

Hurst Life

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Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #11 : Feb 2016

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Foodbank opens in Hurst

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

As expected, the amount going on in the village has increased as we head towards February. It always seems to be the way after Christmas.

I'm very pleased to welcome **Danny Rolph** to the stand in our '5 mins with...' feature - as he breaks new ground by being our first child featured. I particularly like his response when we ask for his advice for life. Check it out on **page 21**. Thanks Danny! Do please email in your own answers or prompt a friend to do the same.

On our cover this month we have got a unique bird's-eye view of the village from 400ft in the air, courtesy of resident **Anthony Parham** - again, we always need more photos of the village, so please email in your snaps to photos@hurstlife.co.uk when you get them.

Amongst our news items this month we are pleased to celebrate with **Paul Wilkinson** as he has raised over £3,000 for a village cancer support charity. Read his story on **page 6**. Also we have a plea from resident **Maddy Dunckley** who is gravely concerned about the shops leaving **High Street** premises since Christmas. Read what she's hoping to kick off and how you can help on **page 7**.

In our regular insight into one resident's life, this month we find out about actress and all round good egg **Sam Nixon** on **page 12**.

Steve McMenamin gives advice on how to get into triathlons as a pastime. It is an inspiring and encouraging story of one man having a vision for wanting to do something and achieving it. If you are itching to get out of your comfort zone read **page 14**.

On **page 17**, another resident who has achieved amazing things is 10 year old **Sam Heading** after becoming the 2015 Honda Cadet Karting Champion. Great stuff!

Finally - I'll just mention the new **Foodbank** which has recently opened in the village. All you need to know is on **page 8**.

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Hurst Life Published by Kipper



Anthony Parham
Hurstpierpoint from
400ft above street level

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

Open Mic Night at pub



The White Horse pub in Hurstpierpoint will continue to host an Open Mic Night this month, hosted by Cal Macmanus.

Years ago this regular fixture was the highlight of many people's week. Today, Cal is striving to make it a hub of rising talent from around Sussex. In the past the night has featured musicians and entertainers from as far as Hove, East Grinstead, Shoreham and Brighton. The main aim of the night is to encourage new people to take to the stage and gain experience and confidence, and to provide a great evening of local entertainment.

The event starts at 5pm on Sunday 7th and 21st February, and the White Horse is throwing in a free curry from 7pm for its very lucky audience.

Wonderland at Downlands

The Drama department at Downlands School have been gearing up for a new and exciting performance due to grace the school stage this month. With a cast of over 50 pupils, plus backstage crew, this year's performance is a version of Alice in Wonderland – Alice by Laura Wade. This contemporary version of the Lewis Carol classic, introduces a traumatised Alice in the midst of a horrific family bereavement.

In this modern version of Alice in Wonderland we meet all the old favourites but with a new twist – from a motorcycling rabbit in leather biking gear to talking caterpillar. Don't worry though – there is a Mad Hatter, a Hare and a certain highly strung Queen with a love of croquet and beheading her subjects.

The performance will run from Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th February 2016. Tickets are available at £5 per child, £7 per adult and £20 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children). Please contact Downlands Community School for information about how to buy tickets.

Last year's show saw all three performances selling out. Please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment.

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Buy your tickets now for a boogie!

The St Lawrence Fair committee are busy with the final throes of organisation of the Hey Mr DJ event which takes place next month.

Tickets are available now from Vanilla at £10 each for the party, which will feature music from the last six decades in honour of the Fair's '60' theme.

If you are a budding DJ you can submit your three favourite tunes when you purchase your tickets. Two weeks before the event the team will draw the names to make up the 14 DJs who will get to play on the night.

Of course, if you just fancy a party, buy your ticket and dust off your dancing shoes! Everyone at the event will get the chance to vote for their favourite DJ at the end of the night. Fancy dress is optional; anything from the last six decades.

Hey Mr DJ will take place on Saturday 5th March at 7.30pm at the Village Centre.

Tickets may also be bought online. See the website: heymrjdj.eventbrite.co.uk

Raising money for SLF

By Nic Stenning, St Lawrence Fair Committee

At the end of February I am running the Brighton Half Marathon. This will be the fourth one I've done and each year I run for a charity close to my heart. This year I have decided to run to raise money for the St Lawrence Fair. I've lived in the village for nearly 11 years and this will be the fifth fair that I have been involved with as secretary for the committee. We hope, amongst other things, to get some more bunting so that the whole of the High Street can be adorned but also just need to make sure that all of the normal loony activities take place so that everyone can enjoy the Fair!

If you would like to sponsor me, the link is <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/nicola-stenning>

Note: This crowdfunding page expires on 13th Feb but I will be setting up another after this to run up to the date of the race.

Thank you in advance.



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Tree collection makes charity cash

There are perhaps two very pressing questions that need to be answered in early January and they tend be: 1) Which gym shall I join/diet shall I go on? And 2) What do I do with my droopy old Christmas tree?

Luckily for Hurst Residents this year, local man Paul Wilkinson stepped up and offered to collect trees in return for a donation to the charity Cancervive. His efforts managed to raise a whopping £3000 and, in his own words, Paul explained a bit more to Hurst Life about why he decided on this unique method of fundraising: "I ran the London marathon for St Peter & St James Hospice three years ago and for my place I had to raise £2300 in sponsorship. I came up with the idea of disposing of people's Christmas trees in return for a voluntary donation. It raised an amazing £700 at the time.

"I found it such a rewarding thing to do and have wanted to repeat it for another local charity but have been away over Christmas for the last couple of years. When Rebecca Huggett, co-founder of Cancervive, told me of the plight of some of the families they are working with, it made the decision obvious and easy to make!"

Paul has lived in the village for nearly 30 years. He met his wife Clare when she was running the White Horse back in 1997 and they have two kids, aged 12 & 17. Plus he also now runs his own landscaping business and has done for the past 12 years from Hurstpierpoint. He says: "I am very fortunate that I have always been and always am very busy with work, mainly in Hurst, so it's nice to be in the position to be able to give something back to such a great village full of great people!"

Rebecca Huggett commented: "On behalf of everyone at Cancervive, I would like to say a huge thank you to Paul Wilkinson for all his hard work collecting Christmas trees to raise money for Cancervive. He has done an absolutely amazing job. I would also like to thank everyone who has made a donation towards the charity, it's very much appreciated."

Cancervive has been set up to support the family and friends of cancer patients and is based right here in Hurstpierpoint. If you feel you need support or would like to volunteer, please call Rebecca and the team on 01273 834912.

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High Street shop closures

"We've got to stop the rot..."

By Maddy Duncckley

Since Christmas our High Street has seen the closure of five shops and just this week I posted on the Facebook group Hurstpierpoint Hub that the toy shop was going the same way and closing in a couple of weeks.

How sad! I have received many messages from people with messages of support, ideas, positives and negatives too! But how do we solve a problem like this? Is it time for people power. Hurstpierpoint is a lovely village to live in. We don't want to lose this but our High Street is in grave danger. What can we do to make our High Street a place where people want to come and shop? It's time to campaign and for this we need you, the villagers, to get involved.

Many traders are unhappy with the new High Street layout after the council spent huge amounts of money last summer on traffic calming. For over a month we all made huge detours around Hurst just to lead our daily lives. The new road layout has been received generally like a dead duck. Pedestrians have more room to walk the High Street, but there have been several near misses involving adults and children with vans and cars mounting the pavements. This is a real danger.

The other huge problem is lack of parking available near to the shops. We need more short-term spaces available for shoppers. Perhaps we should consider using some of the recreation ground? Or does anyone have any suggestions? Finally, we need to encourage new businesses to come and join our lovely village High Street, where they should be able to prosper with our support.

The first step should be to set up an open meeting in the village centre with Council, Parish Council, traders and local residents to discuss the way forward. What do you think? Please contact me if you can help in any way (maddyduncckley@aol.com). Watch this space for more about progress as it happens.



What's going on?

At Hurst Life we love to know what the latest is - just so we can tell the rest of the village on your behalf.

If you are organising a coffee morning, know someone who's running a marathon or hear that your neighbour has been recently awarded for a special distinction in their field - we would love to hear about it.

Hopefully you have realised by now that our, relatively new, magazine in Hurstpierpoint is all about the village and those residents who all love being here. Our job is simply to bring all of that to the surface in what we hope you think is a neatly packaged magazine which you like to leave around on your coffee table until the new one comes out. Email any news items or ideas to editor@hurstlife.co.uk - thank you.

Hurst *Life*

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Are you feeling in crisis after Christmas?

FOODBANK

Hurstpierpoint Food Bank has been set up to help people in crisis in Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding local area.

The branch was opened up because of a need identified in the local area. Some may be surprised that the need is even higher than that of nearby Hassocks.

Members of Mid Sussex Green Party were told about this from the Burgess Hill Food bank and Nikki Sanger from Hurstpierpoint took on the role of co-ordinator for Hurstpierpoint and Burgess Hill Food banks.

Nikki said: "I was told that the closest food bank to Hurstpierpoint is Burgess Hill, and this can mean over a two hour round trip to pick up food. I remembered what it was like to have small children, little money and having to travel on buses to get basic provisions and I wanted to help."

Keith Taylor MEP said: "I cannot praise those who have set up Hurstpierpoint Food Bank highly enough. They are doing a great service to their community.

"The Hurstpierpoint Food Bank will be a lifeline to those in need. But at the same time, the fact that yet another food bank has had to be set up is a stain on the government's record on poverty. Nobody in the sixth largest economy in the world should be in such poverty that they rely on food handouts."

So now residents in and around Hurstpierpoint will not have to travel when in crisis, and can apply for a voucher from the Families Centre at the Village Centre and exchange these vouchers for bags of food at the Food Bank situated at Hurstpierpoint Social Club off Willow Way. They also have volunteers who can bring or drop off their food to other more mutually convenient locations in the village, and they have a Facebook page where anyone can send a private message if they have any questions.

Some people have on average a 13 week wait between applying for benefits and receiving money. This is the main cause of needing a Food Bank. There is a saying that 'most people are only three pay cheques away from homelessness...'

Nikki said: "It was really refreshing to see how many people wanted to help and we now have a really great

core of volunteers. The social club has been really accommodating in allowing us a space to store the food and a venue to distribute from. It would be really helpful to have a few more distribution points though. This could be any venue that has a spare cupboard to lock up food in, and can advertise as a distribution point for a couple of hours each week. Food could even be picked up every week from the social club if no storage space is available. A range of locations would make picking up food easier and perhaps more anonymous for different people."

'13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK.'

If you would like to donate food or volunteer, then please get in touch via our Facebook page or website (<http://www.burgesshillfoodbank.org.uk/page12.php>) or pop in on a Wednesday morning between 9-11am and donate food there and then. Non-perishable items only please. To receive food, clients need to obtain a voucher from one of our partner agencies. We have only one distribution point for vouchers in Hurstpierpoint at the moment but we are looking for more. If you are a health professional, social worker or teacher, then maybe you could help?

If you are in need of food, please see next page for more information.

If you would like to help or donate, please email enquiries@burgesshillfoodbank.org.uk

To donate food...

If you would like to donate food or volunteer then please get in touch via our Facebook page or pop in on a Wednesday morning and donate food there and then. Non-perishable items only please as listed below:



Milk – long life or powdered
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Tea bags and instant coffee
Baked beans & tinned spaghetti
Hot Chocolate
Tinned vegetables
Fruit juice – carton or bottle
Stock cubes
Bottles of squash
Jam, marmalade or peanut butter
Soup – tins or packets
Breakfast cereals
Pasta sauces – including cheese
Biscuits or snack bars
Tinned meat – including hot dogs
Nuts and dried fruit



Meat pies in tins
Sugar
Tinned fish
Tinned fruit
Instant mashed potato
Sponge puddings – tins
Rice, pasta and Pot Noodles
Rice pudding, semolina, custard – tins or pots
Tin of filled pasta e.g. ravioli
Dietetic foods – low sugar varieties for those with diabetes and gluten free for those with coeliac disease.

To get help...

Distribution of food is through a voucher system. To receive food, clients will need to obtain a voucher from one of our partner agencies. We have only one distribution point for vouchers in Hurstpierpoint at present:

Sussex Downs Children and Family Centre
Hurstpierpoint Village Centre
Mondays 9.30am-12noon, Fridays 1-3pm
01444 255477 / 01273 467968

There are other partner agencies including: Burgess Hill Citizens Advice Bureau, Sussex Police, Housing Needs Department (MSDC), Job Centre Plus in Haywards Heath and Youth Homelessness Prevention Team in Burgess Hill. See the Burgess Hill Food Bank website for more details.

Bags of food, individual or enough for three days for a family of four, will be available once a week in Hurstpierpoint at The Melting Pot Cafe at the Social Club, Willow Way, on Wednesdays from 9-11am. If this is difficult for you to attend, then please get in touch with one of our volunteers who may be able to arrange a mutually convenient pick-up point for you.

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Sam Nixon

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Lucy Webb sits down with Hurst resident Sam Nixon who is well known in the village for teaching drama, her productions at the Players Theatre and, most of all, for her incredible singing voice.

By Lucy Webb

Sam Nixon first came to my attention a couple of years ago when my husband got two tickets for a production called Practically Perfect at The Players Theatre. He described it as a play about Julie Andrews and, as I'm as well versed in her songs as I am Abba, I thought it might be a fun singalong. What I didn't expect was a two man/woman show starring Sam and her theatrical partner/writer, Alasdair Carson-Sheard, in a show that took my breath away.



Sam was jaw-droppingly accurate in terms of Julie Andrews' voice and look, cleverly morphing seamlessly from one show-stopper to the next while teaching the audience things they never knew about this very quintessentially British actress.

A couple of weeks later, I took my daughter and stepson to a drama group run by Sam herself at the Scout Hut in Hurst, and when I realised it was the very same Sam of Practically Perfect fame, I have to admit I felt a little bit star-struck!

Fast forward two years, and Sam and Alasdair were asked to perform Practically Perfect at the Rialto Theatre in Brighton for four nights in January this year, proving that this is a play worthy of a larger audience.

So how did Sam end up making Hurstpierpoint her home? She explained that she grew up in Evesham in the Cotswolds and quickly got hooked on drama during her many visits to The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford upon Avon with her Dad.

She studied Drama at St Mary's University in West London, did some acting for a while, then became qualified to teach drama in schools, working in East London and teaching individual lessons too, before she met her husband, Simon Nixon.

They moved together to Brockley in south London, but there came a day, as there often does for those who've lived or worked in the big smoke for any length of time, when she told herself: "Enough is enough!". She explains: "One evening I came home, and felt strangely unnerved all the way home, and felt so relieved to get home and shut my door. I knew right then it was time to move out of London."

Sam and Simon began their search for houses in villages in Kent but nothing seemed quite right. One weekend they were visiting friends in Brighton when they stumbled upon Hurstpierpoint later that weekend. In 2001 Sam and her family found their ideal home with the help of Clifford Dann in Hurst, and they moved in soon after. She already had her first daughter, Jamie, and while pregnant with her second child, Darcey, she continued to endure a gruelling commute into London.

With the advent of her maternity leave, she put the question to the school she was teaching at that so many working mothers have to ask: "Can I work part time?" In this instance she was turned down. Sam sees this as a blessing, as it spurred her on to come up with working opportunities that kept her closer to home.

She set up The Kraft Barn in the barn behind Vanilla when Darcey was only 6 months old, and it was here that she met Valerie Watkinson who she set up Top Hats and Tutus with, the children's drama group that is now held every Saturday in the Scout Hut. Here they work with the children on two to three performances a year, from small scale productions to larger events, such as the recent Peter Pan's in Promenade. This show



took its audience on a trip from the Scout hut into The Millennium gardens, proving Sam's point that 'drama can take place anywhere'.

She also performed at this time with The Desperate Hurstwives, a trio of local singers, and, while planning their sell-out Christmas show one year, was lucky enough to secure the quirky, Brighton based songwriter and performer Lorraine Bowen as their compere.

Among other things, Lorraine is famous for the 'crumble song', which she performed on Britain's Got Talent, a song dedicated to the nation's favourite pudding. She got the 'golden buzzer' from David Walliams and a guaranteed place in the semi-finals of the show. If you haven't seen it, look it up on YouTube, Lorraine brings the house down.

This led on to Sam and Claire Fowler from Desperate Hurstwives performing as backing singers and dancers with Lorraine in her show Polyester Fiesta, a homage to the leading lady's passion for polyester clothing. You couldn't make this up...

It was during this time that Sam met her co-star in Practically Perfect, Alasdair, who was plays a scientist in the show, explaining the chemistry behind the favourite fabric of the 1970s.

Sam and Alasdair were on a flight on the way back from a performance of Polyester Fiesta in Scotland when they hit on the idea of a show about Julie Andrews and the woman behind 'that' voice. By the end of the flight they had the play mapped out and Practically Perfect as a concept musical was born.

There were lots of drafts written before the final script was completed, and when Sam and Alasdair performed a premiere in the village and held a Q&A afterwards to get feedback for the show, they found that the audience was as surprised as it was delighted.

Sam explains: "The show isn't a tribute act and we're not just playing the characters in Julie Andrews best known movies, we wanted to show the real person behind the performer. She was actually a very private person, an odd balance of very gregarious and yet very closed. There was a slightly darker side to her which no one seems to know about."

Alasdair plays the co-stars (the funniest of which is the Mother Superior from the Sound of Music) and Julie Andrews' most famous leading men.

Who knew that Rex Harrison, in the stage musical of My Fair Lady, often blundered about swearing on stage, deeply uninterested in working with Julie? Christopher Plummer, much like Laurence Olivier during the filming of the Prince and the Showgirl with Marilyn Monroe, felt the movie The Sound of Music distinctly beneath his acting talents, and Dick Van Dyke spent a fair amount of time filming Mary Poppins inebriated.

The universal feeling from those who have worked with Andrews is that she is a pleasure to work with, and really good fun, but that she swears like a sailor!

I asked Sam about preparing for her role as the famous icon, and she explains that she was: "Driving everyone mad using Julie Andrews' speaking voice in everyday life to really immerse myself in the role!"

Sam performs a large part of the script in Practically Perfect herself, a huge feat of memory, and I asked her how she goes about remembering it all?

"I teach monologues as part of my drama lessons, and the best way to do this is to record the words and listen to it over and over. I describe it as building a motorway; you start with a small lane but, as you practise every day, this grows into a wider and wider road."

As well as Top Hats and Tutus, Sam teaches drama at Hurst College, performs regularly as a singing duo with her husband, and still takes individual singing/drama lessons.

On top of this she fits in performances with Alasdair, and they gave me a sneak preview of their newest work in progress too. It will be a show about the little known singer Marni Nixon (no relation apparently), the soprano who provided the singing voices for, among others, Audrey Hepburn, Deborah Kerr and Natalie Wood.

I, for one, can't wait for that, so keep an eye out for Sam's up and coming performance. We will endeavour to keep you posted in this magazine with dates and venue. It has to be said, she's supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Sorry, had to get that in!





Life begins at the end of your comfort zone

HEALTH & FITNESS

By Steve McMenamin

The way I look at it is that we don't stop moving because we get old; we get old because we stop moving. When I look in the mirror I don't see a middle-aged, balding man staring back at me but the thing I do recognise is that, for my health and well-being, I need to keep active.

I was introduced to triathlon after my wife read about it in the paper and suggested I might like to try one. This was also around the time that I was diagnosed as a type 1 diabetic, so I had an added incentive to stay active.

So, after some research, I discovered that triathlon consisted of swimming, cycling and running and that these events were placed back-to-back in immediate sequence. A competitor's official time included the time required to 'transition' between the individual legs of the race, including any time necessary for changing clothes and shoes.

I asked myself: "Could I do this?" My swimming was limited to two lengths before exhaustion, I didn't have a bike nor had I ridden one for many years. And running? Well, I could manage about ½ mile.

I then discovered that racers were generally categorized into 'age groups', as well as by gender. The age groups were defined in five or ten year intervals, so as a 40+ year old, at least I would not be racing for the same top spot as a 20 year old, even though we might take part at the same time.

So I gathered my courage and gave it a shot. In my first race I realised that they are not full of super fit guys or girls on expensive bikes but just normal people, all as nervous as each other.

Now a good few years into triathlon I sometimes think, surely it should get easier? Well, yes, it does, but your goals increase too. Perhaps striving to be faster or to go for longer or even both. So now I have a simple motto for my training - one stroke/peddle/step at a time.

The most common question I get asked is 'How do I train for my first sprint triathlon and what do I need?' For many the swim is the most challenging element, but it is also the shortest part of the race and as they are often pool based, you can rest if you need to. So for at least a few weeks before your event, swim once or twice a

week, for 30 mins if you can. Get out on the bike for an hour once or twice a week, any bike will do as long as it's safe to ride. Run when you can, for a minimum of 30mins. Make sure you do it in good trainers, your joints will thank you for it!

My best tip is always go for a run straight after cycling, even if it is only 15mins at an easy pace. Trust me, you will really appreciate it on race day. As with anything, the more practice/training you can do the quicker or more comfortable you will be.

Training with other people will make it fun. Look at it as a lifestyle change, take it easy at first and build from there. Then plan what you are going to do with the extra years it will give you.

I moved to Hurstpierpoint with my wife in 2006 and have made great friends, many of them from the village. Because of the local support and encouragement I received, I wanted to pay it back. So, what better way than to help bring sport and longevity into other people's lives?

Each year, with the support of my triathlon club, I now organise the Mid Sussex Triathlon from Burgess Hill's Triangle Sports Centre. This is a Sprint distance race with a 400 metre swim, 25km cycle and a 5km run. It has always sold out and we expect to have 350 competitors. And if you don't like running or are injured, you can enter the Aquabike (the same as a triathlon but without the run).

It is a great introduction if you are considering your first triathlon and it's local as well. It has been said it's the friendliest triathlon around and my marshals, experienced racers who really love this sport, will support in any way they can. Don't just take my word for it, go to our website and have a look at the feedback. If you are still not sure about entering, drop me a line or stop me in the street.

This year it will be held on 12th June. It would be great to have you competing in what will no doubt be another terrific day for competitors and supporters alike!

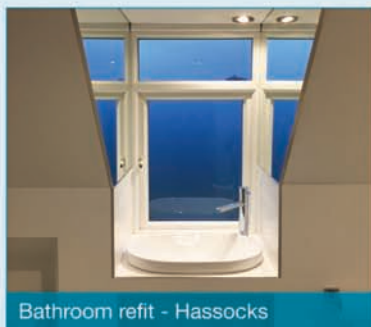
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Local lad Sam Heading takes karting champion title

Ten year old Sam Heading from Hurstpierpoint became the Buckmore Park 2015 Honda Cadet Champion in the under 14 category at the end of last year. This was his first season at Honda, and a very exciting win for him as this is a title that Lewis Hamilton held when he was Sam's age.

Sam started out on his quad bike when he was only two years old, and his family realised very quickly that he showed a natural talent straight away.

When Sam was eight his parents took him to QLeisure, an 800 metre outdoor karting track in Albourne, and he subsequently qualified on pole in his first race there, finishing in second place.

The experts at QLeisure felt that Sam was too talented to not pursue karting, so he was whisked off to Bayford Meadows Kart Circuit in Kent to see what owner driver racing was all about. He passed his MSA (Motor Sports Associations) licence two years ago and now races most weekends all over the country.

Sam also came third in the Kent championships and is entering the Super One British Karting championships in 2016 for England, Wales and Scotland. Hurst Life (along with the rest of the village!) wish Sam the best of luck in this, and all his future races!

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1 Spanish onion thinly sliced
1/2 ounce active dried yeast
1/2 cup whole milk at room temp
1 cup and 3 tablespoons plain flour plus extra for dusting
1/2 teaspoon salt

20 black olives, pitted and cut into small pieces
One jar piquillo peppers cut into thin strips
16 anchovy fillets
6 oz manchego Spanish cheese
Sea salt
2 tablespoons chopped chives

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This month Head Chef at the New Inn, Pete Hampson, shows us this great alternative to pizza and great fun to get the kids to help. These Spanish pizzas are called Cocas. The Spanish term for this dish is Coca de cebolla con pimientos, anchoas y queso manchego.



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!

Method

Heat 1/4 cup of olive oil over a low heat, add the onions and cook, stirring occasionally until soft and brown, caramelised.

In a small bowl, stir the yeast into the milk. Place the flour and salt in a food processor, add the yeast mixture and process for 1 min, until you have a well mixed dough. Cover with cling film and set aside for about 30 mins at room temp to allow the dough to rise.

Heat the oven to 180C.

Take the dough out and knead it for five mins. Then cut the dough into 8 equal pieces and roll each piece into a small ball.

Sprinkle a little flour on your work surface and roll a ball of dough out to form a very long strip, around 10 inches long and two inches wide. Prick the strip with a fork and repeat this process on all the dough balls.

Cover the strips of dough with the caramelised onions and the olives. Place on a baking tray and bake until crisp. About ten mins. Remove from the oven. Cover the Cocas with a layer of piquillo peppers. Add the anchovies and sprinkle with the grated manchego and return to the oven for 2 minutes.

Drizzle the Cocas with olive oil, add sea salt to taste and sprinkle with the chopped chives.

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An astounding work of epic scope and emotion, Leviathan is a visually arresting masterpiece. In the remote north of Russia, a mechanic and his family live in a house on land he owns. When a corrupt local official slaps a compulsory purchase order on it, he calls in a lawyer friend from Moscow to help him fight it and we find the wheels of Russian justice are slow, heavy and potentially lethal. This film is an astonishing achievement, moving and gripping but with humour throughout.

Our Friday film, **Wild Tales** (26th February), which was also on the Oscar shortlist, explores different facets of revenge, and the various brilliant, mad, toe-curling and hilarious flavours in which it can be dished out...like getting even with officious parking enforcement, retribution for infidelity, or good old fashioned road rage. Wild Tales takes acts of vengeance for infuriating, often all too familiar situations and blows them out to a bitter and hysterical end in this outrageous, and ferociously funny, dark comedy. This is a wonderfully cinematic treat!

Our Saturday Cinema is that wonderful classic **101 Dalmatians** (27th February) and we end the month with the recent reimagining of the Sherlock Holmes story, **Mr Holmes** (28th February).

By David Saitch

I hope we got the year off to a bang with some fab films and a superb live broadcast, in an otherwise damp and dreary January.

February sees us up the game even more with some superlative films and another Live Broadcast of a play that is receiving blissful reviews, Shakespeare's dizzy comedy **As You Like It** (25th February).

The 2015 Oscars had an incredible shortlist in the Best Film in a Foreign Language section, two of which could strongly compete in a best film of all time prize. One of them, the ultimate winner, was *Ida*, which we showed in November and was met with a wonderful audience score. This month we open with **Leviathan** (11th February), the film which would have won in any other year.

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5 MINUTES WITH...

Danny Rolph

How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?

All my life, so 9 years.

What's the best thing about being here?

I like the fact it's nice and peaceful, also there's friendly people living here who say hello when you walk past.

Favourite ice cream flavour?

Lemon Sorbet.

How many houses have you lived in?

Three but I can't remember the first.

Favourite holiday destination?

This has to be Australia. I got to go to Fraser Island. It was awesome!

Your most enjoyable event in the village?

Probably St Lawrence's Sports Day because Wickham House always win!

Do you share your home with anyone?

I get to have two homes, one with my mum and cat Archie and one with my dad, sister Libby, brother Seb and Caroline my stepmum.

Song you play the most?

I love Let Her Go by Passenger because I can play it on my guitar.

Mac or PC?

PC, but mum can we get a Mac?

Your most frequented village shop?

This has to be the bakers; I like their Cornflake Cake.

What's your proudest moment?

Probably coming second in the 'Golden Baton' race against Year 6 students.

Coke, juice or water?

Juice because my mum won't let me have Coke!

Your advice for life?

I've only just turned 9!

What's on this month

AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

AND ELSEWHERE

Regular events

- Sun **Sunday Afternoon Cream Tea Dance** – 2-4.30pm, weekly
- Mon **The Sanctuary** – 9.30-11.30am, weekly (term time only) – a welcoming place where friendships can form over coffee and cake
- Tues **Scottish Dancing** – 7-10pm, weekly
- Weds **Star Dance School** – from 8.15pm, weekly
- Fri **Star Dance School** – from 6.45pm, weekly
- Sat **Hurstpierpoint Dance Club** – 8pm, 3rd Saturday Ballroom and Latin dance, any skill level welcome

February

- 2nd **Hurst Afternoon Club** – 2.15-4pm
Donald Blake presents A Shepherd's Year. Come along, even if you're not a member. Have a chat, drink tea, eat biscuits, make friends – what's not to like?! (Pam 01273 831705)
- 9th **Knit and Knatter** – check time
- 9th **Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society** – 7.45pm
'Confessions of a Gardener' - a humorous talk by Alan Sargent who has constructed many gardens and restored the gardens of historic Goodwood House whilst Head Gardener between 2001 and 2007 (£1 members £2 non-members)
- 16th **Wolstonbury WI Meeting** – 7.45pm
Coasting along Sussex by Geoffrey Mead
Visitors welcome (enquiries 01273 832575)
- 27th-28th **DIY Picture Framing Course** – check time

The Village Centre is a multi-room venue for hire from small meetings up to 500 guests. For more information about hire contact: bookings@hurstvillagecentre.org
The Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, BN6 9UY

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February

- 2nd **Albourne circular ramble** – 10am
Roadside parking west side B2118 south of Albourne opposite Arden Grange BN6 9BL – Albourne, Blackstone, Park Farm, Wyndhams Farm, Cobbs Barn, Albourne. This is a flat walk. 10.2mi/16.4km (Erica 07885 595131 on the day)
- 3rd **Mid Sussex Ramblers Pub Social** – 7.30pm
The White Horse, Albourne Road, Hurstpierpoint (Phil 01273 835931)
- 5th **Pop Up Pub** – 8.30pm
Albourne Village Hall
- 7th **Open Mic Night** – 5pm, The White Horse
FREE curry after 7pm!
- 9th **Afternoon Tea** – 2.30-4.30pm
Albourne Village Hall
- 9th-11th **Alice by Laura Wade** – 7pm – This contemporary version of the Lewis Carol classic at Downlands School (Contact school office for information about how to buy tickets: 01273 845892)
- 11th **Hurst Village Cinema: Leviathan** (15)
Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint
- 12th **Hurstpierpoint Historical Society** – 7.30pm
Danny House – Dr Caroline Adams of West Sussex Archives will give an illustrated talk on 'Domestic Bliss in Tudor West Sussex'. By kind invitation of Mr Richard Burrows all who are interested in local history are welcome. FREE
- 12th **Pop Up Pub** – 8.30pm
Albourne Village Hall
- 19th **Pop Up Pub** – 8.30pm
Albourne Village Hall
- 20th **Clayton Circular ramble** – 10.30am
Meet Clayton Recreation Ground car park near the church BN6 9PQ 5mi/8km (Frances 01273 842628)
- 21st **Open Mic Night** – 5pm, The White Horse
FREE curry after 7pm!
- 26th **Pop Up Pub** – 8.30pm
Albourne Village Hall
- 27th **Hurst Village Cinema: 101 Dalmations** (U)
Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint
- ### March
- 5th **Hey Mr DJ Party Night** – 7.30pm
Putting the fun into fundraising for St Lawrence Fair - see page 5 - (Tickets £10 from Vanilla)

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