Tea for Two?

One of the things people often say is that Hurst Green is a close community. This has pros and cons. The con is that it doesn’t take long for what seems like everyone to know your business, be it what you had for breakfast or what crazy song and dance routine you did after a few too many beers at the local pub! The pro is that if ever something goes wrong or life becomes more difficult for any number of reasons, friends and neighbours will rally to support and help you.

When I can, I try to go to the Aggie’s Community Café at St Agatha’s Hall on Wednesdays. It’s open from mid-morning until 2pm and not only is the home made food (including pudding) very tasty and very reasonably priced, but the spirit of community is alive and well. The customers, many of whom are young mums with little ones, enjoy getting together and supporting one another in all the trials and tribulations of sleepless nights, teething and toddler tantrums while their little ones play with the toys provided. The team of faithful volunteers are just incredible and are what makes this place extra special. Not only do they make tasty refreshments, but their quality of service is gold standard ensuring that customers really do feel looked after and cared for. Well done lovely volunteers and thank you.

Jesus’ disciples and his early followers lived out this idea of community, and being there for others especially in times of need. Needs might be material, emotional, physical or social, but whatever problem someone faced, no one was dismissed or turned away from knowing the love and care of God through his followers.

Seventeen years ago a group of people from local churches saw a way to share God’s love and care in community by setting up the ‘Vision Coffee Shop’ at Aggie’s. The café is there for everyone, whoever you are. Whether you are young or old or somewhere in between in you will always find a warm welcome at Aggie’s on a Wednesday. Personally, I try to be there from about 1pm whenever I can to listen to anyone who needs to talk. You never know when you might need a priest for any of those joys or sorrows of life.

Anna Eltringham, Priest-in-Charge of St John’s Hurst Green and St George’s Crowhurst

St Agatha’s Hall

Since St Agatha’s Hall was built over 100 years ago it has seen many changes. Originally it was a Mission Church for the men building the railway; it became St John’s Church Hall in 1913. In the past it has been the local library and the baby clinic and during the renovation of St John’s due to fire damage it was again used for church services. The Hall is managed by a Committee responsible to the Vicar and St John’s Parochial Church Council.

Keeping a public building updated and in good repair is always expensive, but thanks to the hard work of volunteers and friendly tradesmen it has been possible to keep the costs down, thus ensuring that the booking fees can remain affordable for the wide range of hall users. The number of jumble sales and wedding receptions has decreased over the years but there is a great variety of regular activities in the hall. Regular bookings include Yoga, Line Dancing, Pilates, Brownies and Guides, two Baby Classes, Hurst Green Gardening Club and a Coffee Shop open every Wednesday. Recently the Hall has also become popular at weekends for parties for younger children or adults.

Known affectionately as ‘Aggies’, St Agatha’s has become a well known landmark in Hurst Green and with continuing support we hope that it may remain so for many years more. If you are interested in making a booking or would like to know more about rates and availability, contact M. Walker on 71492 - the number is in every edition of Hurst Green News.

June Reed

1st HURST GREEN GUIDES - COMMUNITY ACTION

With the Guide Group coming up to its first anniversary, the guides decided to take a look at what they had achieved over the past 2 terms, and what they could achieve next term. Many Guides are looking to complete their first challenge badge, and their community action project features strongly in this. The Guides are keen to take part in the community and, whilst looking at the guidelines, felt that it would be good to bring a bit more colour to the front of Aggies Hall. After seeking and getting the necessary consents, the Guides working in patrols, planted up and are maintaining three troughs which it is hoped will provide spring colour for many months to come.

We hope that passers by, on their way to and from work, will take a little pleasure from the colourful display, even if from a distance. We would like to thank the various companies who have provided equipment for us, and for their goodwill in this project. We hope you all enjoy this little bit of spring colour in Hurst Green. Written by 1st Hurst Green Guides

UPHOLSTERY

Small items undertaken by
The Woodhouse Centre (Charity No. 262608)
Please contact Dee Graham:
01883 715189, Monday -Thursday am

The next issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 5 July 2014. Please send material for that issue, including items for the diary, no later than FRIDAY, 20 JUNE 2014 to The Compiler, 3 Parklands, Oxted, RH8 9DP; e-mail: hgncompiler@gmail.com. The Compiler reserves the right to edit copy.
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It is financed by advertisements and St John’s Parochial Church Council.
HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY
8am
Holy Communion
10am
Parish Eucharist
Crèche and Children’s groups - all ages
12 noon
Holy Communion, David Gresham House
Other services: details in church porch
Wednesday
12 noon Weekday Eucharist
Priest-in-Charge
Anna Eltringham, 712674, 1 Oast Road (Day off - Friday)
Assistant Priest:
Mary Seller - 715675, 11 Home Park
Assistant Curate:
Wendy Harvey - 01959 562340
Southwark
Monica Fenton - 715769
Pastoral Auxiliaries:
Pearl Hobson - 712366

