

Hurst Life

Including Sayers Common & Albourne

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #37 : April 2018

Free
Please help
yourself!

James Taylor - marathon man!

p.5

Current trends on your High Street

p.42

Hurst's Spring Show

p.12



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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

I often think our covers set the tone for what you can expect inside our monthly magazine. This month we have an absolute treat in the form of



Jonathan Johnson's super spring view at Danny House. Thanks Jonathan. There's a £20 shopping voucher on it's way to him to spend on the High Street. If you have a **great photo** of the village, do please email it in to us: photos@hurstlife.co.uk.

Now, getting into the magazine itself, there's **lots of news** and that starts with the brilliant revelation that **Bridget** and the **Cycling Without Age** team have now been able to order a brand new trishaw – see **page 4** overleaf.

It's always great to have news from the schools. On **page 8 & 9 St Lawrence School** mention a couple of items. **Page 16** we find **Hurst College** in full sporting celebration mode – well done all concerned! And **Downlands**, our nearest secondary school, celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight in style – see **page 17!**

I am delighted to have some coverage from the recent **Spring Show**, which almost didn't happen due to the recent inclement weather in the area. Thanks to **Kathy Green** for sharing. On that subject – we share some village snow pictures on **page 52**. And, what is very nearly my favourite feature in these pages, **Amy, Grace** and **Elsie** all take part this month having sent us their **Holiday Snaps** with a copy of Hurst Life (**page 51**) – thanks girls!

As I'm sure you know, we are all about people, and so, it's a delight to share the story of the late **Mary Barber** on **page 47**, thanks to her daughters **Carol** and **Linda**. Plus **Mike Thatcher** makes us all think about what community spirit means on **page 26**.

If **village history** is your thing, head to **page 38**. The **cinema**, **page 40**. Or see the latest **High Street** retail trends on **page 42**.

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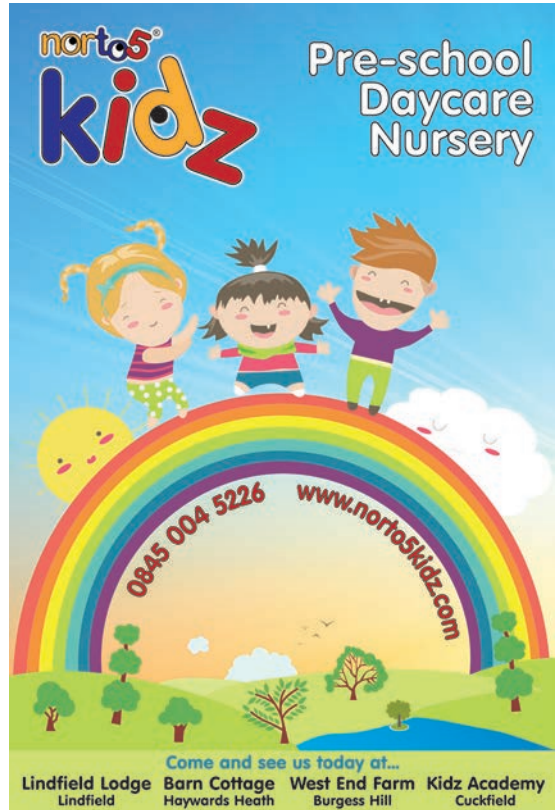
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 Jonathan Johnson
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NEWS

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

Trishaw now ordered

By Bridget Hamilton

Thanks to amazing local support Cycling Without Age Hurst and Hassocks successfully raised £7,000 so has ordered its first Trishaw. This special bike is being manufactured in Copenhagen and should be with us by the end of the month.

We will be teaming up with local charities and organisations working with the elderly, nursing homes and sheltered housing to take their members and residents out for rides on this electric bike. If anyone aged 18 or over would like to become a pilot (the volunteer who does the cycling) please get in touch so we can sort out DBS checks and then get you trained up on the Trishaw. We'd love to have pilots of all ages and for younger people to get involved too as Cycling Without Age is all about inter-generational relationships and having fun on a bike. Remember it is power assisted so you don't need to be super fit. Please email: cwahurstandhassocks@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.



Pictured: Chris Heywood (pilot) with Fran Dowsett & Tony Nunn



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James takes on London Marathon

Hurst resident James Taylor has found himself training for his second marathon, having never imagined he would take it on again after completing the Brighton Marathon back in 2014.

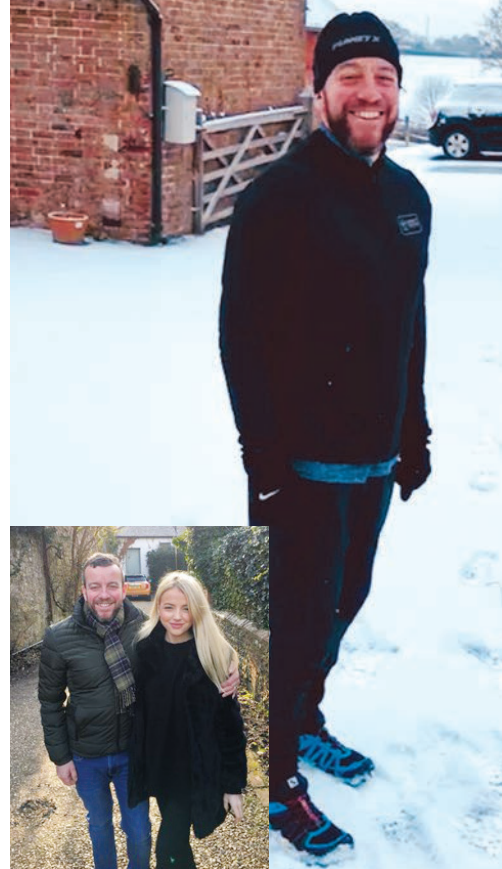
However, he made the decision to challenge himself after his daughter was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer last year. Amelia Taylor was about to start the final year at university in Bournemouth when she was told she had Synovial Sarcoma – which is often associated with young adults. Fortunately her cancer was low-grade and she's now coming through all the treatment – which meant going up to London's Royal Marsden hospital every day for five weeks.

"It is 'off the scale' scary to hear news that your child has cancer," James commented, "but she's received the best support and we're obviously thrilled she's now coming out the other side."

James is running the London Marathon later this month for Sarcoma UK and has already raised more than £2,000. James has also received a generous donation from Paul Wilkinson's Christmas Tree collection in the village.

His training regime started back in November and he's making good progress. "Having done one before," he said, "I do feel better prepared as I know what's coming."

If you wish to support James and Sarcoma UK you can do so online at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/James-Taylor165



Author to visit Newtimber church

Regular BBC Radio contributor Alison Murdoch's husband was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness - viral encephalitis - and her whole life then narrowed to one bed when she visited him every day in a London hospital.



She published her book – Bed 12 – last year, as she reflects on the many past happy and adventurous moments they shared together as a couple, alongside a very busy professional life as director of several charities and NGOs.

Helped by her Buddhist faith, which gives her life an even greater relevance and insight than she'd ever had before and supported by a caring and compassionate NHS team, in the book Alison gives a touching account of the challenges carers face, on a daily basis around the Intensive Care Unit - as pacy as a real life thriller.

Alison Murdoch will be sharing her experiences when she returns to Hurstpierpoint to give a talk at Newtimber Church on 22nd April at 7pm.

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Kids enjoy half-term Skatefest

Over 80 local children attended an afternoon of sport and recreational activities at Court Bushes Recreation Ground, off Willow Way in February.

The Skatefest event brought the local skater community together to show off their freestyle tricks. A live DJ kept the tunes flowing throughout the afternoon and offered DJ workshops so young people could have a go for themselves.

There was a range of other activities for younger children to enjoy, with a Fire Engine, bouncy castle, basketball coaching and the chance to learn some circus skills with the help of trained circus performers.

The Skatefest event was organised to provide positive activities for young people to take part in during the half-term holidays. The activities were arranged by Mid Sussex District Council with support from Clarion, West Sussex County Council, Places for People Leisure, West Sussex Fire & Rescue and the local Co-op in Hurstpierpoint, which donated fresh fruit for the children to enjoy.

