

World Piano Day — Hurstpierpoint

Saturday 28 March 2026

Village Garden (Village Green), opposite Lyona

About the event

World Piano Day is a global celebration of the piano — its history, its players, and its ability to bring people together. For Hurstpierpoint, it's a chance to create something quietly special: a day of live piano performances in the open air, right in the heart of the village.

Organised by **Debbie Clare** and **Michel Olszewski**, this will be a non-profit community event designed to celebrate local creativity and connection, echoing the ethos of HURSTfolk.



What we're aiming for

- To host a beautiful, day-long programme of **piano music** — from classical to jazz, contemporary, and improvisation.
- To **invite local pianists, students, and teachers** to take part alongside professional artists.
- To **bring the community together** in a shared space to listen, connect, and enjoy the atmosphere.
- To **mark Hurstpierpoint's place** in an international calendar of World Piano Day events.
- To keep it **free and open to all**, with optional donations supporting community arts in the village.

What's already in motion

- **Venue:** The Village Garden
- **Date:** Saturday 28 March 2026 (World Piano Day weekend).
- **Organisers:** Debbie Clare & Michel Olszewski.
- **Equipment:** A gazebo kindly lent by Colin Matthews for weather cover.
- **Concept:** A continuous day of piano performances.
- **Evening concert:** The day will conclude with a special performance at **Holy Trinity Church**, featuring **Taz Modi + ensemble**.

Contact

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Village Piano Project – Constitution

1. Name

The name of the group is *The Village Piano Project*.

2. Purpose and Aims

The purpose of The Village Piano Project is to make live music accessible to everyone and to celebrate piano performance within our community. We aim to:

- Encourage and support local performers.
- Bring piano music to our village high street.
- Create inclusive, affordable, and welcoming events.
- Discover new artists and promote local talent.
- Strengthen community connections through shared musical experiences.

3. Structure and Membership

The group is run jointly by **Debbie Clare** and **Michel Olszewski** as co-organisers.

There is no formal membership structure, as the group has been created specifically to organise *World Piano Day Hurstpierpoint* on 28 March 2026, with the intention of possibly becoming an annual event.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Debbie Clare and Michel Olszewski act as **Co-Directors** of the project, sharing all decision-making and administrative responsibilities equally.

Each is authorised to act on behalf of the group for correspondence, grant applications, and financial management.

5. Meetings and Decision-Making

The organisers meet fortnightly (in person or online) to plan and make decisions by mutual agreement.

6. Finance

The Village Piano Project will maintain a dedicated bank account for the purpose of managing project funds.

All income and expenditure will be recorded, and receipts kept for audit or review by the Parish Council. Funds will only be used for the purposes of achieving the group's aims.

7. Safeguarding and Inclusivity

The Village Piano Project is committed to inclusivity and equal opportunities for all members of the

community.

All events are open to the public and family-friendly, with children under parental supervision at all times.

No individual will be discriminated against on the grounds of age, gender, ethnicity, ability, or background.

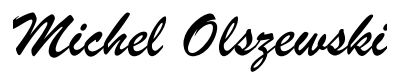
8. Dissolution

If The Village Piano Project ceases to operate, any remaining funds after expenses will be donated to **Hurst Community Charity Shop**.

Signed:



Debbie Clare



Michel Olszewski

Date: October 2025

Small Grant Application – The Village Piano Project

1. Name of Organisation

The Village Piano Project (organisers of World Piano Day Hurstpierpoint, Saturday 28 March 2026).

2. Name, Address and Status of Contact within the organisation

Debbie Clare and Michel Olszewski – Co-Directors, The Village Piano Project

[REDACTED]

3. Telephone number and Email Address

Debbie: [REDACTED]

Michel: [REDACTED]

4. Is the Organisation a Registered Charity?

No. The Village Piano Project is a newly formed voluntary community group (non-profit) created by Debbie Clare and Michel Olszewski to organise World Piano Day Hurstpierpoint. Although both organisers are also involved in HURSTfolk. and Hurst Festival, this project has no connection whatsoever to those festivals, either in organisation, management, or funding.

5. Amount of Grant Requested

£450

6. For what purpose or project is the grant requested?

World Piano Day Hurstpierpoint is a free, inclusive community event celebrating live piano music in the heart of the village. The event will take place on Saturday 28 March 2026 (World Piano Day officially falls on 29 March). It will feature performances from local and visiting pianists, encouraging community participation and supporting local talent.

