



Issue 4

July 2026



Hurst Hookers' amazing 'crochet car' at the show

Message from the chairman

As usual, there is plenty happening in Hurst this summer and we really need it. A strong and active local community provides a welcome antidote to many of the challenges around us, both internationally and in domestic politics.

The Society continues to support village activities where it can. During the first half of 2026, we were pleased to run a successful Race Night with the Bowling Club, in aid of their new clubhouse, as well as an excellent traditional picnic in the Orchard. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to organise these events, and to all those who came along and supported them.

We wish we could do more to support young people. I am heartened by how well they turn out in their late teens, despite their Covid experience and, for many, the growing influence of digital devices, which can hinder social interaction and development. Today, however, they face the additional challenge of an increasingly competitive job market and need every encouragement to remain positive and confident about their future. We should all do everything we can to help. If you have any ideas about how the Society might help, please do let us know.

As always, thank you to all members and volunteers and all the best for the summer.

Ivor Fiennes

NHVS Chairman

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Back cover - dates for your diaries

Welcome to the latest issue of the New Hurst Village Society newsletter. A lot has hapened over the past six months, so we hope you enjoy catching up with all the news. Please do contact us if you have anything you would like to see included in future issues.

Closing dates for publications are 12th December for the January issue, and 10th June for publication in July. Please send your articles to

contact@nhvs.org.uk

Membership is always available and costs just £10 per household per year. Please check out the NHVS web site for full details - [https://](https://www.nhvs.org.uk)

www.nhvs.org.uk

NHVS Membership

Membership of the New Hurst Village Society continues to grow, but we would like to encourage as many villagers as possible to join. We value being part of the community and the more members we have will strengthen our voice and our ability to bring people together.

If you're already a member, please consider spreading the word to neighbours, friends, and new residents. A friendly conversation, a quick mention, or a recommendation can make all the difference. Many people simply don't realise how affordable and beneficial membership can be.

At just **£10 per household**, joining the New Hurst Village Society is a small contribution that makes a big impact. Together, we can continue to grow and strengthen our community.

PLEASE NOTE: 2027 membership payments are due on the 1st January 2027. If you don't already have the Standing Order set up with your bank please do so as soon as you can. If you are having any difficulties or would like to pay with an alternative method, please contact nHVS Membership: contact@nHVS@org.uk.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

You can use the link on our web site: www.nhvs.org.uk/join

Hurst Rangers Cricket Club



Summer Fridays at Hurst Rangers Cricket Club are the highlight of our week! Our junior training sessions bring the ground to life with energy, laughter and community spirit. Parents and locals gather to enjoy a delicious drink from the bar and a sizzling barbecue.

It is always a brilliant, fun-filled evening, but to keep this fantastic tradition running smoothly we need your help.

Our Friday night system is exceptionally well-structured and has operated successfully for years. It is a seamless process, but it relies entirely on cheery (and willing) volunteers.

Whether you can spare an hour to pour drinks or flip burgers, your time makes a massive difference. Please note that all serving at the bar must be over 18. However, we also offer paid wages to younger helpers who assist around the event!

By volunteering, you will be right at the heart of our vibrant community, meeting neighbours and supporting our junior players.

Ready to join the fun? Simply speak to anyone behind the bar on Friday evenings to get your name added to the rota. We would love to have you on our team!



Hurst Football Club – Season 2025/26 Review

As we look back on another memorable season at Hurst FC, we do so with immense pride in everything our players, coaches, volunteers, and families have achieved throughout the 2025/26 campaign.

Football is about more than results; it is about growth, friendships, commitment, and creating lifelong memories. This season has been a perfect example of what makes Hurst FC such a special club.

Like every season, we have had to say goodbye to some players who have moved on to new opportunities and challenges. While they will be greatly missed both on and off the pitch, we thank each and every one of them for their dedication, hard work, and contribution to the club. They will always remain part of the Hurst FC family, and we wish them every success in their future football journeys.

At the same time, we have been delighted to welcome a number of new players and families into the club. From their very first training session, they have embraced the values and spirit of Hurst FC. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and positive attitude have helped strengthen our teams and further build the fantastic community we are proud to be part of.

Across all age groups, there have been countless moments to celebrate this season. Players have developed their skills, grown in confidence, and shown incredible determination week after week. Our coaches have worked tirelessly to support and encourage every player, ensuring they continue to learn and enjoy the game in a positive environment.

