



# Hurstpierpoint Society Spring/Summer 2023



## Hurst Celebrates the Coronation

Out with Corona-virus and in with The Corona-tion. Despite the inclement weather, Celebrations in Hurst could still be found. Tim Jones, one of our Committee Members managed to continue a family tradition of being present in the Mall for the processions. The following day (*below*), he joined the wonderful festivities organised by Society Member, Richard Burrows at Danny. We hope you enjoyed yourselves!



## Introducing our New Hon Secretary

### Cheryl Vivian Brown

Following David Clarke's move from Hurst, we advertised the position for a new Honorary Secretary for the Society in several places.

Cheryl responded to the call for committee members in the Autumn/Winter 22 edition of the Newsletter after being impressed with the guidance given on how to respond to the Mid Sussex District Plan Review. After meeting the committee in February 2023, she was formally co-opted to the Honorary Secretary role at our March meeting.

Cheryl moved to Hurstpierpoint from Hove in 2003. She's been an interested member of the Society since that time and, after retiring from a long career in IT culminating in project management, she is looking forward to bringing her skills to work in an important role within the Society.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Hurstpierpoint Society's 2023 AGM**  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June at**  
**at 7 pm for 7.30 pm**  
**See pages 2 & 3**

All members are invited to the AGM, which will be in the back room of The New Inn. There will be time from 7 o'clock to 7.30 to meet the Committee and fellow members.

Included in this Newsletter is a proxy voting form, instructing the Chairman to vote on each resolution according to your wishes. It is your opportunity to vote and make comments. Please complete and return it by 12<sup>th</sup> June, as instructed on the form. The Minutes of the 2022 AGM are on the website and paper copies will also be available at the AGM, or by request to [secretary@hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk).

The Chairman's Annual Report is here on pages 2 and 3, with the accounts on the reverse of the Proxy Voting paper, enclosed.

Prior to the AGM will be the presentation of the Society's Conservation and Design Awards for 2023 at 7.30pm. (See page 4.) The formal business is expected to start at 7.45pm with the announcement of the results from the voting forms and an opportunity to ask the Chairman and Committee any questions.

Following the AGM, Ivan Weightman from the Wolstonbury Vineyard will be giving a talk on setting up a vineyard from scratch. This exciting new vineyard was planted in 2015, below the northern scarp of Wolstonbury Hill, with the first harvest in 2018. This area has an almost identical geological formation to the Champagne region of France, although without their long hot summers ... a situation that is changing.

This talk should prove to be a real eye opener as our heritage develops in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

To ensure that we can plan suitable seating arrangements, please let us know if you are attending by either completing the section on the proxy voting form, or by email to: [secretary@hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk)



## Chairman's Annual Report 2023

LynWilliams

My annual report this year looks back to 2022, when we celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We saw this as an opportunity not only to celebrate, but also spread the word about the work of the Society. We produced a pull-out supplement for the September issue of Hurst Life explaining why the Society was formed in 1962 due to the post war housing need and the concern about the loss of buildings in the High Street. It described the work of the Society to designate areas within the village as Conservation Areas to protect areas of special architectural or historic interest, concluding with how the Society works today, with the aim to monitor how development takes place whilst still maintaining the character of the village. There are also details of the Society's contribution to infrastructure projects in Hurstpierpoint. The booklet is available to view on the Society's website on the "About Us" page.

As part of our celebrations, we made a number of large donations to events and projects within the village. These included:

1. The St Lawrence Fair to help cover their financial shortfall. They were affected by higher costs this year without the usual reserve funds, having missed 2 years of Fairs due to the pandemic.



2. A substantial contribution to the Parish Council's planting of 840 saplings in Walnut Tree Field (within Hurst Meadows).
3. A new bench in Bellows nose (Hurst Meadows) which was constructed by the Monday Group.
4. The CPRE (Campaign and Protect Rural England) who campaign and have projects to shape a greener future for Sussex. They have done a lot of work in connection with the District Plan Review and submitted a very good submission against this.

