



Hurstpierpoint Society Newsletter – Autumn 2011

Charity No. 263520



Land North of Highfield Drive

In our last Newsletter we wrote about the planning application for 51 houses on the land to the north of Highfield Drive and adjoining College Lane. A concerted effort by the Protect Hurst Group and Hurst Society led to hundreds of objections and the application was refused by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) on 19th August 2011. However, Rydon Homes have appealed against this decision.

The grounds for refusal by MSDC briefly included the adverse impact on the setting of the Hurst Wickham conservation area and the coalescence of Hurstpierpoint and Hurst Wickham; the layout of the houses in the north east corner being too regimented and having an adverse impact on the amenities of the occupiers of the properties on College Lane; and the problems of infrastructure.

The grounds of appeal by Rydon Homes state that Mid Sussex District Council is unable to demonstrate that it can deliver a five year supply of deliverable housing sites to meet housing needs in this area. Also, that no objection was raised by the statutory bodies such as West Sussex County Council (re schools and highways), and the Environment Agency and Southern Water (re water supply and sewage). They also dispute the effect on the Hurst Wickham conservation area.

The lack of support from the statutory bodies in respect of the infrastructure issues is particularly galling to Hurst residents, who are well aware of the problems with school places, traffic problems in the village, and sewage problems. The financial contribution offer from the developers will have very little impact on our existing problems, which will only be increased by building more houses to be occupied by more people using more cars.

The appeal hearing is anticipated to take place early in the New Year and we will provide further information on our website www.hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk as this becomes available.

Waste Incinerators at Goddards Green and Hickstead

We all generate waste and once the black bin is emptied that's probably the last thought we have of it. However, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) are obligated by government to increase its waste treatment capability and have short-listed 10 preferred sites throughout the County two of which are Goddards Green, in Hurst Parish, and Hickstead the other side of the A23 in Wineham Parish.

The South Downs National Park and AONBs are out of bounds for waste activity so it comes down to undesignated areas and in our case the Low Weald north of Hurstpierpoint. WSCC state that the Goddards Green incinerator would serve Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill but WSCC do not 'sort' the waste directly and need to secure the widest possible range of waste treatment sorting planning permission to secure the best deal with external contractors. So how much control does WSCC have thereafter on whose waste is treated? Contractors will want the widest possible remit. Whilst all of us would like to think it's just the waste of West Sussex, this is not the case. Cross County boundary movements are normal. At Newhaven they treat French waste! The Small Dole landfill site had waste coming from far outside the County. The A23 location of the incinerators permits easy waste movement from London, Kent and Surrey with anything up to 174 lorry movements over a 12 hours shift.

Both sites are greenfield and WSCC have not seen fit to disclose which brownfield sites it has considered and presumably dismissed. Go to www.no-haggis.co.uk where you will find full contact details on how to make your views known to WSCC, your MP, your County and Local Councillor.

Michael's Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group

Michael Nailard has been a hardworking member of the Hurstpierpoint Society Committee since 2004 and is also Chairman of the Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group. He and many other long enduring volunteers began a bio-diversity study of the Parish after an open meeting in August 2004. Fourteen survey teams started, with landowners consent, in the North East of the Parish. Their original aims included the provision of owl and bat boxes in suitable locations and the provision of parking or a lay-by at Pond Lye to allow visitors to walk the footpath beside the Lake. The survey was completed last year.

Owl boxes were installed in February 2007, with the help of grant funding from MSDC and a little from the Society, and were resoundingly successful that spring. Bat boxes followed in 2009 in a wide variety of shapes and sizes to meet the requirements of the six bat varieties residing in our Parish. A longer ladder and safety equipment were needed to service this provision.

The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group has produced a series of colourful and informative news sheets and invites speakers to give illustrated talks on environmental subjects after its AGM. This year about 200 people came for Edward Parker's talk on Ancient Trees.

Michael first came to prominence in the fight against the "Burgess Hill Bulge" in the WSCC draft structure plan of 2001 where 3500 houses were proposed on the Adur flood plain north of Hurspierpoint. He was one of the Greenfield Guardians (along with David Evans, current Parish Councillor) who managed to blanket the village with warning leaflets. That proposal was eventually rejected after an Examination in Public: one hopes the same outcome for the Burgess Hill Council proposed Business Park.

Website News versus Newsletter

We are attempting to improve the News content of our Society website by bringing forward issues that would be seen by most readers as being of interest if not importance. Many items are time sensitive and we need to publish them in an expeditious manner so that readers can make the most effective use of the information. The website News can be updated daily which provides us more opportunity to keep you better informed.

Our Newsletter is currently published three times a year but even this frequency has a built in time lag, in gathering the stories, preparing the Newsletter, getting it printed and last but not least getting it delivered. It is clear that it cannot compete with the website but it can on long sell by date stories where we hope to be able to go into more detail and depth.

