



Hurstpierpoint Society Newsletter – Autumn 2012

Charity No. 263520

Our Neighbourhood Plan

Our local Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared by the Parish Council (PC) and is a consequence of the Localism Act 2011 where Town and Parish Councils have been granted a new power to produce Neighbourhood Plans that set out how their communities will change and develop in the future.

The Neighbourhood Plan is looking forward to the next 20 years and it is important that residents become involved so that the Plan better reflects the needs and aspirations of our local community. If you are not aware of what is currently being proposed and discussed you should visit the PC office or go online to their website at www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk. The Plan will continuously change as negotiations and deliberations take place but eventually decisions will have to be made. Before then the PC will prepare a 2031 Masterplan for a final public consultation. This consultation will be a manned exhibition at the Hurstpierpoint Village Centre from 18th to 22nd October and at Sayers Common Hall from 25th to 29th October. A Parish 2031 Questionnaire will be distributed at the Exhibitions and via the PC website.



The final Neighbourhood Plan will eventually become the subject of a referendum in May 2013 when all registered Electors of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common will have the opportunity to vote for or against the Plan. The most important difference that the Plan provides is if the referendum is endorsed by the electorate then decision makers must have regard to it. If less than fifty percent (50%) of voters support the plan, it will fail. We would then revert to the previous process where Mid Sussex District Council makes the final decisions and not the residents of the Parish. The High Street traffic and pedestrian improvement study is still underway and eventually various concepts will be put to public consultation. The final decision could form part of the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Fund Raising for Tree Planting

This Newsletter presents the launch of the Society's fund raising effort to support the tree planting scheme we have started on roads throughout the village. We would like to approach the fund raising as a community effort to include all residents and businesses, on the basis that the village as a whole will benefit visually and environmentally from the planting. The enclosed leaflet gives details on different methods of donating but should the leaflet get separated you can find the same details on our website www.hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk where you can also find the facility of using a credit/debit card via our PayPal donate button. Our thanks in advance for all the support you are able to give.

Waste Facility at Goddards Green

The extended public consultation by West Sussex County Council (WSSC) ended on the 13th August 2012. The shortlisted proposal for a Waste Facility for Goddards Green is still an open subject at this time. The District and Parish Councils have made their views known and that there will be no provision for such a development in either of the District and Parish Plans. WSSC was reminded that their 2001 Structure Plan states the A2300 from A23 to Burgess Hill is properly countryside. The proposed 3500 plus houses north of Burgess Hill will more likely require the sewerage Plant to be enhanced and extended into the same area as required by the Waste Facility proposal. The Society made its view known to WSSC last November and you can read its letter under the News link on our website.

The Children of Hurstpierpoint



Hurstpierpoint resident Syliva Thornhill was a teacher at St Lawrence School for 12 years and therefore it is apt that she has won a contest to provide a sculpture to mark the 700th anniversary of the St Lawrence Fair. The theme of Sylvia's presentation is to show seven children, each one representing a different century and wearing clothes that they might have worn during those times. It is also to show the happiness and innocence of the children's experience of the St Lawrence Fair event.

The sculpture project organisation was made up from St Lawrence Fair Committee, Hurstpierpoint Society, Museum Group, Parish Council and others. The photo shows a preliminary maquette of the sculpture but when the full version is sculpted it will then be

cast in bronze resin and mounted on a sandstone plinth. The sculpture will be unveiled on the Village Green in the High Street on Saturday, July 6th 2013.

Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies (FoSAS) – 45th AGM

The FoSAS provides an umbrella organization which is available to give its 70 subscribing Sussex amenity groups more authority, and possibly advice, when contentious matters affecting the County are raised. Hurstpierpoint Society members have played a useful part in the FoSAS administration over recent years; Andrew Hair as Clerk, Patrick Haworth as Examiner of Accounts and Mrs Wendy Rogers who has been efficiently taking care of finance & membership over the last 15 years. Her experience as Chairman of both the Hurst Parish Council and the Hurstpierpoint Society will have provided a useful preparation. At the AGM in Haywards Heath on May 14th, having given due notice of her retirement, Wendy was thanked for her competence by the President, Lord Tim Renton, as a "marvellous hard-working treasure" and then given a suitable presentation to further her gardening interests.

