

HURST GREEN NEWS

January 2023

Hope for yourself, your neighbourhood and the world in 2023

The topic of the Hurst Green News in January is often New Year's Resolutions, how long they last... or not. Certainly, all our plans for 2020, 2021 and 2022 did not turn out as expected. We went through three prime ministers, one the shortest serving in UK history. All three went to Oxford, as have 30 out of our 56 prime ministers so far. Brains are no guarantee for success, of course.



We had a summer heat wave, a false Autumn, a protracted warm spell with Spring plants blooming confused, until Winter descended in November. We lost our beloved Queen and learned to sing 'send Him victorious, God save the King'. We welcomed into Surrey 4,065 guests - 189 in Tandridge (with all available data) altogether 307 indicated intention to apply to come here after Russia began its war

against Ukraine. Local folk have hosted refugees, helped with English language classes, provided many loads of aid that have been organised and transported by local Hurst Green resident Penny Kirk. Everyone has been under considerable economic stress, so the Accessibility Project, Church and council started a Community Fridge to tackle food poverty and avoid waste every Wednesday at Aggies from 11.15-12.30 alongside a Community Hub with a craft, cuppa, cake and chat on Thursdays 13.00-15.00. The Christmas Community Giveaway spread joy in gift bags for residents in need and Ukrainian guests. We have supported our neighbours, thank you all. JOY! The Bible's two chief commandments Jesus said were 'Love God and love your neighbour as yourself'.

So, this year, I am not making Resolutions. The Oxted Adventure this year has brought communities together with the theme of HOPE! Think of your own hopes for yourself, your neighbourhood and the world in 2023. The Bible says that hard times produce character and that leads to hope. 'Hope does not disappoint us' Paul writes in his letter to the Romans (who also went through harrowing times) 'because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us'. May we in 2023 rejoice in hope and take each day as a chance to encourage one another. We are so thankful for everyone's 'work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ' (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

Wendy Hewitt, Reader, St John's Church

Inspiring women - then and now The WI is a unique organisation shaped by its members. In 1915, they set out to give women a voice and to be a force for good in the community. Since then, members and ambitions alike have grown tremendously. Today, they are the largest women's organisation in the UK and pride themselves on being a trusted place for **all** women of all generations, to share experiences and learn from each other. A WI membership offers the opportunity to meet women in your local area in-person and virtually, to make friends and make a difference in your community. The WI also campaigns nationally on a wide range of issues and provide life-long learning and self-development opportunities for women in England and Wales. The Hurst Green (Pollards Oak) branch of the WI meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the York Rooms, St John's Church at 7.45pm. The next meeting is on January 12th with a talk from the Warlingham Hand Bell Ringers. For more information call Jan Ward on 01882 712143

Tandridge Club for Visually Impaired 2nd and 4th Mondays in the month 2.45pm-4.15pm

York Rooms, St John's Church We would love some new members to join us. Really bad eyesight is not a requirement – any age-related dimming is fine!

We are a social, chatty group and often have great speakers. You can see our programme for the first quarter of the year below:

09 January: New Year Party & Present Exchange - Rotary Singers

- 23 January: Guildford Street Angels - Jenny Nockolds
- Jenny Nockolds
- 13 February: Music & Fun with Jill Fortune
- 27 February: Where's the Make Up Lady
- Rosemarie Swinfield
- 13 March: Club/Games Afternoon

27 March: What made the 1920s the Roaring 20 - Katherine Collett

The Club is a cheerful group where members gain confidence and mutual benefit from being with people who face similar problems around sight loss and from being in a secure and

non-threatening environment. If you would like more information, please contact our Chairman: Diana Drysdale, 01883 742708 diana.drysdale@godstone.net



Yo Yo's Toddler Group Wednesday 11 January 9.15-11.15am

A friendly group for parents, grandparents/carers to bring babies and toddlers for a stay and play session with crafts, snacks and songs.

Community Brunch And Café Church 3rd Sunday of the month 15 January, 11am at St John's Church



Join us for a Community Brunch followed by a relaxed, informal service for all ages, where children and adults can flow freely around the Church, enjoy crafts, learn more about faith and chat with friends over coffee,



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HURST GREEN 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 noon 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, CHURCH WAY

Anna Eltringham, 01883 712674, Rector: 14 Oast Road (day off - Monday) Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 01883 715675, 11 Home Park Curate: Lotwina Farodove, 07553 305087 Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary: Monica Fenton, 01883 715769 www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Keith Dickson, 01883 712017, Pastor: Pastor@hgec.org.uk / www.hgec.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627762 St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham **Parish Priest** Fr Stephen, 713776

www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God 21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730406 oxtedurc@gmail.com

Church Administrator:

Claire Harris, 01883 730406 www.oxtedurc.org.uk

St John's Autumn craft fair update

St John's have now received all takings and payments for the Autumn Fair and can share that the event has raised just over an amazing £1,500 for St John's.



This money will contribute to supporting community initiatives

It was great to see the Church so busy and many commented on how lovely it was to see the Church opened up and used in this way. Along with the stalls, the Craft workshops and cake and refreshments were a huge success! Thank you to all those who helped make this event happen, especially to Cathy, Hilary and Sue who masterminded the event and delivered it so excellently. We are looking forward to next year's event already!

