



HURST GREEN NEWS

May 2025

"...the darling buds of May..."

This phrase might remind you of a popular television series, or possibly the book by HE Bates on which the programme was based. But it goes back a lot further– in fact to a Shakespeare sonnet:

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of
May, And summer's lease hath all too short
a date.*



This is in turn might call to mind the days of merrie England when young people used to dance around the Maypoles on village greens. I can find no record of such happenings on Hurst Green. An early map of the area shows Hurst Green as 'Erne Green'. Some country tracks on this map remain as the main roads of today but there were only a very few houses around the Green with some scattered farmsteads in the surrounding countryside.

Our village remained pretty much the same for centuries until the railway came in 1884. But it wasn't until 1907 that we got our first station in the form of Hurst Green Halt, located on the other side of the road bridge from our current well-appointed station built in 1961. The coming of the railway triggered rapid growth of Hurst Green during the 20th Century, joining-up with the hamlet of Holland (formerly known as Hall Land) to the south.

The former Godstone Rural District Council was a pioneer of council housing in this area and Hurst Green remains the heartland of Tandridge District Council's housing stock. Like everywhere else, Hurst Green has its issues, but these houses and flats, together with other homes, form a good variety of accommodation. This gives rise to the balanced community we have today, served well by our shops, churches, schools, care homes, community and transport services.

For the last 75 years or so we have also had the protection of the Green Belt which has prevented our village from spreading out uncontrollably into the surrounding open countryside. This is not a new idea (see the Old Testament of the Bible written over two thousand years ago where Isaiah 5:8 says 'Woe unto them that join house to house...till there be no place'). National priorities such as the need for more homes and boosting economic growth may come to bear on our village, like everywhere else, and so 'shake the darling buds of May'. We know however that whatever happens in the future, the spirit of our community here in Hurst Green will prevail for the benefit of all.

Bob Evans, Local Hurst Green Resident and Historian

Local resident Kelly Kent, who also runs the Hurst Green Community Centre, and is part of many other local groups including the Hurst Green and Meridian Square Neighbourhood Watch teams has set up a new **Hurst Green Residents Group**.

The group will discuss things like funding, parking, planning applications, crime and improvements and services needed in Hurst Green.

If you would like to join the group please contact: Kelly@hgcc-surrey.org.uk.



Let's make Hurst Green a better home for nature – join in No Mow May!

We can make a huge difference by leaving an area of our gardens to go wild. If that thought fills you with horror, how about leaving a small patch of grass uncut for just one month? You may have seen how Surrey County Council is helping by avoiding mowing nominated grass verges. Reducing the number of grass cuts each year allows native plant species to thrive, and in some areas additional steps can be taken to prepare the ground, sow native wildflower seeds and more proactively encourage their growth.

You can nominate a grass verge near you by going to www.surreycc.gov.uk and searching for the Blue campaign. If you would like an attractive Blue Heart to mark the verge, Men In Sheds at the Woodhouse Centre, Oxted can make them from reclaimed wood.



Celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE day

Tandridge District Council are encouraging residents to take part in the 80th anniversary VE day events on 8 May. You can find key information and resources, including ways to get involved in the commemorations here: www.ve-vjday80.gov.uk.



Christian Aid Week 11th-17th May

Christian Aid Week is celebrated in May every year.



This year the focus is on raising money for the communities of Burundi, where over 70% of people face poverty and hunger every day.

On Sunday 4th May, after the All-Age service at St John's, there will be a Community Brunch with a collection for Christian Aid. You can also donate and find out more at the Christian Aid website: www.christianaid.org.uk.

At St John's, at the 4th May service, we will also be celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day. We hope to see you there!

Get ready for Election Day

On Thursday 1 May a by-election will take place in the Oxted South ward to elect one District Councillor.



Don't forget your photo ID

If you want to vote in a polling station, you'll need to bring photo ID, such as your photo driving licence or passport, otherwise you won't be able to vote. For more information, please go to:

www.tandridge.gov.uk/Your-council/Voting-and-elections/Election-1-May-2025



New Church service for little ones
St John's Church
Sunday 18th May

Third Sunday of the month –

Bubble Church 9am. Bubble Church is a puppet packed, Jesus centred, coffee-and-food-fuelled, 30 minute kids and family adventure. Come for coffee and food at 8.45am and then you will be guided to your bubble at 9am where you and your little ones will share in song, stories, puppets and prayer. Coffee served from 8.45am.



YoYo's Playgroup, St John's Church, 9.15am-11.15am
Every Wednesday in term time.

A friendly group for babies and toddlers for a stay and play session with crafts, snacks and songs.

The June issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 31 May 2025.

Please send material for that issue by FRIDAY 16 May 2025 to The Editor: hgncompiler@gmail.com. The Editor reserves the right to edit copy. The Hurst Green News is published by St John's Parochial Church Council (Registered Charity 1133107) as a church and community newsletter. It is financed by advertisements and St John's Parochial Church Council.

HURST GREEN & OXTED CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

At St John's Church there are services of Holy Communion on Sundays at 8.30am (said) at 9.45am (sung) and at 12.30pm on the 4th Wednesday each month, followed by lunch. The 9.45am service is available via Live Stream. The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm. For updates and the latest information, please check websites below.

ST JOHN'S, HURST GREEN

Vicar: Reverend Sue Bosley, 07553 305087
Church Way, Hurst Green RH8 9EA
Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 01883 715675
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627 762
St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham
Parish Priest Fr Stanislaw (Mycek), 01883 713776
www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 01883 712 017
www.hurstgreen-fellowship.org

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730 406
oxtedurc@gmail.com
Church Administrator:
Claire Harris, 01883 730 406
www.oxtedurc.org.uk

KING'S CHURCH

Contact: King's Centre, 33 Amy Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0PW
Simon Quincey, 01883 734 805,
www.kingschurchforyou.org

PAINS HILL CHAPEL

Contact: Chapel Road, Limsfield Common, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0SX
Jonathan Avery, 07986 436 158
www.painshillchapel.org



Toad Patrol Update

Thanks very much indeed to everyone who helped out with the Toad Patrol this year, and to the drivers who slowed down for us. The migration season took a while to get going because the weather in February was at times quite cold, but in the end we carried out 89 rescues comprised of 36 toads and 53 frogs. This was nearly double last year's total, and fortunately there were very few, if any, casualties. Thanks again. *Adrian Hardingham.*



Saturday 31 May 2025 at 7.30pm at The Bawtree Hall Hazelwood School Oxted RH8 0QU.



Oxted & Limsfield
Music Society

The Society will be hosting an exceptional Jazz night given by The Acrobat Trio, Will Bartlett, Pat Davey and Kristian Borring.

The programme will comprise music from South Africa by Composers Abdullah Ibrahim, Bokani Dyer, Bheki Mseleku, Nduduzo Makathini and Afrika Mzhize together with standards from the American songbook and music from the Trio's own compositions with special guest Tony Kofi.

Tickets are £30 (with free entry for those under 25). Either on the door or at www.olms.org.uk.

Hurst Green Singers Summer Concert

Saturday 10th May at 7pm, at Bawtree Hall, Hazelwood School, Wolf's Hill, Oxted RH8 0QU.

We have an exciting programme planned, with choruses from Haydn's The Creation, to mark the 225th Anniversary of its first UK performance, and The Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein which was first performed 60 years ago.

Both pieces are seen as among the greatest by their respective composers and we look forward to a rousing concert to celebrate the beginning of Summer!

Tickets available from the Hurst Green Singers website: www.hurstgreensingers.co.uk or via the QR code opposite.



Update from Oxted Parish Council on newly installed CCTV

Oxted Parish Council
working for you ...