For more information about community events in Mid Sussex contact Regina Choudhury, MSDC Community Development Officer on 01444 477495 or email: regina.choudhury@midsussex.gov.uk





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School pool all set to reopen

By Tim Moulds, Co-Chair of Governors

Our village school has had a swimming pool for over twenty years. The pool was heated but open to the weather, so the children could only swim for about six months of the year. The school is growing. In September, there will be 630 children and that will be the full capacity of the school within its new buildings. With the increase in numbers of children, we needed a swimming pool that could be used all the year round. We want to ensure that every child swims every week, and that every child who leaves the school is confident and enjoys swimming.

The new development of the swimming pool provides a cover, a new lining, new heating and water pumps, and automatic chemical dosing. De-humidifiers have had to be installed as well, to cope with moisture in the now covered pool area.

Building work has not been without its problems (often the case!) and we are still dealing with some final snags with the new plumbing. However, we hope the children will be swimming in the pool after Easter. As soon as we are confident that everything is working well, we will offer the pool to local swimming teachers and clubs, so that the community can benefit from this excellent new facility.



All the fundraising for the development has been done locally with grants from local charities and individuals which made a huge contribution. Next term the children will take part in a sponsored triathlon, using the new pool, so that parents and children will know that they too have contributed to this brilliant new community and school facility. We wish to thank Hurstpierpoint Society for its generous support.

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'Can you help us cross the road safely?'

St Lawrence School sits on the corner of two very busy roads in Hurstpierpoint - Cuckfield Road and Trinity Road. We are lucky to have a fantastic lollipop lady in Helen, who guides the children across Cuckfield Road at the start and end of every day but there is a desperate need for an equally committed lollipop 'person' or 'people' for Trinity Road. As the school grows, more children will enter and exit via the gate on Trinity Road, so there is a greater need to help the pupils and parents cross this increasingly busy road. This is a paid position and training is given by West Sussex County Council. The role could be a job-share if this is helpful and free access to the Treehouse Club can be offered to parents.

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Hurstpierpoint businesswomen join forces for photo shoot

Village residents Alicia Barker and Gill East are friends and local entrepreneurs who have combined their talents to collaborate on a photo shoot showcasing their work and that of fellow Sussex businesswomen.

Alicia is a floral designer and Gill a freelance hair and make-up artist. "Across Sussex, there is a huge untapped resource of women who have had successful careers and taken time out to have children," Alicia commented. "The photo shoot was an amazing opportunity for Gill and myself to work with some incredibly talented local women. We feel really passionately about our trades but also about supporting other women in their fields of work. The shoot has been a real collaborative effort."

The shoot was a fusion of wedding, fashion and florals, and also involved other Hurst residents Lucy Webb who is a costume designer, Emily Webster who worked on the styling, and model Bryony Creed. Plus Gill's partner Pete Webb, who captured the end result on camera. Gill and Alicia would also like to thank Edit Boutique in Cuckfield for the loan of some designer second-hand fashion pieces.



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Spring Show 2018

HURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Kathy Green

Early March brought the 'Beast from the East' blasting the spring flowers into abject submission and turning the garden to stone. With the Horticultural Spring Show less than a fortnight away all looked very bleak indeed. But, as the thaw began, the Committee sent out a plea to all members of the Society to do their very, very best to enter something into the Show. And we hoped for the best.

Show day arrived and, would you believe it?! The Beast was back. Snow swirled around the village and a bitter east wind cut across the car park. But gardening types are a hardy lot. They arrived at the Village Hall muffled in big coats, scarves and gloves carefully protecting their precious daffodils, camellias, hellebores, orchids and, yes, even a few pulmonarias and primroses. And then there were cakes, sausage rolls, pots of marmalade and chutney, floral art and photographs and the Hurstpierpoint Preschool artwork. Yes, we had a Show!

It may have been winter outside but those who braved the cold in the afternoon to support the Show definitely had a taste of spring in the Village Hall. To quote the last lines of Wordsworth's famous poem: 'And then my heart with pleasure fills and dances with the daffodils'. There may not have been a huge 'host of golden daffodils' in the Hall but there were certainly enough to lift the spirit on such a bitterly cold day. Visitors also enjoyed the challenge of judging the photography section. With three different categories and a wide selection of really good photographs in each, it proved a very pleasant task. The most popular photograph was a little mouse in a flowerpot which won the Garden Wildlife category. The Hurst Preschool children this year painted pictures

of either their own garden or one they would like to visit and made comments on what they were painting. All the comments made for wonderful reading but three of my favourites were 'My garden is full of sunshine and blue sky', 'Mummy and Daddy sit in the garden' and then 'there is a poo poo in my garden'. They also made a large and colourful montage of a garden which was much admired by all.

There was close competition in all sections of the Show. Stan Cartwright beat Pat Kean by just one point to win the Stapleton Cup for Daffodils/Narcissi. The Spring Cup for the best camellia was won by Alison Chivers and the Junior Spring Cup was won by Aimee Murtagh who made a beautiful vase of paper flowers. The other Section winners were June Kentsley for Floral Art, Pat Kean for Cookery, Kathy Green for Photography, Denis Hills for the novice daffodil section and a tie for Other Flowers between Jill Mance and Denis Hills.

Many congratulations to all the prize winners. But, on the day, everybody who contributed to the success of the Show was a winner. We collectively confronted the 'Beast from the East' and we won.





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Netball success for College



Three netball teams from Hurst College won the Sussex Independent Schools Netball Association Tournament and a further three took the runners-up spots.

The U18 and U16 teams retained their titles on home ground and the U12 team were also crowned champions, whilst the U15s, U14s and U13s finished in second place.

Playing in a round robin format, the U18s dominated their games with convincing wins but felt the pressure in a tight draw against Brighton College. Hurst's shooters made it look easy, their mid-court ran the opposition ragged and the defensive trio turned the ball over at every opportunity.

After a week of mock exams, the U16 team were

looking forward to releasing all the tension by playing good netball. Also playing on home ground in a round robin format, they started strongly with impressive wins against schools including Ardingly College, Lancing College and Christ's Hospital. The final game against Burgess Hill Girls was also a tough one, however, the Hurst girls retained their composure and with some slick moves secured a five goal win to retain their title.

"The Sussex netball family continues to deliver games of a very high standard. Thank you and well done to all the teams, players and coaches who demonstrated their talents by competing well," said Rebecca Jutson, Head of Netball.



Hockey boys win Sussex Cup

Hurst's U15 boys' hockey squad rose to the occasion in the games that mattered, as they came through their group matches and semi-final to become Sussex Cup champions.

Having been drawn in a group with Sackville School, Blatchington Mill and hosts Eastbourne College, it was, as expected, a battle between Hurst and Eastbourne to finish top.

Hurst started the final with some very solid play and went 1-0 up through a converted rebound off a penalty corner. The second half continued in much the same vein, with Hurst's defence holding strong. After a scramble in the goalmouth, Hurst scored again for an unassailable 2-0 lead, which they held onto until the final whistle.

"This is a fantastic achievement for the boys. I'm really proud of the effort the entire team gave to the cause, and I look forward to seeing their performances continue on this trend over the next few weeks," said Dafydd Charles, Head of Hockey.

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Fairtrade breakfast at Downlands

By Nicki Burston

All through the year, our Global Ambassadors work hard to raise awareness of issues that impact on all our lives - from child labour to poverty. In December they were in action, coordinating a huge school-wide initiative that resulted in Downlands making the biggest donation to the Burgess Hill Food Bank yet.

Then, last month, the Global Ambassadors have been raising awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight. It's a shocking fact that millions of farmers and workers who produce the food we love still don't earn enough to feed their own families. Our Global Ambassadors decided it is time for this injustice to end and decided to host a Fairtrade Breakfast in the canteen on Friday.

With a range of delicious muffins and milkshakes - all made with Fairtrade ingredients - the students raised over £100 for the

Fairtrade Foundation. A fantastic team effort - well done everyone.

So, if you are planning to have a piece of fruit or square of chocolate as a snack, please make sure it is Fairtrade.



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Vicki sees latest trends clearly

Hurst resident and Hassocks Eyecare Centre owner Vicki Macken has just returned from a trade fair in Milan.