A very special mention must go to our U10 Bombers. This talented group of players achieved a significant milestone by winning their first-ever trophy at the BYFL Tournament. Their success was the result of months of hard work, dedication, teamwork, and resilience. Watching the players lift that trophy was a proud moment for everyone connected with Hurst FC and a reward they truly deserved.

The achievement of the U10 Bombers represents everything our club stands for. It was not just about winning a tournament; it was about believing in themselves, supporting one another, and enjoying the journey together. The memories created that day will stay with the players, coaches, and families for many years to come.



None of our successes would be possible without the continued support of our volunteers, sponsors, coaches, parents, and guardians. Your commitment behind the scenes allows our players to enjoy football in a safe, positive, and encouraging environment. We are incredibly grateful for everything you do.

As we look ahead to the 2026/27 season, we are excited about the future. With returning players, new faces joining the club, and the continued development of all our teams, there is plenty to look forward to.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of the Hurst FC journey this season. Together, we continue to build something special.

Once a Swan, Always a Swan.

#HurstFC #OneClubOneFamily #FutureIsBright

1st Hurst Air Scouts

The Beavers (6-8yo) have enjoyed another busy and exciting year packed with adventures, learning opportunities, and plenty of fun. During the summer term, the colony embraced a galaxy far, far away with a Star Wars-themed evening. The Beavers made their own light sabres and character masks before taking part in a range of themed games and activities. We also celebrated Father's Day with a special evening where Beavers and their dads worked together to build bird boxes, creating both lasting memories and new homes for local wildlife. The autumn term was equally action-packed. The Beavers enjoyed a visit to Hurst Cricket Club, where they learned the basic rules of cricket and took part in fun skills-based training games led by club coaches. As Halloween approached, the colony transformed into Hogwarts for an evening of magical crafts and games. The Beavers made their own wands and took great delight in a challenge that involved wrapping up our Young Leaders as mummies! They also learned about Thanksgiving, exploring the traditions and history of the North American holiday.

Spring brought more exciting outings and hands-on activities. A trip to Chocoholics in Hurst proved especially popular, with the Beavers discovering where chocolate comes from before creating and decorating their own delicious treats. The colony also joined the wider Scout Group for a day trip to the RAF Museum in London, where they explored historic aircraft and took part in a variety of interactive activities.





It has been a fun couple of months with Cubs (8-10 yo) doing lots of interesting activities at the Scout HQ including making pop-pop boats, air-propelled rockets and invisible inks and playing homemade crazy golf. We explored the local area with a Hurst scavenger hunt and a night hike around Dinton Pastures. The ever-popular campfire cooking was back, making chocolate orange brownies on the campfire

The Scouts (10-14yo) have been busy with activities such as a camp in Hambledon. This is in preparation for both troops camping together at WINGS this summer (an international jamboree in Windsor Great Park with a few thousand Scouts & Guides). We've also been forging metal and racing scout-made chariots. To help with the HQ demolition, the scouts also undertook a challenge, moving our outside stores shed with initiative and rollers.

Meeting Times (term time only):

Beavers (ages 6-8): Tuesdays 18.00-19.15

Cubs (8-10 ½): Wednesdays 18.30-20.00

Scouts (10 ½ to 14): Thursdays 19.15-21.00

For more informayion see the web site www.hurstscouts.org.uk
or contact **James Madden**, 07909 913614

Hurst Bowling Club

Our local bowling club is situated beside the Castle Inn on Church Hill. The club has a very long history, with the earliest recorded use of a green going back to 1747, although it seems back then the sport was restricted to 'gentlemen'. In 1777, the Reading Mercury & Oxford Gazette reported that "the meeting of gentleman at the Bowling Green House ... will continue every other Friday all the summer".

Fortunately, these days it's a much more inclusive sport and the bowls club currently has 62 members of all ages – and new members are always welcome! The full history of the bowling club can be found on their web site – hurstbowlingclub.org.uk

As you can see from the 'before' photo, the old pavilion was in a very sorry state of repair and was on the verge of collapse. The club knew it had a limited life span, so fund-raising actually started over 17 years ago, ably led by Ronnie Ashley who was tireless in her efforts. Finally in September 2023 a local architect was engaged, with the planning application being approved in 2024. The total cost was in excess of £295,000 and was met through generous donations from members, a lottery grant and donations from a number of businesses.



