

Hurst Life

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Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #9 : December 2015

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Gift ideas from local suppliers

p. 8

Going back in Hurstpierpoint history

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Meet Gwyneth Powell

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

As I write this there are the first signs of a winter chill in the air in Hurstpierpoint.

With this temperature drop inevitably comes the festivities of Christmas. One such event is **Late Night Shopping** on the High Street - which is open for business on **Thursday 3rd December**. Read more about the event on **page 5**. But it sounds like a blast and snow is guaranteed apparently!

Someone else who's actively involved in opening her doors for that evening is **Anu Jawahar** - the owner dentist at Hurst Dental Practice. Read more about her story and how she came to take over the practice on **page 11**. Pop in and she Anu and the team on 3rd as they have all sorts of fun - including a tooth brush amnesty!

Sticking with the high street - some of you will have noticed a new shop which recently opened its doors. **Mamman Trading** is the brainchild of resident Milli Hampson - see **page 7** for more information.

On **page 16** our own Lucy Webb takes the chance to chat with legendary actress **Gwyneth Powell** about her various roles over the years. Gwyneth is proud of to call Hurstpierpoint her home for the last 28 years. Thanks Gwyneth for taking the time to tell your story.

I am also extremely grateful to **Ian Nelson** who has compiled and written up a lovely historic article on the beginnings of this fine village. Read Ian's piece on **page 12**. Count it as your Key Stage 1 in **local history** and is a fascinating article whether you're new here or a resident for some years.

Lastly, let me plug our fabulous **Christmas Gifts feature** starting on **page 8**. These local businesses have some great products and services which can make perfect presents for your loved ones. Do have a browse and get in touch with them directly. Don't forget, please tell them where you saw them listed.

Happy Christmas Hurstpierpoint!

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Jackie Eke Photography
The High Street covered in snow

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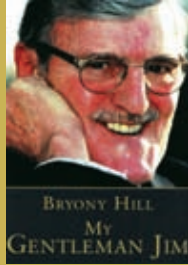
NEWS

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

Resident launches My Gentleman Jim at book signing

You can meet Hurst resident Bryony Hill, wife of the famous football pundit Jimmy Hill, this month. She will be hosting a book signing of her new book, My Gentleman Jim, which is a fascinating insight into his life and also features some never seen before photos of his many friends and famous acquaintances.

Bryony will be at Miss Mabel's Emporium in Burgess Hill on 2nd December for the late night shopping event.



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Late night shopping fun in the High Street

It's that time of year when Hurst traders are checking their stock, ensuring that all things seasonal and in vogue are available to residents. Fizz and nibbles at the ready. Yes, Hurst's Christmas Late Night Shopping event is almost here! The High Street is closed from 5pm-9pm allowing safe shopping for young, old and those who have enjoyed a glass or two(!).

This year is going to be a cracker (pardon the pun) with Reindeer (live), a Snow Machine, Santa's Grotto, Christmas Story Time, Competitions, Carol Singers, discounts and offers. It's a wonderful opportunity for those who work outside the village to shop locally and a great evening for families – in fact there's something for everyone. Jewellery, accessories, wine, fine food, toys, books, home furnishings, even something for our four legged friends!

For the traders it's a huge pleasure to see old and new customers alike and a delight that so many other businesses enter into the fun. No traffic jams, no queues for parking, it's a true celebration of village life at Christmas. Hurstpierpoint High Street looks forward to seeing you there! The Late Night Christmas Shopping event takes place on Thursday 3rd December.



Staff team go back to school for charity

While the children were all dressing down, some of the admin team at Downlands were in full school uniform. Although the standard of dress was not up to Headteacher Rose Hetherton's exacting standards - with some very short skirts, trendy trainers, badges that read 'Perfect' instead of 'Prefect' and the absolute no-no - earphones - it was all done for a fantastic cause. The wonderful, and very stylishly dressed in non-school uniform, students at Downlands School raised a fantastic £1,200.15 for BBC Children in Need at the event held last month.

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New lifestyle shop opens

By Lucy Webb

I met with young retail entrepreneur Millie Hampson, a great example of someone who's not afraid to take the plunge and run her own business in the village she grew up in. We need more of Millie's type to make Hurstpierpoint High Street into the proper retail destination it's shaping up to be.

Her new lifestyle shop, Mamman, which has just opened for business, specialises in interiors, gift ideas, homeware and quirky, stylish pieces that will assert a bit of classy personality into your home.

The other side of the business, in literally the next room, she will be running a café, serving all day breakfasts, superlative coffee, speciality teas and some excellent cakes.

So what does Mamman actually mean? Millie explained that it's a very important type of grass that helps to hold sand dunes together. Indeed, Mamman's interior has the on-trend feel of a stylish beach hut, bringing some of our West Sussex coastline to the High Street.

Most exciting of all, she's launching a pop up shop out back in the newly refurbished garden, a space she'll be renting out to small local businesses keen to get their products out there but not willing to take on the financial burden of a permanent shop.

So if you're up for supporting local businesses, pop into Mamman for a drink and a browse, and be sure to say Hi to Millie as she herself will be making the coffee!