"MIDO is an enormous show with 1,305 different exhibitors and over 58,000 visitors like us," Vicki said, who went to the event with colleague Chris Mallinson last month.

The practice took over Hurstpierpoint Opticians in 2016 but unfortunately had to give up the premises, after disabled access issues made it impossible to run from that building.

So what's new in glasses? "So far," Vicki said, "we have some new Charles Stone New York glasses in, together with L K Bennett designer glasses for ladies.

"Fashion trends are back towards more metal frames as opposed to heavy plastic. The hand made ranges are really well made and we particularly liked Danish brand Orgreen, which are hand crafted in Japan and the Masunaga frames from Japan."

Vicki also used fellow Hurst business owner Tracey Boverhoff (Travel Counsellors) to arrange the business trip.

"We did have some time off to see the sights and we had great coffee everywhere we went, but it's always nice to come home to Hurstpierpoint," Vicki commented.



New gallery hosts 13 artists

There's another new shop on the High Street. Gallery 92 opened last month when Hurst residents Clare and Joff Harms 'took the plunge' to start their own High Street business.

The pair only got the keys to the property ten days before they opened. "It's been a bit of a whirlwind," Clare explained, "but we are really excited to have done it!"

The gallery stocks art, photography, prints and giftwares.



Dead Guilty play opens this month

Coming soon from Hurstpierpoint Players is a tense psychological study of guilt and obsession by the author of *The Business of Murder*.

Dead Guilty concerns an attractive young graphic artist whose leg is badly injured in a car crash that occurred when a business associate suffered a fatal heart attack at the wheel. Housebound and depressed, Julia is tormented when things disappear, a Mexican orange blossom materialises on her shambling Victorian terrace and someone prowls around upstairs at night.

While a kindly counsellor contends with Julia's suicidal tendencies and a besotted handyman helps around the house and garden, the excessively solicitous widow of the dead man comes into Julia's life.

Suspense builds throughout the play and one is constantly on the edge of one's seat wondering how it will all end.

The play runs from 10th April until the 14th April at The Players Theatre. Curtain up at 8pm with doors opening at 7.30pm.

Tickets are on sale now and are available online from www.hurstplayers.org.uk at £10 on Tuesday and Wednesday and £11 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Picture shows (from left to right) : Sue Blair-Fish, Jan Bell, Sam Hile and, lying on sofa, Karinn Grierson.



Marathon Weekend in May

Runners of all ages and abilities are invited to limber up for a weekend of Marathon running next month.

The Mid Sussex Marathon Weekend will be returning for its seventh successive year over the May Bank Holiday weekend, with some exciting new features for 2018.

The three day event is expected to attract more than 1,500 runners who will tackle the challenges of the beautiful Mid Sussex countryside.

The popular Haywards Heath 10 Mile will follow a new route this year. The two lap format will continue to start on South Road but a new section will take runners through Beech Hurst Gardens and Bolnore Village, providing a safer route for participants and volunteer marshals.

The East Grinstead 10 Mile and Burgess Hill 10K routes will remain the same.

Following many requests, chip timing is being introduced to the Mid Sussex Mile event this year. In line with the weekend's long-distance events, all Mile entrants will wear a timing chip to get an accurate finishing time.

Also new this year is a Fun Run on each race day. This event will not be timed, so there is no pressure and participants can just run for fun! Ideal for all ages and abilities, this provides a great way to join together with family, friends and colleagues to get active, raise money

for charity or just simply enjoy being part of an inspiring, motivating and rewarding event.

Everyone who completes any of the nine events over the weekend will receive medals, with a special commemorative medal for all those completing the three day marathon distance.

The Mid Sussex Marathon Weekend is a community-focused event with opportunities for everyone to get involved through running, volunteering and supporting.

Local organisations and businesses are encouraged to get involved in supplying services, from food, drink, music and PA, to the vital portable toilets!

With attendances increasing year-on-year, the Marathon Weekend also provides a great opportunity for fundraising groups and charitable causes to have a presence and raise their profile.

Events take place as follows:

- Saturday 5th May 2018: East Grinstead
- Sunday 6th May 2018: Haywards Heath
- Monday 7th May 2018: Burgess Hill

Each day features a leg of the Mid Sussex Marathon, the Mid Sussex Mile and Mid Sussex Fun Run, not forgetting Miles the dog!

www.midsussexmarathonweekend.co.uk





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New manager Katherine talks Festival fun

HURST FESTIVAL

By Michèle Copeland

I was intrigued to meet Katherine Jackman, the new manager of Hurst Festival, as I walked towards Morleys for a cup of coffee and to interview her.

She only moved to the village in November last year. Previously, when meeting friends who lived in Hurst, Katherine tells me with a bright smile: "I used to say this is one of the few places that I would like to move to. And now I have! It's a wonderful mix of professionals, rural, successful, local and liberal!"

So when the Hurst Festival Manager's position came up, having moved here she decided to apply.

Katherine, or Kate, as she is more often called, has a wealth of experience running festivals and charity events and is well suited to be an events manager.

Following Arts Educational School vocational training, she spent a number of years involved in production management, tour managing and creation of live events at all levels and is one of the original team behind Camp Bestival. Her diverse experience includes running the Greenpeace Field at Glastonbury and running a bespoke event Cocktail Bar!

She stresses that there will still be a consistency between herself and founding members of the Hurst Festival, and Kate Hecht, who now deals with administration alongside her and Kate Cowan, who will be helping out as Press Manager.

"The Festival has grown so much since it started," she says, "that the voluntary trustees thought it was time to promote a professional to help manage the event, alongside the voluntary directors and committee."

There will be over 80 events of various kinds, including art, theatre, music, talks, walks, outdoor activities and children's activities. Some will be around the theme of 'Peace' in honour of 100 years since the Armistice, the terms of which were discussed at Hurstpierpoint's own Danny House.

It will kick off on Saturday 15th September, followed by the usual 'Super Sunday' street party events on 16th, and will carry on until Sunday 30th September with an exciting last night finale disco on the 29th with The Return of the Dance Floor.

The Hurst Festival is still interested in hearing from anyone, or groups which are local, national or international in performance, events, or arts, of all age groups, and you can reach Kate at manager@hurstfestival.org

Obviously, the Festival couldn't run without the help of its dedicated volunteers. The Hurst Festival Committee are delighted to invite those from the village who would be interested, to their first Volunteers Evening of 2018 at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25th April



at Holy Trinity Church, for a social evening to discuss the upcoming season and how you could get involved. Please get in touch with info@hurstfestival.org to complete a volunteer form.

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Olive opens on High Street

Chris Norgan, having only returned from Canada last year, was searching for the perfect place to open his lifestyle shop. He found it when he visited Hurstpierpoint!

"I was looking for a small community to set up in (not a town) and a building with character that I could put my own mark on it," Chris explained.

Number 40 High Street (formerly Vanilla) became available and he moved in last month. "This shop looks bigger, as we've knocked a wall down and opened the space up," he said. Chris is hoping to do something with the front forecourt soon too, in time for the summer.

Chris, who has run shops of various types since her was 20, describes Olive as a home and lifestyle store.

"I'm looking forward to being part of this fabulous community," he said.



New lease of life for disgarded bras

Did you know that Hurstpierpoint Community Charity Shop has a designated Bra Recycling Point?

Shop manager Wendy Box has been pleased with the response from residents since it reopened in January: "We are really grateful to the good people of Hurstpierpoint for continuing to support us. Now we are back in, and the shop itself has had some significant improvements courtesy of the Co-op's fitout team, we are busier than ever.

"In order to survive we need donations and regular shoppers – and we've had both!"

Donations of good quality, saleable items should be made to the store during opening hours (9am-1pm Monday to Saturday, 2-4pm Monday-Saturday, except Wednesdays).

"We receive a small, but significant, income per kilo for the bra recycling scheme," Wendy continued. "It's a fantastic service (the bras go out to reused in developing countries) and one which doesn't require us to do anything with." The Bra Recycling Point is discreetly positioned within the changing room of the shop.

Bra recycling Point



Easy like Sunday morning

In a new venture at The Hassocks Hotel later this month Hurst vocalist Julie Roberts (pictured), and pianist Michael Hinton, from Ditchling, will be offering a relaxing programme of music from the jazz/blues era to more recent times.

