

Hurstpierpoint Heritage Trail



Produced by
Hurstpierpoint Society
in partnership with



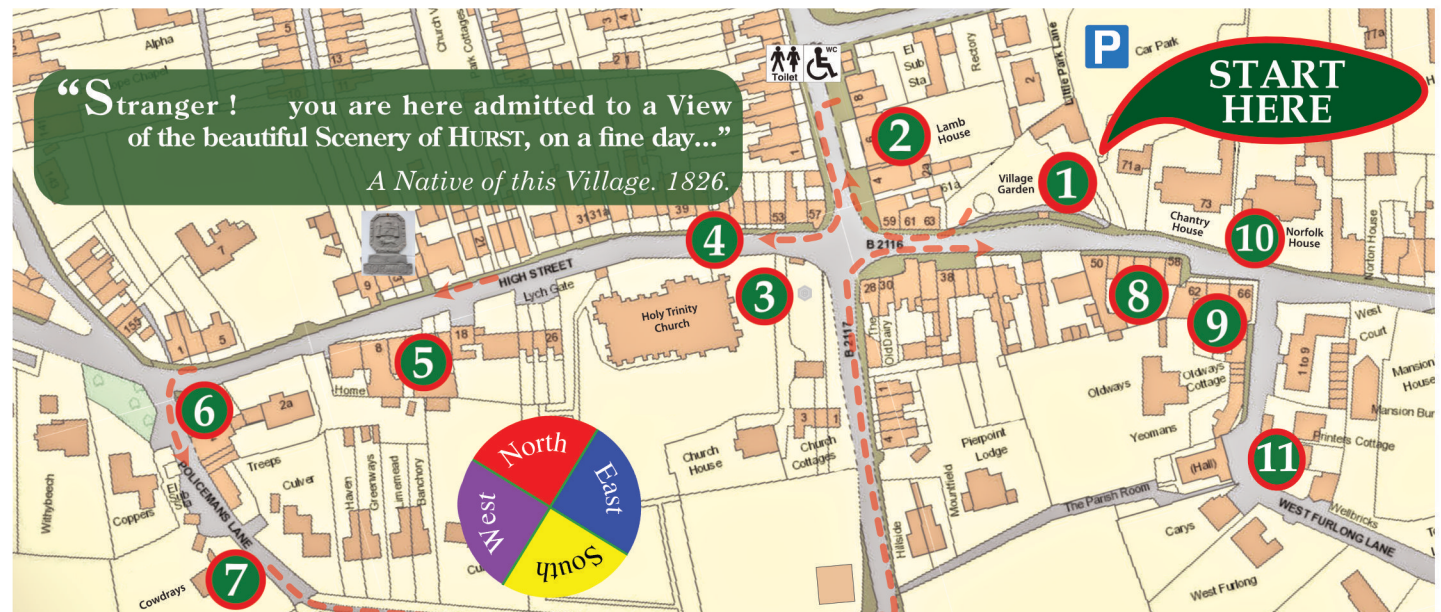
Early Times

A Roman road ran to the south of the village, with a villa nearby, but the present village dates from Saxon times. Hurst was the Saxon word for a wooded hill. It runs along a Greensand ridge, providing fertile soil rather than the clay lands to north and south. In the Domesday Book, 1086, there were just 43 households, 3 mills and 8 slaves. It was held by the Pierpoint family, who came here from Normandy with William the Conqueror.

By Tudor times a substantial area formed part of Danny Park. Danny, a mansion to the south, now a retirement home, was built by 1586, replacing a medieval 13th Century hunting lodge.

1 From the car park notice board, turn towards the Community Charity shop. Go left up steps into the **Village Garden**. The memorial to the Pierpoints stands here. See the sculpture 'Children of the Fair' installed to celebrate the 7 centuries of the village fair.

Go to the roundabout and turn right into Cuckfield Road.



2 **Lamb House** was built as a coaching inn circa 1835, when the new turnpike road came straight down from the north. It was hoped that the London to Brighton stage coaches would follow that road (see the arch through to stables and barns) but they continued to use the road near Hassocks. The disappointed owner changed part of it to a beer house, and it is now a private house.



lavatories (now No.43). Further along are 5 large houses, 19-27, and possible remains of the original 12th century Pierpoint Manor house were found here during their construction. See the insurance fire marks. In Victorian times there were several pubs on this road, including The Red Lion and The Oak, with the front extensions.

5 **South side:** These are some of the oldest houses in the village dating from 1550.