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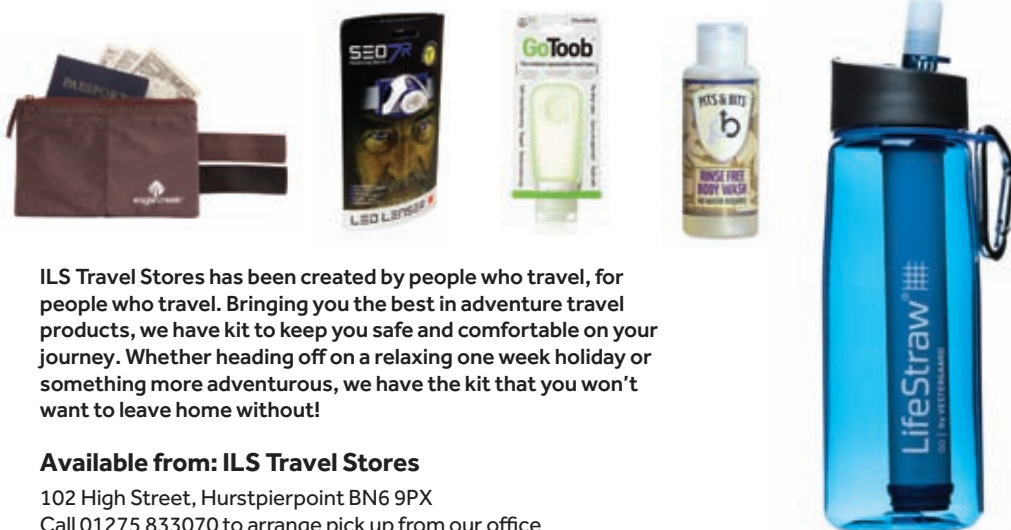


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Changes at Hurst Dental Practice

BUSINESS AS USUAL

The Hurst Dental Practice is changing. Well, actually, it has been changing over the last few months and it is one woman's vision which is at the heart of it: Dr Anu Jawahar.

High quality dental care has been provided from the surgery on the High Street for many years. However, in July Dr Sue Battersby retired after 12 years of service, followed by Dr Gavain Wilson from the end of November who had been based there for nearly 35 years.

Anu, who bought the practice in August, commended her former colleagues: "Since I arrived in the business I have been struck by high regard which patients have held for both Sue and Gavain. I understand that change can sometimes be a challenge for patients but the team are looking forward to carrying on the same great service in the coming months and years."

Anu was born in India and was awarded a Bachelor in Dental Surgery at The Tamil Nadu Medical University in 2002. She followed Jawa, her husband, who was working at the University of Cambridge and moved to the UK. Determined to further her career, she started work in a training position as a Senior House Officer in various London hospitals, during which she completed a postgraduate diploma and became a Member of the Faculty of Dental Surgeons at the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh in 2004.

How did she find the adjustment to life in England? "Coming here newly married with no family in the country was exciting at first, then tough, but ultimately very rewarding."

In 2005 the pair moved out of the capital to leafy West Sussex and Anu took a short career break while she had their son Adhi. On returning to work she commuted to London and worked as a Speciality Doctor in Oral Surgery until 2011. In 2008 she began working at a dental surgery in Bexhill-on-Sea. Anu's most recent previous

employment was in a village practice in nearby Cuckfield, where she worked for six years as a Part time General Dental Practitioner.

It was a promise that Anu made to herself that has brought her to Hurstpierpoint though. Back in 2008 she knew that she wanted to be running her own practice within the next 5 years. Although she admits to being a couple of years off that target, that challenge is what has driven her to get here.

While looking for opportunities over the past few years, Anu was struck by the village of Hurstpierpoint as soon as she began negotiations for the practice here.

"It's a wonderful place to be and residents have a great sense of community," Anu commented. She's already getting stuck in with the community by sponsoring Hurstpierpoint Football Club and opening up for a raffle in aid of St Peter and St James Hospice, sugar quiz, face painting and a toothbrush amnesty on the Hurst Christmas Festival Night on 3rd December from 5.30pm.

Hurst Dental Practice continues to offer fantastic value family dentistry and Anu is very pleased to announce the arrival of Dr Joey Hossain to be the second dentist from this month. "I'm delighted that Joey will be joining us. He has been providing great dental care in Sussex for over ten years, so he is a great fit for the team."

In addition the practice will also now be able to offer patients dental implants, Clear Aligner teeth straightening, chairside teeth whitening and cosmetic dentistry too.

If you wish to switch to Hurst Dental Practice, it's never been easier. Simply call 01273 834 868 or 01273 832 209 to book your first appointment, where Anu or Joey will undertake an examination.

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Go back in time

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORY

By Ian Nelson

What's in a name? We have certainly had our share. The Saxon name recorded in Domesday Book of 1086 was simply Herst, indicating a wooded hill. It became Herst Perepunt in 1279 as a memorial to the first Norman lords of the manor; later West Hurst to distinguish it from Herstmonceux to the east, particularly when both parishes were under the same lordship; Parpoynthurst; Hurstpount; Hurst upon ye point; and Hurstperpound.

William the Conqueror gave the control of the Rape of Lewes to William de Warenne, which he in turn parcelled out to his personal followers, and Robert de Pierrepont was rewarded with the manor of Herst. In Domesday a detailed audit of the parish recorded the number of inhabitants, about 200 in 50 families; the extent of cultivated land (about 2,000 acres) plus meadowland and woodland; three watermills; and a (Saxon) church. Some of the land belonged directly to the lord, other fields by the community, indicated by early map names such as East Field, North Field and Town Field.

