



Hurstpierpoint Society Newsletter – Summer 2011

Charity No. 263520

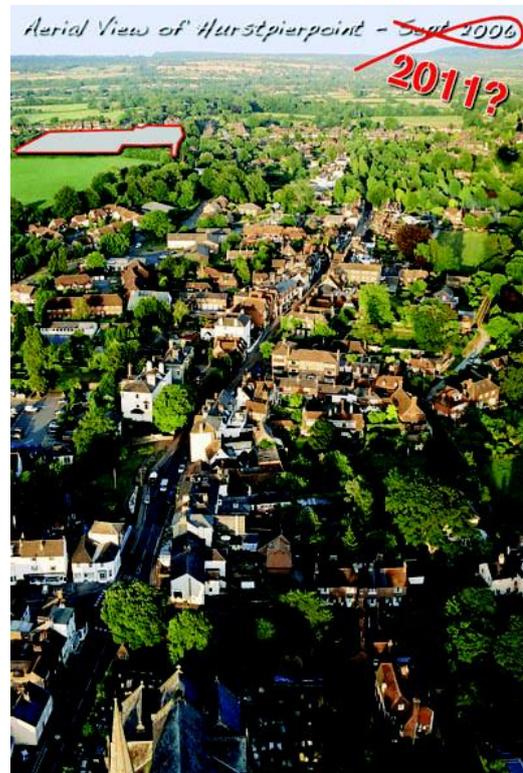
Battle Lines

There has been a recent spate of planning matters affecting Hurstpierpoint. This includes the Burgess Hill Town-wide Strategy where proposals would “spill over” the town boundary into our own Parish. In addition, an application to build 51 new homes in the field lying north of Highfield Drive and abutting the conservation area of College Lane at Hurst Wickham has also been submitted.

Mid Sussex District Council is responsible for setting future housing numbers and the Parish Council had hoped that by giving their qualified support for the Burgess Hill Strategy, they would be able to avoid any additional large scale housing allocations within the village. While this idea was being debated within the village, developers have taken advantage of the uncertainty within the planning system to submit the Highfield Drive application.

This time last year, we were all feeling a sense of relief as the new government announced the abolition of regional housing targets to give local communities a greater say in their own neighbourhood plans. Unfortunately, a developer (Cala Homes) successfully opposed the immediate abolition of the housing targets. Two judicial reviews of this decision however have given increasing weight to local plans and the Localism Bill as it passes through the legislative process. Until the Bill becomes law however (hopefully before the Parliament’s summer recess), developers are using the opportunity for sites such as Highfield Drive.

Apart from the impact of such developments on the character of Hurstpierpoint and the hamlet of Hurst Wickham, this inappropriate proposal raises real questions about the adequacy of our infrastructure to support these numbers of homes. St Lawrence School is already over-subscribed. In addition, much has been said and written about the drainage and traffic/parking problems within the village. Developers looking to turn a profit should not be allowed to ignore these real issues within the village.



We cannot say “No” to any new housing. The organic, incremental and natural growth of the village by 100 properties across 20 years is acceptable. But this objective should be achieved through “pepper pot”, natural extension and infill - not through any large single development. We should identify suitable sites and ensure that they are of appropriate scale, affordable, sustainable and as far as possible, built on the basis of local determination. Unless this approach is adopted, developers will continue to decide these issues for us. Hurstpierpoint Society will continue to make representations to try and achieve this.

STOP PRESS!

Following a very well attended meeting last week, the Parish Council unanimously recommended refusal of the Highfield Drive proposal. As well as registering their objection, they will also be speaking at the District Planning Meeting. Remember to register your comments on the MDSC site by **15th July**

Tribute to Jackie Milton

The Society was delighted when Jackie agreed to sit on our Committee in 2003. She had fought hard to oppose the Persimmon development (that eventually became The Grange). When it was clear the development was to proceed, Jackie was instrumental in “improving” it and latterly, clearing up the “ghost” roundabout on the Albourne Road.

A journalist by trade, Jackie worked at “The Argus” for many years and was Editor of the “Brighton and Hove Express” free weekly before moving to “Today” as a senior sub-editor. Leaving journalism behind, she joined Field MacNally Leathes in the High Street as a director in 1995. Following her marriage to Neil Milton (Parish Councillor and Chairman of the Friends of Wolstonbury), Jackie moved to the village in 1995.

Despite her commitment to a full time career, Jackie approached her voluntary work with enthusiasm. She brought fresh ideas and new ways of communicating to the Committee – setting up our website and bringing our publicity leaflets up to date. We relied on her to advise on publicity and to write all our press releases, where her deceptively simple prose was refreshing. Despite her demanding working life, she became one of the main contributors at our meetings - always objective as well as intuitive.

Jackie battled bravely against cancer and passed away in May 2011. She will be sorely missed by many in the village.



Meet the Committee Members

Patrick Haworth

Brought up in Manchester, Patrick’s desire to escape the urban life took him initially into farming. He then moved into the world of money and finance, spending over 35 years working for a major bank - firstly as a bank manager in Stamford and later, dealing with larger corporate clients across the South East.



It was while at Stamford that he developed an interest in architecture and conservation. Taking early retirement, he has returned to his first interest in farming with his small flock of rare breed sheep. Patrick has lived in Sussex for over 25 years and is deeply concerned about retaining the character of Hurstpierpoint. In addition, his love for the countryside and the beauty of the landscape surrounding the village has led him to become involved with several local societies dealing with these matters and community life.

