this historic village, and the surrounding countryside. The village features over 100 listed buildings within three conservation areas, containing an eclectic mix of architectural styles, which they are committed to preserving. The bustling High Street contains both listed

and unlisted buildings dating from the 14th century, including shops with living accommodation above. This results in a richness of streetscape which defines Hurstpierpoint as a village of character and charm.

"Increasingly in recent years, the Society has moved beyond protecting and conserving, and the never ending scrutiny of planning applications, to contributing to the 'future history' of our village. We have planted over 100 trees around the village and helped fund many community projects, the most recent being the new cover for St. Lawrence School's swimming pool.

"Never far from our minds is the need to maintain the significant membership of the Society that currently has over 1,300 members. I am looking forward to being in the High Street at our Christmas Street Party stand on 4th December, chatting with members and potential new members, where people will be able to buy our Christmas cards and join the Society."

As well as cards in packs of 10, limited edition signed prints will also be available to order with all proceeds going to the Hurstpierpoint Society.

For further information on the cards or prints, visit [www.hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk) for more information about the Society and how to join.



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- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- icing sugar, for sprinkling
- softly whipped cream
- Optional - but strongly recommended - a large handful of dried cranberries soaked overnight in Amaretto

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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.



Often called 'posh bread and butter pudding' (perfect for Hurstpierpoint!), this is a great way to use up your left over Panettone. There are lots of 'skinny' versions of this dish but it's Christmas so I'd say make it taste wonderfully indulgent and eat with moderation alongside a glass of Amaretto! Merry Christmas!

**How to:**

1. Preheat the oven to 160C/gas 3/fan 140C and grease an 850ml/1½ pint shallow baking dish with a little butter. Cut the panettone into wedges, leaving the crusts on. Butter the slices lightly with the rest of the butter. Cut the slices in half and arrange them in the dish, buttered side up. Sprinkle with the cranberries (if using).
2. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, cream, milk, vanilla extract and sugar and pour evenly over the panettone.
3. Put the dish in a roasting tin and pour hot water around it to a depth of about 2.5cm/1in. Bake for 30 minutes then take out and sprinkle on the flaked almonds. Pop back in oven for another 10 minutes until the pudding is just set - it should be yellow inside and nicely browned on top. Keep an eye on it to avoid over-cooking. Dust with icing sugar and serve with a splash or two of whipped cream.

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# Judy Parfitt

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By Deb Hollywood

I wouldn't say I was nervous about meeting Judy Parfitt, but on finding myself facing a twitten, still driving the car, I realised I would need to ring for further directions! These were swiftly given and within minutes I was sitting in Judy's kitchen ready for a chat.

It's the feeling of knowing someone via their stage or screen persona that led to the nerves but in reality we don't know television and film actors and it becomes apparent that Judy Parfitt quite likes it this way.

Judy is old school when it comes to sharing information about her life. She is happy to answer questions but is frustrated by the accessibility of information via the internet. She hasn't contributed to facts online about herself and says: "I didn't put the information there and I wonder who did?" She adds: "Today there is too much importance placed on being famous."

I mention Judy's stage career and some of the well-known names she has worked alongside. "When working with Olivier and Scofield," she continues, "there was a mystery to them. You had enormous respect for your peers and wouldn't address them by their first name until asked to do so!" It has not been a question of Judy seeking fame; being recognised is a by-product of what is essentially her work. "It's doing what I'm good at, what I'm trained in and what I want to do," adding, "I'm lucky to be working and appreciate it."

Judy was born in Sheffield but considers herself to be a 'soft southerner' now! "I love North country people, but I couldn't return to Yorkshire, I couldn't cope with the weather!" Her work took her to Los Angeles in the late 80s when filming the television series, *The Charmings*. Judy explained: "I enjoyed my time there enormously but it was important career-wise to have a balance between the UK and America." In addition to numerous stage roles Judy's work also includes the 1984 television series *The Jewel in the Crown*, for which she received a BAFTA nomination. Judy describes the scripts, the cast and the location as all being wonderful and adds: "I was proud to be a part of it."

Judy is currently known to many of us for her role as Sister Monica Joan, the character she plays in *Call the Midwife*. Judy appreciates that both the character and the series resonate with the public, and often when entering a shop or café she is told 'the cakes are over there!' This is a reference to her character's penchant for eating cake, whether it belongs to her or not!

Judy has just finished a busy filming schedule of the series, with a Christmas Special due to be shown on Christmas Day and a new series starting in January.

The series has the highest viewing ratings across the channels with over 10 million viewers tuning in. I ask



Judy what she think is its appeal. "It reaches out to all. The characters depict real situations back to a time in a very recent past." Smiling she continues, saying: "It's not about sex – only the results of it – it's not violent and it has excellent scripts." As someone who watches the programme, I think it also gives an insight into the previous generation's lives, the changes in medical science and how much less judgemental society is today. Judy endorses this when she comments: "We don't know the circumstances behind certain events or actions in each episode. It encourages viewers to look at things in a more humane way."

Filming takes Judy away from home to various locations, including Chatham, Henley and Limehouse in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. She says the worst part of the job is the travel with wasted hours, exclaiming: "How people commute on a regular basis, I don't know!" Coming home to Hurstpierpoint is a pleasure and Judy says: "It's in a wonderful location, convenient for accessing other villages, close to Gatwick airport and near the sea."

The latter was key when she and her late husband, actor Tony Steedman, moved to the area 37 years ago. For the last 17 years Judy has lived in the village. Tony died in 2001 having been diagnosed with vascular dementia ten years previously. As anyone who has been affected knows, this terrible disease's progression is insidious, and families are robbed of their loved ones as the illness progresses to its inevitable conclusion. Judy cared for Tony at home and her own experience has led her to become an ambassador for Dementia UK.

We are chatting days after she has attended a meeting at the House of Lords, called by Baroness Burt, to discuss funding for dementia. More money is desperately needed to fund the Admiral Nurses who give support and advice to families affected by dementia. There are currently only 200 Admiral Nurses in the UK, and Dementia UK are



looking to increase this number as the illness becomes more prevalent. "Dementia affects people differently, but funding is critical to further research. Once you've lived with the consequences of dementia, you wouldn't wish it on your worst enemy," Judy comments.