Pavilion -
before and after



Construction work commenced in October 2025, and the building was completed and ready for use at the end of May 2026. As you can see in the 'after' photo, it is modern and very light and airy inside, but still sits beautifully in the environment, and is very much in keeping with the structure of the Castle Inn that sits alongside.

While the main pavilion is now fit for the future, fund raising continues to enable the club to refurbish the old and dilapidated changing rooms and equipment store. Please check out the 'Fundraising' section on their web site for more information, or contact:

Pam Broomby, Club Secretary, 07854 874875

pamelabroomby70@gmail.com

Ronnie Ashley, Fund-raising, 07751 653613

v.m.ashley@btinternet.com



Pavilion interior

Fundraiser Ronnie with
coach David



Hurst Hookers

The Hurst Hookers year launched on New Year's Day by marking a new BBC 'The Traitors' series with a post box topper we named 'delivering murder'.

We've been busy since, celebrating Valentine's Day, swiftly followed by World Book Day on 5 March with displays at the pond. New post covers for Book Day this year included Willie Wonka, Mog the Cat, Mr Bump and The Stickman. If you have any favourite characters you'd like immortalised in yarn for next year please let us know, we love to get creative.

We held a coffee morning for Comic Relief on 20 March, raising £231 selling raffle tickets and cakes at the cricket club.

Our Easter pond display included the return of the giant daffodil and a hen roosting on every single pond post. We raised £585 + gift aid for the local Woodley branch of the Blood Bikers, who provide a vital service transporting blood and blood products for the NHS through volunteer riders.





As you can see on the front cover, we unveiled our latest project, the crocheted car. This took many hours of work for all our ladies - and a lot of head scratching to devise the roof cover!

We meet every other Thursday from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at St Nicholas School. No experience necessary, just bring along a project and we can help you get started. All crafts welcomed, we have knitters, artists and stitchers.

For more information and meeting dates contact Philippaetheridge@btinternet.com

HURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL SHOW – Saturday 22nd August.

“The show must go on” said Frank Whittaker, Secretary of the Hurst Horticultural Society. Earlier in the year the show was in doubt due to the planned demolition of the Scout Hut and construction of the new Hurst Community Hub which is likely to take place around the time of the show.

“The show has been held every year for the past 112 years with the exception of the war years, so we were certainly not going to let this get in our way and anyway, we totally support the new Hurst Community Hub.” For this year only, the show will move 200 metres down the road and be held in St Nicholas CE Primary School, School Road, Hurst, in the school hall and marquees in the school grounds.

The show will continue to create its customary traditional English village life atmosphere as enthusiasm and popularity for this event seems to grow every year. The focus will continue to be on providing a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon out with lots of opportunity for entering some of the many flowers, vegetable, fruit, cookery, handicraft, photography, art and scarecrow classes for both adults and children.

A full list of categories can be seen on the website (www.hursthorticulturalsociety.org) and entries can be made online from July 1st. Printed colour schedules will be distributed to houses in Hurst in mid-July and paper entries can also be made from the entry form in these. Copies will also be available in the village shop, local pubs and garden centres.

It's all there, the usual live Jazz-band, beer & wine tent, home-made cream teas and cakes, hot food, the famous Hurst Alpacas, a wide variety of local craft stalls, plant stall, raffle and the popular auctioning of the show's fresh produce at seriously low prices.

So, make a date for your diaries: Saturday 22nd August with gates opening at 12:00 noon.

Hurst Gospel Hall



Every Monday, Hurst Gospel Hall opens its doors to children and families in the village for two warm and welcoming completely free activities: Coffee and Toddlers in the morning, and J.A.M. Children's Club in the evening.

Coffee and Toddlers runs on Monday mornings from 10am to 11.30am and is a relaxed opportunity for parents, carers, grandparents and little ones to spend time together in a friendly setting. There is tea and coffee for the adults, space and plenty of fun toys for toddlers to play, and a chance to meet others from the local community. Whether you are new to the area, looking after a little one during the week, or simply glad of a cheerful place to go on a Monday morning, you would be very welcome.

During school term time, J.A.M. (which stands for "Jesus And Me") meets from 6pm to 7pm and is especially for children aged 5 to 11. J.A.M. is full of energy and fun, with quizzes, prizes, singing and great stories from the Bible each week. It gives children the chance to enjoy, learn, listen to Bible stories, take part in fun games and make friends in a safe and caring environment.