The Monday Group

Last year was the 50th anniversary of the Monday Group, a volunteer concept of Harold Rowling MBE who, with a few ladies, started the post-war reopening of ploughed up or overgrown footpaths and bridleways in the Sussex Downland of his local area near Hassocks. In the early years this activity quickly turned into the repair and replacement of stiles and bridges and continues to this very day.

For the anniversary, the Monday Group published a book, 'The Stile Book', which not only shows the activities they carry out today but also Harold Rowling's recall of how the need for the Monday Group came about in 1961. The book recounts that in 1940 the whole length of the South Downs and then from the coastline to a line just north of the Downs, was declared a Restricted Area under the Defence of the Realm Act because of the threat of invasion. The only persons who could enter this restricted area, apart from the military, were farmers and those who lived in the area. To maximise food production the Downs were ploughed; hitherto they had been grassland for sheep grazing with few fences and gates. The top of the Downs was left alone and represents the South Downs Walk as we know it today. The whole area was barbed wired and police and soldiers ensured that no unauthorised entry took place, day or night.

Parts of the Downs were used for gunnery practice both by land forces and by the Royal Navy who fired salvoes over Brighton to their targets which were the abandoned farmhouses. After the war the land was found to be riddled with unexploded shells, mortars and other devices and even 15 years later such devices were still being unearthed in large numbers. The pre-existing footpaths and bridleways were either destroyed by ploughing or were inaccessible by barbed wire, covered by blackthorn and brambles, with the farmers showing no interest in their reinstatement.

As nothing was being done to re-open the footpaths and bridleways and since there was no strong footpath law, Harold had to put pressure on the District Council, who were responsible for paths, by initially getting the bostal (gentle slope bridleway) from Westmeston to the Ditchling Beacon opened. It meant taking the landowner to the magistrates' court who then amicably acquiesced by opening padlocked gates and helped with removing barbed wire and overgrowth. The Monday Group is in two sections, East Sussex and West Sussex. www.mondaygroup.org

Norfolk House – a building of ‘Special Interest’.

Norfolk House, was built in the last quarter of the 18th century and was known then as **Matts** and is referred to in a rate book of 1778. The owner was Richard Weekes, a recently qualified and married Surgeon, who set up practice at Matts, it also being home for him and his wife Charity. Richard and Charity had two sons and two daughters. The sons, Hampton and Dick, born in 1780 and 1783 followed their father into the medical profession with Hampton going to St Thomas’s and Dick to Guy’s. Hampton was married in 1806 and returns to Hurstpierpoint in 1810 after practising in Brighton for five years. In that same year Hampton bought Matts from his now retired father and continued the practice with his brother Dick. Hampton’s son Richard, born 1808, joined the practice as a GP in the 1830s. **Hampton Lodge** to the east of the High Street was built by Hampton on the occasion of Richard’s marriage to Mary. In 1838 Hampton sold Matts to his third son George, born 1817, who had also joined the practice.



In March 1855, George started a six month rebuild of Matts, to such an extent that he was able to describe it as his ‘new’ house. On completion he renamed it **Carey Hall** after one of his great grandmothers and had the Weekes coat of arms displayed above the front door. The renovation of the house included the cement rendering of the frontage, stucco to the sides and rear and a complete refurbishment of the interior. The full length front bay windows were no doubt part of the renovation. On completion, only the walls, the servant’s staircase, some timber sash windows and the stable block remained of the original Georgian building. The stables at the rear remain untouched, except that part able to be viewed from the road where cement rendering was applied to match the house.

George was obviously a successful man qualifying as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1838 and a Fellow in 1854. He was also Surgeon to the Royal Sussex Militia Artillery, to St Johns School in the Mansion House, Medical Officer to the Cuckfield Union, and Deputy Lieutenant of Sussex.

The story needs to continue as the Weekes seemed to have owned, at differing times, other buildings in the village. After George’s death (1880) Carey Hall passed to his nephew, the Reverend C.H Weekes, who leased it to tenants. In 1899 the house was purchased for use as the parish Rectory and remained so until 1954. The name Norfolk House was given to the building in the mid 20th century. George also owned number 5 and 7 (**Clifford Lodge**) High Street and these were inherited by his brother Frederick Weekes (a farmer) who immediately passed them on to his daughter. Richard Weekes (Jnr) lived at 17 High St and sold to a John Marchant in 1837. Richard thereupon owned and lived in the **Mansion House** with his family. It was sold before 1851 to a Nathaniel Woodard for it to become St John’s Middle School. Mary Weekes, Richard’s widow, lived in **Norton House** until she died in 1901.