Patrick has been Treasurer of Hurst Society for the last 10years.

Subscription News

The Lifetime Membership option has proved popular with over 112 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. Membership forms are available from The Mint House and the Parish Office. For further information, please call Rosalind Mead on 01273 832396

Anyone interested in becoming a Committee Member should contact Lyn Williams at lyn-williams@tiscali.co.uk

Red Earth on Wolstonbury

Whilst wandering around Wolstonbury, you may happen across a mysterious wooden structure rising out of the valley of Welcombe bottom near the dried up dewpond. Eight metres in diameter, the original concept behind the installation was a bowl submerged in the landscape to reflect the shape of the dewpond.

Created by the arts organisation Red Earth over a two week period, the structure is built from natural materials cut down by the Friends of Wolstonbury as part of the conservation management of the site. Ash, sycamore and hazel are all woody species which if left, will create woodland thus suppressing the low growing herb and grass species of the open grassland. This wood has been woven into upright posts which have been driven into the ground and the structure appears to flow. Within the main structure is a woven spiral created with the help of members of MIND, the mental health charity.

This temporary structure has been created as part of Chalk - a series of installations and walks to celebrate of the creation of the South Downs National Park. The structure will be removed following two performances which will take place on Wolstonbury Hill on 8th & 9th of October.

These performances will feature the Chalk Choir who will be singing a traditional Sussex Downs shepherding song from the Copper family collection (famous Sussex folksingers of four generations standing). They will also be joined by the Brighton & Hove Russian Choir to sing a piece from the landscape song tradition of the Russian steppe. For more information including details of how you can get involved, visit the Red Earth website at www.redearth.co.uk or email contact@redearth.co.uk

Volunteers play a vital part in the conservation of Wolstonbury Hill. The Friends of Wolstonbury is a volunteer group that assists the National Trust and is always looking for new and active members who can help with the practical conservation, administration and publicity. Task/ working days normally occur twice every month. For more information see www.wolstonbury.com or email neil@wolstonbury.com



2011 Design & Conservation Awards – and the winners are.....

The AGM in March was followed by the award of the Society's Conservation and Design Awards for 2011. These awards recognise design which is both innovative and sympathetic to its surroundings. Awards were presented to the lucky winners:

David & Christine Fletcher	- Lacroma Cottage, Brighton Road
Leslie & B Randall-Hart	- 26 High Street
Ann Magauran	- Red House Cottage, Pitt Lane
Brian & Margaret Rickard	- 31 Hassocks Road
Jan & Arthur Moulding	- Wickham Farmhouse, College Lane
Paul & Sara Longley	- New Way Cottage, New Way Lane



David & Christine Fletcher receiving their Award with their architect George Baxter and builders Bob Lindfield and Ray Everest from Countryside Constructions

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>	Mr Tim Jones Mr Michael Nailard Mrs Maxine Tyler Mrs Rosalind Mead Mr Stewart Hall Mrs Sue Deane Mr Patrick Kehoe Mr Neil Milton Mrs Maureen Landivar

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Editor:

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Parish Council Representative

Mr Neil Milton

Website:

www.hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk

The Society's AGM 2011

This year's AGM saw more than 60 attendees on a sunny Saturday afternoon at the end of March. The Chairman reported on last year's activities and highlighted the issues facing us with the changes taking place in the planning rules, which means we are seeing a number of planning proposals for development in and around the village. The Treasurer presented the accounts with the good news that subscriptions have risen this year due to 89 members taking life membership producing £1,440 alone. We were also treated to an excellent illustrated talk - "A Village Walk" by Ian Nelson, with thanks to Christopher Maidment who has helped Ian turn his photographs into a digital collection.

Federation of Sussex Amenities

The 44th AGM of the **Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies** was held at Haywards Heath on May 9th led by Chairman Richard Thompson. The Hurstpierpoint Society was strongly represented and we were given a parallel view of neighbouring amenity society affairs by Mr John Walker, from the Kent Federation who also stated that they were also having little success in enticing the baby boomer generation into assuming community responsibilities. Their experience with the High Speed Rail Link had enabled them to suggest to people in the Chilterns ways to mitigate the more serious disadvantages of the proposed extension of the Link to the Midlands. Mr Jeremy Leggett of Action in Rural Sussex followed with a presentation on Localism. This body, celebrating 80 years since its inception, has three major aims namely -tackling disadvantage/poverty in rural communities; building capacity in communities (supporting parish councils and enabling construction of village halls) and supporting village action/community plan groups. It is hoped that eventually, the Localism Bill will help all three of these objectives. Whilst much has improved in the last 80 years, affordable housing for farm workers is still a problem and the arrival of the South Downs National Park, with its population of 100,000 people will provide another range of planning problems.

What's On

- **South Downs Society Walks & Strolls** – the Society has an extensive range of friendly and informal walks to suit all levels. Strolls are shorter and generally slower while walks are usually 10 miles or more with a brisker pace. In both, there is time for a break at the pub for lunch, or a picnic if preferred. For more information, please go to: www.southdownssociety.org.uk
- **The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group** will be hosting a talk by Edward Parker, Project Manager of the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt at **7.30pm, Thursday 25th August at the Village Centre**. The talk entitled "Ancient Trees" will examine the most spectacular ancient trees from around the world including our own English oaks.