



# HURST GREEN NEWS

January 2022

## New Year Resolutions

Well it is 7am on Monday the 6th of December and I am finally getting around to writing the piece for January's Hurst Green News. I find it slightly unsettling that when you are reading this article Christmas will have come and gone and we will be in 2022.



I had planned to write the article on Friday but that turned into one of those days where I struggled to get work done and simple tasks become difficult and time-consuming burdens. So I resolved to get up early on Saturday before Gillian, she doesn't approve of me working on Saturdays, to write the piece. We had planned to have a quiet family weekend of cleaning the house and putting up the Christmas decorations together. However, that was not to be! Saturday turned into a day of phone calls, people arriving on the doorstep and a plethora of small and annoying jobs that needed to be done. Needless to say, in the busyness of the day, I forgot all about the article, sorry Janet. So I resolved I would get to the article on Sunday afternoon after Sunday worship. However I was forgetting the Trustees meeting we had scheduled for Sunday afternoon. With the busyness of Sunday worship, phone calls and the Trustees meeting, again the article was forgotten. That was until the early hours of this morning when I woke in consternation at the realisation again I had not written the article, sorry Janet. *(In case you're wondering, Janet is the lady who arranges the layout of each edition and works to very tight deadlines!)*

As I lay awake thinking about what I had not done I realised my attempt to write the article you are now reading is like those New Year resolutions you will have probably made, in all sincerity, just a few days ago. Your New Year resolutions are important in that they have value; they may also matter to other people and they could even change your life. Yet the pressures and demands of life will almost certainly have meant that those resolutions are just guilty memories by now. Studies show that only 8% of those who make a New Year's resolution actually keep them all year and 80% have already failed by the start of February.

So, in the early hours of this morning I decided to make a slightly early New Year resolution of my own, that I wouldn't make any New Year resolutions this year. Instead I decided to do what St Paul did when faced with all the demands, difficulties and busyness of dealing with the broken group of believers in Corinth. Rather than setting unrealistic goals and worrying about his own perceived weaknesses and inadequacies, he resolved to focus on Jesus and His presence with him. So, rather than setting impossible deadlines or worrying about what I have to do, I will, like St Paul, 'resolve to know Jesus' and that he is with me. And in doing so, experience the 'peace that surpasses all understanding' in all the chaos of my life.

When you have read this article in January, do feel free to ask me, or better still my wife, how my resolve is going. God bless.

*Keith Dickson, Pastor, Hurst Green Evangelical Church*

## Christmas Tree Festival

*A very warm welcome awaits you at the*

**Oxted United Reformed Church  
Tuesday 21st - Thursday 23rd  
December, 4pm - 7pm**

Pop in and enjoy the beautifully decorated Christmas trees. There will be refreshments, music and a Traidcraft stall.



**Admission £1 for adults, children free  
Please bring loose change to  
donate to your favourite charities.**

*This event will be run under Covid restrictions in place at the time. Please do not attend if you are feeling unwell, have tested positive for Covid-19, or have met someone else who has tested positive within the last 10 days. Visitors will be asked to wear face masks in the church.*

## Come and join us for COFFEE and a CHAT!

Our fortnightly coffee mornings at St John's will resume in the New Year on 13 January.

Our get-togethers are primarily (but not exclusively) aimed at those who live alone and are a great way to make new friends and catch up on local news. A few of our regular attenders have recently moved away so we are a little down on numbers at the moment. It would be lovely if some others felt able to join us. We serve 'real' coffee and tea with biscuits (and occasionally cake if we're lucky!) in convivial surroundings. We do, of course, comply with covid-related requirements.

**Where?**

**St John's Room  
at St John's Church**

**When?**

**Fortnightly on Thursdays:  
13 and 27 January  
10.30am - 12 noon**

**Need a lift?**

**Ring Barbara, 715636**



## Volunteer needed!

We need someone to deliver Hurst Green News to part of Mill Lane each month. Any offers would be greatly appreciated. If you can help or would like to find out more, please contact June Thompson on 716335.



*'And the peace of God  
that surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds  
in Christ Jesus' Philippians 4.7*

# HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

At St John's Church there are services of Holy Communion on Sundays at 8.30am (said) and 9.45am. The 9.45am service is sung (service also available via Live Stream) - you are required to wear a mask. The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm. For updates and the latest information, please check websites below.

## ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

**Rector:** Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road (day off - Monday)  
**Assistant Priest:** Mary Seller, 715675, 11 Home Park  
**Curate:** Lotwina Farodoye, lotwina@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

## Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary:

Monica Fenton, 715769  
[www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk)

## HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

**Pastor:** Keith Dickson, 71201, Pastor@hgec.org.uk  
[www.hgec.org.uk](http://www.hgec.org.uk)

## ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

**All Saints' Church** Chichele Road, Oxted - 627762  
**St Ambrose Church** Warren Park, Warlingham  
**Parish Priest** Fr Stephen, 713776  
[www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org](http://www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org)

## OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**The Church of the Peace of God**  
 21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 730406  
[oxtedurc@gmail.com](mailto:oxtedurc@gmail.com)  
 Graham Dadd, 07894 507467  
[www.oxtedurc.org.uk](http://www.oxtedurc.org.uk)



The Hurst Green Community Centre is looking to build its members and offer the opportunity for several young persons' ambassadors to represent the youth and under 30s within our community as we embark on a new era for its development for future generations.

Young people use the hall for private parties or the youth club but we also need input, ideas and solutions to problems. Are you a problem solver who can assist us in preparing the hall for the future in Hurst Green? You may want to consider becoming a trustee after a while, or you may want to remain a committee member or simply volunteer your contributions when you can.

The benefits are: developing new skills, raising your voice in the community, affecting the development for the future of the area and building personal skills you never knew you had! It would also be an addition to your CV to impress most employers.

If you are aged 16 or above, have an interest in problem solving, would be willing to attend a meeting for an hour every month or couple of months, then please register your interest by contacting Carmen Lambert Singer: 07815 074236 or [C.lambertsinger@gmail.com](mailto:C.lambertsinger@gmail.com)

## East Surrey Walkers

The East Surrey Walkers programme of walks from January to March 2022 is currently being compiled. It's always a good idea to check the programme near a walk date just in case there have been any last minute alterations: [www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk)

Many of our walks are based within East Surrey; however we frequently walk in other locations and counties, and in so doing discover points of interest. An example can be found in the Kentish village of Chiddingstone. The clue is in the name of the village: deconstructed it becomes Chiding Stone. Indeed there is such a named stone in the village. The Chiding Stone is situated at the end of a footpath adjacent to the school. It is formed by a large rock of sandstone, formed about 135 million years ago when that part of the country was underwater and swamp like. Folklore plays a significant part in the name of the stone if not the village. Various versions include that the stone was used in ancient druid rituals including as a location where judgements were handed down. Similarly that it was used by the ancient Britons as a place to conduct judicial hearings. Possibly it was used as a boundary marker in Saxon times. From the Medieval era, folklore indicates nagging wives, wrongdoers and witches were brought to the stone to be chided by an assembly of villagers. Perhaps a little more prosaically it is said the village name means 'stone of Chidda's tribe'. The Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names indicates that Cidingstaene means a stone associated with someone called Cidd or Cidda.

I'd like to think that aspects of the folklore have some merit but will leave it to the reader to decide. Happy Walking! *Stephen Hanks, Publicity Officer*



## Appeal for more LINK Telephone Volunteers & Drivers



LINK is appealing for additional telephone volunteers to man their home phones on a rota basis on weekday and Saturday mornings, handling requests for help with transport from local RH8 residents to medical appointments at the local Health Centre and East Surrey Hospital. LINK is also appealing for more volunteer drivers to transport local residents who are unable to access public transport, on a rota or an 'as and when available' basis. If you would be interested in joining our pool of volunteers, please contact LINK's Chairman, Angela Williams on 01883 714618, Derek Oakey on 0188716735 or e-mail [linkoxted3@gmail.com](mailto:linkoxted3@gmail.com).

The new volunteers are needed because after the last 21 months or so of not being able to operate due to Covid, a number of previous volunteers have retired. By providing transport to people in the local community to access medical appointments, the LINK charity helps local doctors and nurses to reduce the number of home visits and eases pressure on the ambulance and hospital car services. A mileage allowance and extra telephone and parking costs are reimbursed.

## What Next? Looking for a job?

**Volunteers offer their personal experience to facilitate your journey**

### Support includes:

- CV and job applications
- interview preparation
- deciding career objectives
- finding relevant sectors/companies

**Contact:** [info@jobcluboxted.co.uk](mailto:info@jobcluboxted.co.uk)

An initiative of Churches Together in Oxted & District and Titsey and District Rotary Club





## Dates for your Diary 2022

- 7 Jan ...and every Friday, Oxted Country Market, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted, 9.30-11.30am cakes & savouries, vegetables, eggs, crafts. To order in advance, call 01883 623273
- 10 Jan Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 2.45- 4.15pm, York Rooms, St John's Church: New Year party and present exchange, with entertainment from the Rotary Singers Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031
- 12 Jan Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 8pm Contact: Brian Parrott 723916
- 13 Jan Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, from 7.45pm: Local history of Hurst Green and area, Bob Evans. More information from Jan Ward, 01883 712143
- 24 Jan Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, Games and Quiz afternoon

## St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

**Booking Administrator:**

**07769 001796**

**or aggieshall@gmail.com**

or complete the form on the website:

**stagathashall.weebly.com/  
contact.html**

## Hurst Green Gardening Club

The December issue of the Hurst Green News revealed many opportunities to participate and share with others, whatever your beliefs may be. This may seem a long way from gardens, but the chance to connect with the natural world is beyond our increasingly technologically-oriented society. As someone without a smart phone, I feel separated from much social activity, but that gives me time to be aware of what surrounds me.

I may not know much about other gardening club members, but meeting together allows us to share what we know, a common interest outside our daily routine. I try to organise speakers who can teach us about gardening, and if you have any suggestions yourself then please let me know. You may already have enjoyed our first meeting on 12 January. I hope it has encouraged you to consider coming again. On 9 February we will find out just what was in the job-description of a Victorian Head Gardener. Many of the gardens near to us may have been the result of their dedication.



I am often offered plant pots and other gardening items which members are clearing out. If you ever need anything, please speak to me at one of our meetings. **Brian Parrott 723916**

## Winter Wildlife - feed the birds!



Birds are the most noticed visitors to our gardens. Some species such as house sparrows and house martins are declining due to habitat loss and disease, but simple actions can help birds flourish in winter.

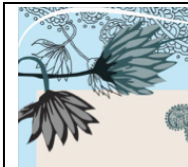
You can start by providing a fresh source of water in a bird bath or dish especially in freezing conditions and putting up a bird feeder or table. Understanding food types and feeding habits encourages a variety of species. **Don't** put out salty food or dry bread which can be harmful for birds, and avoid cooking fats which stick to feathers and harbour bacteria. Whole peanuts are an ideal winter food but pose a choking hazard and should only be provided in a mesh feeder.

Hanging feeders attract most species of tit, greenfinch, goldfinch, and house and tree sparrows. Fill them with a general seed mix that includes energy rich sunflower seed or suet. Fat balls can be made from suet or lard mixed with seed, hung in special fat ball feeders, or smeared into coconut shells and hung on string. Hang feeders out of reach of predators such as cats, not too low or within reach of branches or fences. Blackbirds, song thrushes, collared doves, robins and dunnocks are primarily ground feeders and are best fed from a bird table.

Unlike other birds, the feisty robin can often be heard in winter, even on frosty days. To survive these lean months it must sing to defend its feeding territory from rival robins and will even carry on after the sun has set. More information from **www.surreywildlifetrust.org**



## Tandridge Handicraft Society



Meetings are every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, opposite Tandridge Leisure Centre, Oxted RH8 9HT. On 17 January at 2pm the Society is hosting a talk with examples of embroidery entitled 'Stitchscapes' given by Beth Power. Visitors are welcome and the £5 entry includes tea and biscuits. Come and join us, we are always keen to welcome new members with similar interests. Further details at **www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk** or from Jenny Beal 620730.

## North Downs Community Orchestra

Following almost two years of lockdowns and cancelled concerts, the North Downs Community Orchestra (also known as The Fun Orchestra) came together to present a small performance on Sunday 21 November. Audience numbers had to be kept to a minimum, but the lucky few were treated to music such as The Great Escape, Moon River, Liberty Bell, Romeo and Juliet, and a few songs from the film Grease (with the audience singing along!)

It was a total pleasure for the orchestra to be able to play together again, and thanks go to Musical Director Sara Young, the entire committee, volunteer helpers on the day, and of course to Chair Pam Deverill who works incredibly hard to make these events happen. The Orchestra's next concert is being planned for early in 2022, so watch out for the posters!

This is an orchestra open to all. We especially encourage those who haven't played for a long while and those learning who would like to experience playing in a group. No auditions, no grade requirements - aged 18 + currently. It's all for fun so come and have a go! Rehearsals start again in early January 2022 - all welcome. For more details, see our website: **www.thefunorchestra.co.uk**



## BEAUTY and the BEAST

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So dust off your theatre gear, practise your applause and get ready for the tale as old as time!

Tickets £13 from **www.oxtedplayers.co.uk** or email **tickets@oxtedplayers.co.uk**. For group bookings call 01883 714062

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Marriage

*We wish them every happiness  
in their future lives together:*

17 December Ria Welland and  
Sam Merritt

### St John's Book of Remembrance

To have a name entered, please email  
**office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk**

## Winter is fox breeding season

Look out for foxes in pairs, as the male will not leave the female's side during the short time she is fertile.



During this time, foxes are very vocal - listen out for their startling barks and shrieks as they call to attract mates and males fight over vixens.

## Hibernation



As the days get colder, many mammals are busy building up fat reserves before winter sets in.

But did you know that the only three mammals in the UK that truly hibernate are dormice, hedgehogs and bats?



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