Judy says the reaction from Hurst residents to Tony's death was heartwarming. "People would tell me how much they missed him." She smiles when she says the gist was very much 'you're ok, but Tony - he was special!' Coincidentally, the Call the Midwife script implies that Judy's character is in the early stages of dementia and I ask Judy how this feels given her own experience. "It's completely different, Sister Monica Joan is a character and I'm acting.

Although it can only be to the good that it (dementia) is brought to the public's attention."

Clearly caring is a family trait as Judy and Tony's son, David Steedman, with his wife Roxana owns and manages Bluebird Care, Brighton and Hove.

They live locally and their daughters, Judy's two

grandchildren, often stay with her. When they visit, Judy encourages them to put their screens and gadgets away! The latter also applies when on the set of Call the Midwife. Judy says: "I'm very concerned for young people. Verbal social intercourse will be lost," and adds, "The constant use of phones is frightening in itself and young people are often unaware of what can happen when information is misused."



A welcome distraction from social media at home and on The Call the Midwife set is Judy's gorgeous toy poodle, Freddie. He is in good company with the other cast members' four-legged friends and for a little dog he certainly seems to think big!

Judy will be busy over the next few months with press showings prior to the series' release in the New Year. There is no spoiler alert here! Like the rest of the nation we will have to wait and see what direction the storyline takes. I, for one, am looking forward to it!

For more information on how to obtain support from or make a donation to Dementia UK, go to the website: [www.dementiauk.org](http://www.dementiauk.org)

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## Cinema in search of silverware

Last month the excellent Hurst Village Cinema yet again received multiple nominations at the Cinema for All Film Society of the Year Awards. Resident and committee member Mike Thatcher reports on two days of films, nibbles and backslapping in Sheffield.

**By Mike Thatcher**  
Friday 4th November

10:15 Clearly I don't understand train travel. On my way to Sheffield for the Film Society of the Year Awards (FSOY) and very nervous. Not because acceptance speech needs tweaking but Southern Railway are on strike and I have a pre-booked ticket from St Pancras. So arrive way too early at Hassocks to find an almost deserted platform and a more or less empty train. As someone half my age would say, go figure.

12:35 Thanks to David Saitch booking so far in advance I am travelling First Class to Sheffield at minimal extra cost. Trouble is, so is everyone else in the carriage so I'm unable to look down my nose at them. The FSOY awards weekend is one of the highlights of being involved with Hurst Village Cinema and this year we have been shortlisted in two categories: marketing and programming.

18:00 Done so little business travel in my working life that walking into any hotel room without the family still gives me a buzz. Sit on each piece of furniture in turn and almost have a shower just for the hell of it. Head to one of the venues for a screening of *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai*, starring Forrest Whitaker.

20:00 Meet up with David at Fusion Organic Cafe for what is described as Drinks, Nibbles and Networking. Lots of chick peas, humous, tofu and garlic rye bread on offer.

22:00 Leave the drinkers to it. David raises his glass in my direction with the air of a man who knows he's only a quarter of the way into his evening.

Saturday 5th November

In spirit I get up early to stand by a cold football pitch for

two hours whilst my body wakes up at 09:20. This terrible wrench from my family continues over fried bread, sausages, tomatoes and eggs with just the sports pages for company. And Ian Hislop, who wanders in. Prepare to make a Frosties joke (he chose them as his luxury on Desert Island Discs) but thankfully don't get the chance.

11:00 We both watch Paulo Larrain's *Neruda* which was unmemorable. Hear the dreaded words, 'There will be a 10-15 minute discussion after the film.'

13:00 Talking to an American lady at lunch she nearly choked when I asked her to imagine Trump consoling the nation after another mass shooting. Saw the delightful Spanish film *The Olive Tree* after lunch; David back at the hotel catching up on sleep so unable to share this joy.

18:00 Awards time. We take our place, perhaps with optimism, on the end of a row. Lovely video message from Jim Broadbent but the highlight of the evening was 94 year old Marjorie Answorth receiving an Outstanding Contribution award. "Always stay involved with your film society; it keeps you in touch with the zeitgeist and stops you from becoming a mouldy oldy," she said as the crowd rose to their feet.

We didn't walk off with main awards but ended up with two commendations, still a great achievement for a organisation our size.

19:15 Found ourselves chatting to Derek Malcolm, the revered former Guardian film critic, after the ceremony. He noticed our programme and marketing awards. "Do you have your programme with you?" he asked. David and I looked at each other in silence. Derek gave a shrug which suggested that the winners would have.

Another year gone, and yet more recognition for David and Manon and all the regular patrons who make Hurst Village Cinema such a pleasure to be involved with. To call those two the engine room of HVC would be unfair; they're the rest of the vehicle as well and give a huge amount of their time and energy to make it what it is. Award winning.

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**SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER**  
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**SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER**  
4pm & 6pm, Crib Services  
11.30pm, Midnight Mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
8am, Christmas Eucharist  
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9.45am, Christmas Family Eucharist  
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### HURSTPIERPOINT METHODIST CHURCH

Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint  
Contact: Rev Peter Rayson | 01444 235033

**SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER**  
3pm, Christingle and Carols  
Followed by tea & mince pies

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10am, United service at Burgess Hill Methodist Church

### THE PARISH OF ALBOURNE, SAYERS COMMON AND TWINEHAM

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**SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER**  
7.30pm, Folk Carol Service (at St. Peters Twineham)

**SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER**  
4pm, Christingle (ChristChurch, Sayers Common)

**WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER**  
7pm, Carols by Candlelight (St. Bartholomews, Albourne)

**SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER**  
4pm, Crib Service (St. Bartholomews, Albourne)  
11.30pm, Christmas Midnight Mass (ChristChurch, Sayers Common)

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10am, Morning Service (St Peters, Twineham)



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6.30pm, Christmas Carol Celebration

### CHRISTMAS DAY

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See [www.thepointchurch.co.uk](http://www.thepointchurch.co.uk) for details

# Vote for best Christmas pic at Poponin

High Street crafty shop Poponin is holding another of its popular art competitions. All have been encouraged to create a Christmas picture which can be of anything relevant to the season, from Rudolph to a snow scene.

