

Hurst Life

Including Sayers Common & Albourne

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #6 : Sept. 2015

Free
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Community cafe celebrates

p.7

Hurst Festival highlights

p.16

5 mins with Naomi

p.13



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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Welcome to the post-summer issue of Hurst Life with plenty to talk about in the village!

A number of people have commented that they missed the '5 minutes with...' feature in last month's magazine. We simply ran out of pages in that issue, so we are back on track here; read about **Naomi Hawkins** on **page 13**. If you know someone who'd like to take part urge them to email in their answers to us at editor@hurstlife.co.uk.

On **page 16** there is a round-up of the hugely popular **Hurst Festival** which starts on 12th September. Read a snapshot of what's going on during the two week event - then get hold of the copy of the full programme locally, if you haven't already!

Albourne-based wine maker **Alison Nightingale** takes to the stage in our **Village People** feature on **page 22** as we read more about how dream came true right here in Hurstpierpoint.

We are also very pleased to be able to feature a local charity which is at home right in the centre of the village: **The Torch Holiday Retreat Centre**. On **page 21** we lift the lid on what exactly the organisation does for those with little or no sight whatsoever, and highlight at Open Day coming up later this month.

Going back a little in time – on **page 29** I have written a review of the very pleasant evening which myself and my 10 year old had watching **The Hurst Players** at the beginning of the summer. It was a great evening - thank you to the whole cast and crew.

On **page 30** we have the beginnings of a **Classified section**. Do email wanted, for sale, giveaway items or jobs to classified@hurstlife.co.uk **before 18th Sept**.

Finally, if you have heard about **The Melting Pot Café** but have never visited – this month may be a good time to take a look. The community café celebrates its first birthday on 16th September. See **page 7** for more info.

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Hurst Life
Published by Kipper



David Tingley
A family enjoying the late
summer sunshine

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We'd love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to editor@hurstlife.co.uk

New therapist joins team

Columbines welcomes a new therapist to its team with the introduction to Susan Elizabeth (pictured) last month.

The health and wellbeing centre was established in 1991 and now includes a range of specialists operating from the High Street location.

Susan Elizabeth says her role is most easily described as a body work therapist - she actually uses skills in Massage, Craniosacral, Myofascial Release and Reflexology to support her clients restore good health.

"Many people come to me thinking they are 'ok'," Susan explained, "but very often I discover that anxiety, worry and stress can be residual in their body, thus contributing to other health problems. I use a range of techniques and a uniquely personal approach, which supports clients to relieve some of that tension and try and get the spring back in their step!"

Susan helps clients ranging from tired mums and stressed city workers 'on the treadmill' to the more elderly who can have specific mobility issues.

Susan joins the other therapists at Columbines, including Julie Forbes and Ann Winney.



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Hurstpierpoint retailer scoops South East award

A Hurst wine merchant has recently been the recipient of an industry award.

South Downs Cellars, on the High Street, picked up the award for Regional Merchant of the Year for the South & South East at the glamorous black tie ceremony at London's Hilton On Park Lane hotel over the summer.

Business owner Lucy Driver (pictured) was presented with the award by Peter McCombie MW (Master of Wine) on the night, which also saw a raft of large and small retailers and producers from all over the country celebrating their success too.

Lucy commented: "The judges were looking at all aspects of a shop's business, including what we were doing that was new. We have massively increased our range of craft beers this year due to customer demand and we've also introduced a loyalty card which creates your own online 'cellar' of all the products you have purchased either online or in store. Customers can make their own notes on these via the website for their future reference."

South Downs Cellars has been open in Hurstpierpoint for over 12 years now. Later this month their Autumn tastings programme will begin again – see in-store or online for details.



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Walkers raise £700



Local ME charity reMEMber sends warmest thanks to all the walkers and everyone who sponsored them on their fundraising walk back in June (Tilly & Alice pictured).

The walk from Clayton Windmills to Ditchling Beacon and back raised more than £700, beating last year's figure of £683, to help local adults and children who suffer from M.E.



It's coffee time again!

By Margaret Bishop

To kind friends and loyal supporters of our Macmillan Coffee Morning, we would love to see you all again this year. To those who were not able to join us last year, we would be so pleased to see you this time.

This year it's on Friday 25th September at the Bowls Club and we will have a few stalls to browse through, plus the cakes are irresistible!

With your help we can build on our past successes and make a large contribution to this very worthy cause.

There is always a warm, friendly atmosphere at the coffee morning

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Please do come along! There will be an entrance fee of £3 to include coffee/tea and home-made cake.

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Community café celebrates first birthday

MELTING POT CAFÉ



The Melting Pot Café in Hurst is about to celebrate its first birthday and you are all invited to the party! Do pop along to the cafe on 16th September, 9.15-11.30am, for tea, cake and celebrations. It's going to be a lot of fun!

If you've not yet heard of the Melting Pot, it's a wonderful community café, tucked away on the Willow Way estate and really making an impact in the local community. The café began after a conversation at the annual Willow Way skip day between event organisers from The Point Church and some local residents who were really keen to see something more happening in their locality. "What about a café?" one asked, and the seed was sown! Six months later, The Melting Pot opened, with delicious home-made cakes, fresh coffee and welcoming smiles, at the Hurstpierpoint Ex-Servicemen's and Social Club.

The café is run by volunteers from several of the village churches working in conjunction with the club and local residents, and has really grown into a wonderful space for people to meet and chat (and to eat cake of course). Kids are welcome and there's a well-stocked selection of toys each week to keep them happy!