For many centuries a successful or unsuccessful harvest meant the difference between reasonable health and possible starvation. To the present day the land around the village has always been farmed, and very successfully if the solid, welcoming architecture of some of the farmhouses is any guide: witness Tott, Randolpfs, Wanbarrow and Little Park to name just a few. But the 19th century arrival of refrigerated overseas imports led eventually to current practices which would be unrecognisable to anyone living a century ago: gone is the fish-farming carried on by generations of the Marchant family at Little Park; gone are the dairy herds; gone is the mid 20th century specialist growing of flowers and vegetables for seed at Wanbarrow, with a harvest labour force of nearly 150!; gone to a large extent is the mixed arable and stock-rearing. Today is the age of sophisticated mechanisation, diversification and contracting-out the seasonal farming activities – the farm buildings at Washbrook Farm now being used for the leisure interests of families with children.

Feudal lordship gave way to more subtle gentry influences. The Gorings built Danny, and successive owners, such as the Courthopes and the Campions, established their relationships with their employees and the wider Hurst community, taking on civic responsibilities as much as a duty as a right. In the weeks immediately prior to the end of World War I, the war cabinet met at Danny to draft the terms of the armistice which we still commemorate on the 11th November each year. Now Danny is providing pleasant living for a number of residents of more mature years, who have come from many different areas to enjoy the amenities of this splendid Elizabethan mansion.

Other larger houses not directly involving in farming have sufficient architectural merit to add to the attractiveness of the central area of the village: Mansion House,

which was home to Hurstpierpoint College for a brief period while waiting for the permanent buildings to be ready for occupation; the smaller Wickham House opposite, and Church House, south of the parish church, having mathematical tile facings; St George's House, now converted into apartments, built in the mid-19th century for Charles Hannington of the now defunct Brighton department store; Queen Anne-style Abberton House, occupied in the 18th century by Peter Morfee, the Steward of the Manor; Furlong House, built by the Reverend Richard Bevan as the rectory in 1900; Hampton Lodge, where Dr Hampton Weekes moved to from what is now Norfolk House. All of these are indicators of local prosperity, at least for some.

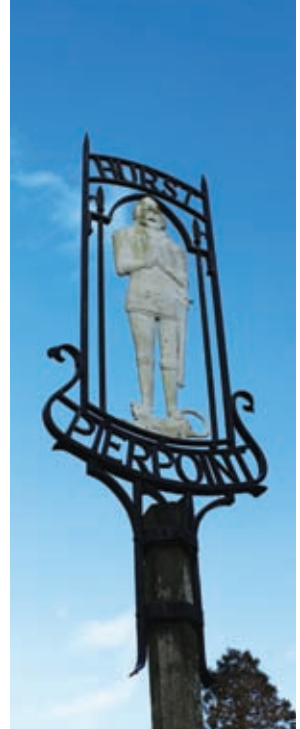
For others, failure of the farming could mean the parish poorhouse in Pit Lane during more than two hundred years, until the Cuckfield workhouse of Victorian times became the home of the most unfortunate.

The Saxon church of the Domesday survey could have been constructed of stone or wood. As the parish prospered through the Norman period the need for a larger church became apparent. In turn this was replaced by one in the early 15th century, probably the first dedicated to St Lawrence, remaining the village church until its demolition in 1843, followed less than two years later by the consecration of the present Holy Trinity. During most of these years the lord of the manor held the advowson of the living, that is he was able to appoint a new clergyman to a vacancy in the rectorship, a link between manor and church which no longer exists. Adherents of other denominations felt the need for their own places of worship in the village. So over the years Wesleyan Methodists, Strict Baptists, Roman Catholics and Free Evangelicals have all contributed to our spiritual and community life. For a period in the 17th and 18th centuries a number of Quakers formed the Hurstpierpoint Meeting, although they met in private premises such as the Mansion House and what is now Norfolk House, and no Meeting House was ever built. Now our churches are the venues for many secular events, just one example of the involvement of the churches in the wider life of the village.

Until the 18th century there were very few premises actually built as shops, most retailers using front rooms in their cottage. They were patronised probably only by the gentry and well-to-do farmers, the poorer people growing their own vegetables, bartering produce with their neighbours, dealing with itinerant hawkers, and occasionally shopping in the weekly market held on Church Green and Lamb Platt (at the southern end of Cuckfield Road) and later at the New Inn. Those who were able to do so travelled to Lewes or Horsham to purchase rarer items. Specific trades became more common in the 19th century: tailors, boot and shoe makers, saddlers, butchers, grocers, dairymen, bakers, ironmongers, watch and clock makers, confectioners, hairdressers, stationers and booksellers – all thriving, at least in part, because travel to neighbouring towns was still time-consuming. The arrival of the railway, and later the internal combustion engine, changed all that. The trades mentioned experienced increasing competition from outside the village and many were forced to give up. Hurst has been more fortunate than some other places and, despite the attractions of nearby supermarkets, the weekday pavement bustle still goes on alongside the 21st century traffic trying to negotiate an 18th century street designed for the horse and cart. In the High Street now a number of shops carry out a significant percentage of their business online, still adapting to change.

Domesday recorded 200 inhabitants, the first population census of 1801 just over 1,000. Now we are approaching 6,000, with successive waves of new arrivals adding to the numbers and helping to develop the many and diverse leisure activities of the village. These range from societies and clubs catering for a variety of individual interests to whole-village events such as the over 700 year old St Lawrence Fair and the now well-established Hurst Festival, all successful because of the effort and enthusiasm shown by so many, both born and bred and incomers.

From swords and bows and arrows at the time of the battle of Hastings, through the centuries to online shopping and banking – how would each Hurst generation cope with the others?