Julie is known for her mellow voice and sensitive interpretations of songs which are beautifully complemented by Michael's jazz piano arrangements.

Sunday Morning Jazz and Blues will be open from 11am, with music from 11.30am until 1pm on Sunday 29th April.

The bar will be open for tea, coffee or bar drinks. A variety of food will also be available including Sunday roast lunches.

There is more information about tickets etc, and the opportunity to hear Julie and Michael, on Julie's website www.julierobertsmusic.co.uk



Community spirit is alive and kicking

By Mike Thatcher

In a moment of panic recently, standing in front of over 350 people, I asked those gathered to consider what was meant by the word 'community'. The venue was St Edwards Church in Keymer, the occasion was the memorial service for our 10 year old daughter Ella, who passed away at the beginning of February. The reason for the panic was that my speech was not in the box under my pew but, as it turned out, back at the Scout Hut. I discovered this half way through the opening hymn!

So, in a thinly veiled attempt to buy some time, in order to remember what I was to say, I asked our youngest daughter Mia, to have a look around the church and take in what she saw. People packed in every pew and many more standing and sitting out in the foyer. Most of whom knew Ella, either as family, through her school or various charities, or just knowing us in the village. But a good number had only met her a few times, or indeed not at all, and had still made the effort to come through the snow to support us.

I wanted Mia, as every generation in the last 100 years surely has, to be able, as a grandmother, to tell the younger generation that there is no sense of community any more. How she remembers when she was young the 'whole village' fighting through the blizzard to come to her sister's memorial service. 'Don't let anyone tell you community is dead,' I said to her. 'Just look around you.'

In all likelihood I would be writing the same if I lived in a village outside of Vienna or Toronto or Cape Town, as good people concerned about their neighbours live everywhere. But it is also good to remind ourselves once in a while that we have a special community in Hurstpierpoint.

Social media has recently been highlighting incidents in the village, damage to property and anti-social behaviour, with those who have lived here all their lives lamenting that things have changed irreparably, which may well be true.

It is also true that in the past not every person in the village had a device to instantly alert everyone to what was going on and so it may just be awareness that is on the increase. Who knows.

What I do know is that Anna, Oliver, Mia and myself have experienced a very real and palpable sense of this village's community spirit first hand since Ella passed. A constant stream of well-wishers, flowers, cards, visitors and meals have come our way, for which we are hugely grateful. Offers to continue the very successful fundraising for her favourite charity Kangaroos have come from all angles, including the St Lawrence PTA and Hurst Village Cinema.

Why we feel it is 'the community' comforting us and not just lots of individuals we know is more difficult to quantify. Our families and those who had travelled distances to be there certainly sensed it and many



commented on the 'community spirit' they experienced both at the service and afterwards for tea at the Scout Hut.

What we can quantify though, as a grieving family, is our huge gratitude to the community for its ongoing support at every stage and the pride and strength we have gained from living amongst it. Anna and I would like to say a huge thank you to you all.

Donations in memory of Ella are kindly received at:
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mike-thatcher1

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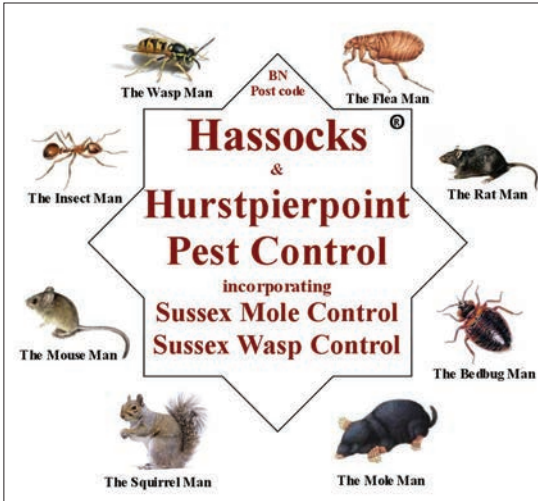
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ST LAWRENCE FAIR

By The Fair Committee

Hello again from your St Lawrence Fair Committee. This time we wanted to give you details of all of the ways that you can contact us and all of the closing dates for doing this so that you have an easy reference guide.

We have a Facebook page which you can contact us through – one of us will get back to you asap. Emails for general enquiries can be sent to: stlawrencefair@gmail.com. We try to update our website as often as possible so do also check this for information: www.stlawrencefair.org.uk

The sponsorship packages went out on early release to businesses and traders that have supported us before but these are now open to anyone who wants to sponsor the Fair in some way or advertise in the programme. The deadline for artwork is the end of April so please be quick.

Stalls are filling up nicely but if you would like to have a stall on Fair day please email: stlawrencefair.stalls@gmail.com. Please indicate whether you are a food business, a business wanting a trade pitch on the recreation ground or a charity wanting a stall so we can send you the right application form. Please get these back to us as soon as possible with payment.

Phil Willoughby is managing the procession again this year, if you would like to join us please email him directly on phil@caldywood.co.uk and he will send you the application form and safety information. We will need your application form by mid-June. We will be putting a map of the route in this year's programme for those of you that like to watch and so everyone knows when the roads will be closed with our rolling road block.

Our famous 'Fun' Run happens during Fair Day on Saturday 30th June. We have two different routes – one five miler that takes in the Wolstonbury Hill and another, more family-oriented route, that is approximately 1.5 miles. Application forms are on our website and online at www.runbritain.com/races?keyword=hurstpierpoint or by email from stlawrencefair.funrun@gmail.com

Below is a summary of the normal events that we run for your diaries – times and locations will be published as soon as we have them secured but all are local.

Saturday 16th June – start of the Kids Window Competition and Hurst's Got Talent.

Sunday 17th June – Pet show.

Friday 29th June – 12.30pm - Preschoolers Teddy Bears Picnic, 6pm - Kids Disco, 8pm - Bands, Bar and BBQ.

Saturday 30th June – Fair Day – Victory themed procession starting at 1pm in Marchants Road arriving at the Recreation Ground around 2pm.

As ever we are looking for helpers at the various events and new committee members to bolster the team. If you think you can assist in any way please contact us at: stlawrencefair@gmail.com

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5 MINUTES WITH...

Wendy Rogers

Wendy ran The Mint House bookshop for 25 years. She enjoys doing Sudoku and loves her garden, particularly in the spring when all the fresh new flowers come.

How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?
50 years

What's the best thing about being here?
It's a very friendly village

Favourite ice cream flavour?
Coffee

How many houses have you lived in?
Five, apart from wartime, when I moved about a bit

Favourite holiday destination?
Italy

Your most enjoyable event in the village?
St Lawrence Fair

Do you share your home with anyone?
My husband

Song you play the most?
I like classical music

Mac or PC?
PC

Your most frequented village shop?
Ashley and Thomas

What's your proudest moment?
Proudest moment was buying our first house

Coke, juice or water?
Water

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Inside Ardingly Showground

THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

We are no doubt all aware of the showground in Ardingly, and many of us will have attended events there over the years, but you may not know that the stunning 150-acre site is home to The South of England Agricultural Society; a registered charity that funds and supports agricultural education and countryside learning. Last year marked the 50th birthday of the Society, which was founded in 1967 from a consolidation of agricultural societies going back to the 1830s.

Iain Nicol, CEO of the South of England Agricultural Society, explains: "The Society plays a significant role in introducing young people to the countryside and is passionate about raising awareness and understanding of the countryside, food and farming.

"We strive to showcase agriculture, horticulture and the countryside through our four annual shows which raise funds to help us serve the community through the provision of education, grants, awards, bursaries and scholarships for people with an interest or involvement in agriculture, horticulture and land-based industries."

Thousands of young people have benefitted from these initiatives over the last 50 years, and millions of people have been brought closer to the countryside at the Society's shows which, for 2018, include: Spring Live!, The South of England Show, the Autumn Show & Game Fair and Winter Fair.

Spring Live! on 6th and 7th May will offer a perfect family day out celebrating all aspects of the great outdoors. Friends and families can enjoy plenty of outdoor pursuits and interactive entertainment including a new live music stage, survival skills workshops, 'meet the animals' zones, maypole dancing, a fairground and inspiring creative zones.