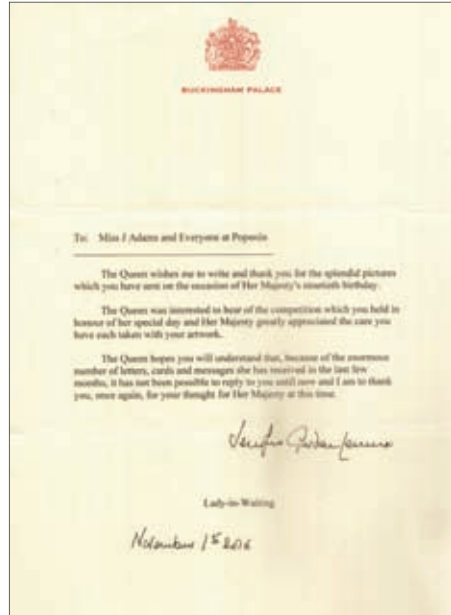
All entries will be on display in the shop on Santa's Fun Sunday - 4th December - when the village hosts its Christmas street party. Voting will be open all day, and the winner selected by popular vote in first, second and third places.

Inside the shop they will also have Christmas decoration activities going on at the same time during that day.

Poponin ran a similar competition around the Queen's birthday in the summer - which it recently received a reply from Buckingham Palace after they sent the winning entries to HM The Queen.

Shop owner Jessica Adams explained: "We were delighted to get a reply back from her Lady-in-Waiting."

The letter thanked Poponin and the entrants for their pictures and apologised that its taken so long for them to send an official reply, after she received a larger than normal quantity of letters, cards and messages following her birthday.



## Olympic Gold Hockey player visits Hurst

GB Hockey player and Rio Olympic gold medallist, Giselle Ansley, visited Hurstpierpoint College last month.

Giselle visited pupils in the Prep and Senior Schools, and gave a motivational talk to the Hurst Sports Scholars.

The youngest Hockey players listened to Giselle speak about her journey to becoming an Olympic Champion last summer, and were given the privilege of holding her Olympic gold medal. Giselle also joined the Prep School girls' teams on the Hockey pitch and helped coach them during their games session.

Senior School students were given the opportunity to meet Giselle where she advised and encouraged the pupils about various skills to improve their game. She even taught the U15 team an 'aerial' ball move which involves lifting the ball over their opponent's head.

Hurst's Sports Scholars, the U16 Hockey players and the 1st team were given a presentation by Giselle where she spoke about her journey from being a 'Devon Girl' to an Olympic gold medallist. This was followed by a question and answer session where pupils asked her about her training and success.

Giselle has trained twice a day, six days a week, for the past four years. As well as an Olympic Gold medallist in Rio, she is also a Hockey European Champion and Commonwealth silver medallist. Giselle didn't start playing for England until she reached the U21 level in



2013. Her advice to the pupils was never give up on your dreams - keep working hard at what you love.

Hurst Hockey coach Dominic Bowden commented, "It was an exciting day for the pupils - it's not every day you get to touch a recently achieved Olympic gold medal. Giselle inspired everyone she spoke to at Hurst and we are really grateful for her for coming in."

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# Over the forest

ON YOUR BIKE

**By Ross McCracken**

This month's ride takes us to the edge of the Ashdown Forest on a 35 mile loop suitable for an intermediate level rider. This ride has a bit of everything, climbs, technical descents, a great cafe and a brilliant pub!

The route starts at Proper Cycling & Coffee in Hassocks and takes you out of the village to Ditchling. Continue straight over the mini roundabout and once out of the 20mph zone start the climb up past the church at Westmeston.

Take the first left on to the quieter Streat Lane. Take a left at the end of Streat Lane on to St Helena Lane and follow the road until you reach the T-junction. Here, it's a right past the Plough Pub (don't even think about it.... you're only seven miles in!). Take an immediate left on to Beresford Lane. Bear left on to North Common Road heading towards Chailey. Next, at the cross road turn right in to Beggar's Wood Road. Take extreme caution on the cattle grid then enjoy the roaming wildlife as you pass through the nature reserve. (The reserve covers 450 hectares making it one of the largest areas of open heath left in Sussex... just a little fact for you there!)

Once out of the reserve (again, careful on the cattle grid) turn left on to the A275. This is a fast moving and sometimes busy road so take care, you are not on it for long. Next, at the double roundabout take a right then immediate left (still on the A275) and continue until the second left. Here you enter Mill Lane and you are back to the peace and quiet of country lanes.

Mill Lane takes you, after a reasonable climb, into the picturesque village of Fletching. There is a great little coffee stop on your left as you pass through the High Street called Mr T's. Well worth a visit.

After a quick stop and suitably refuelled continue on the High Street until the road forks. Take the right fork back on to Bell Lane. Get your climbing legs ready and pace yourself here. The road kicks up towards the end as you arrive in Nutley, and it's not a short climb.

Here, it's a left on to the A22 for a short distance (if you like cars stop here and check out the Nutley Sports

and Prestige Centre... one can but dream!) then take the left fork signposted to Chelwood Gate.

As you enter Chelwood Gate take the left turn (opposite the bus shelter) into Stone Quarry Road. Here the fun begins!

Enjoy the fast descent through the village but take extreme care as you approach the crossroads at the Coach and Horses Pub. (This is a fantastic pub and a perfect lunch stop if you are making a day of it.)

Once past the pub (assuming you've not enjoyed the pub too much and are leaving in a taxi!) there is another fast descent into Danehill. Again, be very careful here, especially if it's damp. It's very fast and even experienced riders can experience a 'wobbly' moment. On the plus side (sort of) your heart will be racing ready for the climb up to the T-junction. What goes down, sadly, must go back up.