Over the Rainbow

By Lucy Webb

I went along with my 6 year old daughter Scarlett to her Tuesday evening Rainbows group to find out a bit more about them and to discover why it's as important as it is fun.

Rainbows is part of the Girlguiding organisation, for the age group 5 to 7. This group then leads on to Brownies age group 7-10, Guides age group 10-14 and eventually Rangers age group 14-18.

The main task of the evening was to learn the Rainbow Promise in sign language, and the girls were put into groups to learn each line. The Rainbow Promise helps to build some really important values that will help these girls throughout their lives: 'I promise that I will do my best, to think about my beliefs, and to be kind and helpful'.

At the end everyone stood in a circle with the group leaders and signed what they had learnt.

Immediately I can see that Rainbows is about guiding the girl's moral compass, helping her to become empathic towards others and, just as importantly, about being part of a fun and friendly group.

It helps to build confidence too; all the girls were encouraged to tell the group about something memorable that had happened to them the previous week. I loved some of the answers:

"Last night I went to bed, counted to three and pulled my tooth out" and "I just found out I'll be getting a new baby brother or sister".

Throughout the year they have loads of fun, emphasising the outdoor and creative, for example bonfire night, walks up Wolstonbury, trips to Millenium Gardens, leaf printing and cooking to name a few.

Tally Millyard-Johnson is in the Rangers, a group that follows on from Guides for 14-18 year olds. She says their activities change as they get older, for example they recently learnt the driving theory test, and enjoyed a visit to Go Ape. Tally has just been awarded her Young Leader's badge and is looking forward to moving into Adult Leadership.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in Hurstpierpoint are actively looking for volunteers to help run the groups.

Anyone wishing to help with the units just require a willingness and enthusiasm to assist during the unit meeting. They could go along as a unit helper to the session, either on a weekly or monthly basis. Volunteers are required to undergo a DBS recruitment check as part of the starting process.

There are a number of girls on the waiting list for Rainbows and Brownies, and if there were more leaders, it would be possible to open another Rainbow and/or Brownie unit. There would be a requirement to undertake the Leadership training, although this would mainly be 'on the job' training.

The group would also love to hear from anyone interested in helping with the Wolstonbury District Guide Support Group. This would involve helping with any fundraising activities, for example a Cream Tea was held in June and a Bingo evening in October.

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Gwyneth Powell

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Lucy Webb sat down with Gwyneth Powell, the successful British actress and Hurst resident of 28 years. You might know her as the firm but fair headmistress Mrs McClusky from the groundbreaking kids TV series *Grange Hill*, but Hurst Life discovers she has many more strings to her bow.



By Lucy Webb

When I first got in touch with Gwyneth Powell's agent, an email quickly came back to me from the actress stating: 'I am at present in the foothills of the Himalayas but will be home on the 8th November'.

I could hear her distinctive voice in my head as I read her email.

On her return from said trip, she explained to me that she was in India on a six week tour as an examiner of speech and drama students. The exams are run by Trinity College London, and those taking the exams vary from businessmen who need to improve their presentation and communication skills, to young people wanting to make it in Bollywood.

This is her second trip this year, and despite the tiring nature of this kind of travel she looks remarkably fresh faced. So had she always wanted to be an actress?

She explained she came from a fairly conservative family, was born in Manchester and studied at Goldsmiths University in London to become a teacher. From the age of 16 she was a member of the National Youth Theatre and, in her final year at college, was in a play at the Royal Court, Bartholomew Fair, and promptly got offers from agents.

She veered away from teaching and followed the acting road to Worthing where she joined a newly launched Repertory company. The Connaught Theatre had previously been closed down but new actors were being recruited to launch the company again. The opening production in 1967 was *The Beggars Opera* with Barbara Windsor and Frederick Jaeger and she never looked back.

She stayed at the Connaught Theatre for two years, and here she met her husband of 44 years, Alan Leith. He stayed in Worthing while Gwyneth moved on to the Bristol Old Vic for an 18 month contract. It was here that the playwright John Bowen saw her and offered her a part in a new play at Hampstead Theatre, and

subsequently suggested her for the London Weekend Television dystopian drama, *The Guardians*.

Gwyneth discovered she had got the part as the female lead in *The Guardians* on her wedding day. This 13 part series was set in a futuristic UK run by a police force and headed by a mysterious general. Despite being fiction, many of its storylines sat parallel with some of the trickier political issues at the time, perhaps the reason it became cult viewing in the early 70s. Many television series followed, together with regular stage performances and several films which saw her playing opposite Ian McKellan, Albert Finney, and Kenneth More. It was after playing a murderess in a series called *The Enigma Files* on BBC1 that she was offered the role of Bridget McCluskey, the headmistress in *Grange Hill*, that would make her a household name in the UK and beyond.

Gwyneth explained that she accepted the role because her nieces and nephew begged her to do it as she wasn't convinced at first. Filmed initially at the BBC studios in Wood Lane, but later moved to Elstree, because as she says: "The kids from *Grange Hill* would run riot in the BBC canteen."

The perks of the job were that the working hours often echoed real school life, enjoying summer holidays and finishing filming at a decent hour. Gwyneth remembers sneaking out of her dressing room at 6pm to avoid bumping into her neighbour, Wendy Richards, who suffered the long haul hours of filming *Eastenders*.

She spoke about *Grange Hill* as a series: "It was the first program to depict kids as they really were. We dealt with serious issues like bullying and drugs but mixed it with humour and strong characters. Underneath all that it was a terribly moral program, even though some parents banned their children from watching it."