Said Iain: "We have a very committed and dynamic team, as well as an army of volunteers, who work incredibly hard at making our shows as appealing as possible to people of all ages, building in exciting new elements each year. We opened up the accessibility to

the shows hugely two years ago when we introduced free entry for under 16s when accompanied by a paying adult so that young families, single parents and grandparents with grandchildren, for example, could enjoy a fantastic day out."

The South of England show (7th-9th June 2018) has welcomed over 3.5 million visitors over the last five decades! Hundreds of students from schools and colleges across the region are involved in competitions, exhibits and demonstrations, including Young Farmers Clubs competitions and the prestigious Young Craftsman of the Year exhibition, which has seen over 3,500 student entries over the past 31 years and helped dozens of winners go on to achieve successful careers.

The charity funds also go towards the annual 'Connect with the Countryside' event which since 2006 has hosted 25,000 school children at the South of England Showground, offering pupils an engaging and interactive opportunity to learn all about food, farming, countryside and the environment.

Said Iain: "As well as our four main shows, we are very proud to welcome a huge variety of events to the Event Centre here in Ardingly. The flexible and unique facilities and wide range of buildings, combined with our expert events team, offer the ideal venue to hire for exhibitions, trade shows, concerts, conferences, business meetings, parties and special occasions.

"Visitors attending South of England Agricultural Society and Event Centre shows directly help to fund the initiatives and projects that we run as a charity to support agricultural education and countryside learning – so thank you."

Buy tickets for Spring Live! online now to beat the queues and enjoy a discount on gate prices. Children under 16 go free, parking is also free and dogs are welcome! Visit www.seas.org.uk for more information.



Allotments: a slice of home grown history

By Richard Milton

As with many Sussex villages, Hurstpierpoint is proud of its history. While the facts and places of interest are accessible to read, visit and enjoy, a fragile history exists in the land and green spaces around us in the stories and struggles to preserve them.

On Albourne Road, past Western Road, sits a patch of green space, which is home to Hurstpierpoint Allotments. The story of this site echoes the social and economic changes of the village.

Dedicated open spaces set aside for the benefit of communities to grow food, goes back to Anglo Saxon times, allotments as we recognise them, trace back to the late nineteenth century. During this time land was assigned to the labouring poor to improve diet, social connections and health.

As the 1800s came to a close, the land known locally as 'White Horse field' was owned by local vicar, Robert Maschiter, having been purchased from the Grange Farm estate some fifteen years earlier. The field ran from Western Road to the stream of Grange Farm Orchard to the west. When Robert Maschiter died in 1909, his estate was divided up and in 1922 White Horse Field was offered for sale. Political and social thinking at the time was towards the population becoming self-sufficient in meeting its dietary requirements, the country having been brought to its knees with the blockade of war. Local residents proposed the Parish Council purchase the field to be turned over to the community for allotments. Unfortunately, the sale price of £200 an acre was prohibitive for Parish budgets. Undeterred, a group of parishioners collectively purchased the land and in agreement with the Parish Council sold small plots that would become the houses we see on the west footpath of Western Road. The sale of plots subsidised the remaining field to the Parish Council at an affordable rate, who then transformed the space into allotments for the health and social benefit of local residents.

The site was divided into plots of ten rods, an ancient form of measuring land dating back to the Ancient Roman 'Pertica' and a space deemed by the ministry of food to enable a family of four to be self-sufficient in food production. The allotments have played host to a diverse section of the Hurst community, from those passionate to enter shows, to young families seeking a better connection with their food.

One long-standing plot holder Dr Gerald Legg recalls inheriting his ten rods in 1976: "Taking on the allotment with a growing family and work commitments meant that allotment time was difficult to allocate - something many young families find to this day".

Those who have worked plots for several decades recall changes to the land from the narrowing of tracks into footpaths, and an improved sense of community. "It



continues to keep our now extended family supplied with produce and more. Over time the plots have been split to help satisfy the demand as well as make it easier for young families to manage. For many years an allotment holder was pretty well left to their own devices. But things have changed for the better with people coming and working together to promote the idea of growing-your-own and helping one another alike".

As we move towards this patch of land approaching one hundred years of use as allotments, the community need and support has never been stronger. Regular events such as the Spring Plant Sale (13th May) brings people together from all over the village to buy home grown, often heritage plants to enhance their plot, be it an allotment or a small container on a balcony.

The site provides something unique to all of us, from being closer to nature, finding peace and solitude, or acceptance and friendship. Regardless of diversity or background, the act of planting and growing spans all walks of life. The motivation of Hurst parishioners to buy this land and set it aside as allotments remains as relevant today as it did then. While we race towards a few large corporations being responsible for our food production, we have devolved our ethical responsibility of land management to industry and profit margins, instead of seeking biodiversity within local communities and an alternative approach to showing a future generation where our food comes from, something Hurst residents of the past fought for.



Spring Plant Sale next month

Come and learn more about the history of this land at the Spring Plant sale on Sunday 13th May from 10am onwards at the Allotments. There will be a chance to pick up homegrown fruit, veg and flowers, along with nature walks and a tour of the site. You can also talk to plot holders and be inspired to take on your own few rods of history.

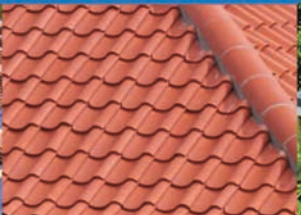


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Strengthening local policing

By Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

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The public tell me that they want to see their financial contributions fund more visible, local policing. They rightly want to feel safe at home, in public spaces, at night-time and on the roads. They also expect their police force to be easily contactable when they need to reach them.

I am delighted to announce that Sussex Police has reopened officer recruitment, which I'm sure is very welcome news to people across our county.

Sussex Police is aiming to attract 200 police officers each year for the next four years, and I am pleased that this has been made possible by the public's support to pay more for local policing.

The majority of Sussex residents who responded to my precept consultation said they were prepared to pay more and I want to see their contributions going into visible and effective local policing.



ME event held in May

reMEMber, the charity for people who have ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, will once again hold its National ME/CFSA Awareness Week Conference in Burgess Hill this year. Janice Kent, the Director of reMEMber says: "Our focus this year is a call for change. We are calling on doctors, rehabilitation teams, healthcare professionals and, of course, patients and carers to come along and tell us what you want from a good service."

The Conference will take place in the Sheldrake Suite at Martlets Hall on Saturday 12th May starting at 2pm. There will be two key speakers; Dr Amolak Bansal, consultant immunologist and Medical Adviser to reMEMber, and Dr Charles Shepherd, Medical Adviser to the National ME Association.

Because the event will be so popular reMEMber advises people to get tickets early. Tickets are £5 each including light refreshments. See the website www.remembercfs.org.uk, or call Janice on 01273 831733

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Proposed Orchard at Hurst Meadows



1935 Langton Lane in foreground looking East

By Martin Sadler

Hurstpierpoint has historically been important for the area covered by orchard, which grew significantly during the Victorian era. From the 1870s the land west of the village between Western Road and Langton Lane became an important area for apple production but also saw other areas around the village where apple orchards were established, such as West Town, Manor Road, Willow Way, Little Park, South Avenue, Bedlam Street and west of Edgerley.

This expansion was helped by the building of the London to Brighton railway line, opening up easier markets in the capital and along the coast, and the setting up of important nurseries such as J Cheal and Sons at Lowfield Heath (now Crawley). Cheals were growing more than 70 different varieties of apples by 1890. They were responsible for introducing 3 new varieties in the time they were trading from Lowfield Heath, the most important being Crawley Beauty introduced in 1906.

Hurstpierpoint continued to increase its production of apples and became a recognised area within Sussex between the World Wars, peaking in importance during the 1930s. The Orchard Way/Kemps Farm orchard was the biggest and covered land now developed and occupied by housing in Orchard Way and The Grange.

Here, significant orchard trees such as Bramley's Seedling (the original Bramley and not the modern green Bramley Clone 20), Newton Wonder, Cox's Orange Pippin and Laxton's Superb grew. These were the apples which

dominated, but the Orchard Way orchard also comprised pears, plums and possibly cherries.

