

# SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

What picture would you put on a jigsaw puzzle to best represent Sussex? Duke William of Normandy crunching up the beach at Pevensey in 1066? The Prince Regent frolicking in his extravagant Pavilion folly at Brighton? Perhaps the artistic shenanigans of the Bloomsbury Group at Charleston Farmhouse between the wars? Maybe the pagan pyromania that besets Lewes every Guy Fawkes Night? Or simply someone sat reading in a deckchair on the beach? The list could go on and on but whatever your personal image, east and west, the charms of Sussex are exceptional and numerous. It is a county with something for everyone.

From today, The Argus, in partnership with local publisher Snake River Press, will celebrate the unique character of Sussex every Saturday in our new Sussex Bookends feature. As Flora Poste, the unforgettable heroine of Stella Gibbon's *Cold Comfort Farm* once mused, Sussex, when all said and done, was not quite like other counties.

## Live & learn

We tend to think that parking meters are a bane of modern life. In fact licences to park are nothing new; they were with us long before the arrival of the motor car. Visitors to Eastbourne can still see a number of Victorian licences, look out for small-initialed iron plates set into old walls at eye level. The initials specify the vehicle they licence, such as:

**BCS** . . . . . Bath chair stand  
**GCS** . . . . . Goat chaise stand  
**HCS** . Hackney carriage stand  
**LPS** . . . Luggage porter stand  
**MCS** . Motor charabanc stand  
**SDS** . . . Saddled donkey stand  
**SPS** . . . . Saddled pony stand

We would love to hear from readers of similar interesting, quirky or strange facts relating to the county. Email us at: [editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk](mailto:editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk)

## Out & About in Sussex

Hands up all those people who have lived in Brighton for years yet never been inside St Bartholomew Church? Situated in Ann Street, only ten minutes walk from Brighton Station, it is one of the city's great architectural glories. Designed by Edmund Scott (1828-95), St Bartholomew is celebrated as one of the most important late-Victorian

churches in the country. Local legend tells that it was built to the proportions of Noah's Ark. Although this has no factual basis it does give some idea of the sheer biblical scale of this soaring masterpiece and makes St Bartholomew well worth a visit.

For more ecclesiastical excursions see *20 Sussex Churches* by Simon Watney.

## Sussex Miscellany

**1 What is the common name for the plant known as Golden Cup in Sussex dialect?**

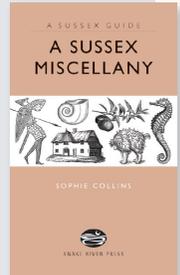
**2 Where is the mouth of the River Adur?**

**3 How many bonfire societies does Lewes boast?**

**4 Which Sussex Vineyard is near to Petworth?**

**5 Which is bigger, East or West Sussex?**

Email your answers, along with your name and address, to: [editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk](mailto:editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk). The sender of the first set of correct answers received wins a copy of *A Sussex Miscellany* by Sophie Collins, worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted on our website ([www.snakeriverpress.co.uk](http://www.snakeriverpress.co.uk)) next Saturday.



## Sussex Celebrity

### RUDYARD KIPLING

1865-1936



Along with Hilaire Belloc and Virginia Woolf, Kipling is one of the writers most readily associated with Sussex. Born in Bombay, he was sent to school in England then lived in India and America. He was already an internationally celebrated writer when he and his wife Carrie settled in Sussex, first at The Elms in Rottingdean then later up country at Bateman's, Burwash. He is best remembered for *The Jungle Book*, *Kim* and the ever-popular *Just So Stories* although *Puck of Pook's Hill* and *Rewards and Fairies* are more readily associated with his adoptive county. Sadly his family life was marred by tragedy, first the death of his young daughter Josephine in 1899 then the loss of his son John, reported missing on the first day of action at the Battle of Loos in 1915. Bateman's and its wonderful garden is now in the safe hands of the National Trust and makes a wonderful day out.

Read more about Kipling in *Inspiring Sussex Gardeners* by Lorraine Harrison and *Sussex Writers & Artists* by Edward Lucie-Smith, both published by Snake River Press.

## Lost words

“What would a conversation overheard in a Sussex street have sounded like a hundred years ago? Could you decipher the county's dialect or would it all sound like gobbledygook? Each week we will feature a good old Sussex word.

### Word of the Week

**Bozzler:** A parish constable; a sheriff's officer.

**Example:** *We're in right trouble now. Eer comes the Bozzler and we're on the Fresh.*

Do you know what Fresh means in this context? Email: [editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk](mailto:editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk). The correct answer will be posted on our website at: [www.snakeriverpress.co.uk](http://www.snakeriverpress.co.uk) next Saturday.

## Nesting at Nymans

Now is a good time to remind all caring offspring that next Sunday is Mother's Day. As everyone knows the most treasured presents are those that are handmade with love and a caringly crafted bird box makes an unusual present that will give pleasure all year long. At Nymans, Handcross, near Haywards Heath, this weekend the National Trust's

woods team will be hosting a family workshop entitled *Spring Bird Box Making*. All bird boxes made will be taken home and advice given as to the best places to position them in the garden. The workshops are on 14th and 15th March from 11am-12.30pm, and cost £10 plus admission charge (telephone 01444 405250 for details).