

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Like Shoreham (see 'Hollywood-by-Sea' below) Brighton has many links with the world of film and theatre and many actors have made the town their home. The most famous is Laurence Olivier who died on this day in 1989.

Born in 1907 in Dorking, Surrey, Olivier had a long and illustrious career playing a wide range of memorable roles on stage and screen. He also produced and directed many productions and was the first artistic director of the National Theatre. Among his best-loved films are Rebecca (1940), Henry V (1944), The Entertainer (1960), Marathon Man (1976) and The Boys From Brazil (1978).

Olivier lived at 4-5, Royal Crescent on Brighton seafront between 1969-79 where a plaque is now displayed. Knighted in 1947 he was the first actor to gain a peerage, becoming a life peer in 1970 and taking the title Baron Olivier of Brighton. He died at Steyning and is buried at Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey.

Spirit of Sussex

Those who are interested in celebrating Sussex Day (June 16) may wish to see the short film called Spirit of Sussex Day which can be viewed at www.westsussex.gov.uk.

This delightful film features a town crier announcing the Sussex Charter; has tuneful folk singers strolling on the downs singing songs of Sussex fishermen; incorporates the reminiscences of long-time

county residents who share their memories of old farming practices and vigorous games of stoolball; it proudly flies a flag bearing the insignia of West Sussex; then finally finishes with a rousing rendition of the county anthem Sussex by the Sea.

The western side of the county seems to be much more proactive in promoting this event. Come on East Sussex!

Out & About in Sussex

A new exhibition opens at Eastbourne's Towner Art Gallery today. In the Eyes of Others showcases the work of Sussex-born artist Jodie Carey and features three enormous (and heavy, each weighs over a tonne) chandeliers.

However, don't expect to see traditional Venetian glass hanging from the ceiling as each of Carey's works is constructed of 10,000 plaster casts of human bones! The

show runs until September 13, find more information at www.townereastbourne.org.uk or phone 01323 434660.

A new display of works from the Towner's extensive collection is also opening today. As well as paintings film, photography and sculpture will also be on show. All works have been acquired through the Contemporary Art Society Special Collection Scheme.

Musical Quiz

1 Which Sussex bandstand hosts a concert on Christmas morning?

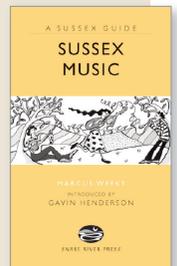
2 Where can Crawley's bandstand be found?

3 Which Brighton pier had its own orchestra in the 1920s?

4 Who's 'Experience' performed at Hastings Pier Ballroom?

5 Who wrote By the Sleepy Lagoon (theme tune to Desert Island Discs)?

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 Music by Marcus Weeks worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Lost words

“ Among the reminiscences featured in the Spirit of Sussex Day film are some old terms that used to be commonly heard in the county, including the following,

Milkmaids: Not the diary type but the flowers known as Lady's Smock.

Sussex Weed: The mighty oak tree.

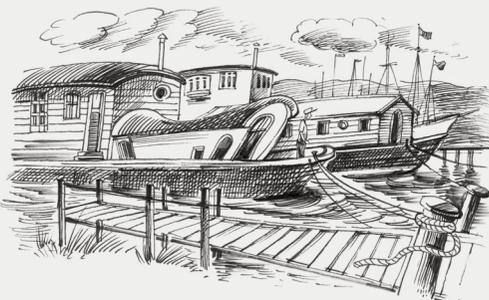
Loving Mud: Sticky Sussex clay.

Do you know other old terms? If so email them to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk. The most interesting ones will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.

HOLLYWOOD-BY-SEA

In An Eccentric Tour of Sussex, Peter Bridgewater writes about the less well-known but glamorous history of Shoreham-by-Sea, now better known for its eclectic houseboats.

'Brighton and Hove were both associated with early film and cinema and in 1913 The Sunny South Film Company was formed and started making films from Shoreham. The natural light in the area was considered exceptionally well suited for daylight productions and described by The Prospect Film Company in their prospectus as: "Undoubtedly the Los Angeles of English production, with a pure and clean light, probably unrivalled by any other place in England."



Live & learn

Here are a few more cinema-related facts that might interest readers.

The smashing Duke of York's Cinema at Preston Circus in Brighton is one of the earliest purpose-built cinemas that is still in operation. Its first screening was on September 22 1910 and its present programme of stimulating and often challenging films is to be applauded in these days of massive multi-screen complexes.

132, Kings Road, Brighton was home to the Pandora Gallery, where films were first shown to the public outside London on March 25 1896.

We would love to hear of other cinema-related stories, email editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk.