

# Hurst Life

Including Sayers Common & Albourne

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #29 : August 2017

Free  
Please help  
yourself!

Village People: Robin Driscoll

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St Lawrence Fair photo round-up

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Hurst Football Club

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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

We all love Hurst for lots of reasons, but I'm willing to bet that Wolstonbury Hill is a very popular one! Thanks go to **Jonathan Marshall** for his cover photo – for which he'll receive a £20 voucher to spend in a local shop.

I welcome Hurstpierpoint resident **Robin Driscoll** to our Village People feature on **page 8**. **Michele Copeland** went to meet him and get the lowdown on his career as an actor, script writer and author. It's great to meet new folk and tell their story, so keep your suggestions coming in!

Even though schools have broken up for summer, we do have some news in. Students from **Hurst College** show how they can get involved in the local community on **page 13**, and, on **page 14**, Will **Worthington** scooped a prestigious art award from **Downlands School** at the end of the term.

On **page 20** we have the annual photo round-up of the **St Lawrence Fair**. Local photographer **Claire Brewer** has captured the event brilliantly, so it's a pleasure to share them here, with words by **Rupert Bates** as usual. It was a terrific event this year – I know Michele and I enjoyed manning our stall on the day – and no rain either!

**Mike Thatcher** talks about the benefits of getting involved in the village cinema on **page 22**, **Belle Amatt** serves up a delicious Moroccan carrot dip on **page 24** and this month's **'5 minutes with...'** candidate takes a rather unusual form. Do please email in your own (human) answers to the fun quiz during your summer downtime!

One more fantastic event that took place in the village last month was the commemorative **cricket match** at **Danny House**. **Rob Sawyer** talks us through the day and the game. See **page 32** for photos and the write up.

Finally, I will make a plea for you to take your copy of Hurst Life with you on holiday. And send back your selfies to photos@hurstlife.co.uk. You could be in the 'rogues gallery' next time!

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### Hurst Life

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**Hurst Life** Published by Kipper



 **Jonathan Marshall**  
Looking south from  
Washbrooks Farm

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## If you like to read, join a group!

Have you thought about joining a reading group?

If you enjoy reading, discussing books and meeting new people, come along and join a new group that will be starting at Hurstpierpoint Library on Wednesday 6th September, 11am-12 noon. It will then meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the same time.

At the first meeting we'll be discussing 'In Bitter Chill' by Sarah Ward and copies are available at the library to read before the first meeting. Ask staff for a copy on your next visit.

For more details call in at the library, phone 01273 832609 or email Clair Stanton ([clair.stanton@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:clair.stanton@westsussex.gov.uk)).

## Students Prom Night

By Nikki Burtson

After the weeks of revision and GCSE exam stress, the Year 11 Downlands students were finally able to let their hair down and celebrate their five years at Downlands. In the perfect setting of Plumpton Racecourse there was a stunning display of beautiful dresses and super smart suits. The students had certainly pulled out all the stops and looked fab-u-lous - one and all. They arrived in a variety of different vehicles - from a TVR

sports car to a vintage double decker. After a delicious three course meal, the students danced the night away in the vast Plumpton Racecourse marquee. It was a wonderful night - certainly one to be remembered!



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# Dance showcase was a sell-out

By Zoe Thompson

Last month nearly 100 children, mostly from Hurstpierpoint, took to the stage for the first ever Create Space Studios Dance Showcase. Seven groups (ages 4-14 years old) performed, including the newest formed group for Boys Only. For many it was their debut dance performance and, despite any pre-show nerves, they gave it their all once on the stage in the Bury Theatre at Hurst College. Create Space Studios offer unique classes and workshops providing multimedia opportunities as well as dance. The children performed styles ranging from contemporary to musical theatre, salsa to commercial, dressed in colourful costumes made by me and parent helpers.

The 240 strong audience whooped and cheered, creating a fantastic atmosphere, and earned themselves well deserved refreshments, which included cakes made by some of the older dancers. We raised a whopping £402.50 for Team Daisy, who are locals fundraising for the Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice. So a big thank you to everyone for their generosity.

I am pleased that so many children got to experience this and built up their courage to perform in front of a full house. Well done to all the children who took part, may you continue to develop and keep trying something new.



Photo: Michael Stanton

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# Heber Opera is looking for new voices!

Heber Opera has been bringing opera to local communities since 1989 and is currently looking for new chorus members to join them by going along to the first rehearsal on Sunday 10th September at 7.30pm in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre.

These rehearsals are for three concerts to be performed in November and early December, two of which are local and the third in The Music Room at Brighton Pavilion. "For anyone unsure about doing a full opera performance," Michael Withers (Musical Director) explained, "joining us for the concerts is a good way to meet us without committing to a production."

Our next fully staged opera will be Verdi's Rigoletto and goes into rehearsal in January 2018 for performances in May 2018.

Heber is a friendly group, who sing in English, and the reading of music is not essential. Michael goes on: "Our supportive rehearsals offer the opportunity to develop choral singing and stagecraft."

Jenny Letton, who lives in Hurst, says: "I have been a member of Heber Opera since their second production over 25 years ago and love it – Sunday evenings always seem dull when there isn't a rehearsal to go to!"



If you would like to know more about joining Heber Opera, please contact Michael Withers (Musical Director). Email [heber@michaelwithers.co.uk](mailto:heber@michaelwithers.co.uk) or call 07802 735109.

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# Robin Driscoll

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

"I'm a regular dog walker and like to stop off at The Poacher for a drink on the way back!"



### By Michèle Copeland

I was looking forward to meeting Robin Driscoll, one dull Wednesday in mid-July, in the heart of the village. He lives in what was probably an old yeoman's cottage, which was added on to in the 1800s and again in the 1970s.

In his own words: "It was better built then, than in the 1970s, where there are still problems with the drains!"

He lives with his wife Deborah, whom he met in 1982. They have a son Sam and a five year old grandson called Dominic. They moved to Hurstpierpoint from Brighton in 1993 when they were looking into secondary schools for Sam.

Robin was schooled at Boundstone School, Sompting, between Lancing and Worthing. At 17 he decided to study Creative Arts in Worthing, which is now Northbrook College, finding the more academic path more challenging. He then took a year's break from the course to work with the Community Arts Workshop in Shoreham. "This setup was specifically geared to help special needs kids, as well as local children of all backgrounds to express themselves via performance arts," Robin continues, in the comfortable, bright conservatory where we are now sitting over cups of tea.

Hoping to return to college for his second year, he was surprised to find that the Vice Principal was not so keen to allow him to do that, as it was no longer an art college as such. It was now West Sussex College of Design and no longer taught fine arts. So Robin decided to go back to The Barn to work with special needs groups for four years before starting The Cliffhanger Theatre Company in 1978. This company he started with co-workers

and friends and ran for some 15 years. Notable names included Peter McCarthy, who became a successful author, Becky Stevens, who is now a kids writer for TV and an author, and Tony Hasse, who now writes for TV and performs, whom he had met at the workshop in the early 1970s.

"We toured the country doing serials, a two hour show, in successive weeks, first based in Brighton and finishing at the Edinburgh Fringe," he explains.

They were so successful that, after three years, they didn't need the Arts Council grant anymore.

"During that time I was asked to play the Great Raymondo in *Only Fools and Horses*, which was quite stressful as one had to remember one's lines," he remarks!

"What you have to understand is that the Edinburgh Fringe was a kind of showcase for television and the arts at the time. We were consequently invited to perform in Europe and Australia for two years running. Unfortunately, to do this nowadays is too pricey, so most comedians have become stand-ups and the awards tend to go to them.

"We were then approached by Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones to contribute to their TV sketches on *Alas Smith and Jones*, a British comedy series on the BBC in the 80s, and then got the opportunity to write for Rowan Atkinson's *Mr Bean*, when Richard Curtis got more involved with *Comic Relief* and so was less available, right up until the early part of 2000." Asked about how it was to work in the TV world, Robin says: "I always felt that they were generous spirited and helpful."

However, Robin then thought that it was time for



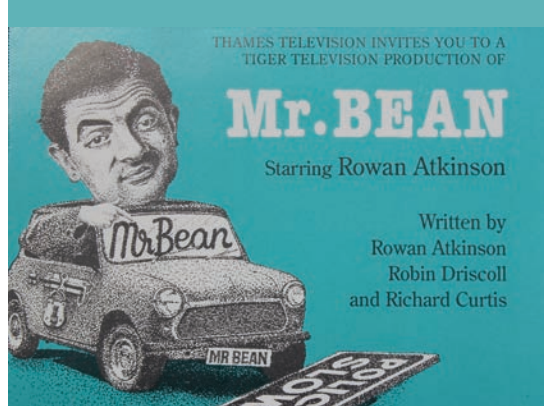
a career move, as scriptwriting had moved on and he wanted to turn to book writing.

"People expected my books to be funny," he adds, "but, at the end of the day, you write about what you like to read, namely for me, mystery thrillers."

With remarkable success his first book, *Rough Music* published by Austin Macauley, is positively gripping. Rab MacBain, the main protagonist, embezzles the Russian Mob while working at a corporate law firm, who track him down to his remote Scottish birthplace, where he rediscovers his roots. A definite summer read.

Not content to have finished his first novel, he has now completed his second, which is a thriller about the Vatican, and is just about to start on his third!

When asked about how he likes to spend his time in Hurstpierpoint, Robin says: "I'm a regular dog walker on The Downs, in any direction, and on the way back like to stop off at The Poacher for a drink." His favourite attraction in the village is the St Lawrence Fair.



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# A summer writing project for old and young

By Belle Amatt

As part of Hurst Festival this year I am running Loud Literature, which is always an inspiring event for families. Local authors this year include Sheila Rance and Chris Bradford who will be coming along to the evening to give their motivating feedback on the 500 words scripts of young budding authors.

This year I am asking these creative kids to tell the story of an elder. The aim is to bring together the young and older members of the village and to highlight the importance of valuing these tales of the past, which we can all learn from, in an evening of good, time-honoured and wonderfully authentic storytelling.

So if you know of a family member or a friend who has an interesting story to tell, please encourage your creative kids to get the details and write it up into story or poem. Submissions can be handed into



the library by 11th September, and then the chosen stories read at the library on Trinity Road on the evening of 21st September at 6.30pm at the Loud Literature event.

# Family fun festival on final summer Friday

Heart FM, part of the Global Media Group, is hosting a fun family day in Albourne next month as part of its charity initiative Make Some Noise.

This, the first ever 'family festival in a day', will take place at Q Leisure's site on London Road in Albourne, where there will be a mini warrior run, axe throwing, archery, bubble football, archery tag and go-karts. There's also a kids' zone with plenty of inflatables, including the Pyramid Challenge.

The big finale of the day will feature Sussex Breakfast Show's presenters Jack the Lad and Tom Evans' band Jukebox Live – who will perform covers from artists such as Maroon5, Daft Punk and Adele to the crowds.

The fun starts at 11am on Friday 1st September and tickets can be booked online via: <http://bit.ly/2gO7Pun>



# Hurst College in community action

Every year Hurstpierpoint College's Senior School sends out three year groups, with staff, to do project work in the local vicinity as part of their Community Action Day initiative at the end of the summer term.

This year the college dispatched 470 pupils and 79 staff to 32 locations, to perform manual chores and maintenance work for charities and other worthy organisations. The community-oriented students, accompanied by dedicated members of staff, took up their mops, rakes, spades and trowels to participate in one of the college's most valued annual traditions.

Projects ranged from tidying public footpaths, clearing back scrub on the South Downs and gardening in organic cooperatives to serving in elderly care centres and washing windows and minibuses. The college also sent a concert party to a care home and a gang show to a school for children with complex needs.

Locations and organisations in the immediate vicinity to benefit included the Millennium Gardens and allotments in the village, Paws and Claws Animal Rescue Service in Sayers Common and Age Concern in Hassocks.

This is one of a number of days in the year when Hurst College and its students gives something back to the local community in a more direct way.



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# Will wins school art award

The 2017 Downlands GCSE Fine Art, Art Textiles and Technology Exhibition showcased the work of the exceptionally talented students at Downlands last month.

With a wide range of techniques and work on display, Matt Freestone, guest of honour, was given the tough task of choosing this year's winner of the De la Vigne Award for Art. Television cameraman and successful photographer, Matt gave an inspiring speech on the value of art in all of our lives and encouraged students to continue their creative activities in the future.

There were eight nominations for the award. The nominations were Megan Baker (planning to study Fine Art/Photography at Vardean), Poppy Haward (planning to study Fine Art at BHASVIC), Jonah Brenner, James Hall (planning to study Fine Art at BAHSVIC), Will Worthington (planning to study Fine Art at BAHSVIC), Jemima Callaghan (planning to study Fine Art at BAHSVIC), Laurence Bates (planning to study Fashion at the Kensington & Chelsea College) and Charlotte Hodge (planning to study Theatrical Hair & Makeup at Northbrook).

The high standard of work made the task of choosing a winner very hard, but for his excellent photography and



painting and for his enthusiasm and passion for art, this year's worthy winner was Will Worthington.

Congratulations to Will and all the students who made the exhibition such an inspiring evening.

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## Sunshine and scones

On 2nd July, to help raise funds for the Players Theatre refurbishment fund, Hurst Players members Michael and Annette Squire opened their garden to the public and provided Cream Teas. There was also a sale of plants donated by members and supporters of the Players. Fortunately the sun shone and everyone had a chance to admire the glorious garden and enjoy their tea and cakes on a perfect summer's day. The event raised over £1,200 towards the fund.

You can give to the fund at anytime via the Players website: [www.hurstplayers.org.uk](http://www.hurstplayers.org.uk)



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# Non-stop Shakespeare

## 12th-15th October

By Bob Sampson

Hurstpierpoint Players are planning a repeat of the successful Non-stop Shakespeare as a fundraiser to refurbish the Players Theatre in Hurstpierpoint.

As happened in 1999, it is our intention to get all 37 plays read in this 70-hour marathon, and we are inviting our members, friends, schools, professional actors, neighbouring amateur dramatic groups, in fact anyone who is interested, to get involved.

There are also great opportunities for companies to sponsor plays or take advertising space in the souvenir programme. Email [shakespeare@hurstplayers.org.uk](mailto:shakespeare@hurstplayers.org.uk) for details of what's on offer.

The readings will go on 24 hours a day from 7.30pm on Thursday 12th October until whatever time we finish on Sunday 15th.

If you don't want to read, please put this in your diary anyway to come along and support those that do!

We contacted the Shakespeare Centre Library looking for advice on how long we might have to allow if we were to read right through. They said: "You deserve a huge amount of money if you're going to read through all of Shakespeare's plays! Going on the productions done here by the RSC, and taking at least half an hour off their running time, it would take anywhere between 60 - 80

hours to go through all the plays, depending on your texts and the speed of your readers."

The Theatre Museum was really helpful too. Word had it that they had done a complete reading of the plays in 1989. However, it turned out they had missed a few! So it was left to the Hurstpierpoint Players to take on the task in 1999. We have done it before, so now the date is set and the mammoth operation is under way once again.

The Players Theatre building was converted to a theatre in 1976 and it has been apparent for a while now that the theatre building is in need of some significant maintenance and refurbishment work. The seats for example were already 30 years old when they were installed and the heating system has become more erratic and noisy as the years have passed. The Theatre is used by Hurstpierpoint Players, Hurst Village Cinema and Centre Stage Children's theatre as well as many other theatre and musical concerts. The intention of this refurbishment is to make the place more comfortable for the audiences and users of the theatre.

If you want to take part in this thrilling experience, or just find out more details, send an email to [shakespeare@hurstplayers.org.uk](mailto:shakespeare@hurstplayers.org.uk)



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# Huge crowds drawn to the Fair

ST LAWRENCE FAIR



Photos: Claire Brewer Photography

## By Rupert Bates

St Lawrence Fair once again drew huge crowds as the village turned out in force to celebrate and support one of the oldest fairs in the country.

Fair co-chair Phil Willoughby said: "There are so many people to thank. It was fantastic to see such support from the village and surrounding areas creating a magnificent, colourful pageant for 7,000 people. At times it seemed a lot more than that! Everybody should be very proud of Hurstpierpoint."

The Friday evening saw the children's disco followed by the family BBQ and bar, with South Avenue Recreation Ground packed.

It seemed the party barely paused – especially if you took in full English breakfasts the following morning at The New Inn and The White Horse to watch the British & Irish Lions rugby win over the All Blacks - before it was time for the Procession and a magnificent flotilla of floats representing Hurstpierpoint in so many different ways with 'Let's Dance' the theme.

"I was introduced to a couple down from London and visiting the village for the first time. They were blown away by the community spirit on display – so much so that they were last seen looking in estate agents' windows!" said co-chair Gary Thomas.

The food and drink outlets and stalls did a roaring trade as the sun shone, with the Harris Fun Fair as popular as ever among the children. But it was a day for all ages, continuing an historic village tradition dating back 704 years.

The St Lawrence Fair Annual General Meeting will be held in September, so watch out for the date announcement. It is a chance for people to share their views and ideas for next year's Fair; an opportunity to join the committee, or simply to volunteer to help in any way.

For further details please email: [stlawrencefair@gmail.com](mailto:stlawrencefair@gmail.com)

[www.stlawrencefair.org.uk](http://www.stlawrencefair.org.uk)







**By Mike Thatcher**

Summer greetings from Hurst Village Cinema.

Currently on our summer break, but news of our Autumn programme will be released during the Festival in September. On Thursday 31st August we are broadcasting the hugely popular *Yerma* from the Young Vic Theatre in London, starring Billie Piper in her Evening Standard Best Actress Award winning role. A young woman is driven to the unthinkable by her desire to have a child in Simon Stone's radical production of Lorca's powerful masterpiece.

This phenomenal theatre production sold out at the Young Vic and critics were unanimous in their praise. 'An extraordinary theatrical triumph' (The Times), 'stunning, searing, unmissable' (Mail on Sunday). Billie Piper's lead performance is described as 'spellbinding' (The Evening Standard) and 'devastatingly powerful' (The Daily Telegraph). Set in contemporary London, Piper's portrayal of a woman in her thirties desperate to conceive builds with elemental force to a staggering, shocking climax.

A phrase I hear a lot since I've been involved with Hurst Village Cinema is: 'I've been meaning to come to a film for ages'. This must be how vicars feel when they meet parishioners socially and constantly get told that they'll get round to coming along sometime soon (this being 2017 best just point out that I'm not comparing the Players Theatre to a church...). I have also several people praising our programme and saying how they use it as a playlist at home for films to watch. This is a huge compliment to us and we are always delighted that as many people as possible get to see the films we put on.

But we are lovers of cinema just as much as films, and seeing a film with others in an intimate setting such as the Players Theatre only adds to the experience, one which you can't get at home, distracted by phones, pets or children. Although we have over 250 members you do not have to be a member to come and see a film with us, so perhaps as the summer comes to a close we might see a few of those who have been meaning to come for years. The Village Cinema is an amazing resource in our village, it would be great if as many people as possible got to use it.


See [www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com) for more information.