METHODOIST CHURCH, HURSTLANDS
10.30am
Morning Worship and Junior Church
6.30pm
Evening Service
Minister:
Karen Bell - 371346 (Day off - Friday)

EVANGELICAL CHURCH ON HURST GREEN
10.45am
Family Worship
Pastors:
Steven and Margaret Cox - 717510

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM
All Saints' Church, Chichele Road, Oxted - 627762
St Ambrose Church, Warren Park, Warlingham - 622142
5.30pm Saturday
First Mass of Sunday, All Saints’ Oxted
9am Sunday
St Ambrose, Warlingham
11am Sunday
All Saints’ Oxted
Parish Priest:
Fr John Olliver - 713776

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted - 730406
Service includes story-time for children, Junior Church, and communion monthly
Minister:
David Skitt - 01342 837449

St Agatha’s Hall Booking Secretary: M Walker, 714492

St George's Church Crowhurst
The church stands on a probable pagan site at the top of the hill on the road from Crowhurst Lane End to Lingfield. It was dedicated in 1191 to St George, the new patron saint of England. Enter the churchyard via the Lych gate to view the magnificent 4,000-year-old yew, one of the 50 Great British Trees named in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. The hollowed out trunk was fitted with seats and a door. It was used for revelry, meetings and refuge.

The building was badly damaged in a skirmish during the Civil War and a canon ball, which still exists, was found in the yew tree. There are furrows in the stonework of the porch entrance caused by bowmen sharpening their arrow heads.

The font is a rare 13th century example with fascinating medieval graffiti. Some are symbols to ward off evil spirits, homage to the cult of Mary and others are unexplained. On either side of the altar are the 15th century tombs of John Gaynesford and his son. In the floor is an iron grave slab, the only one in the country and a relic of the local iron industry. There are later memorials to the other great family, the Angells of the Mansion House. The East wall is covered in paintings and mosaics in memory of the Cottenham family and paid for by them. The Victorian window in the Vestry depicts St George and the dragon.

On leaving, take the southern path to see the old tombs, the flagpole and the War Memorial by the steps. Visitors from all over the world come to see the yew and discover the beauty of the church. It is a place of pervasive spirituality and peace, and is very much loved. Betty Bush

Stop Loan Sharks
Joanne Clarke works for the Illegal Money Lending Team in the South-East. She has sent out information about their current campaign and also educational resources. The team is having considerable success with prosecuting loan sharks; at present they are targeting problems in private rented accommodation.

Many victims of loan sharks do not realise what they are getting in to. They often think they are borrowing money from a friend or a colleague, usually for a deposit or rent, until things start going wrong. If you need advice, the Team can be contacted on 07833 059280; there is also a Stop Loan Sharks Hotline on 0300 555 2222.

Education for school children about the dangers of debt is another important part of the campaign. Educational resources for teachers can be downloaded from www.birmingham.gov.uk/stoploansharks

Table Top Sale for BBC Children In Need
Are you a business, or just having a spring clean and have lots to sell? We are holding a Table Top Sale again this year on Saturday 18 October at St Agatha’s Hall for BBC Children In Need 2014.

If you would like to book a stall for our event this year we are now taking pre bookings! Last year we smashed our total raised to a record £6,046 which helps disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.

You can get a booking form either by email from matt158@sky.com or we have 20 printed booking forms which you can pick up from 137, Mill Lane Hurst Green Oxted, or contact us by phone on 715814.

Please contact us soon as these tables will go very quickly.

Matthew Leadbeater

Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired
Members and drivers of the Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired enjoyed a lovely afternoon at Haskins Garden Centre, Snowhill on Monday 12 May.

Luckily we managed to avoid the rain and enjoyed the plants and gifts before enjoying a delicious afternoon tea in the restaurant.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 9 June at the Methodist Church Hall, Hurst Green starting at 2.45pm. If anyone would like to come along, please call Carol Leach on 01883 382031.
I live in Rockfield Road and try to keep a 300 yard stretch of the road clear of litter being dropped by people passing by (walkers, cyclists and motor vehicles) but I know I’m not alone. I sincerely hope the local authority never try to control the amount of rubbish households put in their bins each week because a lot of what we throw away each week is not our own rubbish!

May I suggest when local retailers sell cigarettes or individual cans of drinks like ‘red bull’ or takeaway ‘Costa coffee cups’ they write the purchaser’s house number and post code on the purchased item. If the purchased item can be traced back to the purchaser and the police are willing to prosecute, this may deter individuals from throwing these items away just anywhere.