Over the year, other organisations have been keen to get involved too and the café now boasts a regular programme of events. Each week there are visits from the Children & Family Centre, HOPE (with amazing activities for parents and children), The CAB, Affinity Sutton employment advice, The Wellbeing Team, manicures and crafts, and so much more, all accessible to café visitors for free.

Naomi McBain from HOPE, notes that the café has been 'a valuable resource to have for integrating isolated parents into the community' and café volunteer Haydn Everall shared that his highlight of the last year has been making new friends on both sides of the counter!

It certainly is a place where a sense of community is thriving. Also celebrating their first birthday at the club is the Youth Drop-In, run by The Point Church, which reaches out to the younger members of the community after school on Thursdays. Both the café and Youth Drop-In are involved in conversations about how the projects can be developed further, so watch this space! Year two promises to be just as exciting as the first!

For more info on the Café and Youth Drop-In see:

www.facebook.com/meltingpotcafe
www.facebook.com/youthdropinhurst



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Meet the artists

HURSTPIERPOINT OPEN STUDIOS

After another year of planning, preparation and painting, the artists of the Hurstpierpoint Open Studios are ready this month to welcome the public into their workspaces. The event, which also marks the opening of the 2015 Hurst Festival, will span across two weekends, starting 12th-13th September and continuing 19th-20th September.

Visitors can expect to see a wide range of local arts and crafts, which will be on show at 18 different locations throughout the village. There are over 20 local artists taking part this year who will be on hand to greet eager art enthusiasts and take them on a behind the scenes tour of their studios. Emily Volkert has been lucky enough to get a sneak preview of what's to come and to meet some of this year's exhibitors...

Pamela Holmes

I have lived in Hurstpierpoint since 1989, when my husband and I fell in love with the village. Since having children I have been involved with a number of groups and for the last nine years helped with Top Hats and Tutus, a children's drama group, making costumes for their shows.

I worked in IT and felt the need to do something creative, so in 2004 I started evening classes in stained glass and my love for glass was kindled. We were taught how to use lead as well as copper foil but I preferred working with copper foil as the end result could be much more intricate.

In 2009 I was made redundant and decided to see if I could make a business creating stained glass ornaments. We had a cabin in the garden, mainly used by the children, so it was reinvented as my workshop and Glassfollies was born.

Micki Bennett

I was born in Nairobi, Kenya to parents from the Seychelles, where I still have family. I was despatched to a convent in Wales to continue my education during the Mau Mau uprising in the 1950s and have remained here ever since. Growing up in Kenya, I recall vividly the colours and contrasts of the countryside and the brilliance of the light. Textures, colours and shapes of that time remain with me to this day and I am convinced that the recollections and experiences of those childhood years have greatly influenced the work I do now.

Following my marriage and two children I did a three year degree course at Sussex University and went on to teach at a number of schools in the area, before finally taking up a post at a school in Lindfield until my retirement. It was at this point that I decided to take up a long held ambition to paint. I love the work that I do and hope to continue painting for many years to come.



Karen Butterfill

In 2000 I came to live in Hurstpierpoint and was delighted to find that I had moved into a lively, proactive, friendly village. Having painted for many years using oils and acrylics, I started experimenting in other medias such as gold leaf and pencil. My father is an artist and my grandfather was a prolific portrait painter, so I have had a lot of influence.

My previous customers had been commissions and word of mouth before I arrived but when someone suggested that I show my work at the Brighton Festival and the Hurstpierpoint Artist Open House, I thought "it might be a bit of fun". This turned out to be the case; meeting artistically minded people and fellow artists accomplished in many different medias, swapping ideas and techniques.

My art could be described as loose realism and I especially enjoy going against all the rules.

Sylvia Thornhill

I have lived in Hurstpierpoint for over 40 years and was a primary school teacher until I retired in 1997, when I moved into a bungalow with views of my favourite hill, Wolstonbury. I have always loved the Arts and had responsibility for Art and Craft at St Lawrence in the village and before that at Southway School, in Burgess Hill.

Once I retired I was able to pursue these subjects at a more personal level. With a wide range of interests, and over the years, I undertook courses in watercolour painting, pottery, sculpture and etching; I had an etching press for my 70th birthday!

I won the Hurstpierpoint 700th Anniversary of the St Lawrence Fair Sculpture Competition with my sculpture 'Children of the Fair', which is my largest project so far. I have exhibited and sold paintings, etchings, textiles and sculptures both locally and further afield.



Sheila Lea

I have lived in Hurstpierpoint for the past 18 years and taken part in the Artists Open Studios for five or six years now. It is lovely to meet the local people in a relaxed and friendly social gathering, chatting about the paintings and the inspirations for them.

I have spent most of my life drawing and painting, doing life drawing, plus portraits of people - also their animals at times. I have also been involved in sculpture, pottery and several other crafts over the years.

Coming from Devon, I count myself lucky to have lived near the coast both there and now here in Sussex with such beautiful countryside and sea to inspire me.



Lucille Cuss

I came to live in Hurstpierpoint in 1967 as a very young wife. I feel as if I have grown up here as well as growing old. The village is a fantastic place to live; over the years it has changed and grown. What doesn't alter is the essence of the place – something for everyone of all ages.

When the children grew up, I worked in an estate agency for five years. I then opened a shop, Inspirations, with my partner Jacky, which we ran for 19 years. It was always an ambition to learn how to paint and I have been at it for three years now, loving every minute.

Two years ago, my grandson Ben Driver, aged eight, exhibited at the Open Studios. Not to be outdone, I took the plunge last year.



Karen Alicia Louise Burt

I have lived in Hurstpierpoint for over 30 years and am now a grandmother. Whilst raising a family here, I have been chair of the local pre-school, involved with the creation of St Lawrence Fair floats and children's out of school activity days.

In 2005, I gained a Fine Art Degree through Northbrook College and my dissertation 'Changing States' (looking at work by Joseph Beuys and Ana Mendieta) is held by Daros Services, Switzerland in their private Archive.

I am a published poet and see my painting/sculpture as visual poetry. I have also written a report on prehistoric Wolstonbury for Hurstpierpoint Museum Group. I see art as a language of the soul, enabling understanding through feeling, in the emotional sense. My often transient art is my own vital, fluid conversation between myself and the world.



Mike Cheetham

I used to live in Henfield, where my principal hobby was restoring cars. However, shortly after moving to Hurst in 1989, I took up painting - mainly in acrylics and acrylic inks. My style always involved bold colours, and my pictures were sold successfully over several years.

In 2000, when my son died tragically, I did a week's sculpture course in order to make a portrait of him in stone. I took to the process, bought the tools and some material but did no more carving until moving house again in 2012, when I gave up painting.

At the Open Studios in 2014, I exhibited 11 small abstract sculptures, and was delighted to find them acceptable and sold six, which has given me the confidence to continue. I collect irregular-shaped stone, and my inspiration comes mainly from the shape, colour and size of the piece itself.



Sue Shepherd

I started painting two years after I retired in 2000. Initially I used water colours, which I found very unforgiving; also acrylics but for many years I have been using pastels exclusively.

We moved from West London to Hurst eight years ago and thoroughly enjoy the friendliness of the village. When I told the Parish Council of my interest in painting, I was quickly put in touch with Sylvia Thornhill, who kindly introduced me to local artists, and by the following year I was exhibiting in the Open Studios in my own home - I have done so every year since.

I attend a workshop in West Chiltington once a month. I have no 'natural flair' but a lot of motivation to improve and change my subject matter from time to time.



You can find a full list of all of this year's artists and a map of the studio locations in the 2015 Hurst Festival programme or visit the group's website: www.hurstpierpointopenstudios.co.uk

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5 MINUTES WITH...

Naomi Hawkins

How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?
Almost a year.

What's the best thing about being here?
Everyone is so friendly.

Favourite ice cream flavour?
Vanilla.

How many houses have you lived in?
Not that many – I like to feel settled.

Favourite holiday destination?
Cuba – we cycled around the whole country and loved it for its colour, vibrancy and people .

Your most enjoyable event in the village?
Anything by the Hurst Players – we love the theatre here.

Do you share your home with anyone?
Yes, my husband.

Song you play the most?
Cedar Lane by First Aid Kit.

Mac or PC?
Mac.

Your most frequented village shop?
The lovely home furnishings shop run by Tina Bucknell.

What's your proudest moment?
Taking part in and finishing the London Marathon.

Coke, juice or water?
Water.

Your advice for life?
Try to take each day as it comes – you honestly never know what's around the corner.

If you'd like to take up the '5 mins' spot or recommend someone else – email in the answers and a photo to editor@hurstlife.co.uk



Dvorak concert in chapel

Join Ensemble Reza for a wonderful evening of music featuring Dvorak's String Sextet in A major Op.48 and Tchaikovsky's Souvenir de Florence. Both pieces are an exciting 'tour de force' combining rich and beautiful melodies with colourful folk tunes. Ensemble Reza's passionate and virtuoso musicians will take you on a musical journey and leave you wanting to dance in your seat!

The combination of highly talented musicians who are close friends performing together results in breathtaking performances which have become the unique sound of Ensemble Reza. This concert will include: Lucy Jeal (Guest leader), Andrew Thurgood (violin), Anna Cooper, Matthew Quenby (violas) and Pavlos Carvalho, Sarah Carvalho-Dubost (cellos).

The concert takes place as part of the Hurst Festival on Sunday 20th September at 6pm in Hurstpierpoint College Chapel.

Tickets cost: £13 adult and £5 for under 18. Available online at: www.hurstfestival.org or from the box office at The Players Theatre on the High Street.

Marathon runners wanted by St Peter & St James hospice

Do you have a place in the Brighton or London Marathon in 2016? Would you like to run and raise money for St Peter & St James Hospice? The Hospice is looking for individuals to take on the challenge and fundraise to support the work St Peter & St James carries out for the local community.

The Hospice is looking for individuals to run for it in the Brighton Marathon (17th April 2016) and/or the London Marathon (24th April 2016). If you have had your place confirmed and would like to support St Peter & St James, please contact the Hospice.

There are also some charity places available with 10 for the Brighton Marathon and five for the London Marathon. St Peter & St James will support you throughout your fundraising efforts and every runner will receive a branded running vest to wear on the day. As well as fundraising advice, the Hospice will be holding a personal training session for training and nutritional needs. For anyone needing help with setting up online donation pages, the Hospice can help here, too, to make the most from community support.

If you would like to register your interest and raise funds for the Hospice through challenge events, please contact fundraising@stpeter-stjames.org.uk or 01444 470722.

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Festival time in Hurst

HURST FESTIVAL



September is a month when the village becomes a hub of all things artistic and creative! Yes, the Hurst Festival kicks off on 12th September and there is loads to see and do.

Hurst Festival was started 11 years ago when a small group of locals, including Michel Olszewski, Kevin & Margeret Carey, Bob Sampson, Shaughan Parish and Steve Whitehead, got together to trial a one-day event in the Village Centre. Five hundred people attended that first test and they launched straight into an annual two week festival the very next year.

"We always wanted the Festival to become something which was renowned locally and had its own slot in the village calendar. So we started as we wanted to go on, with a full two week programme of events and with the starting weekend being the second week in September," Margaret Carey explained.

At its heart the Festival is all about making the arts, of all kinds, accessible to the whole village community. The committee is always seeking to keep costs as low as possible for all events during the 16 days and is very grateful to its sponsors for their financial commitment to enable this. For instance, the Hurstpierpoint Community Charity has given £5,000 every year and the Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council has also significantly contributed annually as part of its encouragement for the Festival, along with many other businesses and individuals.

The opening day of the Hurst Festival is known as

Community Day and features just about everything being available at no cost. Just part of the fun is the Treasured Transport Parade through the village and ending on the Recreation Ground on South Avenue. Everybody can be part of this, enjoying the spectacle! Alongside this, many art exhibitions will open their doors including Hurst Open Studios (see more on page 10), Herbie Flowers Photography and The Dene Art in Holy Trinity Church. Plus, also on this day, there is the free Gig Inn the Garden at The New Inn from 4pm.

The Festival is a registered charity and is run by a committee of 12 hard-working volunteers and seven trustees. "We also have an army of residents who willingly work as stewards for the Festival," Margaret goes on to say. "These folk do a great job in signing up for when they are available and will do various tasks including running the bar, the box office and managing the many venues."

Local historian Ian Nelson has traditionally offered Historic Walks of the village during the Festival and this year is no different. His popular sell-out tours are small groups of 10 getting the opportunity to learn more about Hurstpierpoint from one of the most knowledgeable residents. What is new this year, however, is the launch of the Historic Walk Film, which premieres in Holy Trinity Church at 4.30pm on Monday 14th September. The walk was filmed and edited by resident Richard Payne who captured Ian during last year's Festival in order to help share the fascinating information contained in his walk.



Showing the film on the big screen will enable hundreds of people to enjoy it in 2015.

Hurstpierpoint College music students invite all to Cake at the College on Thursday 24th September at 4pm. With a jazz band, plus other musical performances during the afternoon from senior school pupils who will also serve you with tea and cake! Free transport is provided to and from the College from Trinity Road car park. Free tickets for this event must be picked up from the box office.

If you have been wanting to take a look around the recently completed St Lawrence Primary School, there is an opportunity on Tuesday 22nd September when local children will show you around. Book your tour directly by calling 01273 833229.

On the evening of Saturday 19th September you will have to choose between a Vegas Night, celebrating what would have been Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday, in the Village Centre or the last night of the Hurstpierpoint Players production of Murderer by Anthony Shaffer at the Players Theatre. Both very different events but both will provide top notch entertainment albeit in different forms.

Elsewhere there is a Comedy Night at the Village Centre on Friday 18th September, with professional comedians James Redmond, Markus Birkman and Damian Clark. There is a board games morning on Monday 14th September or, later that day, you could Meet the Porkers with Caroline Telfer who will share

some tips about animal husbandry and show you a pig-keeping project in the village.

Amongst all these extra special goings on, there are also events which coincide with the Festival; one of which is the screening of the film *Boyhood* (15) by Hurst Village Cinema in the Players Theatre on Wednesday 23rd September. And, also, the Afternoon Club host a special Tea Party with Daisy Pippage on Sunday 20th September in the Village Centre. The local Sussex Nomads crew also take out willing cyclists on a 20 or 40 mile bike ride from Trinity Road Car Park on Sunday 13th September – it's free to join in, but riders must register in advance.

You are probably getting the picture, if you didn't already know; there is loads going on during the Festival! I haven't mentioned *An Evening with Crime Thriller Writers*, or *Fergus Anckorn* or even the *Bedlam Brewery Tour*! There is so much going on you really must get hold of a copy of the Festival programme.

Hurst Festival is a huge umbrella for dozens of events taking place between 12th and 26th September. We can't feature it all here, so do pick up a copy of the Festival programme which can be found in many High Street shops, or check out the website www.hurstfestival.org of course.

The Players Theatre has now turned into the Festival Box Office and is open Thursday, Friday and Saturdays from 9.30am-1pm. You can also book online at the Hurst Festival website.



Trust seeks wildlife photos

Sussex Wildlife Trust is looking for beautiful and awe inspiring wildlife and landscape photographs to grace the pages of their 2016 online calendar. The subject matter is entirely your choice, providing it follows the theme 'My Wild Sussex'.

Choose the wild places that are special to you – maybe the Downs, woodlands or a favourite urban nature spot where wildlife thrives.

First prize is £100 cash and the runner-up will receive a set of four Mark Greco mugs. Pictures taken by the 12 finalists will appear in The Trust's 2016 online calendar, and the overall winning image will feature in their members' magazine and on their website.

You can enter up to five images. Once the Trust's judges have selected the 12 finalists, the overall winner will be voted for by the public. Closing date for receipt of entries is 30 September 2015.

Upload your images to: sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/photo-competition or post a CD to: Richard Cobden, Photography Competition, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9SD

Autumn Show open to all

Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society is holding it's annual Autumn Show on Saturday 26th September.

From colourful chrysanthemums and dahlias to giant onions; from quirky misshapen vegetables to aromatic apples and pears; from lovingly home-made preserves to children's hedgerow arrangements.

The Village Centre hall will be brimming with all manner of flowers, fruit, vegetables, home baking and children's exhibits. Enjoy a cup of tea and piece of delicious cake then 'bag' a bargain in the produce auction. The show opens at 2.15pm.

If you would like to exhibit in the show, it is free to all and there are prizes and cups to be won. Pick up a self-explanatory schedule from Gibsons on the High Street.

Could you work for Hurst Life?

Here at Hurst Life magazine we are on the look-out for a new member of the team. You need to be based in the immediate vicinity of Hurstpierpoint, be able to write great engaging copy and not be afraid of a laptop and all that it can do!

You'll need to have around 25 hours per month available, but you can work flexible hours, and the role is home-based.

Anyone interested can find more information online at www.hurstlife.co.uk/jobs



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Jamie Wadman is no stranger to Hurstpierpoint with family ties here, being schooled at Hurst College and his company office being located on the High Street.

Although Jamie has run Stylo Renovations for the past five years, he's been working for himself since 2007. After beginning his career labouring on building sites, he soon realised that he wanted to learn a specific trade and went to City College to complete an NVQ in carpentry. It was at this time that he began doing small projects for people when he wasn't doing contracting work.

It's not the outside air or being your own boss that gets him out of bed in the morning, it's the creativity. "I love standing back from a completed project and saying: 'We did that'," Jamie explained. "For many of our customers we are creating their dream home, and it's a pleasure and a privilege to use my knowledge and skills to help them achieve this."

We all know the stereotypes about builders but Jamie works hard to make sure they don't apply to Stylo Renovations. "First and foremost," he goes on, "we are in people's homes and my team are always considerate of this fact." Trust is an important element to the client:builder relationship and Jamie knows it.

Jamie's team is made up of a number of trusted colleagues who all understand his customer-focused ethos. One of them is his decorator (and brother) Sam, who has frequently been specifically requested by previous customers who knew not only the quality of his work but what it was like having him in their home.

Jasmine McGarr, a Hurstpierpoint customer of Jamie's, agrees: "They're so friendly – it's like having friends round. We even felt comfortable leaving the dog home knowing they'd keep an eye on him!"

Stylo Renovations can take on a number of types of building project in your home. This includes extensions, conversions of lofts and garages (see before/after photos, right) and house renovations.

If trust is an important factor for choosing your builder, flexibility can be too. Jamie recalls a kitchen renovation recently in which the customer wanted a door blocked up. On doing so, they realised it had created a dark corner

and Jamie was immediately asked to unblock it and turn it into a large window! The work required a custom-made window to be manufactured, and the team worked round the waiting hole while fitting and finishing the rest of the kitchen. The new window arrived just in time, allowing them to leave the project completely finished.

Jasmine continues: "The quality is amazing and the finish immaculate. The final renovations actually exceeded our hopes and expectations – so much so we've now asked them to take on an extension!"

But there's one more feather in Jamie's building cap and that is communication. "Above all," he says, "customers want to know you aren't going to leave them high and dry and totally in the dark about what's going on. I always make sure that the client knows what's happening, before it's happened!" And that is just one way in which stylo renovations challenges the sometimes bad reputations of the building trade.

The company is fully insured and Jamie is especially proud that it's recently been vetted by (and accepted into) the WSCC Trading Standards 'Buy With Confidence' scheme.

If you have a project which you'd like to ask Jamie to look at, call 01273 634846 today and he'll be more than happy to talk to you about it.

To see more project profiles, see the all new website: www.stylorenovations.co.uk



Garage conversion – before and after photos



HURST VILLAGE CINEMA

By David Saitch

Obviously we at the Village Cinema have been having a bit of a break, watching the summer blockbusters. But we haven't totally switched off, we've been planning the next season and getting programmes printed.

The programmes have been distributed to members and will be available soon at all the usual places – the library, Mishon Mackay, Hassocks railway station and at a number of kind venues on the High Street. If you can't get hold of one but are interested, do contact us and we will arrange to get one to you.

One of the major events in October is the Live Broadcast of Hamlet from the Barbican, brought to us by NT Live, for which we have two sold out screenings.

We have the usual diverse range of films in October, starting on Thursday 8th October with Force Majeure (15), a wickedly funny and precisely observed psychodrama from Sweden. A picture perfect Swedish family is on a skiing holiday in the Alps, when an avalanche strikes. But the disaster is not what you might expect and this subtle and telling film offers a searing satire on the loss of face and the impact it can have. A must see.

On Friday 23th October, we have what is one of the best, if not THE best independent US film of the last year, Whiplash (15), the story of an aspiring jazz drummer and the bullying music teacher who drives his band like a psychotic drill sergeant. It's Full Metal Julliard! Blisteringly paced, thrilling and enthralling, with terrific performances - you do not need to be a fan of jazz music, or drumming, to enjoy this film, you just have to turn up and watch it.

Our Saturday Cinema screening on 24th October is the very funny adventure animation, Mr Peabody and Sherman (U).

Finally, our new Sunday Cinema opens on 25th October, with the wonderful adaptation of Thomas Hardy's Far From the Madding Crowd (12A) that was released earlier this year starring Carey Mulligan and Michael Sheen.

More details can be found and tickets purchased at www.hurstfilms.com and you can also buy tickets at Mishon Mackay on Hurstpierpoint High Street.

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TORCH HOLIDAY & RETREAT CENTRE

Tucked away down a long drive, bordering the South Downs National Park with an uninterrupted view of Wolstonbury Hill, what goes on at 4 Hassocks Road, Hurstpierpoint remains a mystery to most local people.

The original house on this site, with its simple pitched tile roof, symmetrical layout and matching chimney stacks, was a modest family home. Finding various uses over the years, the property was extended again and again.

In 1913 the Chapel was added; a gift of Lady Campion of the Danny estate, with a foundation stone laid by Princess Alexandra of Tess. So this is how an overgrown country cottage comes to have a beautiful and peaceful chapel of which a major stately home would be proud, complete with a bell and Kemp stained glass!

The Torch Trust, founded in 1959 by Ron and Stella Heath, acquired this, its first property, at auction in 1968. Here the work of this Christian charity grew quickly until, in 1974, the headquarters moved to Leicestershire and 4 Hassocks Road was to be sold. Incredibly no one wanted to buy it and, after some years, it found a new purpose at the heart of Torch Trust as a place of hospitality and care for blind and partially sighted people.

In 1997 Gail Millar and her family took on the challenge of developing this strand of Torch Trust's overall programme. Gail came with a vision of what could be achieved and began the development of the now established annual programme of Torch Holidays.

With that vision in mind, plans were laid for the extension and upgrade of the building. This project had two distinct objectives: to bring the building up to first-class standards and to tailor it to every need of its diverse range of visitors.

Now accommodating up to 30 guests in 17 en suite bedrooms, and fully upgraded throughout, it has become a haven of accessibility and hospitality for blind, partially sighted and other disabled people.

Most weeks of the year there will be a Torch Holiday,

retreat or other event specially designed for blind and partially sighted people. Together with a team of staff and volunteers, they will join in a programme that might include craft and gardening, music and books, outings and adventure, and plenty more. A hugely important and recent addition to the annual line-up has been a series of short breaks tailored to the needs of those who are struggling with the loss of their sight.

All this is combined with a 'home from home' welcome and generous hospitality, fun, friendship and prayer, as well as Christian care and spirituality.



Photos by Matt Freestone

Visit our Open Day

Our Open Day on 12th September gives local people an ideal opportunity to meet the team, explore the house and find out what happens here and at Torch Trust across the UK and around the world. The centre will be open from 10am until 5pm and there will be light refreshments served throughout the day.
Torch HRC, 4 Hassocks Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9QN



Alison Nightingale

VILLAGE PEOPLE

When Alison Nightingale and her husband Nick Cooper arrived in Hurstpierpoint 12 years ago, looking for a thriving village in which to bring up their young children, she could have scarcely imagined that she would end up helping to put Sussex wine on the map.

Alison – who runs Albourne Estate, just outside Hurstpierpoint – is one of a small number of entrepreneurs whose vintages are starting to overturn prejudices about English wine and win a reputation among connoisseurs.

However, when she moved to Hurstpierpoint after a three year stint in Singapore – leaving behind a career in marketing with Heinz and Nestlé – she had no intention of turning what was an interest into a successful business.

At first, Alison and Nick, who were living as a stopgap in London, just wanted somewhere away from the rat race, yet lively enough. “Nick was born in Steyning and knew the area well,” says Alison. “With trains from Hassocks it was easy enough for him to commute to London and we felt that Hurst was big enough to be a lively place to live but still a village with all of the benefits that this brings: a friendly community and somewhere I could easily push a pram.”

And so the family moved into Western Road in 2003. An exciting chapter was about to open in their lives which was to see them swap village life for a farm – a farm set to be transformed into one of Sussex’s few dedicated vineyards.

It began as a challenge to learn a new skill. As their three daughters – now aged 8, 11 and 13 – started to become more independent, Alison felt she needed an interest and so embarked on a four-year part-time degree course in vine-growing and wine production at nearby Plumpton College. This has enabled her to be as comfortable on a tractor taking in the latest harvest, as in analysing the alcohol content in the lab or marketing her range of white wines to local businesses.

At the time, she had no ambition of setting up her own vineyard, although during her stint working overseas she had enjoyed visiting New World producers in New Zealand and Australia. It was the course, together with the growing success and interest in English wine, that inspired her.

“The timing was perfect,” says Alison, who has already won several prestigious awards for her wines. “I was looking for a career which would fit around my family and I started vine growing when locally sourced food and drink was on the rise, with shoppers wanting to know more about the background of where their purchases came from and how they are made.”

The couple began looking for a suitable site for a vineyard and in 2009 jumped at the chance of buying what is now Albourne Estate, a south facing farm, sheltered and well drained on Shaves Wood Lane.

Nick has also established a beer-making business on site, Bedlam Brewery, which is backed by many local investors. While he still has a day job working in the oil industry, Alison runs the vineyard.

“It was a hard find because the site had to be right for us as a home as well as a business, with barns for the winery, the tasting room, lab and storage. Also, we felt to be commercially viable we needed to plant between 20 to 30 acres. It’s difficult to find an established vineyard in the UK to buy and so we had to plant our own 40,000 vines. The winegrowing calendar meant that we had to plough the field in September 2009, before we had even officially bought the property, so that it would be ready to plant in May 2010,” says Alison.

Her wines – a Bacchus, a White Pinot Noir and an Estate Selection – are winning wide acclaim. In fact her first vintage, released last year, was a sell out. The 2014 batch was launched on to the market in May and locals will have noticed their distinctive labels, showing wildlife on the vineyard, in pubs, restaurants and independent wine merchants in the area. Her sparkling range is due to be launched next year.