To reflect this history the Parish Council has confirmed that part of the Hurst Meadows land, which has been passed to the Council for community use as part of the Bovis Homes development at Iden Hurst and the Rydon Homes' site off Highfield Drive, will be used for a community orchard. To acknowledge Hurstpierpoint's importance in the development of apple production in Sussex, an area of approximately two acres (1.5 ha) will be dedicated to Sussex apples. It was considered that research would reveal a number of important Sussex varieties. However, it has surprised many that currently 40 varieties dating from the 1700s to the 1960s have been identified. The best known are probably Egremont Russet from Petworth and Crawley Beauty from Tinsley Green. There are also local apples such as Blackjack and Ashdown Seedling which are currently being grafted in the hope that they will be suitable to introduce into the new orchard.

Planting should start during the winter 2018/2019. Conservation areas will be incorporated within the site to encourage wildlife. New footpaths will link the site with existing paths within the whole Hurst Meadows area. A number of suitable apple trees have already been sourced both locally and from specialists around the country. Further trees have been grafted for growing on and planting out when ready.



1874 Ordnance Survey map. Orchards marked here with crosses

Annual Coffee Morning and Mini-Market

Support group The Friends of St Christopher's Home for the Elderly, in the village, will be holding a coffee morning later this month. It will take place from 10am until 11.30am on Saturday 14th April in the Guide HQ in Trinity Road Car Park.

The entrance fee remains at 50p per person, as last year, to include coffee or tea and biscuits and there will be a wide range of stalls including cakes and savouries, books, plants, raffle, tombola and gifts. If you have any small items you would like to donate for sale please get in touch with me, Jo Kearns, 01273 834200. We are happy to arrange collection. We always welcome gifts of home-made cakes, buns, scones etc to sell.

St Christopher's is a small residential home for elderly people on Cuckfield Road and the Friends group works to raise funds to arrange benefits and social outings for all of the residents.

HURST PIERPOINT PLAYERS

DEAD + GUILTY

By Richard Harris

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HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

By David Saitch

Thursday 26th April Still Walking (U)

Here is an utterly beautiful, lyrical, profoundly moving, yet gently humorous film by Hirokazu Kore-eda, director of *Our Little Sister*, that wonderful film which was a huge hit in our programme last year.

Still Walking is his most personal work to date, a film that will pull you into its subtle depths, and the outside world will fade into insignificance while you watch it. You don't realise how deeply it is affecting you until it has finished.

The film depicts one day in the life of the Yokoyama family, who are gathered together for a commemorative ritual whose nature only gradually becomes clear. Rather than focus on big dramatic moments, Kore-eda relies on simple gestures and domestic routines to evoke a family's entire life, its deep regrets and its daily joys. We see reflections of people we know and love in these characters. Kore-eda's almost sage-like understanding of what makes modern families tick in this wonderful film places him in the highest echelon of film makers.

Absolutely pitch-perfect and featuring vivid, heartrending and heart-warming performances with a gentle naturalism, *Still Walking* is an extraordinary portrayal of the ties that bind us.

Doors: 7.30pm Film: 8pm

Tickets: £4 members/ £6 non-members

Sunday 22nd April A United Kingdom (PG)

A United Kingdom tells the inspiring true story of Seretse Khama, the King of Bechuanaland (modern Botswana), and Ruth Williams, the London office worker he married in 1948 in the face of fierce opposition from their families and the British and South African governments. Seretse and Ruth defied family, Apartheid and empire - their love triumphed over every obstacle flung in their path and in so doing they transformed their nation and inspired the world.

Filmmaker Amma Asante brings us this remarkable true story told with terrific warmth and idealism, style and wit – and irresistible storytelling relish. The performances of Oyelowo and Pike light up the screen and the film is a defiant cry from the heart which will send you out of the theatre knowing a bit more about the world than when you went in.

Doors: 2.30pm Film: 3pm

All Tickets £4

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Chia Breakfast Bowl

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- ¼ cup whole chia seeds
- 2 cups almond or coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon pure maple syrup or honey (or to taste)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Toppings

- Fresh fruit of your choice (mangos, bananas, berries, kiwi, pineapple, etc)
- Desiccated coconut
- Nuts (almonds, walnuts, etc), optional
- Cinnamon and extra maple syrup, optional



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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.



Breakfast can become a little 'samey' so every now and again it's a good idea to try something new and give your taste buds a treat. By trying new foods we widen our variety of nutrients too. This breakfast bowl is packed full of Omega 3 & 6 (so great for the skin), rich in calcium (for bones and so much more) and a great source of protein and fibre (keeping us fuller for longer). So, it's ticking a lot of boxes.

I first tried this chia seed breakfast in Gozo last May on a cleanse retreat (where this picture was taken). I'm taking a group back there for a May health kick this year, so, in preparation, will be bringing some of these plant-based dishes back into my food plan this month.

So much more nutritious than a bowl of Kelloggs and certainly tastes better! It takes two minutes to mix all the ingredients together, place in an air-tight container and refrigerate overnight. Wake up and breakfast is ready. You can also portion out into smaller containers for an on the go mobile breakfast.

Method

Combine the chia seeds, non-dairy milk, syrup/honey, and vanilla extract in a bowl and stir together.

Let stand for about a half hour, then whisk together to prevent the seeds from clumping. Then transfer this to an air-tight container, cover and refrigerate overnight.

In the morning, divide between two bowls, and serve

with toppings of your choice. You can make this as visually delicious as it will be in flavour.

Interested in my Trip to Gozo? I still have places. More information on my website www.belleamatt.com/new-events

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Come along and sing

The Mid Sussex Choir is an amateur community choir and registered charity drawing its members from across Mid Sussex. It's a friendly choir and is always looking for new members (aged 18 or above). It presents two main concerts each year, in December and April, and also sings at a small number of charity and other events. In recent years it has performed a wide range of works and music styles ably lead by its Musical Director, Andrew Sutton, and accompanist Phillip Sear. The choir rehearses for two hours on Wednesday evenings at 7.45pm at the Methodist Church, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, between September and June each year. The next concert is on 28th April at 7.30pm, also at the Methodist Church, and features songs from musicals including selections from Gilbert and Sullivan, Rogers and Hammerstein, Gershwin, Lerner and Loewe, and Andrew Lloyd Webber.



The choir was formed in 1946 when Hilary Preston was asked to assemble a group of singers to provide incidental music to 'The Amber Gate', a pageant play staged by Mid Sussex Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts. The pageant, advertised in the Mid Sussex Times as 'a treat for all ages', proved a memorable experience for all taking part. Tickets were 2/6d. The choir entered the annual Lewes Music Festival the following year and in 1954 won the silver cup. 1961

saw a new departure for the Choir with the singers in costume providing the chorus for 'Don Pasquale' sung by a group of young soloists from Glyndebourne. In 2016 it celebrated its 70th anniversary with a concert at St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath, including works by Vivaldi and Puccini to orchestral accompaniment.

Why join the Choir? Many join simply because they enjoy singing and it's much easier to do that with other people. Finding your voice (literally) can be liberating – it really doesn't matter that you're never going to be the next Alfie Boe or Katherine Jenkins. Singing offers other benefits too: it helps breathing, exercises the vocal muscles and absorbs your attention. And learning to read music is a great way of exercising the brain! Sayers Common resident David Waterhouse and his wife joined the choir in 2001: "Although I had sung in choirs when I was younger – Ann and I met because we both sang in my college choir – the fact that Mid Sussex Choir does not require auditions was a great help in my decision to join! Membership of the choir has increased my confidence levels. Rehearsals are always great fun and I enjoy singing in harmony with a friendly bunch of people."

If you'd like to give the choir a try you're welcome to come to any rehearsal. In addition, special taster sessions have been arranged on 6th, 13th and 20th June - an ideal time to see if singing with the choir is for you. For more information phone David Waterhouse on 07710 442289 or email contact@midsexchoir.org.uk or see the website: www.midsexchoir.org.uk

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We remember Mary Barber

OBITUARY

By Carol Whatford and Linda Evans

My mum, Mary Barber, sadly died in Eastbourne District General Hospital on Thursday 8th March at the age of 94. But many residents of Hurstpierpoint would have known her.

