

# SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

The picturesque village of Steyning continues to host its annual Festival until June 7. There will be two performances on June 6 of Gert and Daisy and the Irish Affair by Suzi Hopkins. It sounds great fun and is described in the programme thus, 'Charles Stuart Parnell and Katharine 'Kitty' O'Shea were married at Steyning Registry Office on June 25th 1891, ending Parnell's glittering career as "the uncrowned King of Ireland". Their tragic love story will be recreated by Gert and Daisy, Steyning's own music hall double act, who will lead the audience around the highways and homes of the town, filling the streets with songs, laughter, and bad moustaches!'

If something choral is a little more up your street then at 7.30pm on the same day the Chanctonbury Chorus will be performing Haydn's Missa in Tempore Belli at St Andrew's Church.

For details of all festival events call 01903 812062 or visit [www.steyningfestival.co.uk](http://www.steyningfestival.co.uk)

## Sussex: much to enjoy

Snake River Press began to publish books celebrating the art, culture, personalities and landscape of Sussex in 2007. At the time we had little doubt that we could fill very many volumes with the varied material the area yielded. Thankfully this has proved so!

One of the great pleasures of producing the series has been what we have learned about our adopted county from

our knowledgeable authors. All write with such enthusiasm and passion about their subjects that we never fail to be inspired anew by them.

One such is David Mortimer, author of *Sussex Wildlife*, an excerpt from which is reproduced below. It will, I'm sure, inspire many to visit Lullington Heath soon. Illustrated is local inhabitant, the female wasp spider.

## Out & About in Sussex

Argus readers are invited to meet three Snake River Press authors at the Steyning Festival and hear them discuss their books and interests.

Rob Yarham, who has written *Bird Watching in Sussex*, will share his passion for this most rewarding of pastimes and give tips on the best bird-watching sites in the county.

All those who want to get out and about along our lovely

Sussex coast this summer must come and meet David Arscott. His book, *A Tour Along the Sussex Coast*, is an entertaining guide that tells you all you need to know.

For the horticulturally minded Lorraine Harrison will be discussing the subjects of her *Inspiring Sussex Gardens* and *20 Sussex Gardens*.

Join them at Springwells Hotel, Steyning at 7.30pm on June 5, price £5.

## The Victorian Quiz

**1 Where is Brighton's 1851 Extra-Mural Cemetery?**

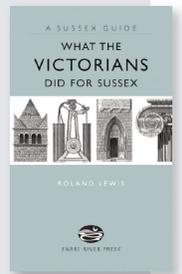
**2 What type of building does the Clayton Tunnel resemble?**

**3 Who was on the throne when the London to Brighton railway line was first opened?**

**4 Edmund Scott is the architect of which 'ark-like' Brighton church?**

**5 What did music-hall artist Vesta Tilley wear?**

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 *What the Victorians Did For Sussex* by Roland Lewis worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at [www.snakeriverpress.co.uk](http://www.snakeriverpress.co.uk) next Saturday.



## Lost words

“ Many Sussex surnames originally derived from old dialect words, here are just a few.

**Bentley:** 'bent', a tuft of grass, and 'ley', a pasture.

**Callow:** smooth.

**Huckwell:** 'huck', to knock, or to spread about.

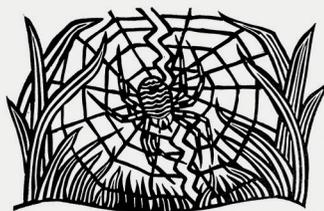
**Longhurst:** the long wood.

**Peck:** an agricultural implement.

Do you know any other interesting Sussex surnames? If so email them to [editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk](mailto:editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk). The most interesting ones will be posted at [www.snakeriverpress.co.uk](http://www.snakeriverpress.co.uk) next Saturday.

## LULLINGTON HEATH

You are not going to call this the experience of a lifetime. That would be too much. But as you stand on Fore Down, at the north-west corner of Lullington Heath, you will be hard pressed not to believe you are looking at a classical view of England, one that stays in the memory when you are stuck in a traffic



jam or in some corner of a foreign field. To the north, rounded plateaux shorten the view in the direction of the High Weald; and to the west the steep north face of Firl Beacon heralds the glorious sweep of the South Downs to the

western horizon. It is pointless to debate whether the views from the crown of Levin Down or the ridge of Bow Hill above Kingley Vale are finer. It is enough that you are here, privileged to enjoy such breath-taking beauty on (one hopes) a day of rolling white clouds high in a blue sky. Yet there is more, much more, to enjoy, for you are on a rare and treasured land - a National Nature Reserve that is the largest area of chalk heath in Britain.

## Live & learn

Shocking though it now seems, wife-selling was not infrequent in Sussex in the past. The village inn was often the scene of these auctions, and most are distinguished by a quantity of drink consumed. Some sad cases of which there is reliable evidence include:

Brighton, 1799, Mr Staines sold his wife to Mr Martin for 5s and eight pots of beer.

Yapton, 1898, at the Shoulder of Mutton and Cucumbers public house, Mr Marley sold his wife for 7s 6d and a quart of beer.

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)