Both activities reflect our desire at Hurst Gospel Hall to be provide a friendly and safe place where children and families can come without cost, pressure or formality. You do not need to be a regular churchgoer, and you do not need to know anyone already — just come along and you will be made welcome.

The meetings take place at Hurst Gospel Hall, Whistley Green, Hurst, RG10 0DS. Anyone who would like more information can visit the church website or use the contact form there, but the simplest way to find out what Coffee and Toddlers or J.A.M. is like is to come and see for yourself! Please see hurstgospelhall.org for more details including contact information.

[A busy summer at St Nicholas Church](#)

As we welcome the summer here in Hurst, there are so many things to look forward to that make our village such a wonderful place to live.

Soon we will have the Hurst Show and the Horticultural Show. But, here at St Nicholas Church, things are “hotting up” for the summer. We have already had 3 weddings and another 6 are booked before the end of September. These are joyous occasions to welcome many people who may not have visited our ancient church. So far, the weather has been generally kind to the brides! I have reflected at the weddings how many thousands of couples have been married at the church in the last 942 years. We have also had several baptisms where families have come to the church to give thanks for their child.

In preparation for the weddings, the churchyard has been tidied up thanks to a great group of volunteers and an extra effort at a “working Saturday” a few weeks ago. It now looks great. My thanks to all concerned.

This last week we have had a brilliant organ recital where our refurbished organ has been shown to its full potential and a “Pet Service” (a first for me) where we welcomed at least 9 dogs and their owners.





I hope that there will be many more opportunities for special services, concerts and other events at the church when we can welcome everyone to experience the wonder of this ancient building. If you haven't visited for a while, come along and see what we have been doing one Sunday.

St Nicholas is both an ancient building and a wonderful community resource that is open to all... Come and find out more...

Have a wonderful summer

HUGH

Revd Hugh Thomas



The Friends of St Nicholas

Since we last reported on 'The Friends' or FOSN, it has been a busy 6 months or so. Last time we told you that the first project that FOSN will be tackling is one that aims to improve access to the Church, the Bowling Club and The Castle Inn. The project is called **The Church Hill Pathway** and seeks to create a safe, pedestrian route up Church Hill from the Village Hall.



The FOSN team have made a planning application to Wokingham Borough Council for the requisite permissions. "We were pleased that WBC swiftly agreed that we do **NOT** need planning permission and that any fencing / pathway development would be under permitted development" said FOSN Chair Mark Say.

"We have been finalising our Plan and Technical Specification for the project and have been working with the four different landowners to agree to a design and how the path will be built" said Say.

"The next step is to put the contract out to tender and get firm costs nailed down. At the same time, we will start to raise the funds. We are aiming to start the actual work in Spring 2027 and hope to aim for completion Summer 2027."

Friends magazine

Part of FOSN's fundraising efforts was the launch of ***Friends*** magazine. Issue 1 was delivered to every household in the Parish in May and raised over £750 profit from advertising sales. Issue 2 will be distributed this month.

Events

Julia Curnow told us that at the end of April, FOSN organised a spring clean of the Church and a tidy up of the graveyard – “we had 19 people turn out with strimmers, dusters and cans of Pledge – it was a fantastic effort and prepared the Church wonderfully – especially as there are 9 weddings coming up this year!”

Furthermore, on the 6th June, the FOSN Events Team organised an organ recital with four different organists and world-famous soprano Astrid Marie Lazar. It was an excellent evening with over 80 people turning up on a blustery night and we raised over £1,500 that will be put towards the second stage of the organ restoration.

If you are interested in finding out more about The Pathway Project or you would like to become a Friend and help us to achieve our aims, then please access our website at www.fosnhurst.com or email fosnhurst@gmail.com or contact Mark Say on 07799 065762



St Nicholas CE Primary, A Summer Term Update

As we move through the Summer term at St Nicholas CE Primary School, there is a real sense of energy, creativity and celebration across our school community. Rooted in our vision of *Laying Firm Foundations*, our children continue to flourish academically, socially and spiritually, producing work and experiences that make us incredibly proud.

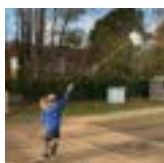
The summer term is always a special time of year. We look forward to exciting events including our end of year production, the Hurst Show, two residential visits, our Family Barbecue and a whole school trip!

Learning extends far beyond the classroom. This term our Year 6 pupils will be creating lasting memories on their residential visit to Rhos-y-Gwaliau in North Wales, and our Year 4 children will enjoy an action-packed adventure at Sayers Croft. These experiences encourage independence, resilience, teamwork and confidence, helping children develop skills that will stay with them for life.