Gwyneth made sure that she had some input in her role as Mrs McCluskey, insisting that they didn't think of her as twinset and pearls but in smart designer clothes,



and she always wore heels. Some at the time drew parallels between her and Margaret Thatcher, but that was perhaps because there weren't many strong female characters on TV at that time.

After 11 years Gwyneth decided it was time to move on and requested she be written out of the series.

It was on a train on the way back from Elstree that she picked up a book called 'Diary of a Provincial Lady'. She loved it so much that she decided to fund and tour it as a one woman show. It was hugely successful and she ended up performing three Provincial Lady books. She describes her working life at that time as: "A bit like standing on a log that's rolling downhill. It was a very happy time."

Since then there have been regular appearances in many TV soaps and drama series, and in the spring she looks forward to working on a third series on the very successful comedy series Man Down as Greg Davies' mum on Channel 4.

So what brought her and her husband to Hurstpierpoint?

"We had been living in Brighton for 12 years, and one day we decided to take the dog for a walk and got off the train at Hassocks. We turned right out of the station and headed towards Hurstpierpoint. We got to the cottage I now live in, and the lavender was out and I just fell in love with it. When we got to the village we saw it advertised for sale in Clifford Dann's window and the rest is history! We've been here for 28 years and feel as most people here do, that we're very lucky to live here."

Her husband, Alan Leith, is Chairman of the Hurstpierpoint Singers and is very busy in the run up to Christmas with the annual Concert at the Village Centre on Sunday 13th December at which they will both be reading.

Before that Gwyneth will also be performing to a slightly larger audience at the Royal Albert Hall to celebrate 150 years of the Salvation Army.

She confesses she wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for the Salvation Army as her parents met there. Her father was a bandsman and her mother was a songster.

I feel that I've now got to the bottom of her performing talent because after all, even in some small way, she always had it in her genes to perform.

"The kids from Grange Hill would run riot in the BBC canteen!"



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- 1 shallot, chopped
- ¼ habanero chilli, deseeded
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1 tablespoon veg oil
- ¼ cup clam juice
- 1 cup coconut milk
- ¼ teaspoon sea salt

Lime sorbet:

- ¼ cup water
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This month Head Chef at the New Inn, Pete Hampson, shows us how to create a spectacular dinner for that special dinner party over the festive season.

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!



Sauce method

In a saucepan over a low heat, sweat shallots, habanero and garlic in veg oil until shallots have softened. Add clam juice and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to a simmer. Add coconut milk and reduce mixture by half (about ten mins). Remove the habanero and discard. Blitz the remaining mixture in a food blender until smooth, add salt and pass through a chinois. The sauce can be kept refrigerated for up to 2 days.

Sorbet method

In a saucepan over a medium heat bring sugar and water to a boil. Stir in the lime juice. Pour mixture into a plastic tub and refrigerate until cool. Then you want to freeze it, but you will need to keep stirring the mixture to break up the ice crystals. You will need to do this several times during the freezing process but once set this can be kept frozen for easily a week.

To put it together

In a bowl, combine the chives, red onions and coconut sauce. Divide equally between 4 bowls. Slice the lobster and place on top of the sauce and, if you would like that extra pizzazz, place the claw meat as shown. Garnish with a small scoop of the lime sorbet and lime zest and sprinkle with the julienned habanero.



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Hey Mr DJ...

By **Beccy Henderson**

Have you ever dreamt of playing the decks above a dance floor full of fans who can't help but move to your beats? Well, now's your chance, and for a great cause too!

Hurstpierpoint's St Lawrence Fair is one of the oldest village fairs in the country - 703 years to be precise. It began when Edward II was King of England, Robert the Bruce ruled Scotland and Tudor Britain was still 170 years away. Taking place on the first Saturday in July each year, it exists to bring the community together and to help local charities to thrive. But it relies on support from the local community to continue.

On 5th March 2016, we will be holding a Superstar DJ party to raise funds for the St Lawrence Fair in a transformed Hurst Village Hall. Featuring music from the last six decades, in honour of the 2016 Fair's '60' theme, the event will be open to all budding DJs who want to join in.

To enter, all you have to do is choose your three favourite tunes and submit them when you purchase your ticket. Two weeks before the event we will draw the names of 14 DJs who will get to play on the night itself. All the action will be supervised by a professional DJ who will make sure that your mixing is flawless and the dance floor keeps jumping all night. At the end of the night we will crown the Superstar DJ - the one who gets the most people on the dance floor! So make sure you bring your friends.

Just fancy a party? Well this is the perfect opportunity for you to come and let your hair down. All you have to do is buy a ticket, turn up and be ready to strut your stuff. You will literally vote with your feet, your dancing feet! From rock to doo-wop, disco to hip hop, come and enjoy a special night of great music and raise money for the St Lawrence Fair!

For more information and to buy tickets see the web site: www.stlawrencefair.org.uk



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The Festive Menu

Starters

Cream of Parsnip and Chestnut Soup
Served with warm bread roll (v)

Ham Hock & Apricot Terrine
Served with homemade piccalilli and granary toast

Smoked Trout and Salmon Rilette
Served with rocket and a lemon & chive dressing

Deep Fried Goat's Cheese
Served with beetroot salad and a basil pesto (v)

Main Courses

Traditional Roast Turkey
With chestnut stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes and cranberry sauce

Grilled Fillet of Gilt Head Bream
With sauté new potatoes, curly kale, roasted garlic and a red pepper sauce

Braised Feather Blade Beef in Guinness
Served with baby onions & thyme and creamed potato

Wild Mushroom Risotto
With Dolcelatte cheese and truffle oil (v)

Desserts

Christmas Pudding
With brandy sauce

Citrus Crème Brûlée
Served with shortbread biscuit and black cherry compôte

White Chocolate and Cranberry Bavaois
Served with a Grand Marnier syrup

Selection of Fine Cheeses
Served with biscuits, chutney & grapes

Coffee & Mints



5 MINUTES WITH...

Phil Clarke

How long have you lived in Hurstpierpoint?