The concert will feature a variety of soloists performing throughout the country. The concert is a fund-raising event for St John’s Church, combined with a family celebration organised by one of our parishioners. Do come and enjoy this cultural event.

Tickets (£10) are available from Joan Brackpool Tel: 714095.

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11 May Felicity Merry
18 May Freddie Funnell
25 May Toby Pidgeon
8 June Oliver Neil

Funerals
Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends:
8 May Hannah Sanders
14 May Edna Plumridge
30 May Roy Jolly

St John’s Book of Remembrance
To have a name entered, phone 712845

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Monday, 30 June. 3.30pm
at St John’s Church
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A TANDRIDGE TRIO

Biffa has been collecting your recycling and refuse since October 2012. Meet three of the team.

Foreman and trainer Phil Charman (53) has spent over 25 years with Biffa because he loves his work. “I like to do a job well, to fix problems, and to see happy residents,” he says cheerily. “Each day’s varied tasks, some unexpected, keep it interesting, even at 5am when I get the depot, vehicles and paperwork ready and plan my training assignments.” A keen runner with over 40 marathons under his belt, Phil loves taking Biffa vehicles to local hospitals and schools.

For three years, Roger Cottham (51) has driven a 7.5 tonne light lorry on special collection rounds. “I’m really happy to help residents get rid of unwanted bulky furniture and white goods, and I like getting out and about,” he says. “Every day is varied as I drive around 120 miles around the district.” He was once asked to move some fence posts - which turned out to weigh around 200 kgs each!

Loader Paul Cope (36) has been emptying wheelie bins for six years. A typical day runs from 6am to late afternoon, and can see him walking eight miles and handling 10 or more tonnes of bins. “I like working outdoors, my work buddies, and seeing happy people - especially when they give us choccy biccies,” says Paul. A pet hate is impatient drivers who endanger Biffa crews by driving too close, even on pavements, to get by. Every round, Paul sends phone photos of these near-misses, as well as badly-parked cars and broken bins, to the Biffa depot for action.

Blair Drummond

Tandridge District Council and Biffa would like to thank all residents for recycling so much more of their waste - please keep it up!

Cross Roads for Human Development (CRHD)

I’m Gill Evans and President of the charity in Great Britain. I lived in Oxted for 32 years and was a member of Hurst Green Methodist Church. I moved from Oxted to train as a Methodist Minister and then worked in Bristol. It was while working in Bristol that my Indian colleague, Revd Dr Joseph Suray, talked to me about his background as a Dalit (an outcaste). Born into abject poverty, he had been offered an education at the Mission School in Raichur. He succeeded against all odds, but his long term dream was to provide education in his native village and particularly for the Dalit children.

We decided to raise money to start a school, and in 2002 I went to India to open two rooms on the side of the village church to start a pre-school group, about 16 children under the age of 4. Soon we needed primary school premises and again funds were raised. We bought land and an L shaped school was built: 3 classrooms, a hall and a kitchen. As the children moved up, so more space was necessary and we added a second storey. We would like to offer the children secondary education as well but this isn’t possible financially at present.

CTOD very generously supported us in 2009 and we are delighted to know that once again we will benefit. CTOD will have a stand at the Oxted Carnival so do come and learn more about us.

More information? Email me at revgm@gmail.com or see the website at www.CRHD.org.uk.

Hurst Green Gardening Club

I am not an expert, so do not expect in depth gardening tips from me. There are endless magazines and weekly articles to help you. I am just like you, I love my garden. There is no master plan, but it is full of plants, some out of shape, doing their best wherever I put them. The joy of pausing to see a new flower or leaf connects me to a moment in the present which is probably why so many of us enjoy being in the garden.

Sounds familiar? Well why not share some time with others who make no claims and aren’t trying to grow giant marrows. To find out more about us come along to our Summer Evening Flower Show on 11 June or perhaps our next talk on 13 August.

We start at 8pm in St Agatha’s Hall. There is no charge for your first visit.

Brian Parrott
The Festival provides a diverse range of musical, literary and artistic events: something for everyone’s tastes and is largely funded from the Snelling Legacy which is administered by Oxted URC. Irene Snelling, the benefactor, whose legacy makes the festival possible, was a lifelong resident of Limpsfield.

For our Fifth Festival we have put together the usual mix of entertaining events and thought-provoking authors and speakers. We will be taking children’s authors to local schools and entertaining local care home residents with singer Andy Moore. We will also be hosting a Spoken Word Workshop, at the Bluehouse Café on Tuesday 21 October.