We believe that education is about more than academic achievement. Helping children to become happy, healthy and resilient is at the heart of what we do.

This year, we have introduced the MyHappyMind programme across the school. Through engaging lessons, children learn how their brains work, how to manage emotions, celebrate their strengths and build positive relationships. These important life skills help children develop confidence and emotional resilience.

We have also expanded opportunities for outdoor learning and physical activity. Our St Nicks Striders have proudly taken part in junior parkrun events, promoting fitness and community spirit. Jigsaw Outdoors sessions have brought PSHE learning into the natural environment, encouraging collaboration and problem-solving in an outdoor setting.



Alongside this, improvements to our outdoor play areas and equipment have created exciting spaces for active, imaginative play, helping children build friendships and independence during breaktimes.

Nurturing Relationships

Strong relationships help children feel safe, valued and ready to learn. One of the most treasured parts of life at St Nicholas is our Buddy System, where Year 6 pupils are paired with children in Reception.

Our older pupils take great pride in supporting their younger buddies throughout the year, sharing stories, playing games and helping them settle into school life. For Reception children, having a friendly Year 6 face around school provides reassurance and confidence as they begin their educational journey.



St Nicholas is much more than a school; it is a community built on partnership, care and shared values. We are incredibly grateful to the parents, carers, former pupils and local residents who support us in so many ways.

Together, we continue to live out our vision of *Laying Firm Foundations*, ensuring every child is equipped with the knowledge, skills and values they need for the next stage of their journey and for life beyond school.

Sarah Hilling, Head of School

St Nicholas CE Primary School
0118 934 0727

Hello from St Nicholas Preschool Hurst!

At St Nicholas Preschool we provide a relaxed, happy and stimulating environment where children learn through play.

We are an Ofsted Registered Charity Pre-School with excellent indoor and outdoor facilities. One of our aims is to prepare children for their next chapter, particularly their transition to school and this is achieved by developing their independence and self-confidence.

We develop these life skills through play, with guidance from our skilled staff. Learning through play gives the children opportunities to independently choose, make decisions, solve problems and develop positive social interactions that prepare them for their next stage.

The Summer Term is in full flow and we are looking forward to celebrating both Festivals and Vehicles week very soon. We have been growing vegetables and sunflowers in our allotment, and the children enjoy helping to weed the beds and water the plants. We have a bug hotel in our garden and it is always fun to see what bugs we can find there and around the garden. We recently celebrated National Bee Day and enjoyed learning about bees and honey.

We always enjoy being part of the village and surrounding community and love to take part in local events. You may have seen our decorated boards at Dinton Pastures for their Easter and Spring Trails recently. We will be supporting the Hurst show again this year – come and find us at the Strawberries and Cream stall.

We still have some space for 2, 3 and 4 year olds from September 2026 onwards. If you would like to find out more or come and visit us, please call us on 0118 934 3677 or visit our website [St Nicholas Preschool - Hurst](#) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Thames Valley Police

Useful burglary prevention advice, whether you are home or away this summer

Home

- Lock all doors and windows at night and when you are out. Ensure all sheds and garden buildings are secure when unoccupied. If you have a UPVC door, remember to lift the handle and lock it with the key.
- Keep all valuables and keys, including car keys, out of sight and reach of windows and letterboxes. Double check your vehicle is locked too.
- Ensure all gates are locked to prevent access to the sides and rear of your property. Move bins away from side walls and fences.
- Keep ladders and tools stored away. Don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home.

Away

- Use a timer switch to make your house look occupied, even when it isn't.
- Don't advertise that you are going on holiday on social media – wait to upload your snaps until you get home!
- Consider installing a video doorbell and ensure it is fully charged.
- Ask someone you trust to keep an eye on your home while you are away.
- Don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under doormats or plant pots.

For more crime prevention advice, please visit our website:

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

You can find out your local neighbourhood policing priorities on our website: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/area/your-area/>

Hurst Morris People (HuMP)

Hurst Morris People (HuMP) are having a great year of fun – with more on the way.

At Reading University we taught Morris dancing to 90 overseas students who were initially baffled about an English culture most of them hadn't heard of.

But after we'd danced for them, they went on to learn, with great enthusiasm, some dances to perform with us.

Coming up at Hurst Village Hall there's the chance for everyone to have a go at our centuries-old tradition.