What is Epiphany and why is it important?

Christmas is over for another year and we've all eaten too much food and watched far too much TV but for some the 6th January is still a very important date in the Christmas season. That is because on the 6th January they celebrate Epiphany - also known as Three Kings Day. The Three Kings play a very important role in the Christmas story and the 6th January is the date when the star led the Three Kings or the Three Wise Men, as they are sometimes called, to visit baby Jesus after he had been born.

This special date is called Epiphany. In Greek the word means 'to reveal' and this is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world. Sometimes people say 'I've had an epiphany' when they've had a good idea or a realisation and this is where this originates from.

St John's will celebrate Epiphany in their All Age Service on Sunday 8th January at 9.45am which will be followed by Epiphany cake with hidden crown.



At St Peter's, Tandridge at 6.30pm, also on 8th January there will be a Choral Evensong to celebrate Epiphany.

'Carbon Capture and Storage' - talk by Chris Johns (retired geologist). At St John's Church, Church Way, Hurst Green; 7.30pm Weds 18 January.

The Global Carbon Cycle, a delicately balanced relationship between naturally produced carbon dioxide and natural storage of carbon, has been blown by us humans! CO2 emissions from fossil fuels and poor land management have tipped the balance and caused rapidly increasing atmospheric CO_2 and the subsequent climate implications. The talk looks at how we are trying to deal with the problem, including attempts to remove existing excess CO_2 from the atmosphere and stopping further release of anthropogenic CO_2 by physical capture or changing industrial processes. It also looks at the issues of storing CO₂ in old oil and gas-fields.

Tandridge Handicraft Society

On 23rd January 2023 the Tandridge Handicraft Society is hosting a talk and demo, on how to use all sorts of scraps. "ReUse and ReCycle" will be presented by Richard Moroney. Doors open 1:30pm, talk starts at 2pm. Visitors are welcome, £5 entry including tea and biscuits. The Society meet every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, opposite Tandridge Leisure Centre, Oxted RH8 9HT (postcode for Sat Nav RH8 9JQ). Come and join us, we are always keen to welcome new members with similar interests. Further details on our website www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk or contact Jenny Beal on 01883 620730

Hurst Green Gardening Club

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick, There's not a hand so weak, nor yet a heart so sick, But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done, For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth everyone.

Even if my previous entry was overwhelmed by the plans others had for Christmas, I hope these lines by Rudyard Kipling from the poem 'The Glory of the Garden', will help you realise that there is no reason not to enjoy your garden. There are always some flowers to brighten even a dull day - right now clematis and honeysuckle evergreen leaves and plants getting ready for the days to come.

The Hurst Green Gardening Club's programme for 2023 is nearly complete, and already we have speakers for our first three meetings, January 11th, February 8th and March 8th at Aggies from 8pm.



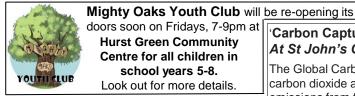
We hope to see you there! Brian Parrott, Programme Secretary

Are you a new mum in Hurst Green? Would you like to meet other mums in a friendly and relaxed environment and get a chance to talk through breastfeeding and other issues? We are planning a new local group to start in the new year and would like to invite you to come along or join our small team helping to set up and run the group. If you are interested and would like to know more, please call Cerys Williams, Local Area Coordinator, on 07855 987077

ESW hope you have enjoyed the Festive Season and wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2023. If you haven't already done so now is a great time to take steps (in every sense) to get out and about and enjoy walking. An easy way is to check the ESW website,



find a walk that suits you and join us.www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk



doors soon on Fridays, 7-9pm at Hurst Green Community Centre for all children in school years 5-8. Look out for more details.



12 December: Kathleen (Kay) Hillary

St John's Book of Remembrance To have a name entered. Email: office@stihurstgreen.co.uk

Dates for your Diary 2023		
09 January: Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2nd & 4th Mond	ys, 2.45- 4.15pm,	
ork Rooms, St John's Church: Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031		Т
11 January: Yo Yo's playgroup, every Wednesday in term time, York Rooms, St John's,		
Church Way, Hurst Green, 9.15-11.15am		
11 January: Rhyme Time, every 2 nd Wednesday of the month, 11.30am, Windmill Manor Care		
Home, 2 Fairviews, Hurst Green RH8 9BD		
11 January: Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall 8pm. Contact: Brian Parrott,		
Programme Secretary, 01883 723916		
12 January: Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Warlingham Hand Bell		0
Ringers. Jan Ward, 01883 712143		
23 January: Tandridge Handicraft Society, ReUse and ReCycle, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted.		
Contact: Jenny Beal (Chairman) 01883 620730		
CENT Enjoy singing? Why not make a new	A Thank You from	

Enjoy singing? Why not make a new year's resolution to join a local Choir?

Hurst Green Singers is a friendly, local choir of enthusiastic amateurs who enjoy making beautiful music together. It is keen to welcome new members, especially those who sing the lower voice parts, particularly tenor or bass.