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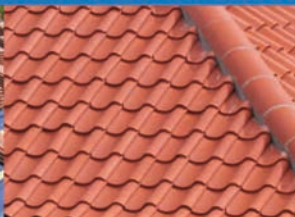


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## Moroccan Carrot Dip

FINE FOOD

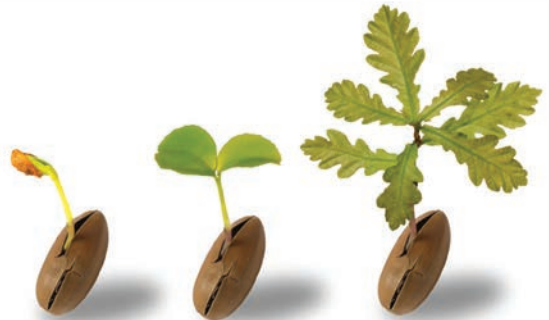
### Ingredients (4-6 Servings)

16 ounces carrots, peeled and chopped into large pieces  
1 clove garlic, peeled and left whole  
½ teaspoon ground cumin  
½ teaspoon paprika  
½ teaspoon ground ginger  
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 pinch cayenne pepper  
Sea salt, to taste  
1 teaspoon honey

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
3 tablespoons virgin olive oil  
2 tablespoons seeded green olives  
(left whole or chopped, your preference)  
2 tablespoons fresh coriander leaves

Serve with flat bread or pitta bread

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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.



Dips are extremely useful in the summer months when it is too hot to cook and we crave cooler, smaller meals. They can be used for a mezze style dinner, for picnics or BBQs or simply for healthy snacking. Hummus can become a little wearisome, so why not try something new. I love this one; great for awakening the taste buds, this dip draws on those wonderful Moroccan flavours of subtle spices and intriguing taste combinations.

#### Method

1. Cook the chopped carrot and garlic in simmering, salted water, for about 20 minutes or until soft.
2. Drain well.
3. Tip the carrots and garlic into the food processor bowl, and process until smooth.
4. Add the cumin, paprika, ginger, cinnamon, cayenne, sea salt, honey and lemon juice and whizz again.
5. With the machine still running, add the olive oil gradually.
6. Allow to cool.
7. Spoon into a serving bowl, drizzle with a little extra olive oil, scatter with olives and coriander leaves, and serve with lightly warmed flat bread for dipping.



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Local Albourne-based brewery, Bedlam, is giving summer a shove with its new seasonal cask ale – SMASH – a Single Malt & Single Hop ale brewed with Golden Promise, arguably the best pale ale malt in the world with the powerful Mosaic hop. Look out for Bedlam Smash from early August and why not book a Brewery Tour on 26th August for the full Bedlam experience and chance to sample all their brews – see [www.bedlambrewery.co.uk](http://www.bedlambrewery.co.uk)

Bedlam has one of its new T Shirts and a case of 12 bottles of Pale Ale to give away to one lucky Hurst Life reader. All you have to do is answer the following question and email your answer, along with your name and address, to [competition@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:competition@hurstlife.co.uk) before 15th August – and one correct answer will be selected at random.

The question is: 'What is the definition of SMASH?'



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# A new season to look forward to

It's been a few months since a football has been kicked at Fairfield Rec, but it's been all go behind the scenes at Hurstpierpoint Football Club this summer. A new Reserve side has been set up, new kits ordered and a charity of the season appointed. It's an exciting time for the club, which has had a difficult few years.

The club has a long history representing the village, having been formed back in 1886, originally playing in the grounds of Danny House. In 1983 they were founder members of the Sussex County League Division 3, where they played for over 30 years. At their peak, the club were runners up in the division and won the Sussex Intermediate Cup, the most coveted trophy at their level. But in chasing success, the club began to struggle.

"We had some fantastic achievements on the pitch, but off the pitch we started to lose our identity," admits Club Captain, Ed Bartram. Things eventually came to a head after a failed merger with local side Burgess Hill Albion in 2014. Things looked bleak, with the club set to



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fold after almost 130 years. "We were within hours of calling it a day," recalls Bartram. "We'd made all the phone calls we could and looked at things from every possible angle. Were it not for the support of some fantastic local businesses, then that would have been it. Fortunately, the community rallied around the club and we were able to battle on."



In 2016 a decision was taken to withdraw from the Sussex County League (now Southern Combination League) and re-enter the Mid Sussex Football League; a step down the football pyramid but a step that they have no regrets taking.

"It was the best decision that we could have made for the club. It's allowed us to rebuild with local players and volunteers and start to once again fulfil our role as the village team. We have a fantastic group of players, and a really strong committee behind the club, who understand what it means to represent Hurstpierpoint."

Conscious of the support that they have received, the club have now appointed a Charity of the Season ahead of the new campaign. A public vote was held via the club Facebook page and at St Lawrence Fair, with village-based charity Cancervive receiving most votes.

"It's important for us to give a little something back as a thank you. We're very proud to be part of this community, and I'm so pleased that the club is once again thriving and doing this great village justice," Ed continued.

Going forward, the club hopes to maintain momentum, and is re-introducing a Reserve side for the coming season. A number of young players, now too old to play for Hurstpierpoint Colts (the village's youth football club) have been training with the adult side since the turn of the year, and Ed hopes that this is something that will continue in subsequent seasons.

"The Colts do a fantastic job of helping children from the village fall in love with football. The number of players that they have playing each Saturday morning is staggering, and it's our job to make sure that players have the same great experience into their adulthood. We have made huge strides toward this and that 'village team' feel is certainly back."