One of biggest sellers of Alison’s wines is South Down Cellars on Hurstpierpoint High Street. Alison knew the owner, Lucy Driver, years before she went into wine production and is grateful for her backing. “Lucy’s been really supportive and from day one has listed all of my wines. She’s typical of the businesses in Hurstpierpoint, which all make a point of helping each other where they can.” Other places listing Alison’s wine locally include Drakes Hotel in Brighton, Jeremy’s Restaurant in Borde Hill and Ockenden Manor Hotel & Spa in Cuckfield.

Although living outside Hurstpierpoint now, Alison remains a regular in the village. She's often seen ferrying her girls to school at Hurstpierpoint College and to various clubs such as Top Hats and Tutus drama classes and the gym club in the village hall.

"Many of my daughters' friends live in Hurst and I love the shops, cafés and restaurants there. It's still very much part of my family's life," says Alison.

And that's not to mention the link that Alison has with the local investors in Bedlam Brewery. To thank them Alison and Nick stage what she jokingly calls their 'mini Glastonbury'; a biennial festival on the farm, with live music, a barbecue, bonfire and of course plenty of beer and wine. Some 450 people turned up to the last Bedfest event, with 80 families camping overnight in June.

Alison has also opened the vineyard gates to locals inviting them on tours and tastings on selected Fridays and Saturdays over the summer. It gives visitors the chance to see every part of the wine making operation, ending with a tasting of the wines, which Alison sells to the public at the farm gate as well as online.

She says: "It's been really hard work, but the good thing is that people like the wine."

Contact www.albourneestate.co.uk for availability of vineyard tours or follow Alison on Twitter @Albourneestate

Bacchus is 'Best'

Alison's 2014 Bacchus has recently been voted the best in England.

The wine beat over 300 other entries to take the top Wine of the Year Trophy at UK Vineyard Association's English & Welsh Wine of the Year Competition 2015; the industry's annual national wine awards.

The awards, judged by six Masters of Wine, included entries of sparkling as well as still wine from several established brands. And this year saw the highest ever number of competitors entering the awards, making the announcement especially important for Alison, one of the few female wine producers to win such an important title.

"It shows that English wine has far more to offer than just the sparkling varieties, which have until now been getting most of the limelight," says Alison.



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Head Chef at the New Inn, Pete Hampson, shows us here a delicious summery tapas dish for you this month.

Pete has lived in Hurstpierpoint since he was two and his ambition is to complete his recipe book before he gets too old to remember all the recipes!



Start by making the allioli:

Place the garlic in a mortar and add the pinch of salt. Using the pestle, smash the garlic to make a smooth paste. Add the lemon juice to the garlic. Then, drop by drop, add the olive oil as you continue to crush the paste with the pestle. Keep turning the pestle with a slow, continuous circular motion around the mortar as you drip the oil in slowly and steadily. You should end up with a thick 'mayonnaise'. If your allioli gets too thick, add 1/2 teaspoon of water to thin it out. When it is the right consistency, add the honey and mix thoroughly with a fork.

Now for the lamb:

Heat your oven to 180C

Place the rack, with bones facing down, in your roasting tray. Break the rosemary into a few pieces and sprinkle them over the lamb. Brush the lamb with some olive oil. Roast the meat for about 30 mins. Baste the meat a couple of times whilst cooking.

Remove the lamb from the oven and allow it to rest for 3 or 4 mins. Then heat the remaining olive oil in a large saucepan over a high heat, then place the whole rack in the pan and sear it for ten seconds on each side to brown it.

Cut the rack into pieces along the bone. Place a spoonful of the honey allioli on each plate and top with a piece of lamb. Sprinkle with salt to taste and serve.

Some of you may think I've lost my marbles with searing the meat after cooking but it works with meats that are rich in sugar and by searing at the end we can actually conserve more of the lamb's succulent juices. It's called the Maillard reaction if anybody wants to look further into this.

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Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

BOOK REVIEW

By Deb Hollywood

If you have, as many do, *To Kill A Mockingbird* (TKaMB) in your all time top 3 reads, you may have decided, on the back of its initial reviews, not to read *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee. The thought of all that is good in TKaMB being stood on it's head, that Atticus is not the man we thought him to be, may be too much to bear. I urge you to think again.

The truth is *Go Set a Watchman* is not a pure follow on. It was written before TKaMB and rejected by the publishers who asked Lee to rewrite the story, taking the adult Jean Louise (Scout) back to her childhood. With its current publication Harper Collins respected Lee's wish not to edit the book and it is noticeable that the writing is naive and in places 'clunky'.

The town of Maycomb feels unchanged; its inhabitants preoccupied with parochial issues and prejudices. It is Scout who has changed. Returning to Maycomb from New York for her annual holiday, she tries to fall in with both town and family routines but with difficulty. Her father, Atticus, has moved the family from Scout's childhood home (now an ice cream parlour) and the tragic catalyst for the move will have TKaMB readers gasping in horror. (No spoiler here!)

Go Set a Watchman is primarily about the changes between Scout and her father, leading to the climatic shift in their relationship. Much has been made about Atticus' racist remarks which, whilst revealing his personal views, also represent those of Alabama in post WWII Southern America and it is this which allows readers to forgive Atticus and to hold true the values of a feisty girl called Scout.

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Summer theatrics in the garden

HURST PLAYERS

By David Tingley

I love *A Midsummer Night's Dream*! I've seen it many times. What I like about it most is the way in which different directors and theatre companies put their own swing on it.