Turn left here, followed by a right turn up the side of the church on to Freshfield Lane and enjoy the recovery on the tranquil and flat(ish) road. Continue to the junction and turn right into Butter Box Lane/Nash Lane and continue towards Scaynes Hill. At the end of the road turn right on to the A272 and around a mile later turn left into Slugwash Lane. This is a lovely little quiet lane (despite its rather odd name) but do look out for potholes and gravel, especially on a few of the downhill sections.

Slugwash Lane leads you to Wivelsfield Green where you take a left shortly followed by a right turn into Hundred Acre Lane. Follow the road to the end and turn right into Ditchling Common then a left on to Spatham Lane.

Take a right at the end back on to the B2116, through Ditchling and back to Hassocks for a well deserved coffee and cake!

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# Fish back on the menu

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Hurstpierpoint residents have been without a fishmonger for some time, but now The Fresh Fish Shop in Haywards Heath is offering to fill that void.

The shop is based by the railway station on Commercial Square but has free delivery slots available on both Wednesdays and Fridays direct to your door in Hurstpierpoint at no extra cost and with no minimum order.

Owner Sebastian Candelon grew up with alligators and snakes around him and fished for piranhas in the llanos of Venezuela. These days he runs the long-established Fresh Fish Shop and is looking forward to meeting the needs of local customers in the run up to the festive season.

"Christmas is a busy time for us in the shop," Sebastian explains, "as many of us now include fish of all types as part of the essential mix of great food served up over the period."

Among the regular produce available the team of fishmongers at the store on Commercial Square are offering 'already done' seafood platters and dressed salmon to order – to save customers time in creating amazing Christmas canapés.

For Sebastian doing the right thing is important. "Our fresh fish is sourced from all of the major fishing ports in the UK; primarily Eastbourne, Cornwall, Peterhead, Grimsby and handpicked by us from Billingsgate fish market.

We pride ourselves in selecting only the finest seafood from line-caught, local day boats and MSC certified fish where possible and RSPCA Freedom Food certified salmon and low environmental impact farms for sea bass and sea bream."

The fresh fish stocked at the shop is complemented by numerous product lines to enhance and expand your fish-cooking repertoire. In addition to pre-packaged favourites like salmon fillets and fishcakes, you can also discover local eggs, olives and a range of sauces on the shelves.



Sebastian is offering an exclusive offer to Hurst Life readers to get **25% OFF** your first purchase at the shop before 15th December. This is perfect for you to try The Fresh Fish Shop before placing your Christmas order.

Download the voucher from this website:

[www.thefreshfishshop.com/hurst-life](http://www.thefreshfishshop.com/hurst-life)

The shop also has a variety of cooking demos coming up in early 2017 – see the website or adverts for details, or call the shop on 01444 451830.



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# Theatre makeover

HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS



**The Hurstpierpoint Players, formed in 1936, has long been an integral part of community life here in Hurstpierpoint. The theatre company continues to produce a range of productions from its Players Theatre on the High Street – where it opens its doors for this year’s panto at the end of this month. Hurst Life talks to director Bob Sampson about his long-standing involvement with the group and its plans for renovating the theatre in 2018.**

Bob Sampson recalls that his first time on stage was as a child at no lesser venue than the former Hippodrome in Brighton. “I will never forget that feeling of being in front of an audience,” he said. Bob continued to be involved and interested in drama after he left school.

Moving to Hurstpierpoint in 1975, he soon found himself taking part in the pantomime after a simple conversation about Hurst Players with the receptionist at the Doctors Surgery! In 1987 he was ‘gobsmacked’ to discover he’d been cast in a leading role of the Alan Bennett comedy *Habeas Corpus* for the club.

Since those early days Bob has been heavily involved with Hurst Players, taking on the role of director on countless occasions. “The director has the tricky task of trying to explain what’s in their head and trying to get the cast to play it that way. Fundamentally,” he continues, “your cast are willing volunteers who are giving up their Tuesday nights; we have to make it fun and enjoyable to be part of an amateur production. And we do!”

His own highlights include performances of *Calendar Girls*, *Under Milk Wood* – a radio play featuring 12 actors playing 75 parts – and, of course, Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*.

Hurst Players bought its own premises on the High Street in 1976. The building was then a general store

called *Graveleys* but started life as a non-conformist chapel nearly 300 years ago. An incredible amount of work was put into the theatre conversion by members and friends at the time – with its first performance being held the next year.

In recent years the group (a registered charity since 1977) has formed a working partnership with Hurst Village Cinema – which has, in many ways, given the theatre a new lease of life. It is used as a cinema at least four times a month and this not only provides a good income for the charity but also brings a new audience into the theatre.

The two organisations split the cost of hosting the popular National Theatre Live performances, which require some large setup and regular expenditure on equipment and facilities. “The relationship works

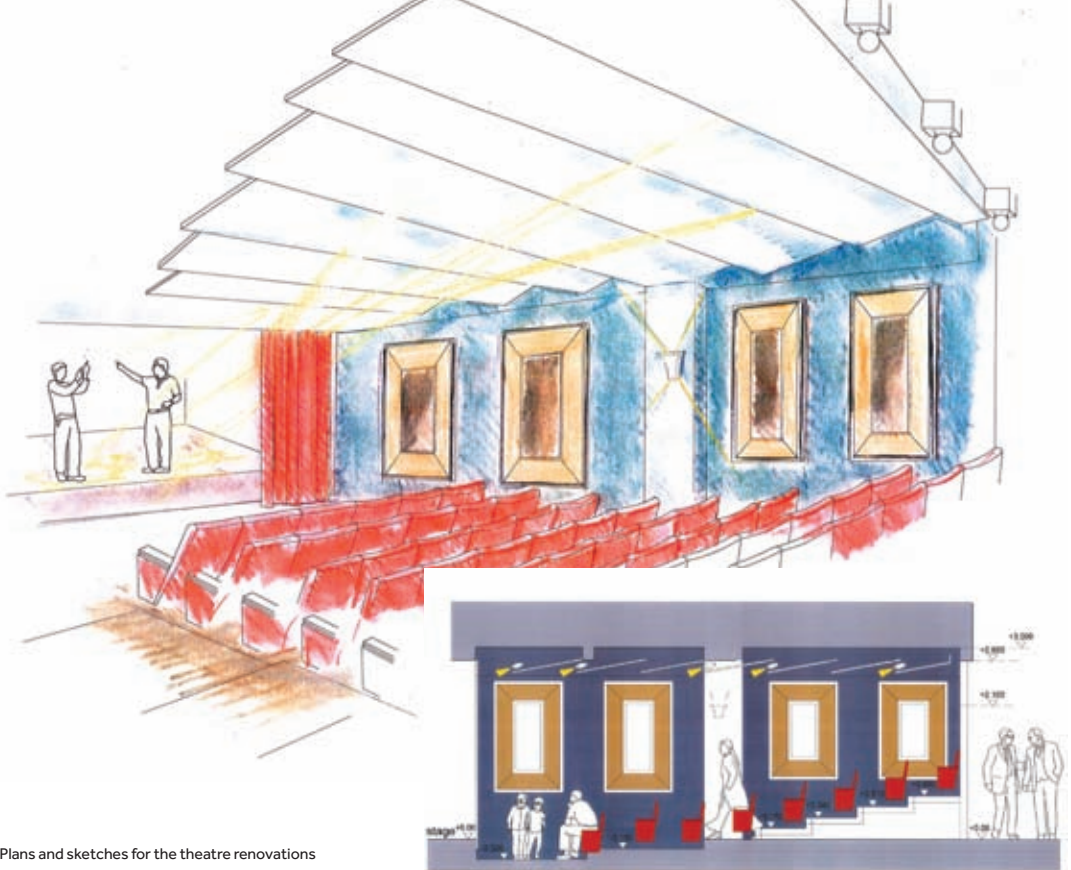
well,” Bob explains. “Both groups can co-promote each other’s next productions at the current event and that is no bad thing for the theatre.”

However, The Players Theatre is now 40 years old and the membership voted at a recent Extraordinary General Meeting to take on the challenge of updating the space.

“We have been aware for some time that the theatre is looking a little tired,” Bob continues. “With increasingly technical productions and our partnership with Village







Above: Plans and sketches for the theatre renovations

Cinema, we needed to consider the facilities expected of a modern theatre."

"The seats installed 40 years ago were cast-offs from nearby Glyndebourne but we can't get replacements now. Also, the heating in the building is very hard to control at present, so we'd love to make this easier and more comfortable for our audience."

So Hurst Players are embarking on a massive fundraising exercise to bring the theatre's facilities up to the 21st Century with a complete renovation of the auditorium.

These plans (shown above) will include new seats, the removal of two pillars from the auditorium, a new recessed ceiling which will house a new lighting rig, full surround sound for film shows and a new heating system.

The project, which will cost £146,000, should take three months to complete, and the group is hoping to be able to start work early in 2018.

"We think of the theatre as an asset in our community. By doing the work planned we hope to widen its use by more people in the village," Bob explained.

Hurst Players will be releasing more information in the coming months about opportunities for residents to take part in the fundraising for the project. This is likely to include the chance to purchase a seat in the new theatre. In the meantime the club would very much appreciate

financial contributions from anyone by cheque or by bank transfer (Hurstpierpoint Players HSBC, Sort Code: 40-23-17, Account: 01252127).

Hurstpierpoint Players has been preparing for this moment and already has £10,000 to put straight into the fund from its own club reserves.

The club draws its membership from the village and wider Sussex. "Amateur companies these days cast from

a wide and varied stock of local actors who tend to naturally move around depending on what productions are being put on," said Bob, who has found Hurst Players to be unlike any other he's been involved in. "I love the theatre; it's a great leveller. There is so much support that I have personally received from being involved at

Hurst Players over the years. It's like an extended family!"

The annual pantomime this year will be Alice in Wonderland. Bob says the production will feature the traditional characters but with some additions, including Alice's mum – Mabel – as a pantomime dame! It will also feature local children taking centre stage for the fun and frolics. Hurst Players will perform the classic ten times in this year's run (which starts on 29th December), including three matinees. For more information about the panto and the club see the website at [www.hurstplayers.org.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.org.uk)



# Remembrance Sunday Parade

**By Margaret Taylor, Acting Parade Marshal**

The day dawned bright, sunny and fairly warm for the time of year. This was the day for our Remembrance Parade in Hurstpierpoint. Contingents began to muster at South Avenue and by 10.45am everyone was ready for the off.

As you can imagine, many folk from the village turn out on this Sunday to line the route and watch both young and old make their way to the Memorial Garden next to the Parish Church. Here the bugler played The Last Post, Standards were dipped, the Exhortation was given by Major Colin Richardson, respect was shown during the two minutes silence, Reveille was sounded, Standards raised, and the names on the War Memorial were read by four Year 6 children from St Lawrence School. Wreaths were laid by representatives from the Royal British Legion at Hurst, the Wolstonbury Guides, the 1st Brownies and Scout Groups from Hurst, The Burma Star association, the 1st Hurst Girls Brigade, the Hurst College Cadets, the Mid Sussex District Council, Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council, the Sussex Vale Rotary, the ex-Servicemen from Hurst, the staff and cadet Platoon n16 and Hurst residents.

A prayer was said and everyone moved in slow procession from the Memorial Garden into the church. The Colour Parties followed their contingents into Church and brought forward their Standards which were placed by the High Altar. Rev Jane Willis, the Priest-in-Charge, led a very appropriate service for all ages which included asking one member from each contingent to light a Peace Candle.

At the end of the Service, the Standards were returned and all the uniformed organisations reassembled outside the Church and, following the band, marched to Trinity Road. Major Richardson thanked all those who had attended and the Acting Parade Marshal dismissed the contingents, thankful that everything had gone without a hitch.

It is wonderful when the village comes together in this way to show respect for those who served in the armed forces in previous wars and who are, even now, serving their country in many parts of the world.



**They shall grow not old, as we that  
are left grow old**

**Age shall not weary them nor the  
years condemn**

**At the going down of the sun and  
in the morning**

**We will remember them**

**We will remember them**

**When you go home tell them of us  
and say**

**For your tomorrow, we gave our  
today**

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## Female vocal Christmas concert

The Bothy Singers Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday 10th December at the Players Theatre in the High Street in Hurstpierpoint. The doors will open from 7pm and the concert starts at 7.30pm.

The Bothy Singers are a small, all female vocal group based in Hurstpierpoint. They will be performing a range of songs from a variety of genres, so something to please everyone.

For further information or to reserve your tickets, £10 each, please get in touch with Heather Hush on 01273 831023, or email [bothisingers@gmail.com](mailto:bothisingers@gmail.com), or like our Facebook page: The Bothy Singers

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5 MINUTES WITH...

## Vicky Bowen

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

Ten years

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

Village life

**Favorite ice cream flavour?**

Chocolate

**Favourite holiday destination?**

Spain

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

Six, so far

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

St Lawrence Fair

**Who do you share a house with?**

My two children, two dogs and my partner

**Song you play the most?**

James Arthur: Say You Won't Let Go

**Mac or PC?**

PC

**Your most frequented village shop?**

Janton news, where else!

**Coke, juice or water?**

Juice

**Your advice for life?**

Enjoy it. Make the most of it. It's far too short!

If you would like to provide your own answers for 5 Minutes With, simply email them to [editor@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@hurstlife.co.uk) along with a photo of yourself, or do please encourage a friend to send their answers in!



# Methodism in Hurstpierpoint

## VILLAGE HISTORY

By Margaret Taylor

On 18th November 1830, a licence was granted for an Assembly of Protestant Dissenters in the Parish of Hurstpierpoint. In 1833 there was evidence of a preaching service which formed the first Society, that in 1836 numbered 20 people.

In 1851, a religious census was taken of all congregations, which recorded that a Methodist Chapel had been built in 1834. Names of the families forming this membership includes the Davey family.

The congregation was held twice on Sundays, presumably without a Minister. A census recorded attendances of 70 in the morning and 91 in the evening. The Society then relied upon visiting Ministers from the Worthing or Brighton circuit. A visiting Minister, Rev Theophilus Woolner quotes that it was a 17 mile journey to Hurstpierpoint and he would leave Hove about 5am and preach all day, arriving back home about midnight. His stipend was £112 per annum.

This chapel was poorly constructed and part was rebuilt in 1848, at a considerable cost.

In 1868, the Society at Hurstpierpoint bought for £400 a chapel in Manor Road, which had been erected by an Independent Minister, where they established themselves for a period of over 40 years until the present building was erected.

In 1870, the District Synod and the Conference decided that the Brighton Circuit should be divided. This left the Brighton Circuit with five remaining Societies - Dorset Gardens, Norfolk Road, Rottingdean, Southwick and Hurstpierpoint.

In 1876 the following report appeared in the East Sussex News, that the Wesleyans at Hurstpierpoint held a Service of Sacred Songs joined with readings from Pilgrim's Progress.

Enhancement from Cornwall: The Chapel attracted many farming families and some of these came up from Cornwall, some selling cheese and butter with their surplus milk.

When the railways came there was land to be had in and around the village of Hurstpierpoint, and by the mid-1840s there was a railway station at Hassocks.

Consequently, the farmers moved to this area and were able to get their milk on the early train to London, as well as still producing their cheese and butter. The surnames of these families were Blake, Dinnis, Harvey and Jenkin, and some of these families are still connected with the church to this day.

Sunday Schools were an important part of most Methodist Societies. Many children and adults learned their 3 Rs at Sunday School, or in adult classes, at their local chapel.

Many were too poor to pay the weekly fee to go to the National School. Violet Morley, born in 1901, remembered going to the Sunday School and Chapel in Manor Road.

Over time, the congregation outgrew the chapel in Manor Road. The land for the proposed site of the new church in Cuckfield Road was given by the Hannington family and there was much hard bargaining before a tender for £1,354 was finally accepted in June 1909 and the stone-laying was performed on Bank Holiday Monday 2nd August 1909.

The old chapel in Manor Road was sold for £200. The new church was opened on Easter Monday 28th March 1910 by Miss Maud Robinson of Saddlescombe.

An American Organ was purchased for £10 and the old harmonium was sold.

Unfortunately, the church did not open free of debt,



nor had it been possible to build within the tendered figure. The cost of the church eventually rose to £1,765. The outstanding debt finally cleared in 1919.

Before and throughout the First World War, the Lamb Inn was owned by a George Stoner, grandfather of Mrs Violet Heathorn, one of the church members. As a little girl, she says, she would visit her grandfather on Sunday mornings and watch the people who left their ponies and traps with him while they went to worship at the Wesleyan Church just down the road.

In 1927 a London architect advised that it would cost £800 to build a schoolroom and this figure was considered to be too costly. The Trustees at that time were finding matters difficult, but in due course important work was put in hand and the new parts were opened in 1928 by Mrs Stafford of Hassocks.

The Church Anniversary was always held at Easter with a guest preacher. These days, the Anniversary is always the nearest Sunday to 28th March and, this year, the present church will celebrated its 106th Anniversary, on this site. Harvest Festivals meant a lot to a large proportion of the congregation, who were connected with agriculture.

In 1932, the Wesleyan Methodists, the Primitive Methodists and the Bible Christians united to form the Methodist Church, and Hurstpierpoint became one of 12 churches which formed the new Brighton and Hove Circuit, the first Quarterly Meeting of which was held in September 1934.

In April 1938, Eleazar Harvey died. He had served the church for many years and, in his Will, he left the sum of £850 in memory of his wife for the purchase of a house for a Minister to reside in the village. In 1939, the first Minister, Rev William A Prunell OBE, took up residence in the Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint. This property was sold around 2010 and the manse moved to outer Burgess Hill.