6 On the left (across the road on the bend) is **Treeps** that was two cottages, now one house, built about 1700. John Treeps lived there; when he died in 1729 he left 10 shillings for bell ringers to have drinks after his funeral. William Mitten, who lived there for most of the 19th century, had a great interest in botany,

studying the mosses of New Zealand and South America. The plaque remembers the stay in the house 1867/8 of Alfred Russell Wallace whose work with Charles Darwin was instrumental in the publication of the Origin of Species, the theory of Evolution.

Go back to the roundabout and turn right.

3 The **War Memorial** was erected in 1922. It now holds 78 names. The medieval/ Norman church was replaced by the present **Holy Trinity Church**, built 1843-45 to accommodate a rapidly burgeoning village; designed by Charles Barry who was the architect for the Houses of Parliament. If the door is open, please enter, you will find the extensive 'Church Notes' inside.

4 **Continuing westwards**, along the **North side**, a gate leads to the former communal wash house and



7 Policeman's Lane (Treeps Lane) was one of the oldest tracks into the village, until the Albourne road became a turnpike in 1771.

Just down the lane is "**Cowdrays**", built in 1609 and bought by the Cowdray family in 1631. It was modernised in 1717 with an internal staircase installed.

The views to Wolstonbury Hill and farmland across the Low Weald speak for themselves, suddenly, open countryside to the South Downs.

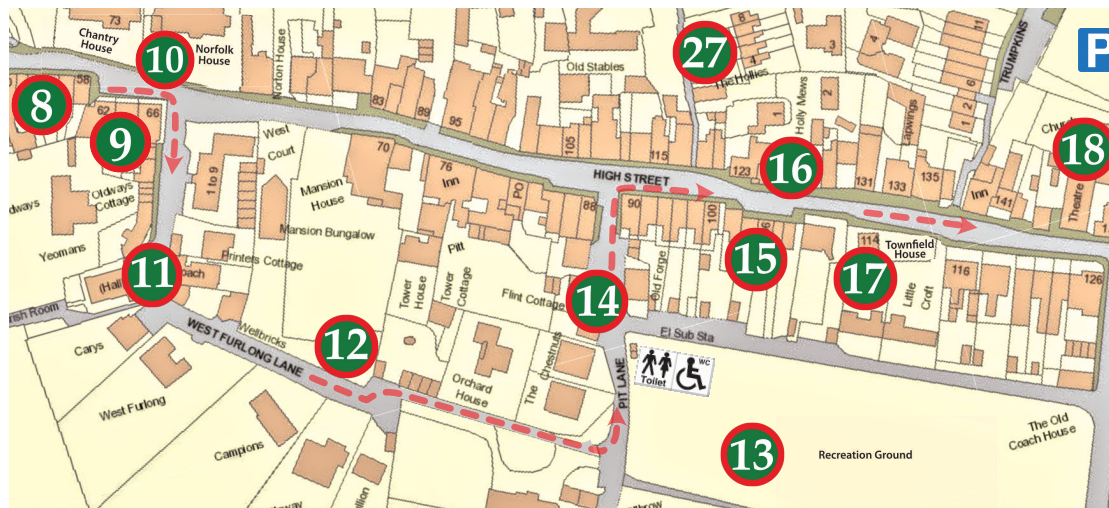
Continue along the footpath until you meet the Brighton Road, then turn left. If it's too muddy retrace your steps to the roundabout. Continue east up the High Street.

See the unicorn just past the wine bar to your right, and the Village Garden to the left that was the kitchen garden and stables of Chantry House; the large white house beyond the wall which became the Rectory for The Rev. C.H.Borrer in 1841.

Continue up the High Street.

8 The white terrace, (on your right) **Southdown Terrace**, once had a butcher's slaughter house through the archway. The butcher's name was Baker. In January 1882 a fire broke out. It was not helped by one owner keeping gunpowder. **The Great Fire** burned for 3 days. The whole terrace had to be re-built (right).

9 **Chichester House** was dramatically saved from the fire. It was twice used as a training school for girls, especially from the workhouse, to become domestic servants. The first was very draconian, the second was more lax and girls were found posts in England and Canada.



10 **Norfolk House.** A house called Matts was here in 1553 and was the Rectory for a while in the 17th century. It was rebuilt in 1855.

11 Go through the gateway into **West Furlong Lane**. At the bend are the Parish Rooms built in 1890. Buildings here are in the style of the arts and crafts period by John Denman, who lived at 'Oldways' through the arch on your right.



12 Further along the lane is the **crenelated wall** just beyond it you can see a **flint tower**. The story goes that these were built in 1800 when England was at war with Napoleonic France. If French troops landed in Brighton, then the fortifications visible from the Downs would deter the advancing invaders.

13 **The Recreation Ground** (Formerly known as Town Field). Cattle were grazed on this common field up to 1900.