The Festival proper will commence on Saturday 25 October with a premiere performance of a new play by The Human Zoo Theatre Company, a local drama group, who have recently won the Les Enfants Terribles Prize, enabling them to perform at the Edinburgh Festival.

Newly appointed Trustee of The Robert Bouffler Music Trust, and up and coming tenor, former Tatsfield resident Stephen Aviss is hosting a musical evening on Sunday 26 October.

We are delighted that the Snelling Lecture this year will be given by Simon Weston OBE, the Falklands War Veteran, on Monday 27 October. We have also booked Pippa Greenwood, who is a regular panellist on ‘BBC’s Gardeners’ Question Time’ for 28 October.

Guitarist Richard Durrant will return on Wednesday 29th. Sir Andrew Motion, who was Poet Laureate from 1999 until 2009 and knighted for his services to literature in 2009, will be speaking on Thursday 30 October. The Len Phillips Big Band, a 16 piece swing orchestra, will entertain us on Friday 31 October.

To close the Festival on Saturday 1st November we are delighted to welcome Joe Stilgoe, an exciting singer, pianist and composer who has recently performed at Ronnie Scott’s.

Tickets go on sale on Tuesday 5 August. For further information and to go on our mailing list, contact: thefestival2014@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01883 712893.

Oxted & Limpsfield Music Society
The Great War in English Song
Roderick Williams, baritone
Gary Matthewman, piano
Friday 1 August 2014, 7.30pm
Hazelwood School

Starting with George Butterworth’s setting of A E Houseman’s ‘A Shropshire Lad’, the programme will progress through the war with songs by Ivor Gurney, Gerald Finzi, John Ireland, Charles Ives, Ian Venables and Ralph Vaughan Williams. The words are from poems by Thomas Hardy, Richard Lovelace, Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen, Edward Thomas and Ivor Gurney.

Tickets (£15) and information from Mrs Pat Cruddas 714630.

The Biennial Bluehouse Festival
21 October to 2 November 2014
Oxted United Reformed Church, 21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted

DONDENG
This is a simple but tasty recipe which can be frozen and reheated in the oven.
From Australia, its name is a mystery!

- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2 tablespoons oil and a little butter
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1kg chuck steak, cubed
- Seasoned flour
- ½ teaspoon chilli powder
- Zest and juice of a lemon
- 2 tablespoons blanched almonds
- Approx 300ml stock
- 2 tablespoons dark plum jam
- Chopped parsley to garnish

- Sauté onions in oil and butter. Add garlic and cook until softened.
- Toss cubed steak in seasoned flour and sauté until golden all over.
- Add chilli powder, lemon zest and juice, blanched almonds, halved, stock and jam. Mix well and bring to boiling point.
- Simmer, or cook in low oven, for 2½ hours or until tender.
- Serve garnished with parsley and accompany with rice flavoured by chopped stem ginger in syrup and lemon slices.

Jenny Beer

Tickets £12, to include wine and refreshments, available from 01959 563996, choir members or on the door.

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Oxted & Limpsfield Choral Society’s Summer Concert
A Midsummer Musical Feast
Saturday 21 June at 7pm at the United Reformed Church Bluehouse Lane, Oxted

The programme will include madrigals, ballads, light opera and songs from the shows - everything necessary for a magical midsummer’s evening!

Tickets £12, to include wine and refreshments, available from 01959 563996, choir members or on the door.

Oxted & Limpsfield Music Society
A Midsummer Musical Feast
Saturday 21 June at 7pm at the
United Reformed Church
Bluehouse Lane, Oxted

Tickets £12, to include wine
and refreshments, available from
01959 563996, choir members
or on the door.

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- Sauté onions in oil and butter. Add garlic and cook until softened.
- Toss cubed steak in seasoned flour and sauté until golden all over.
- Add chilli powder, lemon zest and juice, blanched almonds, halved, stock and jam. Mix well and bring to boiling point.
- Simmer, or cook in low oven, for 2½ hours or until tender.
- Serve garnished with parsley and accompany with rice flavoured by chopped stem ginger in syrup and lemon slices.

Jenny Beer

Tickets (£15) and information from Mrs Pat Cruddas 714630.

Oxted & Limpsfield Music Society
The Great War in English Song
Roderick Williams, baritone
Gary Matthewman, piano
Friday 1 August 2014, 7.30pm
Hazelwood School

Starting with George Butterworth’s setting of A E Houseman’s ‘A Shropshire Lad’, the programme will progress through the war with songs by Ivor Gurney, Gerald Finzi, John Ireland, Charles Ives, Ian Venables and Ralph Vaughan Williams. The words are from poems by Thomas Hardy, Richard Lovelace, Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen, Edward Thomas and Ivor Gurney.

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