We are still planning to use the legacy from Lady Barnes to plant a tree on the South Avenue Recreation Ground, which had to be postponed last year.

Unfortunately, due to the demand for trees in 2022 with the planting of the Queen's Green Canopy, there was not a suitable specimen to plant. The tree has now been ordered but we've delayed planting until autumn this year, due to the possibility of another drought and the difficulties of watering through the summer. Stephen Baldey looks after our tree planting programme and our thanks go to him for liaising with the Parish Council and monitoring the trees already planted.

The Committee continued to use Zoom for meetings but with the addition of more in person meetings. At the end of the year we trialled the use of meeting in person combined with a Zoom connection and this looks like a viable option for the future, enabling committee members to attend more meetings especially when away from home or needing to look after children. Although we miss the speed of exchange of ideas around the table, it has encouraged us to divide tasks into smaller working groups where people can meet up and then report back.

We attended the St Lawrence Fair and the Hurst Festival and enjoyed meeting both old and new members. The revised Footpath maps have been well received and sold well at both events. Our thanks to Tim Jones for printing these and other publicity material. One of the main objects of the Society is to protect and conserve the natural and built environment of Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding area. In addition to monitoring all planning applications made locally, a task undertaken by Patrick Haworth, we had the additional work of responding to the Mid Sussex District Council Plan Review. I don't think anyone expected the scale of developments proposed for Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding areas, and I'd like to thank everyone who responded to our Autumn/Winter Newsletter and submitted a response. The shortness of time led to six weeks of reading and research, writing and rewriting the Society's response, which is available to read on our website. An update on the Mid Sussex District Plan Review follows on the next page.



This year saw a change to producing our Newsletters following comments received from our Collectors during the pandemic about the benefits of delivering and collecting subscriptions when the weather is better and the days are longer in May and June. We are now producing Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter Newsletters. Our thanks go to Christopher Maidment who designs and edits our Newsletters and publicity material.

We are very grateful to our team of volunteers who deliver the newsletters around the village and collect the subscriptions, and we held a special "Thank you" 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event for them in September. They make an enormous contribution to the Society in delivering the message about our work and we are always looking for additional collectors. If you would like to help with our work, email [chairman@hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk)

I would like to thank all the committee members who do so much on behalf of the Society and the village. In addition to those already mentioned above, our Treasurer, Julia Kirby, not only looks after our finances but manages our membership records. Shelagh Wadman keeps our website up to date and Michael Nailard keeps us on track with all ecology matters. Sarah Scanlon is standing down as a Trustee and I want to thank her for keeping us informed about school matters and children's groups within the village for the last 5 years, as well as her help with the Heritage Trail. I must also thank John Lowman who represents the Parish Council at our committee meetings and has been a loyal member of the Society for many years.

At last year's AGM we said farewell to our Secretary, David Clarke, who left the village in September. Once again, I thank him for his 8 years of sterling duties. Fortunately, we have recently been able to appoint a new Secretary, Cheryl Vivian Brown, as you have seen on the front page.

Finally, a big thank you to **Wendy Rogers**, our President who takes a keen interest in all we do and regularly contributes to our activities.

## Swift Action from Hurst Rethink

**FREE talk on Swifts, 7pm 14<sup>th</sup> June, at The New Inn**

The iconic screech of hunting groups of swifts as they scythe through the sky is one of the great sounds of the summer months. Every year these migratory birds arrive at the beginning of May from Africa. Until a few summers ago, like many other villages, Hurstpierpoint had several thriving swift populations. Partnering for life, they return to the same nesting sites every year.

Swifts are now on the red list of endangered species. But, yes you can help! This year Hurst Rethink are promoting and monitoring these birds' welfare in response to the dramatic drop in



## Mid Sussex District Plan Review

Following the frantic time in November and December last year when we learned about the plans for some 4,000 houses in and around Hurstpierpoint, there has been a period of relative calm as the responses to the plan have been analysed and summarised. The total number of respondents across the district was 1,365 and thank you to those in Hurstpierpoint who submitted a response.