14 On the left, where the terrace of modern houses stands, was the site of the parish **Workhouse**. It was closed in 1845. Adults were sent to Cuckfield, the children elsewhere (not something allowed now!). Opposite is the building originally holding the village **Forge**.

Turn right at the High St. and

15 The building central to the parking bay is **Hamilton Lodge**. In the 1800s this was a boarding school; one pupil was the notorious illustrator Aubrey Beardsley.

16 Staying on the south side and glancing across the road you see **The Old Fire Station**, built after the great fire.

17 The large white house a bit further is **Townfield House**, built for William Mitten, the retiring butler from Danny House.

Cross the road to The Poacher, formerly called The Queen's Head, and carry on eastwards.

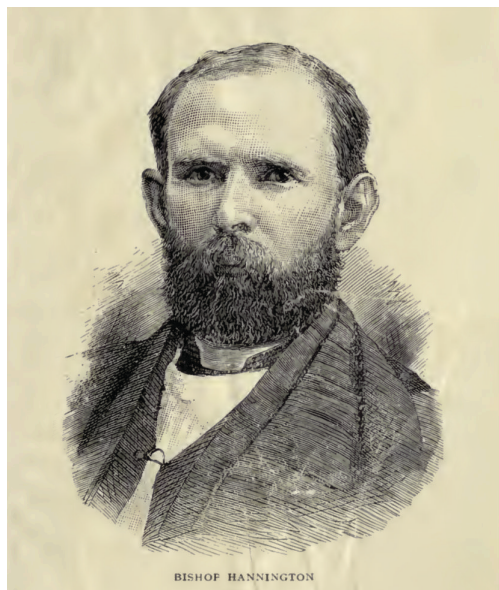


18 Next on the left you can see the **Players Theatre**. Built as a chapel, then used as a school, then a shop, before its present use for drama and cinema.

For the Short Trail, turn back along the High Street, and into the twitten, Ian Nelson Walk, to pick up number 27.

19 Further on the left, with its faded wall advertisement, is the **early 19th century terrace** resembling almshouses. The central original house was built earlier. Is that a fire-mark, or St. George and a dragon? Although matching, evidence shows the two sets of 4 houses either side had an entirely different method of construction. The group to the left, with a gate access were communal washrooms with two shopfronts. To the right, dividing walls of the four houses seem to have been former garden walls and had very basic floors.

20 **Hassocks Road**. The village expanded here in the early 19th century with expensive villas, though first on the left is **Laundry Cottage**, the laundry for St. George's House (see the cow, *Esmeralda*!).



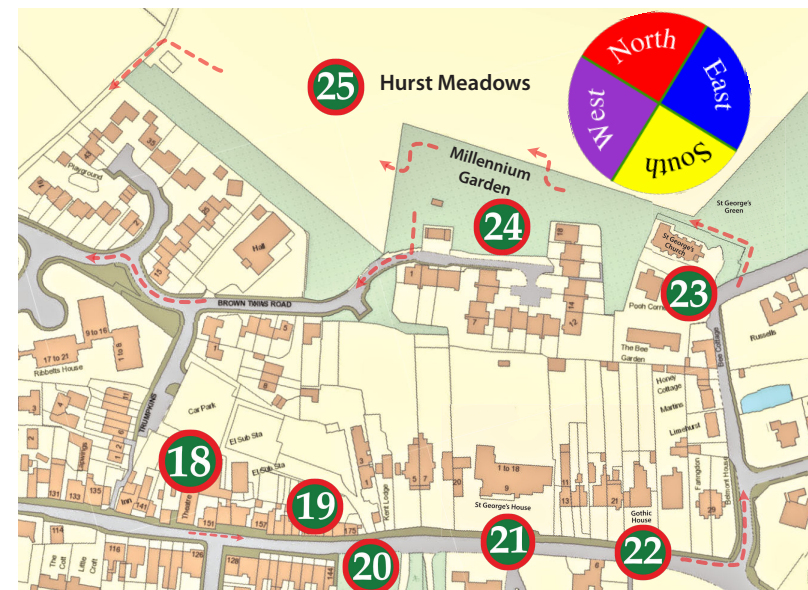
Across the road is **Hampton Lodge**, built in 1830 as a wedding gift for Dr Richard Weekes. The listed gate pillars, and matching set on the other side of the road (Thurles), bear the ammonite hallmark of renowned Brighton architect and builder Amon Wilds.

21 **St George's House**, now flats, was built before 1834, when it was bought by the Hannington family. They had a large department store ('*Brighton's Harrods*') which closed in 2001. The Plaque on the door is a memorial to James Hannington who, as a missionary, became Bishop of Equatorial East Africa, but was speared to death in 1885.

22 Between 1826-1837 **Gothic House** was built as two dwellings. Around 1873 it became a girl's school, now there are four dwellings.