The current owners of Norfolk House, Francis Lo & Tanya Tunley, were awarded the Society’s Conservation & Design Award for their recent high quality refurbishment of a historic building in a prime location on the village High Street. Norfolk House is a substantial house augmenting the historic character of Hurstpierpoint.

Acknowledgments must go to English Heritage, Hurst History Study Group (HHSg), Anthony Bower and Ian Nelson. For HHSg historical reading you can obtain from the Mint House in the High Street **The Weekes Diaries, Hurstpierpoint, Who’s Been Living In My House’** all of which contributed to this article. Ian Nelson will be talking his way around the centre of the Village during his **Historic Walks** as part of the Hurst Festival. The walks commence at the Village Centre at 2.30pm on 15, 19, 22 and 26 September. Price £2.00 and are limited to 10 persons per walk.

Wind Farms – Onshore & Offshore

As soon as Wind Farms or Wind Turbines are mentioned it brings out differing reactions to the subject depending how they might cause benefit or harm. The reaction becomes tangled if it is perceived that they can cause both benefit and harm. Some say that the benefit is greater than any harm that can be caused. Others say that the harm is greater than any benefit to be gained. When it comes to establishing the harm or the benefit this is where compromise has to come into play.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) held a wind farm debate in their previous issue of Countryside Voice and published some correspondence from readers in their latest issue. It shows that a small selection of people can have widely differing viewpoints and some extracts are listed here;

- Renewable energy is admirable. Turbines are not.
- Turbines have a part to play but not the destruction of our countryside.
- The reduction of CO2 is a priority. Turbines can be taken down in 20yrs if there is something better.
- We need to reduce CO2 as quickly as possible. Wind power is a well-developed technology.
- Wind energy will not supply our industrial heartlands but landowners will reap rich rewards.
- Cannot believe that the effects of climate change are in any way going to be reduced by turbines.

RenewableUK is the voice of wind & marine energy industries with 665 members and includes some with involvement in renewable energy for the past 30 years. RenewableUK presents a number of facts about offshore wind that shows the pace of growth in the industry, something that might not be known generally. There are 568 installed offshore wind turbines in the UK with a further 665 turbines in construction, showing 1233 turbines overall. It is expected that by 2016 there will be 8 GW of capacity installed increasing to 18 GW by 2020. The offshore electricity contribution is 1.5% today, growing to between 7% & 8% in 2016 and to around 17% in 2020. Beyond the immediate pipeline of projects there are 40 GW of projects, with leases and at various stages of pre-planning development.



Government statistics for 2011 show that electricity generation by onshore wind increased by 45% and offshore by 68%. Renewable sources of electricity generation represent 9.4% of UK electrical generation. The UK's reliance on imported fossil fuels hits a 36 year high.

RenewableUK goes on to say that the UK is the world leader in offshore wind with as much capacity already installed as the rest of the world put together. This might be hearty news but it does give credence that on a global basis, what we in the UK are doing now or can possibly achieve in the near future is unlikely to make an impact on CO2 emissions unless the rest of the world overtakes us on a massive scale.

South Downs Society – Walks

Our own Patrick Haworth is the walk Leader. (contact 01273-842857, on day only 7791 222338)

Saturday 29th September 1030-1530 Hassocks Station (east side). Steep climb to Jack & Jill then South Downs Way. Return same route. Picnic on Downs. 8 miles.

Saturday 6th October 1000-1630 Hurst Village Car Park, Trinity Road. Blackstone, Downs Link, Mock Bridge (Pub – The Bull, Shermanbury), Abbeylands Farm, Stuccles Farm. 13 miles.

Patron: Mrs Judy Parfitt *President:* Lady Cynthia Barnes *Vice President:* Mrs Wendy Rogers

Committee:

Chairman: Mrs Lyn Williams, *Hon. Treasurer:* Mr Patrick Haworth, Mrs Sue Deane, Mr Stewart Hall, Mr Tim Jones, Mr Patrick Kehoe, Mrs Rosalind Mead, Mr Michael Nailard, Mrs Maxine Tyler. Mr Neil Milton – Parish Council. *Clerk:* Mr Andrew Hair

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