The taster sessions are on Thursdays September 24 and October 1 at 8pm.

Adults of all ages are welcome to have a go at our dancing. No experience of Morris is needed. Folk musicians can try out playing our dance tunes.

HuMP's squire (leader) Christine Taylor, a founder of the team and still living in the village, said:

"We're a thriving group of people in their 20s and older. We offer a warm welcome. Our friendly teachers will show you easy to learn dances – and, most of all, you'll have fun."

This summer our dance venues include pubs in Hurst, Maidenhead, Littlewick Green, Binfield, Wokingham and Sonning.





We're at The Queen's Oak, Finchampstead on July 7, The Six Bells, Shinfield on July 14 and The White Horse, Hedgerley on July 22. All at 8pm

A favourite event is Hurst Show where we perform and then invite visitors to join in with a simple dance.

We also enjoy going to festivals across southern England. At Oxford Folk Festival in April many tourists asked about our pastime.

At Hasting's amazing Jack in the Green Festival in May we danced for a 2,500 audience on a field above the sea. The locals gave us all a great welcome. Later in May we enjoyed Winchester Mayfest.

On September 5 we're at Wallingford Bunkfest. At Swanage Folk Festival on September 12 and 13 we'll dance on the prom and have a beach hut so we can relax, socialise and eat delicious cakes!

Hurst Village Picnic

Sunday 17th May saw the first Hurst Village Picnic taking place in the community orchard on Church Hill. We were very fortunate with the weather – originally a rainy forecast that turned into a fine and sunny day. And even more fortunate, the rain held off until the very end!

Many families brought along their picnic blankets and hampers to enjoy the afternoon listening to music from Swing Gitan.

The ladies from St Nicholas Church had been busy baking and had a tasty selection of cakes available to buy, along with a welcome cup of tea or coffee. I can testify that the rocky road was exceptional!

Children's games took place at the bottom of the orchard and included three-legged race and a tug of war, and winners were presented with a medal.

Thank to you everyone who helped out on the day – and also to the families who came along to support this village event.



Hurst Race Night

Hurst held its very first race night at the village halls on Saturday 7th February. This was a joint event between the New Hurst Village Society and the Hurst Bowling Club, with the majority of the proceeds going towards the build of the new bowling club pavilion.

The event was sold out, with over 100 people coming along to enjoy the evening. The hall had been decorated for the evening, and the eight races were shown on a big screen. Our compere Jack kept the excitement going and even managed to fit a couple of fun games in between the races.

All the horses had an 'owner' and if their horse won the race they were presented with a bottle of wine. Races were sponsored by various local businesses and villagers, and this all helped to increase the funds raised.

A delicious supper was served during the races, all prepared by a busy team who spent the afternoon putting together patters of cold meats and cheeses for each table. These were accompanied by a selection of hot dishes including mini new potatoes, chicken satay, sausage rolls and warm crusty bread.

We also had a bar that provided a selection of wines and beers for guests to choose from, along with a signature cocktail and a selection of soft drinks.

Feedback following the event was very positive and we're delighted to report the final sum raised for the evening was over £2700!



Hurst Show & Country Fayre 2026

Wow, what a weekend! Saturday we melted in over 30-degree heat, but even so many people turned up to support the event. Sunday was much more comfortable, and the crowds really turned out in force. We have lots of photographs to share, so are keeping the words to a minimum.

The show was opened on Saturday by 106-year-old Jesse, seen here with some of the 'pink polo' event crew.



This year most of the activities took place in St Nicholas Hurst Primary School field. These included ferret racing, the ever-popular archery and BMX displays.



above - ferret racing

*right - a very busy
School Road*

*this 'was'
a Skoda
Fabia!*



The music tent and the stalls were all on Martineau Green, with the classic vehicles all lined up as usual on School Road.



on Martineau Green - visitors take a break to listen to the music, FoSN book stall and CPR training with SCAS



This event takes a huge amount of organising and couldn't happen without the dedication of the event team, ably assisted by the many volunteers who help with things like set up, take down, running the bar, and not forgetting the essential scouts' barbecue – always a queue for that stand!



above - the scouts' barbecue and the event team



and finally we couldnt resist these two cuties who really wanted to visit the face painting stand - twins Alicia on the left and Eloise on the right

Skills Register Focus On County Marquees

County Marquees is your premier local specialist based right here in Hurst for marquee and event equipment hire.