Under the direction of Jamie Meaders, a talented musician and conductor who skilfully nurtures the very best out of singers, the choir performs two successful concerts a year featuring an exciting repertoire including long standing choral favourites plus new works by living composers. The next concert, in May 2023, will feature Haydn's superb Nelson Mass and Rutter's Te Deum.

The choir meets every Tuesday evening for rehearsals in St John's Church, Hurst Green, RH8 9EA at 8.00pm. There are no auditions, and it is not essential that you can sight read music but there must be a willingness to learn, sing on pitch, blend with other voices and commit to regular rehearsals to maintain the high standard of the choir.

The new term starts on 10th January - but even if you miss a couple of rehearsals you'll still be most welcome. So, if you like singing and are interested in taking up an enjoyable leisure activity in the new year, then please contact hurstgreensingers@gmail.com for further information.



Christmas was certainly in the air at the recent concert by the North Downs Community Orchestra, or the Fun Orchestra as they prefer to be known, conducted by their inspirational



Musical Director, Sara Young. Their sell out concert at Hazelwood School's Bawtree Hall on Sunday 27th December, to an audience aged from under 5 to 95, was called 'Christmas in the Air' and featured a mix of seasonal and classical works.

The programme ranged from the baroque with two pieces by Handel including the strings playing the Messiah Chorus 'For Unto Us' which they played with the lightness of touch that the piece requires. The wind band tackled Bach's 'Sleepers Awake' with equal skill. The full orchestra romped their way through a medley of melodies from Tchaikovsky's 'Nutcracker' and positively flew though Ponchielli's 'Dance of the Hours', ending the first half with a glorious rendition of the theme from Forrest Gump.

The second half became more Christmassy as they played a swinging medley of Christmas favourites, followed up by an audience participation selection of favourite carols. The concert ended with that perennial favourite, Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride', with the orchestra letting rip with full percussion and the brass section coming into their own. The concert was clearly enjoyed by audience, orchestra, and conductor alike.

The NDCO is made up of musicians whose only requirement is that they can read music and have their own instrument; there are no auditions. As a result, the adult group is made up of mix of people who are just starting their musical journey, others who played years before and are just rusty, and some very accomplished players who simply enjoy the relaxed nature of the orchestra and provide motivation and inspiration to the others. Rehearsals for their next concert in May 2023 start in January. You can find more details at: www.thefunorchestra.co.uk.

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

A Thank You from The Accessibility Project to you ALL!

accessibility project

I wanted to take a moment to share our overwhelming gratitude as a project for the generosity and support to the community of Hurst Green and St John's Church. In December, we launched our first Community Christmas Giveaway, an initiative to create at least onehundred gift bags to share with those who may not find the joy in Christmas as easy as most.

This initiative was set up in the memory, and to continue the legacy of a local young man, Joseph Geddes, who was also my best friend of fifteen years, who passed away in January 2021. So why did we do this? No matter what Joe faced, throughout his entire life, he spread light, love, joy, and gave his all to support everybody who crossed his path, and for us, that is a huge part of the embodiment of Christmas. Christmas means many things to many people but one thing I think most, if not all, of us would agree on, is Christmas is the one time of year that we come together as a community, one beating heart, to celebrate, to share love, joy and care with one another, regardless of faith. Despite that, Christmas is not always a period of joy for everybody, but it is a period of isolation, sadness, financial stress, and fear. Through the creation of sharing a Christmas gift bag with one-hundred people, we hoped we would ease the burden and bring comfort to others, if only for a moment.

As I write this, we are still in the lead up to Christmas, we are three days away from packing our Christmas Gift Bags, so I am unfortunately unable to share with you the total number, however, through your generosity I know we will meet, if not exceed our target! Through your love, we raised £300 over our initial target, raising £605, we collected over ten moving boxes worth of donations, we've had more than two dozen individuals sign up to support packing the bags, delivery of the bags, and so much more. As a community you have all been fantastic.

We also wanted to take a moment to thank St John's Church. A thank you we extend to Reverend Anna Eltringham, Curate Lotwina Faradoye, and Che Ramsden, to every single member of the congregation. You have welcomed The Accessibility Project into your hearts and supported us in so many ways to make this possible. If it also wasn't for our working in partnership, as well as the community initiatives you already run, such as Community Fridge and Pop-Up Hub, we wouldn't have had an environment the community accessed to share the giftbags with. So, thank you, to you all. *Abi Chapman, Founder & Director, The Accessibility Project*

South Nutfield Choral Society South Nutfield We are a small, friendly choral society CHORAL SOCIETY based in the village of South Nutfield. Rehearsals: Mondays, 7.45pm to 9.45pm New term starts Monday 9 January 2023 Christ Church, Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield, RH1 5NG Come and join us for Catherine Southon **COFFEE and a CHAT** St John's Room FREE St John's Church **Antiques & Jewellery** Valuation Day Fortnightly on Thursdays at Oxted Community Hall, 5th and 19th January Tuesday 17th January 12-4pm 10.30am-12 noon For all enquiries and appointments

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