After public consultation, specification, tendering and supplier selection in March 2024 our CCTV system went live in Oxted and Hurst Green.

Oxted Parish Council took the lead, others involved in the project and its funding were, in no particular order: Tandridge District Council, Limsfield Parish Council, Oxted BID, Master Park, Hurst Green Community Centre, Surrey Police, Oxted Electrical, Hoskins Walk and Raven Homes.

No matter where the cameras are, on a street or privately funded (such as cameras on the Hurst Green Community Centre) they can all be accessed as a single system. The owners of each segment control who can access their cameras. Surrey Police have direct access from Caterham Police Station and can access live images and recorded images for forensic purposes.

Installation started at the same time as the pavilion in Master Park was being demolished. Oxted Tennis Club very kindly provided space to temporarily house equipment, that equipment will be moved into the new Park Hub.

During the year the cameras have captured damage to property, an attack including damage/destruction of two cameras (individual identifiedwell he had to look at the camera to take aim!), an arson attack, antisocial behaviour, fly tipping, vehicle accidents, and incidents in Master Park.

Feedback received has been "The CCTV has changed everything for us. We have had damage that is now being paid for as the cameras caught it. We no longer have kids climbing on our roof and we saw the tree fall on the centre which helped us determine the cause and was helpful to the insurance claim. It will also help us with parking in the future."

All cameras are Ultra High Definition so if you are fly tipping we will, for over 95% of incidents covered by our cameras, have your registration number.

Arty Crafty Chitty Chatty Group
Contact Paula 07731976567
Community room
Bluehouse lane flats
9:30 - 14:30
Every Wednesday
9:30 - 14:30
To do
Jewellery making
Friends

MAY FAYRE
Saturday 10th May
1pm - 5pm
ST MARY'S SCHOOL
£2 ENTRY

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday 20th September, 12.30-4pm
Hurst Green Village Fair**

The fair has been running for more than 40 years. If you are a local food maker, craft creator, business or charity we would love to have your stall there. Please email hgvfair@hotmail.co.uk



Come and join us for
COFFEE and a CHAT

**St John's Room, St John's Church
Fortnightly on Thursdays 1st, 15th and 29th May 2025
10.30am-12 noon**

Need a lift? Ring Barbara on 01883 715636



Dates for your Diary May 2025

4 May: Tennis for all adults (members/non-members). 10am-12pm. Hurst Green Tennis Club.
7 May: Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 7.45pm. 2nd Wednesday of the month.
 Contact: hggardeningclub@gmail.com or go to hggardeningclub.blogspot.com.
8 May: Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Call: Jan Ward, 07776 310093
12 May: Tandridge Handicraft Society. Weekly meetings on Monday. Woodhouse Centre.
 www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk.
19 May: Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2.30-4.30pm, 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, St Agatha's Hall. Call for info and transport: Chair, Diana Drysdale, 01883 742708.
20 May: Meno meet up, 3rd Tuesday of the month, Tandridge Heights, 6.30-8pm.
Every Wednesday in termtime: YoYo's playgroup, St John's Church, 9.15-11.15am.
Every Wednesday: Community Fridge, St Agatha's Hall, 11.15am-12.30pm.
Every Thursday: Hurst Green Community Hub, St Agatha's Hall, 1-3pm.
Every Friday: OXTED COUNTRY MARKET – 10am to 12 noon at the Woodhouse Centre - for artisan crafts, produce and a hot drink.



St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

Booking Administrator:
aggieshall@gmail.com
07769 001796

or complete the form on the website:
stagathashall.weebly.com/contact.html

Surrey domestic abuse helpline



01483 776822

9am to 9pm, 7 days a week

The new Hurst Green Beaver Colony has started.

5 years since the last Beaver Meeting in Hurst Green and with a real push from the existing volunteer team, we now have a fantastic team of new volunteers and 20 amazing children who'll learn, make new friendships and have fun as they enjoy their time in Scouting.