Mum lived at the bottom of Cuckfield Road, with her great-aunt Annie Gurr, from about 1928 to 1935 and attended the primary school during those years. She returned to live with her father, cousin and aunt at The Lewes Arms where her aunt was the licensee.

Mum returned to Hurst as a bride in 1948, first living with my grandparents, Horace and Lily Barber in Western Road opposite the old Chinese Gardens. When Willow Way was built mum and dad were given tenancy of one of the new 'airy' houses. Dad, Rex Barber, was born in Manor Cottages, his father, Horace, was a blacksmith and both worked for first Stephen Woolgar and then Harper and Eade. Dad passed away in 1992 but mum remained in Willow Way. She witnessed the demolition of the airy houses, the re-alignment of Willow Way and then occupied one of the bungalows that was essentially built in the back gardens of the houses that used to be opposite her.

She eventually left Willow Way in late 2016 when she became unwell and was no longer able to look after herself. Mum spent her last 16 months in Woodside Hall Nursing Home in Hailsham. This was only a matter of minutes away from her elder daughter, Carol, which was her dearest wish.

I was born in the house in Willow Way that was later to be demolished. We had a very large back garden and mum and dad grew many sorts of vegetables and fruit which were duly harvested and cooked fresh, or salted, pickled and preserved. We also had chickens and plentiful eggs. Once my sister and I left the primary school and went to Hove Grammar School, mum worked at the Co-op with Dorothy Gander, Sylvia Shotter, Mary Bish, Clifford Newnham, Johnny Hudson and some I'm sure I may have forgotten (sorry). She then worked at the other end of the village in Mr Bignall's little shop until she had to give up work in 1989 when dad developed cancer.

Mum and dad were both active members of The British Legion and were poppy sellers for as long as I can remember. Mum did house to house sales in St Lawrence Way and Fairfield Crescent and dad did selling in the street.

Mum loved to go to the disabled coffee mornings held at Ribbetts where her extreme deafness meant



that she spent most of her time in the kitchen, serving and cleaning up. She was awarded the Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk Award for Services to the Disabled in West Sussex.

I currently live in Australia and was in the UK spending time with mum for about three weeks as she had become more frail. My sister contacted me to let me know that mum's condition had worsened and I was able to get on a flight that night and get to mum's side. We were able to stay with her continuously until she passed away very peacefully at about 2am with Carol and myself by her side.

Sadly distance and the quick planning of mum's funeral service meant that some of her remaining great friends in Hurst were not able to get to her farewell. Mum asked for no flowers but she did request that donations could be made to The British Legion via the undertakers, Hailsham Funeral Service at 11 Station

Street, Hailsham, BN27 2BE. Cheques can be made out to The Royal British Legion and they will send them all as donations in memory of the wonderful Mary Barber, our mum.



Bowls season starts

By Bob Mitchell

Looking for a competitive sport you can play at any age for the rest of your life?

If you are, then look no further than bowls! Regular readers of Hurst Life will know that bowls is thriving in Hurst, with the Club having been active for 95 years, with more and more members becoming hooked on it.

Whilst it is never a bad thing to start playing a sport when you are young, and bowls is no exception, starting to play, prior to retirement, or on retirement, is still likely to give you a bowling career of 20 years!

Local Hurst resident, John Creaton, was 100 in February. John was playing bowls regularly with the Club until he was 99. He still walks down to the village and the Club and only eyesight problems have stopped him from playing. John started bowling when he was in his 60s.



Keith Jackson, this year's Men's Club Captain, who has only just turned 70, has already been playing bowls for over 20 years. After previously playing football and table tennis very competitively, he was delighted to discover that bowls could be an equally competitive and rewarding sport.

The Club's President, Chris Barnden, started playing bowls when he was in his early 60s, over 20 years ago. Apart from playing bowls, he has been working hard on the clubhouse extension and other improvements. In the photo (above) he and Ken Leaney are working on the new path to the Green.

The Club's team of four Hurst ladies, who became national champions in 2017, have not been playing for so long. However, they have all been playing for over ten years and, without mentioning any ages, probably still have a good 20 years of bowls left in them!

Bowls can be a very competitive sport, or just a nice recreational activity to keep you healthy and involved with others. The Bowling Club caters for both, and with its new extension, will be able to offer its members the chance to play bowls all year round.

The outdoor bowling season starts this month and there are two 'taster sessions' anyone can come along to. Wednesday 25th April at 6pm, and Saturday 28th April at 11am. Plus the Club is offering free six weeks membership, free coaching and free use of equipment and bowls. So now is the time to think about trying bowls, visiting the Club's website www.hurstbowls.org.uk or just turn up.



In this feature, Hurst Life highlights an artist based in the village. This month's artist is Joff Harms...

I moved to Hurspierpoint about 18 months ago with my wife Clare and our two children and already feel part of the village.

I love living here and being so close to the South Downs where through my photography I am constantly striving to capture the essence of the place. Along with the South Downs we routinely visit the Lake District National Park, having got married there in 2009.

I enjoy the outdoors whether walking, cycling or camping and I bought my first Digital SLR camera approximately seven years ago, a Canon 60D purely to take pictures whilst out walking.

I was persuaded to exhibit my work at the Brighton Open Houses where I exhibited for about six years and I was pleased by the responses and the interest that people took in my photography.

I have now moved up to a Full Frame Sony Mirrorless Camera not only for quality, but also for the ease of carrying it around on walking trips.

Since moving to Hurstpierpoint, Clare and I have run two pop up shops, the most recent being with a group of local artists from the village and the surrounding areas of Sussex, in the former Vanilla shop.

Having commuted up to London for the last 15 years, the opportunity has arisen to take my photography further so Emma and I have just opened up Gallery 92 on the High Street, which is really exciting!





The kids are alright

HURST CRICKET CLUB

By Rob Sawyer

Last month's piece was written whilst waiting for the 'Beast from the East' to hit us, this month's column is being written with snow absolutely pouring out of the sky. My usual view of the church tower and village green is totally obscured by the white stuff and yet as we reach the early spring, thoughts turn to cricket, even though Fairfield Rec is currently lying under several centimetres of snow. Next month sees the first fixtures for our women and juniors and in next month's column I'll be bringing you the thoughts of our various Captains on the coming season. The temptation after last year's celebrations would be to sit back and have a season of consolidation, but we are moving forward on all fronts, both on and off the pitch. But before we get into the coming season, all of us at Hurst CC would like to play tribute to some of our juniors who have spent part of the winter playing indoor cricket.

Last year I wrote about our Under 12s who won a tournament, beating many larger, better resourced teams on the way. Well those Under 12s are now Under 13s and they are at it again.

The U13s played the indoor league competition

over this winter between September and February, initially playing seven group matches pre Christmas, losing only one of these games to Ditchling. The boys finished joint top of the league at the turn of the year, meaning they qualified into the Premiership group, come the resumption in the New Year. The boys then played three final matches against Ditchling, Brighton & Hove and Preston Nomads, winning them all, meaning they retained their indoor league title for three years running, having won it as both U11s and U12s. This now means the boys have won two league titles, three indoor league titles and the SJCF title over the last three years.

We are naturally excited at what these boys will achieve as they rise through the age bands and they will soon qualify for senior cricket. Great news for Hurstpierpoint Cricket, not so great for some of us, ahem, 'older' players who may find playing spots harder to come by in the coming years, although there is nothing better on a cricket pitch than seeing a young player hurtling after a ball heading for the boundary that you had given up on!

Congratulations to the boys and we can't wait to see what they achieve next.

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Shared driveway

LEGAL EAGLE

This is the first in a new series of Q&As offering practical legal advice to our readers. Martyn Gooch is a West Sussex resident and partner at Rohan Solicitors. If you have a legal question email editor@hurstlife.co.uk and you may see it answered in a future issue.

By Martyn Gooch, partner Rohan Solicitors

Question: The house we are looking at buying has a driveway that is shared by a neighbour. What should we look out for?