In the mid-70s, a new porch and the Upper Room were added to the church to house the Sunday School.

In the church's history, there have been many groups and organisations of villagers involved, as well as attending Sunday services and Sunday School. The Wesley Guild have laid on social events. There was a Boys Brigade, Choir and Junior Choir, Men and Women's Fellowships, Drama Group, midweek Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings, a monthly Communal Lunch, a Coffee Shop and Girls Brigade, the latter meeting every Wednesday in term time and, over the past three years, Messy Church and Café Church have been introduced.

Over the years, many ministers have come and gone, as is the Methodist tradition, but this building and its congregations have been a stable influence on so many within the village.

At the present time, the building Stewards are applying for permission to make several improvements. On completion, these will allow the preschool, which meets daily, to have their own separate area and other parts of the church premises will be accessible to Hurstpierpoint associations.

Activities on the premises include:

Sundays: Morning Worship 10.30 am

Monday-Friday: Cottis Preschool

Monday evenings: Hurst Singers

Tuesdays: Fitness League (Keep Fit) and Zumba,

Hampton Ballet Academy, Alcoholics Anonymous

Wednesdays: HoBina! (a cappella choir), Girls Brigade age range Year 1 to age 18

Thursdays: Community Responders

Various Dates: Woodland Flora and Fauna Group

**For more information about the church or its activities contact Margaret Taylor on 01273 832286 or email [margaret@taylor24.plus.com](mailto:margaret@taylor24.plus.com)**



## WIN a book that could help you to trace your ancestors

West Sussex author Jonathan Scott is a freelance writer specialising in family history. He is a former deputy editor of Family History Monthly and writes columns for Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine. He has used his knowledge and his passion for family history to write his latest title: Tracing Your British & Irish Ancestors.

Finding a way into the sources for British and Irish family history can be a daunting task. That is why this introductory book will be so valuable for anyone trying to trace their British and Irish ancestors and gain an understanding of their lives and the world they knew. In a clear and accessible fashion Jonathan Scott takes the reader through the key stages of research. He describes the principal sources and gives advice on how best to explore them. His handbook provides the building blocks for anyone who is entering this fascinating and rewarding field.

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# All the Stars in the Heavens by Adriana Trigiani

## BOOK REVIEW

By Clair Stanton

Adriana Trigiani's latest novel is based on true events in the life of Loretta Young, an Oscar winning actress with a complicated private life. One of her best known roles is in *The Bishop's Wife*, a Christmas classic which co-starred her good friend David Niven.

In 1935 Loretta starred in *The Call of the Wild* with Clark Gable (who was married at the time to a much older woman). The time they spent together on location during filming had a profound impact on the course of Loretta's personal and professional prospects.

Trigiani uses known facts and adds her own interpretations as to character and motivation and I would question some of her assumptions: Young was a shrewd business woman who carefully curated her public persona, but there is little sign of 'The Steel Butterfly' in these pages.

This novel successfully blends the factual central story with a sub-plot involving a fictional character – a young Italian girl named Alda who becomes Loretta's personal assistant. It is through her eyes that much of the plot unfolds and this allows the author to use her own Italian background to good advantage and should please her long-time fans.

There is a fantastic sense of time and place throughout the novel and Trigiani does show how the seemingly glamorous lives led by the stars of the Golden Age of Hollywood were actually quite restricted, especially for the women.

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



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## HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

By David Saitch

We have a real treat on 9th December, as we are screening a crystal clear, high definition new print of the terrific Hitchcock thriller **Strangers on a Train** (PG). In one of the best adaptations of a Patricia Highsmith novel, Robert Walker is absolutely brilliant as Bruno Anthony, the sardonic psychopath who meets amateur tennis star Guy Haines on a train. Bruno knows that Guy is in love with a senator's daughter and wants a divorce from his unfaithful wife, who won't give him one. Bruno himself is fed up with his controlling father and would like to get rid of him. So he proposes they each kill the other's impediment, to insulate each other from blame. Guy laughs it off as idle chatter, little realising that Bruno couldn't be more serious. Hitchcock at his sinister best.

Our Saturday Cinema on 17th December is the brilliant new version of **The Jungle Book** (PG). Here is a terrifically enjoyable piece of old-fashioned storytelling and a beautiful-looking film: spectacular, exciting, funny and fun. It handsomely revives the spirit of Disney's original film and adds even more emotional depth. The film also creates witty and ingenious twists on the story we all know so well, as well as including a new plot development. There might seem no point in remaking Walt Disney's great, possibly greatest, masterpiece, but what a surprising and tremendous success this is.

Then, on Sunday 18th December we have **Florence Foster Jenkins** (PG), the true story of a Manhattan socialite who, despite having a terrible voice, bankrolled an opera career that ended with a woeful concert at Carnegie Hall in 1944. Meryl Streep works her magic as the wealthy wannabe diva who won't let a simple lack of talent stop her. Hugh Grant is on top form as her attentive and supportive companion, who will protect her from any upsetting views of her warbling. Brilliantly balancing well-earned pathos with wry humour, the film strikes just the right tone, never hitting a false note in this irresistibly winning heart-warmer.

Our December Live Broadcast of **No Man's Land**, with Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen is sold out, but there are still some tickets for the NT Live broadcast of **Amadeus** on 2nd February, which is receiving rave reviews.

Tickets/information from [www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com)

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## Don't tell Facebook!

Advice by Paul Harper-Smith from Lock Assist

Christmas is the one time of year when there are likely to be more valuables in the house than at any other time and I don't just mean only jewellery. The cost of all the electronic items like games consoles, tablets, mobiles, TVs, toys and clothes can easily run into thousands of pounds and someone out there would love to take yours rather than buy their own, so, to help you hang on to yours, here's some of our top tips to Beat the Burglar over the holidays.

**Festive lighting - be secure.** Many outside light cables are fed through partially open windows - criminals know to look for this vulnerability. Use solar or battery operated lights or use outdoor electrical outlets.

