



Hurstpierpoint Society Newsletter – Summer 2010

Charity No. 263520

Welcome to our “new-look” newsletter. We wanted to create a more visual and “web-friendly” publication and would very much welcome your feedback – it’s your newsletter so it’s important that we get it right. We are always looking for items of interest to cover, so if you have any stories for the next Newsletter, please do email me at: sarah.emms@btinternet.com

See inside for:

- 2010 Design & Conservation Awards
- New - Lifetime Membership Scheme
- Conservation Appraisal
- Parish Plan

“Question Time” comes to Hurst

Looking back through the Society’s AGM reports, it was clear that there was a consistent concern with the unrelenting demand from Government to find land for new housing near and around Hurstpierpoint. Therefore, when the Society was asked to assist with the Election Question Time on 30th April in the Village Centre, we were determined to make sure that the parliamentary candidates were left in no doubt as to the strength of local feeling on this matter

To this end, we summarised our concerns in two questions. The first reminded everyone of one of the most important aims of the Society - *to protect and conserve, to the best of our ability, the natural and built environment of the village and the surrounding area.*

Over the last thirteen years, this village status has been persistently under threat with, now, annual reviews of potential Greenfield sites to build on. While there is no disagreement with the need for local affordable housing, we wanted an assurance that under their party’s administration, the candidates would no longer threaten

our strategic gaps, but would work to conserve the identity and fabric of all our rural communities. Both Nick Herbert (Conservative) and Derek Deedman (Liberal Democrat) responded encouragingly stating policies that would give more decision-making power to “localities” on local housing needs and planning issues.



(left to right – Lindsay Keith, Nick Herbert, Derek Deedman, Lyn Williams & Tim Lunnon)

Our second question dealt with a related infrastructure issue in terms of our local schools. We asked what measures the candidates proposed to accommodate the increasing number of village children who are already not

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Question Time cont.

entitled to a place at our local primary or secondary school - a situation that would be exasperated if permission were given to build more homes in this very family-oriented village.

Again, there were some encouraging answers but no immediate solutions. We can only hope that this has reinforced the strength of feeling about this problem.

We're online at:
www.hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk

*Rosalind Mead,
looking abashed,
receives the thanks
of the Society*

AGM

This was the second year of holding the AGM on a Saturday afternoon and nearly fifty members and guests attended. The event saw the launch of the Conservation Area Appraisal and the presentation of the Conservation Awards. The Chairman also highlighted some of the projects that the Society had worked on during the year. Some of these, such as the response to the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLA), were challenging while others such as the Hurstpierpoint Festival photographic exhibition - "Then and Now" - were more uplifting.

Other topics covered included the new National Park, farmer's concerns, red tape for businesses, the plight of UK doctors and immigration, other "localism" issues and licensing laws.

A special thanks goes to Lindsay Keith for organising the event and chairing the proceedings, and the three candidates who attended: (in alphabetical order) Derek Deedman (Liberal Democrat), Nick Herbert (Conservative) and Tim Lunnon (Labour).



The Chairman gave a special thank you to Rosalind Mead who has now stepped down from her role of compiling and editing the Newsletters, which she has been producing since 1996.

The Treasurer, Patrick Haworth presented the Accounts. Despite our subscriptions being down slightly (but still good given the recession) together with the fall in interest rates, our net deficit was less than £600. The accounts were unanimously adopted.

The election of officers and committee was as follows:

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 Howarth
<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

The Society would like to extend a warm welcome to new committee member Mr Stewart Hall.

Lifetime Membership

One of the proposals agreed at the AGM was to introduce lifetime membership for the Society. 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.