Training for 2017/18 is now underway and, with more opportunity than ever for local players to play for the club, the doors at Fairfield Rec are wide open. Anybody that would like to get involved with the club, as a player, volunteer, sponsor or supporter, should email [hurstpierpointfc@gmail.com](mailto:hurstpierpointfc@gmail.com) or visit their website: [www.hurstpierpointfc.co.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointfc.co.uk)



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# Fairfield Toddler Group: still going strong

By Michèle Copeland

Many years ago, it was decided by the local Authority that the north of the village needed a meeting place for a toddler group - so they sent their 'play bus' to the Fairfield Recreation ground once a week. When this was discontinued, Wendy Peak took it over until 1996. Since then members of the Mothers' Union have continued to run it for the past 21 years.

The Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity, founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife. It now has a membership of over four million worldwide.

The group welcomes newcomers and more established families to join them on Tuesday mornings between 9.30-11.30am during term time, even though space is a bit limited.

"It's especially heart-warming to see the children when they stop for drinks and a biscuit, story time and a sing-song," says Sue Hill.



It's £1.50 at the door per adult and one toddler and an extra 50 pence for any other child.

Now that the Melting Pot Cafe is not currently running at the Willow Way Social Club, this is a welcome alternative for young mothers and childminders alike to meet in a friendly and caring environment.

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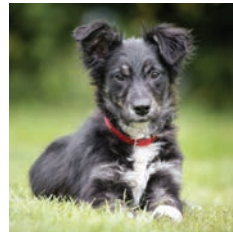
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**Polly**

I'm a Collie cross lurcher, so my two legged owners say. I have newly arrived in the village and share the household with another four legged black and white animal, namely a cat, who pooh-poohs all of my attempts to play ball with her.

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

Two months

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

Re-landscaping the lawn. I never quite understand why the family gets quite so upset about this!

**Favourite ice cream flavour?**

Anything goes, but I have a slight preference for vanilla

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

This is my first proper home

**Favourite holiday destination?**

Fairfield Crescent, village green

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

Definitely the St Lawrence Fair – so many other creatures to interact with

**Do you share your home with anyone? (If so, who?)**

Three humans, a cat and 45 goldfish – though I never seem to see any of them

**Song you play the most?**

Not so keen – too much noise, over the neighborhood barking

**Mac or PC?**

Whichever is the most chewable!

**Your most frequented village shop?**

It has to be our local Pet Shop

**What's your proudest moment?**

When I managed to carry a box full of balls, all on my own

**Coke, juice or water?**

It has to be water and ice

**Your advice for life?**

Live a dog's life

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!

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Photos: David Broadhead & Damon Hart

# 300 years not out

## HURSTPIERPOINT CRICKET CLUB

### By Rob Sawyer

What a weekend! Sunday 9th July will go down as one of the best days in the long and proud history of Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club. But before we could make our way to Danny House there were some important games to be played on Saturday. Both the 1st and 2nd XIs enjoyed victories with the 2s moving into the promotion places. Even on the Sunday morning, Hurst Women were playing a thrilling, closely fought match.

And so to Danny. The weather could not have been kinder and the scenery more perfect. Earlier in the week Hurst players had been to the site and fashioned something that looked kind of like a cricket pitch. To start proceedings a series of games took place featuring Hurst juniors and parents, with the kids charging around loving using the period bats and the games becoming ever more competitive.

As the junior games ended, we noticed streams of people arriving from the direction of Hurstpierpoint. It seemed our event was going to attract a crowd. It was almost time for the main event. Lunch! With a fire pit set up and a lamb on the spit, both teams and some Danny House residents sat down to a delicious meal of roast lamb and salad, all the while being royally entertained by the South Downs Singers and the Chanctonbury Morris Men.

At 2pm the sides took to the field; 14 a side, men and women in full 18th century costume. Danny batted first getting off to a good start losing one early wicket, and with the next two batsmen hitting sixes and fours all over the place, they looked to make a good score. Richard Burrows of Danny House had introduced a rule that when a six was hit a slug of home-made wine was

to be taken. The two Danny batsmen retired, possibly to give the rest of the team a chance to bat, or possibly to avoid falling over, and the wickets started to tumble. It was then that a new rule was introduced, Hurst's Andy Smith dropped a simple catch and the cry went up: 'Stocks, Stocks, Stocks!!!!'. It soon became clear what the wooden contraption on the side of the field was for, as Andy's wife Nicky sprinted the length of the field to be the first to give her husband a soaking. Danny posted a score of around 150 which Hurst set about reeling in. With the sixes flying, the wine flowing and wickets tumbling, your correspondent joined John Wareham in the middle. A spell of sixes, mostly from John, brought victory close and so again, to save our livers and to give everyone a chance, we retired. It was at this point Danny introduced a 15th player, a sheep dog who proved to be an excellent fielder. This prompted yet another mini collapse, but Captain Kenton Green came in and had the honour of hitting the winning runs.