Answer: It is not uncommon for properties to share a driveway or perhaps a path for accessing a garden. In these cases, typically one property owner will own the land on which the shared access lies and the other will have a legal right over that land, usually for a specific purpose (such as accessing the main road). That right is referred to in legal terms as an 'easement'. There are several ways an easement can be created, and before committing to the purchase of a property affected by a right of way it is important to establish how that right impacts you.

Usually the deeds to the property will identify the extent and scope of the easement, and these deeds should be checked carefully by your solicitor during the conveyancing process. Most easements will 'run with the land' meaning they will legally bind all subsequent owners. However, that may not always be the case, so it is important to seek professional advice on how the right of way specifically operates.

There are many ways that an easement may be established. Although the majority are formally recorded in a deed it is not uncommon for a right to be created through the prolonged and unopposed use of a piece of land. It is vital for your solicitor to make the relevant enquiries of the seller's solicitor when there is a question mark over whether a right over neighbouring land exists.

As the potential new owner of a property and driveway with shared access you are likely to be responsible for keeping that driveway in a good condition for the benefit of you and your neighbour. If the driveway is in a poor condition you may be required to repair it, and usually the associated costs would be shared with your neighbour, so it is essential that you obtain information from the seller regarding any anticipated repairs and expected costs.

You must also ensure your neighbour can easily exercise their right to use the driveway. For example, if the driveway is not wide enough for two cars to pass you are unlikely to be able to park on it as that would obstruct your neighbour's right of way.

The law surrounding rights of way can be complicated, so seeking accurate legal advice is crucial to ensure you understand the implications of purchasing a property with a shared driveway.

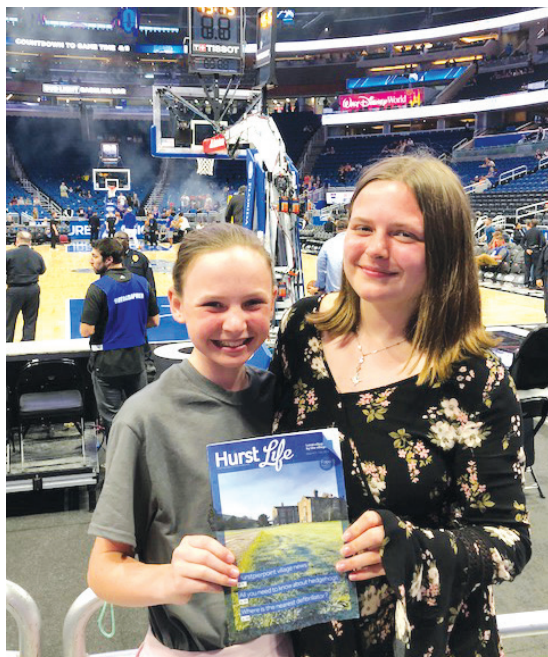
Martyn specialises in litigation, including property related litigation, and dispute resolution and can be contacted by email: mgooch@rohansolicitors.co.uk or by telephone: 01444 450901.

Holiday snaps

As ever, Hurstpierpoint residents have taken their copy of the magazine away with them. Do send yours in to photos@hurstlife.co.uk



Amy Buckley in Disneyland, California



Grace and Elsie Norman at an Orlando Magic basketball match in Florida

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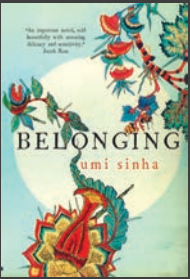


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Belonging by Umi Sinha

BOOK REVIEW

By Clair Stanton

Umi Sinha's debut novel was a labour of love that took ten years to write, the beginning of the story came to her in a dream and it's a fantastic opening. 12 year old Lila hides to watch her father's birthday dinner; she is desperate to see the tablecloth that her mother has embroidered as a surprise gift, but when the meal is over and the dishes are removed, the night ends in tragedy.

Lila's mother, the enigmatic Rebecca, casts a shadow over many of the character's lives but there is no hero or villain in the book, just damaged people navigating situations they did not choose and can't easily escape. The story moves from the time of the British Raj to WWI as the novel gradually reveals the secrets of three generations of the same family through letters, diaries and Lila's experiences. With many novels which switch between characters there is often one that you are keen to get back to, but I found all of the strands equally gripping as each threw fresh light on the others.

The historical details referenced in the novel are meticulously researched, from the WW1 sections which delve into the role of Brighton's Royal Pavilion as 'Dr Blighty' and the experiences of the Sikh soldiers who were hospitalised there, to the dark days of the Siege of Cawnpore, but it's as seamlessly woven in as the threads on that mysterious tablecloth ...

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

That's snow fun!

Following the snow days experienced in the last month or so, here's a few photos that residents captured of the white stuff!



View from the health centre by Liz Young



Hazel Ranger's snow covered garden



Jackie Eke captures doggy snow play



High Street by Liz Young

Sudoku #21

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

Find the solution to #21 in next month's magazine

#20 Solution

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

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



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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
- Weight Watchers** – 9.30-10.30am, weekly in the Club Suite
- Mon **The Sanctuary** – 9.30-11.30am, weekly (term time only) – a welcoming place where friendships can form over coffee and cake
- Tues **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

April

- 9th **Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group** – 7.30pm
An Illustrated Talk by Amanda Millar (Free)
- 10th **Horticultural Society** – 7.45pm
Talk by Roger Butler 'Hydrangeas'
- 11th **PPG AGM** – 7pm
Patient Participation Group AGM with speaker Dr Terry Lynch
- 14th **Spring Craft Fair** – 10am-2pm
Heber Opera's Spring Craft Fair (jenny.letton@btinternet.com)
- 14th **Hurstpierpoint Society AGM** – 2pm
- 17th **Wolstonbury WI** – 7.45pm
'Gardening for the young-at-heart' by Lesley Chamberlain. Visitors welcomed. (01273 834421)

Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, Trinity Road BN6 9QT
www.hurstvillagecentre.org

Coming up in May...

- 4th **Mothers' Union Charity Lunch** – 12pm
Scouts' Headquarters – More info to follow...

AND ELSEWHERE

April

- 10th- **Dead Guilty** – 7.30pm
- 14th **Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint** – Hurst Players performance of the play (Tickets £10/£11 www.hurstplayers.org.uk)
- 11th **Mothers' Union meeting** – 2.30pm
Long Melford, Albourne Road. Discussion on changes in women's lives over the past 100 years. Everyone welcome. Non-members £2.
- 13th **Equestrian Tack Sale** – 6.30pm
Brendon Stud Farm, Pyecombe
- 14th **Coffee Morning** – 10am
Guide HQ, Trinity Road Car Park – Coffee morning and mini market to raise funds for St Christopher's Home (50p entry)
- 15th **Mid Sussex Ramblers** – 2pm
Ditchling Village Hall car park - Three Churches Walk, 5 mile – moderate (01273 842628)
- 18th **Mothers' Union meeting** – 8pm
Holy Trinity Church - Talk by Gail Millar on new charity 'Befriended' Everyone welcome (£2)
- 21st **Coffee Morning** – 10am
Holy Trinity Church - Talk at 10.30am on the work of Christian Aid by Tim Moulds. Stalls to browse.
- 21st **Hurst Hedgehog Haven** – 2.30pm
Guide Hut, Trinity Road Car Park - Trevor Weeks MBE, the founder of WRAS speaking (01273 833133)
- 21st **The Arts Society** – TBC
Outing to Margate Turner Gallery (01273 833046)
- 22nd **A United Kingdom (PG)** – 2.30pm
Players Theatre – Hurst Village Cinema film show (Tickets £4 www.hurstfilms.com)
- 22nd **Author Talk** – 7pm
Newtimber Church – Author Alison Murdoch
- 25th **Bowls Taster Session** – 6pm
Hurstpierpoint Bowling Club, South Avenue Rec
- 26th **Still Walking (U)** – 7.30pm
Players Theatre – Hurst Village Cinema showing
- 27th **Historical Society** – 8pm
Guide Hall, Trinity Road Car Park – Roger Packham speaking on 'Tales from old Sussex newspapers' (Non-members welcome, £2 entrance)
- 28th **Bowls Taster Session** – 11am
Hurstpierpoint Bowling Club, South Avenue Rec
- 29th **Sunday Morning Jazz** – 11am
The Hassocks Hotel - featuring the musical talents of Julie Roberts and Michael Hinton

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