**Away over Christmas? - then plan ahead.** If you're away, cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries and ask a neighbour to park on the driveway to look like someone is home. Don't say you're away on your answerphone and make use of inexpensive seven day timers to give the illusion of occupancy.

**Dispose of gift packaging carefully.** Refuse collections over this period are normally at different times and days. If you can't take packaging to a recycling point, only put your rubbish out just before the collection and break apart boxes so that they don't advertise the new contents of your home to thieves!

**Don't hide keys.** Burglars know to look for hidden door keys so don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges. Give the spare key to family or a trusted neighbour. If you have an alarm, use it.

**Keep garden tools or ladders secure.** Don't leave them lying around or in an unlocked garden shed or garage. A spade can be used to force open doors or windows and ladders can reach that upstairs open bathroom window.

**Do you know your IMEI number?** Most electricals have a unique serial number and for mobile phones, it's an IMEI number. To find yours, press: \* # 0 6 # and write it down.

**Don't tell Facebook!** Don't advertise your home to burglars on social media like our mock up! Social media is a commonly used tool for scouting potential targets and some families have a tendency to publish their whereabouts during the holiday season, including any holiday plans. This lets burglars know when your house is going to be empty.

I hope these tips have given you some ideas of where you could make some simple changes to make you and your family feel more secure, and I wish you a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!



# What's on this month

## AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

## AND ELSEWHERE

### Regular events

- Sun **Sunday Afternoon Cream Tea Dance** – 2-4.30pm, nearly every Sunday
- Mon **The Sanctuary** – 9.30-11.30am, weekly (term time only) – a welcoming place where friendships can form over coffee and cake
- Tues **Afternoon Club** – 2-4pm, 1st Tuesday  
**Wolstonbury WI** – 7.45 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

### December

- 3rd **Pyecombe Church Christmas Fayre**  
1.45-3.45pm. Many stalls, including gifts, toys, bric-a-brac, cakes, a grand raffle with a cash prize, tombola and refreshments. Free entrance. (Contact: karenale1@aol.com 07818 568999)
- 11th **Hurstpierpoint Singers Christmas Extravaganza**  
2.30pm. Tickets £8, including a glass of wine/soft drink and mince pie, are obtainable from Janton News or at the door. Accompanied Under 12s free!
- 13th **Wolstonbury WI** – 7.45 pm  
Monthly meeting - Club Suite  
Flowers for the home by Dorothy Barber  
Visitors welcomed (01273 834421)
- 13th **Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Twinning Association Christmas Party** – 7.30pm  
A convivial Christmas evening for members and guests in the Conference Room.  
Visitors welcome. (Enquiries: shutemike@hotmail.com or 01273 833195)

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

## Washbrooks Christmas fun

Father Christmas will be at Hurstpierpoint's Washbrooks Farm on the following weekends in December: 3rd/4th, 10th/11th and 17th/18th.

- 3rd **Christmas Fair & Nativity Exhibition**  
10.30am to 2pm – Sayers Common Church & Church Hall. Pop Up Café, Cakes, Preserves, Gifts, Bric-a-brac and an exhibition of Christmas Nativity Sets (Ian Simmons 01273 833342)
- 4th **Santa's Fun Sunday** – 1-6.30pm  
High Street, Hurstpierpoint  
Hurstpierpoint Traders are hosting a Family Day for Christmas shopping and festivities. All proceeds on the day will be donated to Hurstpierpoint's very own charity, Cancervive.
- 10th **Coffee Morning** – 10am-12noon  
Holy Trinity Church. Hurstpierpoint Handbell Group will be helping getting into the Christmas spirit, as they play carols old and new on the handbells
- 10th **Bothy Singers Christmas Concert** – 7.30pm  
The Players Theatre  
Special Christmas concert by the small, all female, vocal group based in the village (Heather Hush 01273 831023)
- 15th **Hurst Late Night Shopping Eve** – until 8pm  
Late night shopping in the village to offer customers an opportunity to discover the retail experience and free parking!
- 16th **Albourne Village Christmas Carols** – 7.45pm  
Albourne Village Hall – bring a torch! Mulled wine, mince pies and refreshments for children in the village hall afterwards. Pop up Pub also available.
- 22nd **Hurst Late Night Shopping Eve** – until 8pm  
Late night shopping in the village to offer our customers an opportunity to discover the retail experience and free parking!
- 29th-  
7th Jan **Alice in Wonderland: The Panto**  
The Players Theatre. Matinees at 2.30pm and evening performances at 7.30pm. See p.47 ad for details. (Tickets from Vanilla or 01273 833397)
- 29th **Seasonal Concert** – 7.30pm  
Newtimber Church, BN6 9BT  
Professional musicians including The Midsummer String Ensemble. Playing works by Vivaldi, Haydn and Brahms. Mulled wine and mince pies will be included during the interval. We now have lighting up the church path and parking will be on the south side of Church Lane. (Tickets £12 for adults and £6 for under 18s. Lucy Dalrymple - 01273 831877 email: [lucy.newtimber@icloud.com](mailto:lucy.newtimber@icloud.com))

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**ALICE IN WONDERLAND**  
BY STEVEN GORDON-WILSON  
THE PANTO

**DEC. 29 - JAN. 7**  
MATINÉES: JAN. 1, 2, 7 AT 2.30 PM  
EVENINGS: DEC. 29, 30, JAN. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 AT 7.30 PM

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The poster features a yellow background with a blue gradient at the bottom. It is decorated with various playing cards (hearts, diamonds, clubs) and a red banner that says 'THE PANTO'. At the bottom, there are illustrations of Alice with long blonde hair and a white rabbit holding a pocket watch.

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Saturday 17th December	11.00 – 17.00
Sunday 18th December	11.00 – 17.00
Monday 19th December	15.00 – 19.00
Tuesday 20th December	15.00 – 19.00
Wednesday 21st December	15.00 – 19.00
Thursday 22nd December	11.00 – 19.00
Friday 23rd December	11.00 – 19.00
Saturday 24th December	10.00 – 13.00

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