



Hurstpierpoint Society Newsletter – Autumn 2010

Charity No. 263520

Full steam ahead on South Downs National Park

Since its establishment in March 2010, the shadow South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) has been making good progress in establishing some of the policies, strategies and infrastructures that are essential for the smooth-running of the Park when the Authority assumes responsibility in April 2011. We now know that the SDNPA hopes to secure its current interim HQ in Midhurst on a permanent basis and that a budget of £7.29m has been confirmed for the shadow year. One of the first steps of the NPA was to put together a guiding statement:

“The South Downs National Park is a protected, working, special landscape that is loved, enjoyed and respected by local communities, visitors and the nation”

It's no surprise that there is an awful lot to do in a relatively short time – staff to hire, premises to be located – but the NPA has already made three important decisions:

- **Planning** – the NPA has agreed in principle to delegate planning control work to the fifteen Local Authorities within the Park. It will, however, retain overall control, set the strategy for the Park and have the power to call in applications causing concern. In practice, anyone applying for a small scale application e.g. house extension, would apply to the local council in the normal way. This would enable the NPA to work strategically, focussing on the most significant & major applications likely to have the greatest impact in the Park



Wolstonbury, as seen from Hurstpierpoint village

- **Rights of Way** -in principle, the rights of way network will be managed by local Highway Authority (WSCC in our case). However, the NPA will develop a partnership with the four Highway Authorities to ensure a consistently high standard of access and rights of way network across the Park.
- **National Park Delivery Service** – a new service that will be a responsive first point of contact for a number of different groups. It will engage with local communities on Parish Plans and local projects and provide advice, support and grant information to land managers, farmers and businesses. In addition, its purpose is also to communicate with and promote the Park to visitors and to work with volunteers.

In our parish, the National Park boundary follows almost exactly the footprint of the former Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is to the south of the village i.e. to the south of the houses and gardens along Wickham Hill, Hassocks Rd, the High Street and to the east of Brighton Road. The only significant omission from the former AONB is the area around Geer's nursery

Meet the Committee Members

As part of a new regular feature, we'll be introducing you to the Committee Members and looking at why they wanted to join the Society. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Member should contact Lyn Williams at lyn-williams@tiscali.co.uk

Stewart Hall

Joining the Committee in 2010, Stewart's association with Hurstpierpoint dates back to the late 1960's when he was responsible for telephone lines in the Hurstpierpoint and Poynings areas. He moved to Hurstpierpoint in 1977 where he served as a retained fire-fighter for over twenty years - the last fourteen of which were as Station Commander. Both these roles gave him a good insight and knowledge of the village and surrounding area. He has always been interested in the local area and its history and items from his collection of Fire Brigade and Telephony memorabilia have been displayed at the Village Centre. Stewart is married to Denise and has two children Simon and Samantha both of whom serve in the Army.



Lyn Williams – Chairman

Almost 35 years ago, Lyn discovered a wonderful restaurant in Hurstpierpoint High Street. In the years to follow, she made many visits and each time noticed the vibrancy of the village, especially within the Conservation Areas, and discovered more of the shops and other facilities. Although the restaurant has changed hands a number of times since, the village has managed to retain its special character, and was therefore the natural choice for Lyn to move to following her "retirement" from the City.

It is Lyn's hope that under the watchful eye of Hurst Society, we can continue to protect and conserve the special features of Hurst for future generations whilst finding ways to meet the changing needs of the village.

Lifetime Membership

The new Lifetime Membership option has proved popular with 77 members signed up already. The subscription options are now as follows:

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

Lifetime members will be issued with a laminated card recording their lifetime membership status.

Hurst Society is still dependent on legacies for funding major projects. Contact the Secretary, Andrew Hair for more information.

Don't forget to Gift-Aid it!

Each year, the Society receives approximately £500 in Gift Aid from subscriptions. Anyone paying tax can complete a Gift Aid form thus enabling the Society to reclaim tax on your subscription. This means that an annual joint subscription of £3 can be worth £3.84 to the Society.

If you are paying any form of tax—income tax, tax on your bank/building society interest or capital gains tax then please ensure you have completed a Gift Aid form. It is part of the new membership form but existing members can still sign up. Please contact our Treasurer or your collector for a separate form.

Farewell to the Red Telephone Box

With a keen interest in telephone boxes, Committee Member Stewart Hall was intrigued enough to try and find out whether any of the traditional red telephone boxes still existed in Hurstpierpoint.

Whilst the red telephone box may be considered synonymous with rural settings, it was only introduced in 1935 and was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. By the late 1950s and early 1960s, Hurstpierpoint telephone exchange area had thirteen public telephones connected to it - eleven of which were the iconic red box (K6 design). Of the remaining two, one was a wooden cubicle housed within the Post Office and the other an AA box at Muddlewood crossroads (which was for AA members only). Today, all that remain are seven public payphones which are the modern steel and glass (KX 100) design.

One point of interest is that not all parishes liked the bright red telephone box and petitioned the GPO (General Post Office) for a more sombre tone. This is why you will find a white K6 at Slaugham and those painted grey with red lining in some of the Cotswold villages.

The demise of the 'red box' was two- fold. Firstly, in the early 1990s the newly privatised British Telecom wished to reduce maintenance costs and present a modern image which gave rise to their replacement with the KX range. And secondly, the huge growth of mobile telephones reduced the need for public payphones.

Are you aware of any red telephone boxes that may be hidden away somewhere in the village? If so, please do contact Stewart Hall at stewart.hall@btinternet.com



St Lawrence Fair Picture Quiz

Hurst Society marked its presence at this year's St Lawrence Fair by challenging local knowledge with a pictorial quiz. Entrants were asked to match pictures of local properties to identified locations on a village map – the use of sepia photos made this task fiendishly tricky. So tough indeed was it, that we only had one person with all the correct answers – well done to Linda Viney who thoroughly deserved the prize of a basket of fruit.

Although the tie-breaker wasn't required, it generated a wide range of answers – from "The Empire State Building" to "a Farm". The animal was attributed to a zebra, leopard, crocodile, donkey and aardvark! (It was in fact, a rabbit skin). The tie-breaker question was: WHAT VILLAGE BUILDING HAS AN ANIMAL SKIN WINDOW?

The answer was: THE NEW INN.



Brewery Mews, Cuckfield Road

Your committee members

<i>Patron:</i>	Mrs Judy Parfitt
<i>President:</i>	Lady Cynthia Barnes
<i>Vice Presidents:</i>	Mr Geoffrey Bowles Mrs Wendy Rogers
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mrs Lyn Williams
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	Mr Patrick Haworth
<i>Clerk:</i>	Mr Andrew Hair
<i>Committee:</i>	Mrs Jackie Milton Mr Tim Jones Mr Michael Nailard Mrs Maxine Tyler Mrs Jo Kaddish Mrs Rosalind Mead Mr Stewart Hall

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Christmas cards sorted!

Make your Christmas card giving more personal this year with a pack of four beautiful designs depicting a winter wonderland around Hurstpierpoint. Hurst Society members donned their wellies during the winter snows to capture village scenes as few had seen before. The result is a unique collection of Christmas cards showing the village deep in this wintry world. Buy a pack of 4 for £2 or a pack of 8 for £3 from The Mint House, Washbrooks Farm Centre, or the village Christmas Fair on 26th and 27th November. For quick thank you notes, or simply to keep in touch with friends, we have a pack of postcards, again depicting village scenes but this time without the snow! Available from the same outlets as above, a pack of 4 cards costs £1.



Get those walking boots on.

The popular Village Footpath Map can be bought from the following outlets:

- Parish Office
- Mint House
- Washbrooks Farm
- Christmas Fayre (26th/27th November)
- The Library

At £3, it is a real bargain compared to an Ordnance Survey map at circa £8.50

Our thanks go to The Mint House and Washbrooks Farm for kindly agreeing to sell the map.

Village Centre gets new Hearing Loop

Thanks to the hard work of Geoff Farmer from the Over 60's Club and the Club's donation of £150 (funded by the Poacher Quiz Charity), visitors with hearing difficulties will now benefit from the introduction of a new Hearing Loop in the Village Centre. The major funding of some £1500 came from Viridor Waste Management Services under the Landfill Tax Credits Scheme. Viridor has already been very generous to the village, funding the Millennium Garden path which is used extensively by all those in the Highfield Drive/St George's Lane area as well as local school children.

In addition, Viridor has recently agreed substantial assistance to the refurbishment of the main kitchen at the Village Centre. All these projects will bring benefits to the village for many years to come.