



Looking to Next Year!

With the good news of Best Kept Village below, extra volunteers to help keep the village looking at its best will be joining a friendly, successful team.

Contact Nancy Bailey on 07814 537398

BLOOMING WELL DONE!

HURST GREEN IS THE BEST - OFFICIAL!

Nancy Bailey reports on a wonderful achievement:

Can you believe it? Hurst Green has been named as winner of the small village category of the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition 2025.

We were invited to the presentation ceremony at Eaves Hall on 13th October. We already knew that it was between Hurst Green and West Bradford. The car park at Eaves Hall had at least 5 mayoral cars in the car park and inside were various local dignitaries sporting their heavy gold chains. We were greeted by Lesley-Anne (Lala) who many villagers will remember from her years of service at the Shireburn. Barbara Herd and I took that as a good omen. Also the lady from West Bradford complimented our floral displays!

The winners' plaques were presented by David Cam, Under Sheriff of Lancashire who also performed the final judging. We were delighted when Hurst Green was read out as the Winner of our category. We now have a large circular plaque and the pleasant headache of where we are going to put it.

But the most important part of this are the volunteers who swept, cleaned, weeded and watered, removed rust and painted. Thank you to everyone who helped. An award like this could not have happened without willing hands and lots of them, and the support has been amazing. And thank you to villagers who kept their own gardens and frontages spick and span and planted baskets and pots, and the Parish Council for their financial support. A special mention for Chris Holden who did such a wonderful job around the War Memorial. The rewards for our village are many including friendship, an attractive environment, and compliments from those visiting, reminding us how lucky we are to live here.

Extra Defibrillator

Barbara Herd reports: Bingo is held in St Peter's Club every fortnight on a Sunday evening at 7.30 - all welcome: come along, it's good fun. Recently the money from the bingo has been put towards a defibrillator for the 'bottom' half of the village. With a generous donation of £500 from the Memorial Hall Committee, there is now sufficient for this defib, which will be on the outside wall of the club, near the disabled access. Thank you to all who contributed.

Remembrance Sunday

This year's Remembrance service in Hurst Green will be on 9th November.

This year, the service and wreath laying will revert to being held at the War Memorial and not at the Memorial Hall.

There will be a parade from the Hall to the War Memorial and back along Avenue Road by the Royal British Legion, the clergy, Stonyhurst cadets and band, and the wreath layers as in previous times.

Avenue Road will be closed to traffic as in recent years between 10.00am and 12.00 noon, with the Parish Council employing a traffic management company as well as volunteer local marshals.

However, the main road through the village will remain open. This means that the service and wreath laying will be entirely within Avenue Road. Members of the public are asked to assemble on the pavements and grass on the Boer War Memorial side, on the green in front of the club, and on the pavements on that side. Please leave the roadway clear for the parade. Please do not stand on the pavements by the main road nor on Millie's side of the road.

Please assemble from 10.30 am and be in place no later than 10.45 am.

Although the service will not be held on the Village Hall car park, the parade will still assemble and disperse there. So, the Village Hall car park will be closed from 6.00pm on Saturday 8th November to 12.00 noon on Sunday 9th.

This year, the Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Amanda Parker, the King's representative in the county, has requested a wreath be laid at our War Memorial on her behalf by Mrs Catherine Penny, and this will be the first wreath laid during the service.

David Bland investigates the history of the Boer War Memorial

The War Memorial in Hurst Green commemorates the sacrifice of parishoners of Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley in the two world wars. There are the names of 16 men from the First World War, and two, John Rawcliffe and Aloysius Cross during the Second World War.

What many visitors may not take for one, across the road to the west on the grassy bank, is another War Memorial. Yet this one has no names of the fallen. Rather, it has a bronze plaque with the following inscription: ***“This cross commemorates the services of Frederick Sleigh, first Earl Roberts, R.C. V.C., and his companions in arms, the soldiers and sailors of the Empire, who fought in South Africa, 1899-1902.”*** It is usually referred to as the Boer War Memorial. The First Boer War lasted only 3 months between December 1880 and March 1881, resulting in the defeat of a British army by the Boer (Afrikaans-speaking Dutch settlers) and the establishment by them of their South African Republic in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The Second Boer War was a much longer and bloodier affair lasting from October 1899 until May 1902, and was highly contentious and divisive at home. It eventually resulted in a British victory and conquest of the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

It may be that Stonyhurst College or Stonyhurst alumni were instrumental in erecting a memorial at the end of this Second Boer War. It is no ordinary memorial. It is a replica of a 9th century Anglo-Saxon cross in the churchyard at Irton in West Cumbria. Previously a replica cast of the Irton cross was made in 1882, and this can be seen at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

The construction of the Hurst Green cross was made with Darley Dale stone from Derbyshire, and the work was overseen by the Lancashire architect, H. S. Fairhurst, and it was made and erected in 1902 by the firm of Earps, Hobbs & Miller of Manchester. Harry Smith Fairhurst was born in Blackburn in 1869. After apprenticeships in Blackburn and Cardiff, he returned to set up his own practice in Blackburn in 1895, and in 1901 moved to Manchester, where he was responsible for the design of many city centre offices and warehouses, as well as improvements to the Old Trafford cricket pavilion.

The Boer War Memorial is a curious combination of ancient Anglo-Saxon history and patriotic (or jingoistic) fervour, and yet stands as a further reminder of the sacrifice and tragedy of war.



All Saints Day (1st November). Fr Tim Curtis writes: The feast falls on a Saturday this year and will be celebrated on the Sunday. As a result, **All Souls Day** will be celebrated on 3rd November. On that day there will be Mass in the Cemetery Chapel at 11am, followed by a blessing of graves.

This edition of Round The Green has been kindly sponsored by Cathy Poloczec in memory of her mother Patricia Ashley, who died February 1st aged 95. Cathy writes about her mother's life and times.

Mum was born on the 13th July 1929, one of five girls. She was brought up in Rishton and attended Notre Dame Convent School when the family moved to Blackburn. In July 1954, she married Dad, Bernard, and early family life was spent in Clayton, near Bradford, where Mum became an active member of St Anthony's parish, and formed a close and lasting friendship with the nuns at the convent there.

Even though Mum had six children of her own she found the capacity to help children in need by giving respite care within our family home. Mum's kindness and caring nature was evident throughout our time in Yorkshire, her open heart and open house always welcomed other children from the neighbourhood.

After living for a time in Devon and Essex due to Dad's work, the family moved back to Langho in 1977 to take on the post office. Mum was so happy to be back in Lancashire and near to her family again. She soon became very settled in village life and was valued by the customers, some of whom became life-long friends.

Upon retiring, the family made their final move – to Throstle Nest at Stonyhurst, which Mum absolutely loved, saying it was her dream home for her family. She loved all aspects of the garden, especially her fruit trees, but also the sense of peace and being able to enjoy the countryside and the prolific wildlife that surrounded her.

Mum's other passions were baking and her books, but her chief delight was spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren who brought her many hours of joy.

The way to end this short thanksgiving of mum's life is to acknowledge her faith, which sustained her throughout her life. Her legacy will be that her faith and values will continue to be lived out by her family, who were her world.

Sadly, since the last issue of Round the Green we have lost several members of our community. Some are remembered below, and others, who we have lost more recently, will be remembered in our next issue in the New Year.

Dorothy Aspinall

Dorothy Aspinall, of The Bayley Arms and Warren Fold, died in May this year aged 96. Dorothy grew up in Rochdale, where she met and married her husband, Vincent. The couple took over running the Bayley Arms in 1977, where they raised their three children, Brent, Denise and Debbie. The Bayley became the hub of village life, being the 'home' of the local Football Club, and becoming known as 'the 19th hole' of the Stonyhurst Golf Club - the trophies from both Clubs being on display in the foyer. Following their retirement from the Bayley in 1989, Dorothy and Vin went to live on Warren Fold, enjoying a few months every year in Portugal. Dorothy, who was widowed in 2011, was at her happiest being active, enjoying swimming, walking and bowling with friends from the village, as well as sewing and painting. As well as her three children, Dorothy leaves behind 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Dorothy will long be remembered in Hurst Green for her outgoing character and sense of fun.

James Rawson

James Rawson of Shire Lane House died in March this year, aged 88. James lived at Worston as a boy, later moving to Gisburn. After boarding school and National Service he worked with his father running a textile mill in Bolton. James met his wife, Diana, on a skiing holiday in Austria. They were married in 1964 and lived in Whalley where their four children Philippa, Mark, Henry and Deborah were born. After living in Chaigley, they moved to Shire Lane in the late 1990s. James was a keen member of the TA Parachute Regiment and loved the outdoor life. His sense of adventure never left him, and he and Diana travelled widely. Keeping fit was very important to James and he was an enthusiastic fell-walker and a keen golfer. James, like Diana, was at his happiest when surrounded by his family, which included nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. James was a popular figure around Shire Lane and always a pleasure to stop and have a chat with. A very determined character, he was, until quite recently, to be seen out, whatever the weather, walking his dog and stating very cheerfully when asked - despite looking as though a puff of wind could blow him over - that he was VERY well!

Chris Berry

Chris Berry of Timothy Cottage, died on April 2nd this year, aged 70. Chris was born in Manchester and grew up in the Midlands. He met and married his wife, Sally, and they moved with son Alistair, to Accrington in around 1987 to be near Sally's parents, and then to Timothy Cottage in December 2004. They spent several happy years together there, enjoying walks with their Scottish terriers and socialising in the Bayley and the Shireburn Arms. Sadly Sally passed away in 2011 after a short illness. Chris worked for Trevor Bolton Engineering in Blackburn, travelling all over the UK. Chris became a very keen cyclist, participating in a London to Paris charity ride, and often cycling on long rides with local friends. Chris is much missed by his friends in the village - he was always ready to lend a hand and was a committed and hard-working member of the Parish Council.

John Carrington *Margaret Carrington writes –*

Sadly, John passed away in March this year after some years of illness. John grew up in Liverpool, one of five children, and at the age of 16 was able to fulfil his dream of joining the Merchant Navy, sailing the seven seas for some years. Because of this, when he came to Hurst Green, he was fondly known as 'Salty Sea-dog', a nickname which stuck, eventually becoming his car number plate! John had a dry wit and a wicked sense of humour and was fun to be with. When he built a house in the village thirty years ago he couldn't believe his luck that there were three pubs, a hotel and a golf club on the doorstep. It is safe to say that he enjoyed every one of them, especially nights in the Bayley with Mark Chenery, and Janette the manager, who let us have more than a few stay behinds! John also was a good sportsman and became a loyal member of the golf club for many years until his illness. John also loved dogs – he had three when we moved to Hurst Green and came to know every footpath for miles around whilst walking them. Then he had ASBO Fred – and if you don't know the tale this is not the place to enlighten you! However, when he couldn't walk a dog any more he would look forward to Susan bringing Bessie the Labrador each morning to the gate to be stroked. As he became housebound, he would have the bird feeders positioned so that he could enjoy their morning company. John was very proud of his family, he had two lovely children and four grandchildren and we all thank him and treasure the special moments and memories he left us with.

Notes from 'the Archive': The exhibition 'Round the Green in Days Gone By' which was held in the Memorial Hall in March this year was very well attended. Hurst Green has a rich heritage which is well worth recording and preserving, and I am keen to collect local family histories, stories and photographs and anything relating to village life and its history. If anyone has any old photographs, documents, newspaper cuttings, funeral service sheets or memorial cards etc and is wondering who else will ever be interested in them, the answer is that I probably will! Please contact Agnes on 826559, or agnes.bland@btinternet.com

St John's Church, Hurst Green

'STALL ON THE GREEN'

11 - 1 pm

Saturday 22nd November

Beautiful, eco-friendly, recyclable Christmas wreaths, £20

Salvation Army Christmas Food Bank

Collection for the above at the
Memorial Hall

Sunday 23rd November 11 - 12 noon

Details of both events, phone
Gill McDonnell on 01254 826378

Memorial Hall - Community Event

Following on from the Memorial Hall's Community Thankyou two years ago, which was a sell out, another chance for us all to come together on **Saturday 15th November**.

It's FREE, with supper, raffle prizes and local entertainment. Please book a table (8) as soon as possible with Barbara (07734 410387) or Niall (07786 432360).

News from the Memorial Hall: We are planning a number of improvements: new front doors, vinyl flooring in the entrance foyer, a front entrance canopy, and putting court lines in the hall for badminton and pickle ball. Following feedback about finishing times of events during the working week and the number of attendees: we have implemented a shut down time of 10pm for the music and no more than 100 at any one time. This should allow the hall car park to hold all the guests' cars and not spill over to Avenue Road.

Hurst Green Bowling Club

It's that time of year when we move from our outdoor bowling to our indoor activities, following a very good year and an enjoyable summer. Over the winter we have diverse activities centred around the clubhouse. Every Thursday we have a social gathering, alternating between our Table-Tennis, Cards & Dominos afternoons on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays from 2pm, and Coffee Stop which is held on the 2nd & 4th Thursday afternoons from 1.30 – 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome and as the days get shorter it's even more important for our wellbeing to keep our friendship muscles in good shape. Should this issue reach you in time then a date for your diary is our Quiz night on Friday 24th October in St Peter's Club, 8pm start: all welcome. Very sadly, the club's long standing Treasurer Carol Leonard passed away recently. Carol's association with the club reached back to its formation. She was a formidable, competitive player, who, as her own playing career drew to a close, took on the role of A-team Captain, holding it for some 15 years. Carol will be much missed by all at the club.

Parkplay

HURST GREEN PARKPLAY HAS ARRIVED!

Join us every Saturday, 10-12, on the Bailey Field (BB7 9QB, behind the Memorial Hall).

Parkplay is a safe, welcoming and inclusive way to connect and have fun. There are free games and activities every week. All generations are welcome. Parkplay is free, and is run by local trained volunteer Parkplay Leaders (the more, the merrier). Children under 14 should be accompanied by an adult. You only need to register once: www.park-play.com/register.

You don't have to come every week, but we aim to be there every week. Come along and join us, bring your friends, play your way.

We would welcome more volunteer Parkplay Leaders.

For more information go to:

<https://park-play.com/playleaders/>

or contact Catriona on 07775801057

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Education Trust

This charity was set up many years ago using money from the sale of a chapel and manse in Chaigley which was put into investments to create an income. The charity operates in the parish of Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley and supports the development of children and young people. It also supports organisations and activities in neighbouring areas that support the development of children. Individual student grants could relate to school trips, equipment or development of talents. Last year a grant was made to St. Joseph's to help with fire damage. Grants have also been made for playground equipment and repairs at Hurst Green playground. In addition, individual grants for musical instruments and residential trips have been made. This year we are hoping to support Little Hobbits and the St. Joseph's Youth Club. Grants are normally up to £500. In the first instance please email Maggie Inskip: maggie@inskipinternational.org.uk

Congratulations:

The Birth of Louis Michael to Kate Hopkins and Michael Jay, born on 19th September 2025

The Marriage of Katie Anita Dewhurst to Thomas Stevan Belcher at St. John's on Saturday 9th August

The Marriage of Frances Rose Molyneux to Chester Thomas Sherburne at St. John's on Sunday 25th May