40 years on and off

What's the best thing about being here?

Small enough to be recognised, large enough to have some anonymity.

Favourite ice cream flavour?

This sounds pretentious I know, but I did once have wild mushroom ice cream in a Michelin star restaurant in Copenhagen. Amazing!

How many houses have you lived in?

In Hurstpierpoint - five.

Favourite holiday destination?

Morzine – great town, great skiing and drivable.

Your most enjoyable event in the village?

Anything involving live music and beer.

Do you share your home with anyone?

My wife Louise, son Alfie (4) and two chickens.

Song you play the most?

According to my iPod: Insomnia by Faithless.

Mac or PC?

PC

Your most frequented village shop?

The pharmacy (accounting for rather too many hours of my life).

What's your proudest moment?

Making my wedding vows (followed closely by rowing over as 'head of the river' at uni).

Coke, juice or water?

Something much stronger!

Your advice for life?

Make real friends, not virtual ones.

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

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The Panto is here... it's behind you!

The Hurstpierpoint Players' Christmas show this year is *The Wizard Of Oz*, not the Judy Garland full-blown musical version but the play written by Alfred Bradley based on the original story by L. Frank Baum.

However, it is, of course, the traditional story of a young girl, Dorothy, who meets up with a Lion, a Scarecrow and a Tin Man and sets off along the Yellow Brick Road to find the elusive Wizard Of Oz in the Emerald City. These four main characters meet a lot of other people on their way. This should be a very entertaining treat for all the family and of course there will be a few songs along the way.

Tickets will be available from Vanilla on the High Street. Family tickets (two adults and 2 children) are £25, Children £6, Adults £10.

The show will run at The Players Theatre, 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, from 30th December until 9th January with matinee and evening performances during the run. For more information see the group's website: www.hurstplayers.org.uk



By David Saitch

December sees the launch of our Winter Season and due to the busyness of the theatre in the run up to Christmas we only have two events this month.

On Tuesday 8th December we have the latest in our NT Live broadcasts, **Jane Eyre**. This production has been receiving terrific 4 and 5 star reviews and really mustn't be missed. There are still tickets available for this broadcast, so if you haven't been to a Live Broadcast before, do take this chance to see why they are so popular.

On Friday 18th December we have a wonderful comedy, **The Lady Eve** (U). This wonderfully witty masterpiece was written and directed by the inimitable Preston Sturges and has career-best roles to two of Hollywood's finest, who are perfectly cast here. Henry Fonda plays a wealthy young man obsessed by snakes, who lays himself wide open to the schemes of professional con artist Charles Coburn and his daughter, Barbara Stanwyck, resulting in a sparkling combination of romance and comedy that is still unequalled.

Forthcoming films in the Winter Season include the uplifting, politically incorrect French comedy **Untouchable** (PG) and Alexander Payne's bittersweet, witty road movie **Nebraska** (15) in January. In February we have the astonishing Russian fable, **Leviathan** (15), which is a hoot, a tragedy and an utter masterpiece, and the wickedly hilarious Argentinian film **Wild Tales** (15), a delicious chocolate box of cinematic treats.

Tickets for our films can be bought online at www.hurstfilms.com or at Mishon Mackay on Hurstpierpoint High Street.

You do not have to be a member to come to the Village Cinema but membership is still only £10 per annum and with this expanding range of fantastic films and theatrical events, the ticket price reductions and advance booking makes it incredible value for money.

For more information and to buy membership, just go to the membership link on our website or contact us by phone or email (info@hurstfilms.com 01273 835875).

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In the garden now?

By Sarah Lord Soares

You'd think it would be a pretty hard job to talk about planting anything when the days are drawing in and the ground is pretty sodden. Well, that's what I thought when asked to do a piece about planting in December!

The thing about growing is that it's a cyclical process... it goes something like this:



Spring, we plant our seeds in our greenhouse, cloche, window sill pots or directly in the soil - if it's dry enough.

Late spring, some of us might rush to the garden centre to pick up seedlings (because we planted our seeds outside too early).

Summer, we harvest our lovely produce, keep sowing the seeds throughout the growing season so our one crop isn't over too quickly - share, donate, gift or eat our lovely home-grown food.

Autumn, as the season slows down, we plant hardy winter crops, cabbages for Christmas Day, potatoes.

Winter we nurture our soil, collect leaves to rot down, put back all the nutrients that have gone into our food, add manure, ash from the fires and let it recoup till we start again in spring.

However, of course, there are some classic crops we can be planting in November and December. Who knew? It is a long-standing tradition on the Albourne Road Allotments that broad beans, for the following year, are planted at 11am on the 11th November. Without fail. Today actually - so a bit late for December - but they spend the whole winter in the frozen ground giving you a head start in the spring.

You can still get the garlic in the ground now. Amazing that from one clove comes a whole bulb - so well worth it (thanks Lisa, for the multiplier tip). This also goes for shallots that can be planted now in soil that drains well.