Conservation Appraisal

In March, the Village Centre played host to an exhibition recording the social, commercial and industrial history of the village. This was part of the Conservation Area Appraisal – a joint venture with Mid-Sussex District Council whose purpose was to hear residents' views on draft proposals for the three village Conservation Areas. The Society was keen to highlight both the advantages and responsibilities of living in a Conservation Area and the exhibition featured a wide range of historical objects such as street furniture, signage and drain covers – the everyday small items that contribute to the overall unique charm and character of the village. "We are passionate about

safeguarding the historic identity of Hurstpierpoint, but will always take an unbiased and objective stance on all planning issues" said exhibition organiser, Maxine Tyler. One by-product of the research has been a complete photographic record of all properties in the Conservation Areas. The resultant Appraisal document identifies the elements that contribute to the special historic and architectural character of the Conservation Areas and those features that detract from it. It also details various Management Proposals, including a series of recommendations to preserve and enhance the area and proposed changes to the

boundaries of each of the Conservation Areas. The document will inform planning practice and policies for the area and provide guidance for Development Control officers in assessing planning applications. It also gives the local community clear advice on what should be cared for and preserved within the conservation areas and what enhancements should be made.



Maxine Tyler
and James Worsley

Parish Plan 2011-2016 - 21 Questions...

If you haven't already done so, you can still respond to the Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council's Action Plan. You can collect a questionnaire at the Parish office or alternatively, you can now do it online!

Just follow the link from the home page of the Parish's website at www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk.

Closing date for responses is **Monday 28th June 2010.**

Conservation & Design Awards 2010 – The Winners

The Society awarded a number of citations to properties in the Conservation Areas that demonstrated innovative, yet sympathetic design to their surroundings. These were:

Grant & Emma Easterbrook - Hope Chapel & 141 Western Road
Peter & Julia Collins - 186 Western Road
Fi Koderish & Emma Cabrera - Kiki & Cole, 113 High Street
Deborah Dalton - Hillbrow Cottage, 4 Pitt Lane
Mr & Mrs Wimbleton - Delfor House, South Avenue

Congratulations to all our winners in this, the second year of the scheme. We would now like to invite applications for the 2011 Awards. For further information, please contact Maxine Tyler at 01273 832 008.



The Easterbrooks receive their award
Eliza (age 3) , Grant and Tabitha (age 6)

Hurstpierpoint Society

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
**hurstpierpointsociety.
org.uk**

Society members visit our Twin Town

Nineteen members of the Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Twinning Association plus the Knight family who won our quiz at last year's St Lawrence Fair will be travelling to our twinned village of St Martin de Boscherville for the weekend of 4/6th June. St Martin, which is situated on the banks of the Seine downstream from Rouen, will be celebrating its 700th anniversary by holding a Mediaeval Fair. Events which start early on Friday evening and finish on Sunday afternoon will include plays and displays by the village schools, musical entertainment, archery demonstrations, equestrian displays in mediaeval costume, food and craft market & plant sale, mediaeval games, exhibitions and a sung mediaeval mass in the abbey church. The highlight of the weekend will be a medieval banquet preceded by a reception at the Town Hall. At the conclusion of the banquet, a procession will take place around the village of villagers in mediaeval costume together with their visitors.

We welcome applications for membership of the Association from individuals and village groups. If you are interested in joining please call Sue Deane on 01273 833363 or email me at sue.deane1@btinternet.com for further details of membership and activities planned for the remainder of 2010.

St Lawrence Fair – 3rd July

As always, the Society will be hosting a stall at the St Lawrence Fair and no doubt testing the grey matter of the villagers with another challenging quiz. It will also present an opportunity for all to view photographs of the winners of this year's Conservation and Design Awards and of course, we will be endeavouring to recruit new members to the Society.

About Hurstpierpoint Society

Founded in 1962, Hurstpierpoint Society is a charity and has one of the largest memberships of Sussex amenity societies with over 1,000 members committed to protecting and conserving, to the best of its ability, the natural and built environment of the village and the surrounding area.

So what are we doing now?

- Examining and commenting on planning applications
- Monitoring environmental issues such as speeding traffic, footpaths, litter and vandalism
- Giving moral and practical support to other organisations attempting to maintain and improve the character of the village