

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Walking is one of the most rewarding of pastimes, it is good for the mind, body and soul. Luckily Sussex has some of the loveliest walks across very varied terrain. However, not everyone likes to explore new territory without a guide or to walk alone. If that's true in your case I suggest you check out the Head for the Downs website (www.headforthedowns.wordpress.com or phone 01273 474761).

Head for the Downs, run by Russell Beck, organises guided walks which all start from Lewes and cater for various levels of fitness and adventure. On 5 July there is an Ouse Valley walk which offers the option of a 4- or 6-mile route with a return journey by train. For the truly fit, there is a 19-mile walk scheduled for 2 August. The itinerary for this is Lewes, Blackcap, Kingston Ridge, Firlie Beacon and Caburn.

If you prefer to walk alone then do consult 20 Sussex Walks by Pat Bowen for some inspiring routes.

Wildlife Quiz

1 Which West Sussex village is home to the Sussex Wildlife Trust?

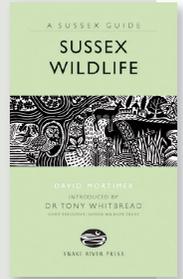
2 Is the lapwing a wader or a warbler?

3 Which venomous snake can be sighted at Chailey Common?

4 Which can be seen in Sussex, the Daffod Warbler or the Worthing Warbler?

5 Where is the only National Nature Reserve in West Sussex?

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 *Sussex Wildlife* by David Mortimer worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Live & learn

The tower is by far the most common form a folly takes. Here are 7 of the most interesting. Some are intact, others near ruins.

- Gibraltar Tower**, 1792 near Heathfield.
- Pitshill Tower**, Tilington, near Petworth.
- Racton Tower**, 1772, Uppark Estate, Aldsworth.
- Saxonbury Tower**, Eridge Estate, near Heathfield.
- Toat Monument**, 1827.
- Upperton Monument**, 1800, grounds of Petworth House, Petworth.
- Vandalian Tower**, 1774, Uppark, South Harting.

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 Dirk Bogarde 1921-1999



Sir Dirk Bogarde, born Derek van den Bogaerde in Hampstead of mixed Belgian and Scottish ancestry, is best remembered for his career as an actor. Starting out as a matinee idol in the 1950s when he made his name as the handsome young Simon Sparrow, hero of the 'Doctor' series, he went on to star in difficult, complex films by major directors, among them Joseph Losey's *The Servant* (1963) and Luchino Visconti's *The Damned* (1969) and *Death in Venice* (1971).

As a boy, Bogarde spent family holidays at Lullington, near Alfriston, in Sussex. The county figures in his first volume of memoirs, *A Postillion Struck by Lightning*, published in 1977, and also, more intensely in the novel-memoir *Great Meadow* (1992), which recalls his intense response to nature as an 11-year-old boy, and again, more obliquely in his final novel, *Closing Ranks* (1997). All are well worth reading.

From *Sussex Writers and Artists* by Edward Lucie-Smith.

Lost words

“ In Sussex Wildlife David Mortimer writes, 'The name Chailey comes from the Anglo-Saxon words for gorse (chag) and field (legh). The gorse, head high and more, remains in abundance - providing you can see it (in summer and autumn) for the equally towering bracken. When a rise in the land gives you a view across the common it is like looking out over a sea of green, broken by the occasional lone pine or a stunted oak struggling to achieve the majestic structure that its brothers, firmly rooted in wealden clay, regard as their birthright.'

If you know of any other descriptive or interesting derivations of Sussex place names do email them to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk

Out & About in Sussex

Guided walks undertaken with an expert can be educational as well as great fun and the National Trust run some excellent ones in the area. Between 11am and 12pm today they are leading an Ugly Bug Safari at Birling Gap.

If it is too late to catch this one (or it is fully booked) then why not join their Wildflower Walk at Crowlink starting at

2pm and ending at 3.30pm next Saturday? On 5 July there will be a Downland Safari at Blackcap, 10am-3pm, and a Coastline and Cuckmere evening walk, 6pm-8pm, on 25 July.

All the walks cost £2; phone 01323 871318 for more details. There really is no excuse not to get out and about this summer.

Small but beautiful

Many who read Dirk Bogarde's *A Postillion Struck by Lightning* are inspired to make a pilgrimage to the Church of the Good Shepherd at Lullington, which features in the book. The church is a real delight, at only 5 metres square it is tiny but beautifully formed, and seats only 14.

For those who wish to learn more about Bogarde, then

John Coldstream's weighty biographical tome is the best place to start. Coldstream (a Sussex resident) has also edited the actor's copious correspondence.

Ever, Dirk: *The Bogarde Letters* is now available in paperback and is a must for anyone interested in the film world of the second half of the twentieth century.