The project aims to:

- Make live music accessible and affordable for everyone
- Support and discover local performers
- Bring piano music to the high street and strengthen community spirit

Funding is requested to cover:

- Piano hire (£200)
- Transport (£150)
- Tuning (£100)

The event will be publicised through local press, social media, schools, and village networks.

7. What will be the total cost of the project?

£450

8. If the total cost of the project is more than the grant, how will the residue be financed?

Any additional costs will be covered through local fundraising or small community donations. We are also approaching the Hurst Community Charity Shop for potential support.

9. Have you applied for a grant for the same project to another organisation?

Not yet. We will only apply elsewhere if this application is unsuccessful.

10. Approximately how many/what percentage of those who will benefit are parishioners?

The event is open to everyone, free of charge, and we anticipate that around 85% of attendees will be parish residents. It will also attract visitors to the high street, benefiting local businesses and fostering community engagement.

11. Have financial details been enclosed with the grant application?

Yes. Supporting documents enclosed include:

- Budget sheet
- Piano hire and tuning quotes
- Constitution of The Village Piano Project
- Completed Village Garden permit form

12. Please list any other supporting documents that have been included.

As listed above. Additional supporting information such as insurance confirmation or safeguarding policy can be supplied if required.

Final Word

The Village Piano Project is a new community initiative created to celebrate live music and connect people through shared cultural experiences. We are committed to inclusivity, affordability, and promoting local talent. We will acknowledge the Parish Council's support in all event publicity, social media, and printed materials.

We would welcome the opportunity to present our ideas to the Parish Council and answer any questions councillors might have.

Signed:

Michel Olszewski

Michel Olszewski

Debbie Clare

Debbie Clare

Date: 31 October 2025

Budget – *The Village Piano Project*

Event: *World Piano Day Hurstpierpoint – Saturday 28 March 2026*

Location: Hurstpierpoint Village Garden

Expenditure

Item	Description	Cost
Piano hire	Upright piano for community use throughout the day	£200
Transport	Delivery and collection of piano	£150
Tuning	Professional tuning before event	£100
Total Expenditure		£450

Total funding requested from Parish Council: £450

Total event cost: £450

Notes

- All expenditure is directly related to the delivery of this single-day community event.
 - No income is anticipated as the event is free for all attendees.
 - The event is non-profit and volunteer-led, with all funds directed solely toward essential costs.
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Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 833264

Village Centre
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex BN6 9UY

SMALL EVENT PERMIT
Date: Saturday 28 March 2026
For Use of Village Garden

To:

This permit sets out the basis on which individuals may use space on the Recreation Grounds owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Council is pleased to encourage the use of its Recreation Grounds for small events.

The Recreation Grounds are public spaces to which all people have reasonable access at all times. It is expected that any person may use the space in any way within the terms of the Law and without interfering with the use, or causing a nuisance, to any other person.

From time to time groups of people or organisations will propose to use some or all of the space on a Recreation Ground. An event is where there is a planned activity involving several people, which is organised by a definable person, group of people, organisation or company (the organiser). These can be small events or large events.

A small event is defined as, and has the following terms:

- Less than 100 people (adults and children) gathered.
- There being no machinery or vehicles deployed.
- There is no trading (the sale of goods, food, drink, or services).
- There are no public address systems (loudspeakers)
- There are no open fires lit, a gas BBQ can be permitted.

Thank you for seeking the permission of the Parish Council to hold your small event. Please can you complete the following information:

- Name and Address of Organiser:
Debbie Clare and Michel Olszewski – Co-Directors, The Village Piano Project
[REDACTED]
- Contact Details
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Date & time of event:
12–5pm Saturday 28 March 2026
- Activity:
Live piano music on the Village Garden
- Number of People Estimated:
5–25

Please sign below to confirm the following:

- Confirmation that the terms of the small event will be complied with.
- Confirmation that all litter will be removed, and any damage will be made good before leaving the Recreation Ground on the day of the event.
- Confirmation appropriate health and safety issues have been considered.

Signed:

Event Organiser  *Michel Olszewski*.....
Michel Olszewski

Signer:

Clerk to the Council.....

Date