This production by Hurstpierpoint Players was no different. As we walked into the garden of New Inn on a summer's evening we were to sit down amongst traders in a 1920s market place. The cast were in character from the start as they tried - in vain - to sell their wares to the imposing foreigners!

The New Inn is very much part of the Hurst Players' history, it being where the group was officially formed back in 1936. The garden was dressed in lights of all sorts, festooned around the trees and fences - as darkness fell the magic of theatre grew stronger.

In this Sam Nixon's directorial debut with the company, she was keen to give this popular Shakespearean comedy a twist and became "rather taken with the attitudes and behaviours of the 'Bright Young Things' in post-war Britain". This theme gave Sam, and her production team, the chance to feature some stunning dresses of the era, weave in some 20s jazz tunes (courtesy of musical director Kingsley Sage) and there was even a fabulously constructed crashed WWI plane, which was used to great effect as part of the set.

The part of Bottom is the classic comedy fool in this play and one who enjoys many of the funniest lines in the performance. Jamie Stafford took the role on and committed to it fully, making the Brummy acting wannabe as real for us in 2015 as I'm sure it was 400 years ago when first penned.

Ali Somers played the role of Puck brilliantly and was notable for his swift movement around the packed garden and jumping on and off tables, fences and roofs!

The love-struck rivals Hermia and Helena were played well by Hannah Scott and Karinn Grierson. In the

audience we truly felt their respective pain at different times in the performance, especially when poor Helena is flummoxed by receiving the affections of both Lysander and Demetrius (Lyn Snowdon & Neil Kearns) in a complete U-turn of her fortunes in love!

Alasdair Carson-Sheard (also assistant director) took on the role of Peter Quince, whose role I always feel is slightly overlooked in the play, as Bottom continuously challenges his, albeit weak, leadership of the group of motley thespians. However, in the final scene, as the players perform in front of the Duke, Alasdair took the role into his own hands as he directed brilliantly from the sidelines.

Watching theatre is one of my great joys and all the actors did a fantastic job on that Thursday evening in the centre of Hurstpierpoint. I marvelled at how well the cast had learnt their Shakespearean prose and that I didn't hear any prompting.

I will end though, on one of my biggest surprises from the evening. That of Snout the Tinker, played by Simon Nixon, who came into his own in that final scene. The physical staggering around that he mastered as he carried 'the wall' on his shoulders was the source of many chuckles amongst those looking on. And the brilliant direction of Bottom and Flute the Bellows Mender (Harrison Lindfield - also excellent!) talking to each other through Snout's legs. Classic visual comedy and rounded off a fine way to spend a summer's evening in Hurst.



What's on this month

AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

September

- 15th **Wolstonbury WI meeting** – 7.45pm, Club Suite, Village Centre. Centenary Celebration – visitors welcome.
- 26th **Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society Autumn Show** – 2.15pm
Autumn flowers, fruit, vegetables, home baking and children's exhibits amongst tea and home-made cake. Details on page 18.

Hurst Classified

If you have anything to list in either **WANTED, FOR SALE, GIVEAWAY** or **JOBS** - you can email it through to classified@hurstlife.co.uk. Include all the details and a photo if you have one. Listings to Hurst Classified are **FREE OF CHARGE**.

FOR SALE:

Ladies Specialized Vita Sport Bike – 27 gears, aluminium frame, medium ladies size. Would suit teenager or adult. Price new was £600, selling for £200. Good condition, red colour, two years old. Call Talula 07825 742530.

Large Dog Crate – mobile cage for a dog. Brown metal frame with plastic tray. £20. Call David 07973 762955.

WANTED:

5kg Medicine Ball and **Exercise Trampoline** for office gym. Speak to Melanie 01444 473999.

JOBS:

Labourers wanted by reputable Mid Sussex building firm. Call the office on 01444 243474 for details.

Editorial Assistant for Hurst Life magazine. Part time, home-based writing role. Must be local to Hurstpierpoint and enthusiastic about the local community. More information at www.hurstlife.co.uk/jobs

AND ELSEWHERE

September

- 12th- **Hurst Festival 2015**
26th Various different locations around the village. See Festival programme or website www.hursthurstfestival.org for further details
- 12th- **Hurstpierpoint Open Studios**
20th Various locations around the village over two weekends: 12/13th & 19/20th (www.hurstpierpointopenstudios.co.uk)
- 15th- **Murderer performed by Hurst Players** –
19th 8pm, The Players Theatre (Tickets £10, available from Hurst Festival Box Office)
- 21st **Hurstpierpoint Singers – Open Rehearsal**,
7.30pm, Holy Trinity Church. Part of Hurst Festival, do come along and join in.
- 25th **Macmillan Coffee Morning** – 10am-12noon,
The Bowls Club, South Avenue, Hurstpierpoint (£3 entry fee – includes tea/coffee and cake)
- 26th **LAMBS Yellow Ribbon Ball** – 7pm-late
Beethoven Suite, Hickstead Showground
Tickets £65 per person, including reception fizz and a three course meal. A great night of food, wine and entertainment! Raffle, Auction of Promises, Live Band and Disco, Dancing.
(More info from www.lambs.org.uk)

October

- 8th **Hurst Village Cinema: Force Majeure** (15) –
8pm, The Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint
- 9th **Blood Donor Sessions** – 2-4.30pm & 5.30-8pm,
Adastra Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks
Just drop in or book an appointment via www.blood.co.uk
- 10th **Flu Clinic** – 8.30-11am
Hurstpierpoint Surgery. No appointment necessary.

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