The next steps for the Plan Review are for the Council to look at the issues raised by the responses, especially about the proposed site allocations and infrastructure. Importantly, at the MSDC Scrutiny Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 it was agreed that the Council "positively engages with Town and Parish Councils prior to the Regulation 19 process."

The next formal stage of the process is the publication of the Proposed Submission District Plan (Regulation 19) which is due to take place in Summer/Autumn 2023. However the sheer number of comments received, together with the results of the recent election of Councillors for Mid Sussex District Council, means it's not yet known what impact this will have on the timings and proposals within the Plan.

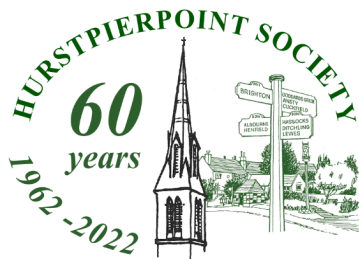
We also have to bear in mind that without this Review there is no up-to-date Plan containing a ratified five year Housing Land Supply, which could give rise to speculative planning applications from developers, especially since sites are now identified in the proposals and oven-ready!

numbers locally. In March, ten audio nesting boxes were installed in Weald Close, where they used to flourish.

To help you to help swift repopulation, renowned swift expert Edward Mayer will give a talk, and experts will promote the cause of Sussex bats, pond life and hedgehogs. Everyone is invited to this FREE talk about swifts and other local wildlife, starting at 7pm in the back room of The New Inn on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>. Get involved, and better understand our local wildlife.







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hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk

## Conservation & Design Awards 2023

### Nortonbury House 102 High Street

The ground floor of this townhouse adjoining Hamilton Lodge (to the east) has been returned seamlessly from a shopfront, to its original form that existed when Cards Place (to the west) marked the most easterly shops in the HighStreet.

This technically excellent work has been achieved with care and thought by the owners.



### The Pump House, Brighton Road

This former brown field site of an abandoned water pumping station in the National Park required something very special to receive planning consent. It had to be of the *“highest quality, truly outstanding in terms of its architecture and landscape design, and significantly enhance its immediate setting and wider surroundings”*.

Its original consent was passed over 13 years ago, and under new ownership it has now been built, surpassing even its original concept.

Building the house took 3 years to complete and was built to a standard equivalent to Level 5 of the Code for Sustainable Homes but achieved Level 6 (the highest level) for energy use, a SAP rating of 121 and EPC of A. It incorporates a plethora of sustainability features.



### The Old Fire Station



The Old Fire Station has been given an award for the renovations to the outside of the Fire House and Station, situated in a prominent place in the High Street Conservation Area, which is highlighted in our Heritage Trail and is an acknowledged village landmark. The retention and restoration of the station fittings and doors, including the station bell is very thoughtful and well done.

It was interesting to fully appreciate after a recent incident nearby, that a modern Fire Appliance would never fit in the Old Fire Station!

We're very grateful to our members who've paid a Life Subscription, or who pay online/via DD, as this reduces the burden on our volunteer Collectors who deliver your newsletters. If you are unable to pay your Collector, and wish to continue as a Member, please follow the instructions on the Membership renewal page of our website. If you prefer to continue paying in cash, please place your annual £5 subscription in an envelope with your name and address and mark it "Subscription to Hurstpierpoint Society", and drop off at either Charlotte Grace Casuals opposite the Village Garden, or Fabulous Floors near South Avenue. Both stores have letter boxes for out of hours drop off. Any problems, email [treasurer@hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk)



**Patron** Judy Parfitt

**President:** Mrs Wendy Rogers

**Committee 2023-24:** *Chairman:* Lyn Williams, *Hon. Secretary:* Cheryl Vivian Brown, *Hon. Treasurer:* Julia Kirby

**Members:** Stephen Baldey, (*Tree scheme*), Patrick Haworth, Tim Jones, Michael Nailard, Shelagh Wadman (*website*) **H&SC Parish Council representative:** Mr John Lowman

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