Next year is the 'Year of Fruit' on our plot, so I am planting some new raspberries this winter. These are the main draw to get the girls up there in the autumn, so a summer variety will fill the gap between this and the strawberries. Picking is now their main interest, or casting seeds randomly on the neat seed beds, though now they are older it's less haphazard. Hopefully, we will have a small crop to harvest in the coming summer and, along with the white, red and blackcurrants, gooseberries and figs (first ones this year was very exciting!), we will have plenty to preserve and enjoy through the winter months.

I'm a big fan of Jane Perrone (perrone.blogs.com) and Alys Fowler (Guardian Gardening Column) for all things horticultural, so if you are looking for seasonal inspiration they are good to look up. It is a bit of a cliché but on those short days when it's pouring with rain and impossible to walk on the soil, the joy is to sit by the fire, plan and order seeds and plants for when the days start to lengthen and the sun brings the earth back to life. It's all part of the allotment cycle, so put up your feet and browse away...

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DANNY HOUSE

By Lucy Webb

As I pulled up the long gravel drive towards Danny House, even though it was a dull, drizzly day, I felt a bit like Elizabeth Bennet approaching Chatsworth House for the first time.

The visitor to Danny House leaves New Way Lane to follow the drive laid out for the 'delight' of Cavalier Lord Goring, but more about him later.

The front of the house is stunning, tall windows against beautiful red brickwork, it's imposing but delicate at the same time.

I slowed up to park in the front courtyard, at the same time imagining all the carriages, horses, and historical VIPs who had also stepped up to the front door here, or who were more likely greeted by neat lines of expectant staff.

I was greeted by the current owner of Danny House, Richard Burrows (pictured), who has lived and worked here since 2004. Even though he's lived there all that time, he still has the passion of someone who is completely in love with his surroundings, still enchanted by it although he lives and breathes it day in, day out.

Rising up as one enters the house is an awe inspiring carved oak staircase in the front hallway. To the left of this is the Great Hall, an impressively high ceilinged room, furnished with items that Richard has collected from Christies in London among other places, and paintings of Charles I and the Campion family.

The centrepiece of this room is a fireplace built in 1728, that in the past featured the armour worn in the Civil War by one of the Campion family.

The fire crackled gently and a stately looking elderly gentleman read his paper in front of the fire. It's serene in here despite its grandeur, although I would struggle to concentrate on reading, rather I'd sit staring at the view of the foot of the South Downs or the stained glass

windows or the many portraits, paintings and artefacts dotted around the room.

I sat with Richard and settled into listening to an abridged history of Danny House. My awe at Richard's incredible memory for dates, names and events gives way to awe at the importance of this historical place.

Currently a retirement home with some 26 residents, much of the house has been divided into apartments to rent. Richard also lives here with his children and mentions that although it's around 420 years old, it's still comfortable and welcoming.

He adds: "Residents say it's a bit like living in a country house party in Edwardian times, with the bonus of not bumping into one's relatives." Unless, of course, said relatives turn up to visit.

Around 3,000 people each year come through its doors to visit friends and family or to attend the many private parties and fundraising events for charity that the house hosts.

The first documented evidence of Danny House was in about 1250, and it was used as a hunting lodge for the De Pierpoint family who lived at the Manor House in Hurst.

It was originally set in the Great Park, some 409 acres lying a mile or so to the south of Hurst village between an old Roman Road called Bedlam Street and the foot of Wolstonbury Hill.

De Pierpoint came to England in 1066 and was a knight of William De Warenne, first Earl of Surrey and one of the generals at the Battle of Hastings. De Warenne owned and built Lewes castle and gave the manor in Hurst to De Pierpoint for his services in battle.

The house passed through many generations of the De Pierpoint family, then passed through marriage to the Fiennes family, who built and lived in Herstmonceaux castle. In around 1350, Danny Park was granted a

licence to hunt by the King. Hunting at the time was the country's main sport. Richard tells me that the original licence to hunt was recently found in the National Archives in Kew.

The next documentary evidence about Danny House was around 1570 and spoke of a mainly timber house, whose dimensions were similar to the Danny we see today.

The next owner of Danny Park and the manor of Hurstpierpoint was George Goring, who previously lived at Duncton Park near Petworth.

He bought Danny in 1582 and was a government minister whose role was to collect money from the wards of court for Elizabeth I. The temptation to squirrel away some of this money for himself was too great. This was only found out after his death, and his poor son was made to pay back much of the money.

George Goring rebuilt Danny in a grander style, replacing the timber with brick, and over 10 years he spent around £10,000 (most of the money he had embezzled from the royal coffers).

There were four successive George Gorings, the third of which was the most noble. He became the Earl of Norwich and was a close friend of the Duke of Buckinghamshire, James I's sidekick, or some say lover.

One of Goring III's roles was to collect tax on tobacco and butter, and Danny was his country house. At the time he built a large house where Buckingham Palace now stands and called it Goring House.

It burnt down in the 1670s, and was rebuilt twice and is now the most popular royal residence we know today.

Goring IV was a leading cavalier General in the civil war. He was a bit of a character, womaniser and a drinker, who ostracised many people, and was privileged to be painted three times by Van Dyke. The Gorings were one of the richest families in the country and one of the main financiers of the King in the Civil War. When the king lost the war, the Goring family ended up in debt and the house was sold to Peter Courthope in 1652 and much of the Danny estate was dispersed. Courthope was a Kent businessman who made his fortune in industry. His granddaughter Barbara inherited and she married William Campion of Kent in 1720.

