

# SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

I'm sure many Argus readers have taken a pleasant stroll through Palmeira Square in Hove and admired the splendid Regency buildings but how many know that a conservatory once stood here? The brainchild behind this massive structure (22 metres high by 50 metres in diameter) was botanist Henry Phillips. He envisaged an anthaeum, or flower house, overflowing with tropical flowers, shrubs and trees, all intersected by charming gravel walks.

The structure was finally completed on August 28 1833 but within 24 hours it lay in a collapsed and mangled heap of iron girders and broken glass. Miraculously no one was harmed in the catastrophe. Despite the insistent claims of architect A.H. Wilds and his engineer, their plan for a central iron pillar was ignored (causing them to resign from the project) resulting in the disaster.

The awful mountain of debris remained as a depressing reminder of the incident until 1855 when it was finally cleared away to make way for the building of the square.

## Treat your Old Dad!

Tomorrow is Father's Day, celebrated in many countries. The aim of the day is to honour one's father. It complements Mothering Sunday which has its origins in a European Christian festival (it was on March 22 this year).

The first observance of Father's Day is believed to have been at an American church service in Fairmont, West Virginia on July 5 1909.

The celebration took much longer to gain wide acceptance than its maternal counterpart, indeed it was much mocked and satirised until the 1930s.

The Kent and East Sussex Railway is hosting a Father's Day special tomorrow that sounds fun. It includes a return journey, a Ploughman's Lunch or Cream Tea and a bottle of the beer 'Dad's Delight'. Call 01580 765155.

## Out & About in Sussex

West Dean Gardens, just north of Chichester, are holding their Garden Event this weekend. The gardens provide a lovely setting for over 60 exhibitors. Alongside the many stalls selling plants there will be numerous other garden-related items including sculpture and photography.

The Fox Hollow Animal Sanctuary will also be putting in an appearance at the event and selling plants to raise

funds for their excellent cause. Fox Hollow rescues unwanted pets from Sussex and further afield; some will be attending the show, including poultry, rabbits, waterfowl, miniature pigs, pygmy goats and ponies. To find out more information about their good work visit [www.foxhollowanimals.t83.net](http://www.foxhollowanimals.t83.net).

The event is open 10.30am - 5pm, adult admission £7.25, call 01243-811301 or visit [www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk).

## Sussex Places Quiz

**1 Which town literally explodes with parades and celebrations on November 5?**

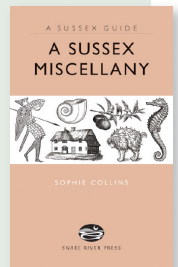
**2 Which novel features the fictional village of Howling?**

**3 Singleton is home to which museum?**

**4 Where is Nyetimber Vineyard?**

**5 Where is the source of the River Rother?**

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 at [www.snakeriverpress.co.uk](http://www.snakeriverpress.co.uk) next Saturday.



## Lost words

“Today we tend to think only of people as being 'good mannered' but in days gone by in Sussex a meadow abounding in sweet grasses was said to be good mannered. In his Dictionary of Sussex Dialect the Reverend W.D. Parish included the following phrase, doubtless overheard at some rustic idyll,

'You wunt have such a very out-de-way gurt swarth, but 'tis countable purty mannered stuff, I call it.'

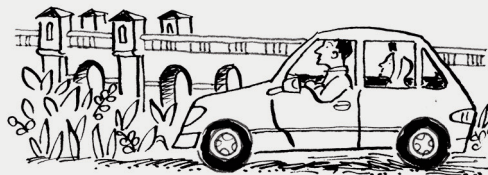
Do you know any other such quaint colloquialisms? If so email them to [editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk](mailto:editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk). The most interesting ones will be posted at [www.snakeriverpress.co.uk](http://www.snakeriverpress.co.uk) next Saturday.

## BALCOMBE VIADUCT

Want to avoid the over-priced commercialism of Father's Day? Then you could not do better than consult Susan and Gina Jamieson's Old-Fashioned Family Days Out in Sussex (published by Snake River Press, £8.99). An enjoyable trip would be a picnic at Balcombe Viaduct. Susan writes;

'The setting is so grand, and genuinely Victorian, that it could be the time to really pull out all the stops for a magnificent picnic. Queen Victoria was very fond of picnics, and to go on one must have been a welcome relief from all the formality and etiquette that governed many Victorian lives. To set out on such an outing would have been rather liberating.

It is interesting to note that men were required to do much of the work on a Victorian picnic, not just carrying and serving, but also they were expected to be delightful and entertaining! Apparently they were not even allowed to sit down until invited.'



## Live & learn

Sussex has a long history of odd and interesting customs and traditions, many revolving around the bucolic life of the shepherd. One such is Black Ram Night, an evening to mark the end of shearing. The captain of each shearing team shared out the wages, and everyone repaired to the nearest inn, where they ate and drank, making this toast:

*If I had store,  
By sheep and fold,  
I'd give you gold.  
But since I'm poor  
By crook and bell,  
I wish you well.*

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)