Founded in 1993 by Matt Ratcliffe, the family owned and run business has built an outstanding reputation for honesty and reliability over the years. What truly sets us apart is Matt's unique hands-on dedication to every single customer. To guarantee unmatched quality, Matt is personally present at every single marquee order we receive. From your initial enquiry to the final set up, he delivers bespoke expert advice ensuring your wedding, birthday celebration or corporate function runs seamlessly.

County Marquees provide weather resistant clear-span structures, capri style stretch tents and peaked roof pagodas. We have a complete range of internal furnishings and manage the install of luxury linings, ambient lighting, dancefloors and heating if required.

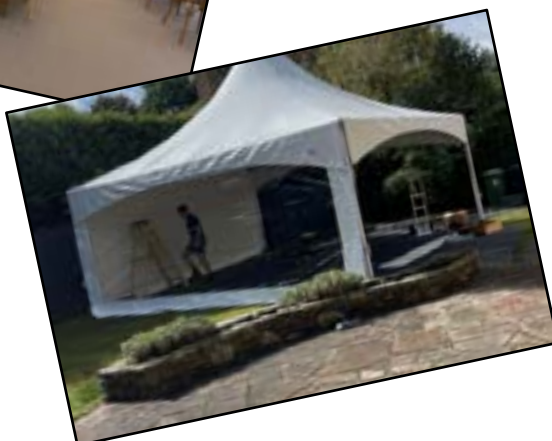
We also hire our tables, chairs, lighting, sound systems etc to clients that are not using one of our structures but have their own venue such as a barn, village hall, hotel or even their own marquee. We have over 4000 chairs in 8 different styles from simple folding ones to banqueting chairs and every size of round table as well as many hundreds of trestle tables.



County Marquees provide structures all year round and have steel sub-frame floors for very uneven ground as well as solid walls, French doors and double skin roofs for winter insulation if needed. This keeps the clients warm and happy if not the team that puts the kit together in the wind and rain!

As a local company, during the peak summer months we recruit temporary staff from the area with university students particularly keen for the work. Many return each summer throughout their time at Uni and often confirm their availability to Matt in January or February.

If you have an event that you would like to discuss, please contact Matt or the team on 0118 934 1798, email sales@countymarqueesuk.com or for further information visit the website www.countymarqueesuk.com



Hurst History - Nurseries

Thanks to the very rich soil in the area there were once several plant nurseries around Hurst, but most have now disappeared. Sites included the Willis market garden in School Road, Whitfields in Sawpit Lane, Valley Nurseries at Whistley Green, Hicks Rose Nursery on Orchard Road, Beech garden centre, Carliles and the one remaining plant nursery, Ashridge Garden Centre.

I'm sure many of our older residents will recognise these names. Many of them grew vegetables, but a few were more like the garden plant nurseries we are more familiar with. Carliles specialised in herbaceous plants, and at one time had over 2,000 lupin and delphinium plants.

Further afield, there were more nurseries around Twyford – the most famous being Waterers, the forerunner of Kennedys (now the site of Squires). They specialised in bearded irises and grew them in fields either side of the A4. During flowering season, drivers were treated to fields of these colourful flowers either side of the road, that led to this stretch of the A4 being named 'the floral mile'.



At one time Hurst was famous for roses, grown at the aptly named Hicks Rose Nursery. These were famous both in the UK and around the world. In fact, in 1914 Queen Alexandra commented on the beautiful, fragrant rose, and said it would "appeal to all lovers of England's premier flower".



Ashridge Garden Centre is the only remaining nursery, although the Fletcher family who own and run the nursery started out as 'Fletchers' greengrocers in Wokingham in 1939. The land on Forest Road was bought in 1987 and was initially a smallholding of goats and chickens.

By the early 1990s the site had transitioned into selling fruit, vegetable and eventually home-grown plants. Today they have a huge variety of annual and perennial plants, compost, indoor plants etc, alongside the on-site café and several other trading outlets around the car park.

Skills Register

We continue to support and promote local business with a Skills Register that has been in existence for many years. If you or your neighbours need help finding an accountant, builder, skip hire, plumber, chimney sweep, solicitor, nursery, marquee hire, water softener, or window cleaner, then the Skills Register is the first place to look! <https://www.nhvs.org.uk/skills-register/>

We have 12 local business on our register and are always looking for more. It's just £35 per year to be on the register, including membership and a listing on webpage, with promotion in this newsletter too.