It's brilliant to see the Hurst Green community back again with Beavers, alongside the existing HG Cub Pack and HG Scout Troop, as well as the 130+ 6-18 year-olds that are in Scouting in Oxted.



Creative Community have been busy at the Courtyard Garden by Pollards Oak shops weeding, watering and tidying the flower beds. The daffodils have now finished blooming and the alliums are just about to burst into colour. They have also planted lavenders, hydrangeas, daisies, bronze fennel and hardy fuchsias for summer colour.

If you would like to join in with their next gardening session, message CC and they will add you to their contact list. Please email creativecommunity@btinternet.com.



One World Open Gardens: Monday 26 May 2025, 2-6pm.

Join us for a tour of 5 beautiful local gardens and delicious teas. Tickets giving admission to all of the gardens with a map of their locations are priced at £10. Contact Paul Belok, on 07507 285292 / paul.belok@gmail.com or from several local shops. Find out more here: www.oneworldgroupoxted.org.uk.



What is demanded of the affluent in the climate and nature crises of our time? On Wednesday 21 May Ian Christie is coming to give a talk at St John's Church, Hurst Green. Ian is based at the University of Surrey, and is the Associate Professor in social science and the ethics of sustainable development. The talk will reflect on the inequalities within and between countries as we consider how to respond to the crises of climate disruption and loss of nature, what is required of us as citizens, communities & churches in taking action and a proposal for a campaign that can bring us together with other people of goodwill in making change. You are invited to come and hear what he has to say, and ask him some questions.



Pollards Oak WI (local WI who meet monthly in the York Rooms at St Johns Church on 2nd Thursdays) have just done a successful community litter picking session on Sat 26th April around the Mill Lane area. Members picked up quite a few bags of rubbish and were very pleased with their efforts. We did two sessions last year clearing areas near the railway station and off Holland Road. We intend to have another session of litter picking on Sat 31st May, meeting by the Community Centre behind the Pollards Oak Road shops from 10am. If anyone would like to join us and help clear some rubbish, you would be very welcome.



FAMILY FRIENDLY
 Take part: Explore the bible story
 Praise: God cares for you
 Hands on: Plant some seeds
ALL AGE SERVICE
Sunday 4th May
at 9.45am
St John's Church

 www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

It's back! **OXTED BOOT FAIR** at Master Park on **Sunday 8 June**. If you've been before, you'll know what a great event this is. You can make a tidy sum by selling off all sorts of unwanted items while enjoying the great community atmosphere.

The Oxted Explorers will be running a refreshment tent - providing burgers and hot-dogs with vegetarian options, as well as hot and cold drinks. We'll also have everyone's favourite - the ice-cream van.

Titsey Rotary Club is organising the event and will be using all the profits to support charities and good causes. Last June the fair raised more than £4,000.



Neighbour of the month Sarah Whenham has spent the past year working with Jacqueline Hill to set up Friends of the River Eden Ecosystem. She has gone above and beyond as a volunteer; organising walks, Himalayan Balsam Bash events, successfully applying for their first grant funding, and has been instrumental in initiating the water quality testing programme. FREE now has over 70 Hurst Green volunteers and they have all benefited from Sarah's work both behind the scenes and at events. Thank you, Sarah!

If you would like to nominate someone or being a great neighbour/friend or have witnessed an act of kindness please email us at: hgncompiler@gmail.com.



KEEP HURST GREEN CLEAN



PARISH REGISTERS
Holy Baptisms
 We welcome into the family of God's Church
4 May: Robyn River Rose-Paulsen
St John's Book of Remembrance
 To have a name entered,
 Email: office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Oxted Library
 Coffee, craft & chat
Thursday 8th May
10.30am - 12noon
 Come and share a joke, meet old friends and make new ones. We're celebrating VE day making paper decorations.
 Please book at help desk or by emailing oxted.library@surreycc.gov.uk
£1.50
 Tea + Coffee provided!
VE DAY 80

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