

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

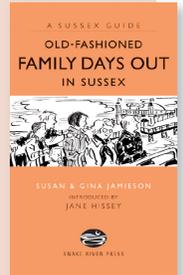
The new Towner Gallery in Eastbourne is now open and well worth a visit. The building, designed by Rick Mather Associates, is in stark contrast to the gallery's former home in Old Town. Situated in the Devonshire Park district, the building is constructed of glass, concrete and black zinc-clad panels. The internal spaces are light, airy and provide flexible display areas. The Cafe Bar opens onto a stylish terrace with views across tennis courts and roof tops to the South Downs beyond. The building has been shortlisted for a prestigious Conde Nast Traveller Innovation and Design Award.

To celebrate the relocation of the gallery an exhibition called The People's Choice is running until August 16. The exhibits are all from the Towner's permanent collection and were chosen by public vote. The exhibition contains some real gems, including works by William Nicholson, Cedric Morris, Harold Mockford and Elizabeth Blackadder. Call 01323 434660 or visit www.townereastbourne.org.uk for more details.

Great days out quiz

- 1 Which much married king built Camber Castle?
- 2 The Belle Tout lighthouse is near to which famous Sussex beauty spot?
- 3 Edward Booth's museum in Hove is devoted to which species of animal?
- 4 What were the tall, narrow wooden buildings on Hastings beach used for?
- 5 Which Sussex resort has its own electric railway that runs next to the beach?

Email your answers, along with your name and address to: editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk. The sender of the first set of correct answers received wins a copy of Old-Fashioned Family Days Out by Susan and Gina Jamieson worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Live & learn

This spring the fields near Pyecombe have once again rung with the bleatings and cries of newly-born lambs.

The shepherd's crooks forged at Pyecombe were famous for their quality; they had a large curve at the top of the iron, and a long angled tongue finished in a circle in the metal. The curve (the 'barrel') was to fit round the leg of a sheep; the tongue (the 'guide') was used as a persuader. Traditionally the crook refers only to the iron top part of the shepherd's staff.

Pyecombe's village sign features a Pyecombe crook, and a crook is used as a finial on the local church gate.

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

Sussex Celebrity

Sir William Nicholson 1872-1949



If you are not familiar with the work of William Nicholson do seek it out (he is represented in the Towner's permanent collection). His jewel-like paintings have a quality of stillness that is rivalled only by masters such as Chardin and Vermeer.

Nicholson's connection with Sussex began in 1909 when he purchased a holiday home in the village of Rottingdean. The surrounding South Downs became a source of inspiration

and he produced many fine paintings of the area. Following the sad death of his wife in the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918, Nicholson remarried and moved to Wiltshire.

His son Ben became an even more celebrated artist. Of his father's still-lives and landscapes he wrote that they 'were in my opinion universal, and it is this universality which endures and it is this which makes him a finer painter than any other British painter of his generation, except perhaps Sickert.'

To find out more about William Nicholson read *Sussex Writers & Artists* by Edward Lucie-Smith.

Lost words

“ In Sussex medicine is generally spoken of as *physical medicine*, but it is carefully distinguished from doctor's stuff, by which a tonic is meant. The uses of charms, especially in cases of argue [fever] or wounds, is still prevalent in the country; and the following charm is not unfrequently used for the cure of a burn. It must be repeated three times,

'Two angels from the North,
One brought fire,
one brought frost:
Out fire, in frost,
In the name of the Father,
Son, and the Holy Ghost.'

Taken from *A Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect* by the Reverend W.D. Parish, published by Snake River Press, introduced by Lynne Truss.

Out & About in Sussex

Today and tomorrow West Dean Gardens near Chichester is hosting its annual Wholly Herbs Show. Specialist stallholders will be selling a large range of plants, plus products and gifts derived from herbs. There will also be herb growing and cookery demonstrations.

Steve Taylor from The Medicine Garden will be on

hand to offer sound advice. He is part of the Kew Gardens Ethnomedica project which aims to collect and record old folk remedies that are now in danger of being lost to posterity. So if you have any natural cures past down through your family, go along and share them with him.

The event is open 10.30-5 each day, call 01243 811301.

Summer soups

One of the great things about growing herbs is that you can get a worthwhile and usable crop even if you don't have a garden. Many culinary herbs like basil, parsley and thyme, grow quite happily on a sunny windowsill. If you have a small terrace then big pots can be filled with larger aromatic herbs such as fennel, lavender and rosemary.

During the warmer months people often forget about the joys of summer soups but many delicious light and tasty soups can be enjoyed at this time of year. Herbs make great soups and parsley is one of my favourites. French tarragon is also scrumptious, while no self-respecting chilled gazpacho can be served without lashings of basil!