Accountant - Land & Scales Ltd

0118 934 1818

maria@landandscales.co.uk

Small Business accountant specialising in helping to run sole trader businesses and small limited companies, statutory accounts, company secretarial accounts, tax returns and pay-rolls. CIMA qualified.

Bread - Jack's Bread

Jack Ukleja, 13 Martineau Lane, Hurst. www.jacksbread.co.uk

Delicious local bread, freshly made on the day you receive it - with care and carftsmanship.

Builders - Colin Sawyer & Son Builders Limited

07768 533774

oaokman@me.com, csawyerandsonltd.co.uk

Business has been established for over 39 years, now based in Hurst. We have carried out many small and very large building projects with a passion for quality workmanship. We also work on listed buildings.

Car Keys - Doctor Car Keys

07812 597007 <https://www.doctorcarkeys.co.uk>.

Chris Little, Unit 9 Grange Farm Units, Nelson Lane
24/7 emergency support. Reliable help for all car key needs, including replacement, repairs and 24/7 emergency.

Chimney Sweep - Thames Chimney Sweep

Neil Scott

T: 01628 828 130 M: 07799 268 123

enquiries@thameschimneysweeps.co.uk

Professional Chimney Sweep. Fully insured. Contact for prompt attention. Member of Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps, European Federation of Chimney Sweeps and Trading Standards Buy with Confidence Scheme. www.thameschimneysweeps.co.uk

Day Nursery - Muddy Ducks Nursery

Dinton Pastures

07935 228600

info@muddyducksnursery.com, www.muddyducksnursery.com

We are passionate about outdoor play and the importance of children learning about nature and the environment. For children aged 2-5 years. Open 8am-6pm Monday to Friday. Both term-time and all year places available. Funded places available.

Marquee Hire - County Marquees

www.county-marquees.co.uk

0118 9341798

sales@county-marquees.co.uk, countymarquee@gmail.com

Our family run marquee & furniture hire business has been established for over 30 years. Based in Hurst we have established an excellent reputation for reliability and quality which is second to none. Areas include Berkshire, Bucks, Hampshire, Oxfordshire etc.

Plumbing/Heating - Paul Newman Plumbing, Heating & Gas

Paul Newman

07740 236010

paulnewmanphg@yahoo.co.uk

Friendly, local and reliable Gas Safe boiler and heating installer, along with heating system upgrades, landlord safety certificates, bathroom installs, underfloor heating, general plumbing work and offers free quotes.

Skip Hire - John Horwood Skips

John the Skip

Wokingham Road

T: 01628 788 144 M: 07710 008 630

johnhorwood@johntheskip.co.uk

All sizes from 3½ yard upwards always available. grab hire service, top soil and crushed concrete supplied.

Solicitor - Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP

Eugene Wojciechowski

T: 0118 982 2640 M: 07738 697328

eugene.wojciechowski@penningtonslaw.com

Eugene is an employment law specialist and his firm advises both businesses and individuals on a full range of legal issues.

Water Softeners - Thames Valley Water Softeners

Gavin Boakes

0118 934 4485

info@thamesvalleywatersofteners.co.uk, www.thamesvalleywatersofteners.co.uk,

www.blocksaltman.co.uk

Local water softener supplier. Free installation survey and advice. 10-year guarantee. Repair service available. Salt for pick-up or delivery.

Window Cleaning - Richard of Hurst

Richard Boyden

07980 872 034

richard@richardofhurst.com

Local, trusted and reliable. No house or business too small or too big. Free quotation. Fully insured.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TRADERS

See the NHVS webiste for full details if you would like to join the skills register - only £35 per year.

Future events - make a note in your diaries!!

22nd August - Horticultural show - St Nicholas School hall and grounds

8th November - Remembrance Service, St Nicholas Church

5th December - Christmas Fayre - village halls

5th December - Christmas tree light switch-on

12th December - Christmas Dinner/Dance - village halls

We are considering a number of other events including more CPR training sessions in the autumn and perhaps an Easter Trail in the spring.

Look out for updates about events on the Hurst Residents Facebook page.

The 'What's On' group comes up with ideas, then organises and sets up many of the extra events in the village such as the picnic and race night. We would welcome anyone who would like to join the group to help us make the village a great place to live.

If you are interested please email us on the usual mail address - contact@nhvs.org.uk

Next issue is due out in January. Closing date for copy is 12th December.

Please send you articles to contact@nhvs.org.uk