The Campions owned the Danny Estate for many generations until 1981. Sir William Campion was the last Campion to live in Danny. He was Governor General of Western Australia in the 1920s. After WWII, the Campions moved out of the house and it was rented out as a school between 1947-1956.

In 1918 the Campions rented Danny to Lord Riddell, the proprietor of The News of the World. Lord Riddell rented it so that he could provide a country home for the war worn Prime Minister Lloyd George. It provided the Prime Minister with the ideal place to come and relax from the pressures of London and the war.

Lloyd George was a famous philanderer. Danny is the only place where his wife and his mistress/secretary, Frances Stevenson, slept under the same roof. Whilst at Danny, Lloyd George referred to Frances Stevenson as, 'My Darling Pussy' in their infamous love letters.

When the war turned, after the tanks and Americans



arrived, and the British started winning on the Western front, Lloyd George danced the Hornpipe for joy in the Great Hall.

Several meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet were held in the Great Hall at this time, with visitors such as Jan Smuts of South Africa, the Prime Ministers of New Zealand and Canada and of course, Winston Churchill.

The most important of these meetings was on 13th October 1918, when they agreed to the 14 point plan proposed by President Wilson of the United States, which led to the Armistice with Germany.

In 1956, Lord Euston and Admiral Greathead, who lived in Hassocks, with the collaboration of Simon Campion, hit on the idea of converting Danny House into retirement apartments to rent. These would be ideal for ex-pats from the armed forces and civil service used to a high standard of life in the colonies, who wanted to retire to their homeland and retain a sense of style, with communal living reminiscent of club life.

Before Richard bought Danny in 2004, it was owned and run by the Country Houses Association. When the trustees of this charity decided to sell, Richard moved with his family from Putney to Danny House.

He bought it to be the family home, and what an amazing experience it must have been for his three small children at the time to grow up in such a place. Hide and seek must have taken all day.

Richard runs Danny House along with eight staff, who he says he couldn't be without, and, indeed, it must be some task taking on the upkeep of this historic building as well as providing the residents with stately yet comfortable living. His recently acquired Masters in the conservation of historic buildings must come in handy.

It became clear to me that Danny has many layers to it, not least the history of the building itself, but what of its illustrious residents and their fascinating life stories, or the history of all the beautiful artwork at the house? If those paintings could talk I bet they could tell some great stories. So I'd like to revisit Danny in forthcoming issues of Hurst Life, exploring other aspects of this amazing building of such huge historical importance on our doorstep.

Watch this space...

What's on this month

AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

AND ELSEWHERE

- 1st **Hurst Afternoon Club** – 2.15pm
Christmas Singing and Santa too! Plus our special guests for this month are the children from St Lawrence Primary School. Come along even if you're not a member. (Pam 01273 831705)
- 5th **Pyecombe Church Christmas Fayre** – afternoon
- 6th **Tea Dance** – 2-4pm
- 8th **Wolstonbury WI** – 7.45-9.45pm
Punch and Judy demonstration and talk by Professor Gwynn Edwards. Visitors welcome
- 13th **Hurstpierpoint Singers Christmas Concert**
2.30pm. Now in its 65th year, it's an ever popular programme of Christmas music, modern and traditional, with appropriate readings. Do come along and start your Christmas festivities by joining in with the audience carols, sampling the wine and mince pies and taking part in the famous raffle. (Tickets at £8 (accompanied children under 12 are admitted FREE!) are available from Janton News & The Mint House Hurstpierpoint and Hassocks Hardware, choir members or on the door.
- 20th **Tea Dance** – 2-4pm
- 27th **Tea Dance** – 2-4pm
- 2nd **Mid Sussex Ramblers Pub Social** – 7.30pm
Jack & Jill, Clayton (more info from Phil 01273 835931 – www.midsussexramblers.co.uk)
- 3rd **Hurst Late Night Shopping & Festival Night**
5.30-9pm Shops open late and various activities taking place on the High Street including Santa's Grotto, Reindeer and a snow machine! (More info see article on page 5)
- 5th **St Lawrence School PTA Christmas Bazaar**
- 5/6th **Father Christmas Weekend**
Washbrooks Farm, Hurstpierpoint
- 8th **Senior Moments Fun Day** – 11.30am-3.30pm
Hurstpierpoint Evangelical Church (opp. Clifford Dann). The day includes lunch, quizzes & a craft. (Cost £6 per person. Book your place with Margaret Ashdown on 01273 834485 by Friday 4th Dec)
- 8th **Mid Sussex Ramblers** – Guy's 90th Birthday
Ramble – 10am, Circular morning walk via the Chattri (snack stop) 4.5miles. Clayton Windmills CP on the downs. (More info from Yvonne 07843 566602 or www.midsussexramblers.co.uk)
- 17th **Hurst Afternoon Club**
The Marine in Eastbourne – Members' Christmas lunch at what may well be the world's most decorated pub! (Details from Pam 01273 831705)

Know of an event going on in January? Let us know, so we can tell the village.

Email editor@hurstlife.co.uk before 18th December

Please help find isolated individuals

Hurst Afternoon Club are trying to contact isolated people living in the Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common area. If you think you can help, please contact Pam Mitchell on 01273 831705 or email pam.mitchell@plusmail.plus.com



For information on the Hurstpierpoint Churches Christmas services see their flyer or visit the link: <http://bit.ly/1Hea95c>

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