We will now be publishing two editions per year, Spring and Autumn, and will always bring out another edition if we have something special to say.

We hope you will be content with this balanced change of information supply from the Society. Members are very welcome to suggest issues for both the website and the Newsletter and also provide articles that we can publish. Send them to patrick.kehoe@btinternet.com

Subscription News

The new Lifetime Membership option has proved popular with over 90 members now signed up. The subscription options are now as follows:

Individual member annually	-	£2
Dual membership annually	-	£3
Life membership individual	-	£20
Dual Life membership	-	£30

Thanks to all our collectors for their sterling efforts in recent months. Your help is now needed to get subs collected with this edition of the Newsletter prior to the AGM please.

Xmas and Occasion Cards

Drop into the Mint House in the High Street and you can support the Society by buying the Society's Xmas cards depicting winter scenes from around Hurstpierpoint.

Plenty of ALL occasion cards are also available.

Xmas Cards	£4 for 8
Occasion Cards	£2 for 4

For stocking filler you can purchase the Map of Parish Footpaths by Prof Molly Mahood at £3.00 at both the Mint House and the Parish Council office. This map could be useful for walking off any seasonal excess.

Visit to West Sussex Record Office

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Mrs Maureen Landivar

Contacts:

Secretary:

andrew@hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk

Editor:

patrick.kehoe@btinternet.com

Website:

www.hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk

Printed by:

The Danewood Press

Committee member, Sue Deane, recently visited the West Sussex Record Office in Chichester on behalf of the Society to inspect the archive of photographs of Hurstpierpoint which were taken between May and December 1975 which was European Architectural Heritage Year. Our village was one of many selected to be surveyed and a photographic record made.

The collections of black and white photographs, numbering almost 500, are in pristine condition having been stored individually in opaque sleeves. Some are a bit dark reflecting the time of year when they were taken but they cover the area from Albourne Road to the west of the village to Hassocks Road in the east and south to the farmland bordering the Brighton Road. There are no photographs to the east of Randiddles Corner or to the north of the village.

The photographs were taken by several photographers – Nicholas Lomax of Lamb House, Mrs Bradley of Church House, Dr Ursula Hamilton-Paterson and John Atkins of Western Road, Mr G E Bowles of 5 Hassocks Road and Mr D Rogers of The Mint House, Mrs E Murchie of the Old Lion 27 High Street and Tim Edwards of Lamb Photographics of Cuckfield Road.

Record sheets identify the individual photographs and one of the sheets bears the request for the negatives to be returned to Mrs. Bradley. Sadly no trace can be found of these negatives but if anyone knows the whereabouts of any other negatives, please contact the Society.

St Lawrence Fair 700th Anniversary

On Saturday 5th November at the Village Centre, Trinity Road, the Artwork Project Group (APG) will be putting on display three scale models which are submissions in a competition for a commemorative sculpture. The sculpture will commemorate the 700th year since the granting of the original Charter by King Edward II in 1313 AD for the holding of an annual fair.

During the following **month** the Artwork Project Group hopes that visitors to the display will complete Opinion Forms with their comments and leave them with the Parish Council office. The three local artists have made models of their designs and the successful one will be commissioned to produce the final piece to be enjoyed by everyone visiting the Village Garden, perhaps for the next 700 years.

The APG is made up from members of the St Lawrence Fair Committee, Hurst Society, Museum Group, Parish Council and others, and wished to produce a permanent memorial to the origins of the Fair. The Hurstpierpoint Society has donated to this project.

Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre

The Hurstpierpoint Players Theatre is a strong focal point for the village and has been so since the premises were bought by the Hurstpierpoint Players charity in 1976.

It is hard to think that the Players Theatre was once a chapel, a school and then a wine store before a great deal of effort was made by the Players to turn the building into their permanent theatre residence. The Players concept was conceived in 1936 in the back bar of the New Inn and from thereon they performed all over the village, in halls and marquees.

Today the Players Theatre is full of activity with a programme of plays throughout the year. The 'Centre Stage' is a Saturday morning forum for pre-teens and teenagers to learn speech and drama skills.

The Theatre is also available for other uses and now has the Hurstpierpoint Film Society and the Hurstpierpoint Kids Film Club taking a presence with monthly showings of recently released films at a decent entrance price. Tickets and details of programme are available from the Mint House in the High Street.

The Hurstpierpoint Players is a charity and has to raise funds to produce the plays they present. The Society has been pleased to support the charity by paying for the recent professional redecoration of the theatre frontage. www.hurstplayers.org.uk



Hurst Society AGM - 28th April 2012, 1.30pm, Village Centre