Turn left into St George's Lane.

23 At the corner is **St George's church**. Recently converted to a dwelling, it



was built by Charles Hannington for his own use after differences with the Anglican rector in 1852. The physical alignment of the church broke with Anglican tradition, not facing east.

Just past it enter the gate on the left into St George's Green.

24 The path leads to the **Millennium garden**. All this area was the original garden of St George's House. See the wood sculptures.

25 On the right lie **Hurst Meadows**. This area is now owned by the Parish Council for the benefit of villagers. Enter through one of the gates and see the chapel and buildings of Hurstpierpoint College. More on the College later, in the meantime enjoy the open land to the north. Either return to the Millennium Garden or walk through the Meadows:

Either follow the footpath and Brown Twins Road, or go through Hurst Meadows aiming for the bottom left hand corner, and follow the footpath!...Either way, you will reach Trinity Road. Just past the Health Centre on the right, are the gates to Little Park Farm.



26 Formerly Hurst Park, A deer park and carp farm, the lakes are still here. Much information about the village is in the diaries of Thomas Marchant who lived there from 1714. On the left, by the memorial bench to Rosalind Mead, you enter the **Twitten** (the Sussex name for a passageway); **Ian Nelson Walk**.

*– The Short Trail Rejoins Here! –
(Ribbetts - 40m down the twitten)*

27 On the east side, **Ribbetts Cottages** were built for workers at Little Park and Trumpkins farms.

Walking back to the High Street, there is unusual brick bonding on the walls. As you reach it, look at the old graffiti carved in the sandstone wall. Please don't add to it!

28 To your left is the oldest documented village building (*below on the left*) built in 1450, known as **Curd's**, now Upper Trumpkins. Its position shows how narrow the medieval street was. It formed part of Trumpkins farm, immediately to the east.



Opposite you, the terrace called **Cards Place** replaced old wooden buildings (*above right*) in 1900. It was named after Philip Card who lived

where the greengrocer's shop is now. Can you read the Latin inscription? It means: *"I however and my household serve the Lord"*.



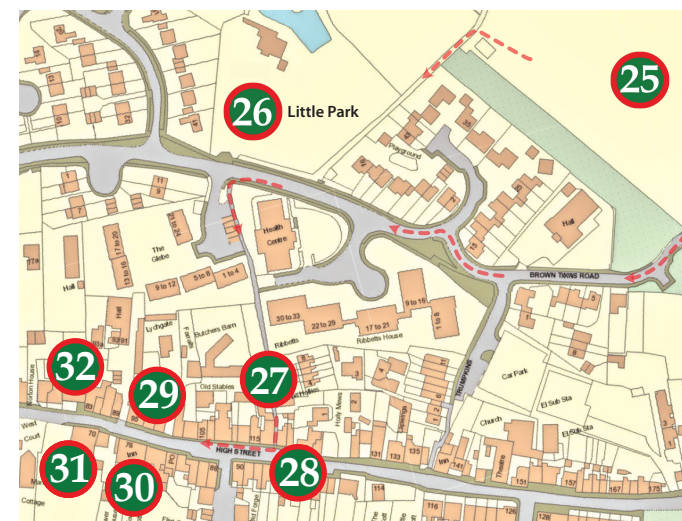
Cross over the street by Pitt Lane, which originally led to saw-pits.

29 Look at the long building which includes the Co-op and other shops. This was originally a large department store, **Masters & Tulley**, which closed in the 1960s.

30 **The New Inn** is one of the oldest buildings, originally a grand wooden house, built in about 1500 with later stone and Georgian brick frontage. On the west wall you may see an old window that was covered in rabbit skin when glass was expensive. The inn gained its licence in about 1810 when the pub opposite, the Royal Oak, was closed because of rowdy behaviour.

31 Alongside you find the **Mansion House**, built about 1575, with internal beams dating back to the 15th century. Its Georgian exterior was rebuilt about 200 years ago. Hurstpierpoint College, part of the Woodard Schools, began life here as St. John's College. See the plaque by the front door.

32 Across the road is **Wickham House**. It is not all it seems. We have an early 18th century wooden frame house, with a large inglenook fireplace within. The "bricks" are actually mathematical tiles, with wooden quoins.



End of trail! - Browse the shops, or return to the car park or stop for refreshments at one of the many purveyors of sustenance in Hurst.

We hope you enjoyed it!



You will find much more detail of all of these locations on our website!

A great deal of time, effort and cost went into creating this Heritage Trail. A £5 donation to Hurstpierpoint Society would be welcome here.

Thank You!

Hurstpierpointsociety.org.uk

Help us preserve what is worth preserving, and help create our future heritage!

Join Hurstpierpoint Society here.

Thank You, again!