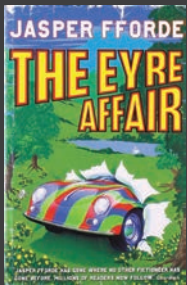
Of course the fun wasn't quite over. The coconut shy was doing a great trade, the raffle went so well we ran out of tickets and, with the temperature climbing, the players and spectators set about drinking the Bedlam bar dry. Mission accomplished.

Highlights? Well, too many to mention but the sight of Julie Rand discovering that a gust of wind just as you bowl underarm takes ball, arm and skirt over your head will live long in the memory.

The day was a great success and worthy of our clubs long history. Special thanks to all at Danny House and Hurst Cricket involved in organising the event and everyone who came along to watch of course.







## The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde

### BOOK REVIEW

By Clair Stanton

The Eyre Affair is not your average detective novel and Thursday Next is unlike any fictional detective you will have encountered. Thursday is a Literary Detective with a pet dodo named Pickwick and her life is always eventful – there are seven books in the series and they are all funny, clever and more than a little bizarre.

Imagine you're in Swindon in 1985: the Crimean War is still not over, George Formby is Prime Minister, 'Richard III' has been playing at the Ritz theatre for 15 years (and it's as popular as ever) and Jane Eyre has been kidnapped.

In this world literary characters are free to have a life outside of their novel, but they must turn up for duty when someone is reading the book. Charlotte Brontë's novel is extremely popular (although no-one likes the ending where Jane goes to India with St. John Rivers), so it's a race against time to return Jane to her book before people discover she's missing.

I thought I would hate this (it has a villain called Jack Schitt and there are more puns where that came from) but it won me over completely, and I wish Fforde would write more in the series: underneath the silliness is a fantastic plot filled with literary gags. A bit of a 'marmite' book, but give it a try and see if you love it or hate it!

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

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# Take Hurst Life on holiday with you

By David Tingley

We did it last year and I'd like to do it again this summer – if you go on holiday, could you take a copy of this magazine with you and grab a quick selfie from a tea shop, roof top or bag drop? I'd love to create a 'rogues gallery' of residents on their travels and see just how many places Hurst Life can get to!

Email your images to [photos@hurstlife.co.uk](mailto:photos@hurstlife.co.uk) please. Thank you, and happy travelling!



## Sussex flower spotted on Wolstonbury

By Peter Lovett

The county flower of Sussex, 'The Pride of Sussex', is blooming lovely now on the South Downs, here on Wolstonbury Hill with a Six-spot Burnet moth.

It was perfect weather for a gentle stroll across the whole area of Wolstonbury Hill, and I had the pleasure with François Piolino (who had a day off from singing in his fourth year at Glyndebourne Opera House). François commented: "It is always a great pleasure to sing at Glydebourne, and my joy is enhanced on days off by walking the Sussex Downs and photographing the many rare orchids, flowers and butterflies. Today was very special with so many lovely things to see topped by 'The Pride of Sussex'."

Fifteen species of butterflies were photographed that day and can be seen at my website: [www.sussexrambler.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.sussexrambler.blogspot.co.uk)



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## Hurstpierpoint singers wanted

By David Redd

The Hurst Singers will be starting off their new term on Monday 4th September, and we'd love to see you at the practice at Cuckfield Road Methodist Church at 7.30pm. We've got an exciting and enjoyable programme to prepare for the Christmas Concert on Sunday 10th December at the Village Centre, with our usual blend of old and new music as well as some traditional carols.

We're a friendly group and if you can hold a tune, then we'd love to have you with us for the new season – doesn't matter if you sing high or low! If you want to see what we do before giving us a try, then come along to the Open Practice at the Methodist Church on Monday 18th September, part of the Hurst Festival.

If you've got any questions, contact me as Secretary, David Redd, on 01273 831801.



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# Sudoku #13

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

Find the solution to #13 in next month's magazine

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

#12 Solution

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

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# What's on this month

## AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

### Regular events

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

Please be aware many of the regular events (above) only take place during school term time.

### August

- 1st **Hurst Afternoon Club** – 2.15pm  
Ian Gledhill: 'The amazing Mr Sousa: John Phillip Sousa, The March King'
- 12th **Councillor Surgeries** – 10am-12noon  
Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to come to speak to two Parish Councillors about any issues or questions.
- 22nd **Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group** – 7pm  
An Illustrated talk and yew harp musical interlude by the renowned tree researcher and international author Fred Hageneder (free entry)

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

## AND ELSEWHERE

### August

- 2nd **Hurst WI** – 2.15pm  
The Guide Headquarters: Garden Party with cream tea and silent auction
- 2nd - 5th  
**Bridge to Farce Production** – 7.30pm  
The Players Theatre, 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint  
A touring production by Cuckfield Dramatic Society of a play by Richard Willis & Paul Ruse. (Tickets £10, from [www.cdsweb.co.uk/tickets](http://www.cdsweb.co.uk/tickets) or email: [boxoffice@cdsweb.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@cdsweb.co.uk))
- 6th **God and Tea** – 3pm  
Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church, Cuckfield Road
- 18th **U3A Meeting** – 2pm  
Adastra Hall, Hassocks. Heir Hunters: Lady Mary Teviot

### September

- 1st **Heart's Festival In A Day**  
Q Leisure, London Road, Albourne BN6 9BQ  
A family day of fun – see <http://bit.ly/2uFXyWz>

## All you need to know about 'yew'

The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group, a volunteer group dedicated to protecting local countryside and wildlife, invite you to an illustrated talk and yew harp musical interlude by the renowned tree researcher and international author Fred Hageneder.

The talk entitled 'The Wonders of Yew' will be held on 22nd August in the Village Centre and will provide a fascinating insight into the rich cultural and spiritual history of the species and will immediately follow a brief introduction by The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group. Fred has written various ethnobotanical books about the meaning of trees and their cultural and spiritual history,

which have been translated into ten languages, and has given lectures around the world. He is a co-founder of the Ancient Yew Group, working to enhance scientific and historical information about yew trees and their mythology. Come and hear his knowledge and expertise relating to this extraordinary species.

He spends a large amount of time working abroad and has to restrict the number of lectures he gives. This, therefore, is a very rare opportunity to learn about our heritage from such a distinguished and internationally acclaimed expert and should not be missed.

Entry is free, and the evening starts at 7pm.

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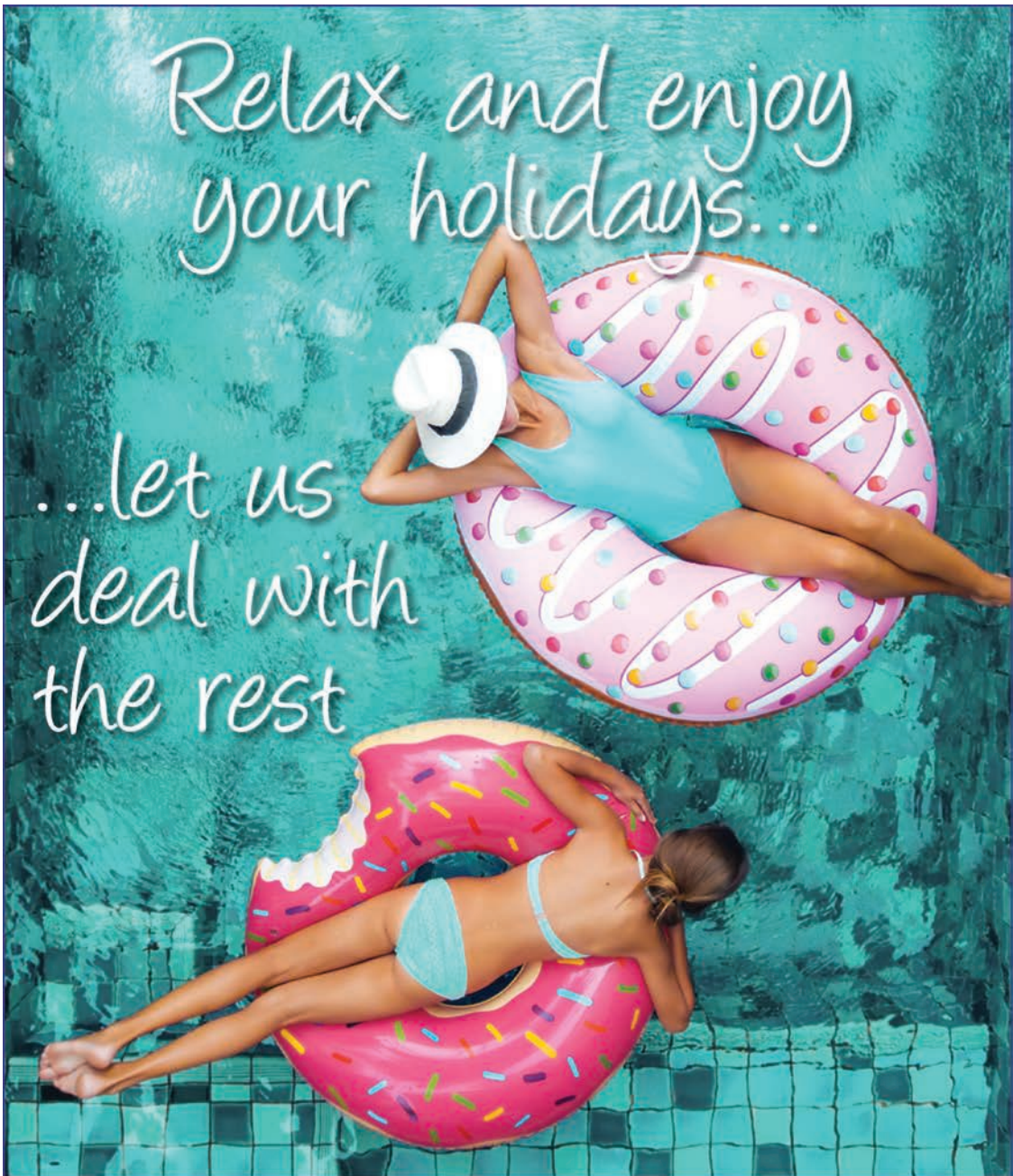
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