

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Out & About in Sussex

Of all the achievements of the Victorians, it's their engineering feats that have had the most impact on Sussex. After all, where would we be without our railways? Still an inaccessible and remote backwater perhaps. The London to Brighton line opened in 1841 and many of those early engineering

triumphs are still with us today. Particularly worth a visit is Clayton Tunnel, a turreted fanciful folly just north of Brighton at Clayton, while the soaring viaducts at Preston Road, Brighton and at Balcombe never fail to impress.

For more Victorian wonders see *What the Victorians did for Sussex* by Roland Lewis.

Sussex Miscellany

1. Which popular Brighton concert venue was once home to horses rather than harmonies?

2. What is the county's anthem called?

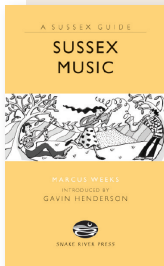
3. What is the surname of the folk singing dynasty that

hail from Rottingdean?

4. Which female soprano, famous for her rousing rendition of 'Land of Hope and Glory,' was born in Southwick?

5. From the world of pop, which famous son of Liverpool can sometimes be spotted on the quaint streets of Rye?

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 on our website (www.snakeriverpress.co.uk) next Saturday.



At last we are officially settled into the spring months of March, April and May. There are at least two schools of thought on when this most lovely of seasons officially begins. The astronomical definition states that spring begins at the Vernal Equinox, usually around 20th March (11.43 am precisely yesterday for those who missed it). However, meteorologists favour the 1st March and after such a severe winter I'm sure many of us were very eager to go with the weathermen!

To celebrate the arrival of the season of renewal, local publisher Snake River Press publishes two new volumes this month, both guaranteed to get you out and about all over Sussex in the coming months. *Old-Fashioned Family Days Out in Sussex* by Susan and Gina Jamieson will become your indispensable guide to all the free and imaginative fun there is to be had in the county, while *Bird Watching in Sussex* by Rob Yarham will have you reaching for the binoculars. Read more about Rob's book (and other bird-related news) in next Saturday's *Sussex Bookends*.

Looking Afresh

Continuing the theme of things to do for free there is still time to catch the wonderful *Paintings Unwrapped* exhibition at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, which runs until the 13th April, admission free. Sixty diverse paintings have been skilfully chosen from the collections of Brighton and Hove museums that, by clever juxtaposition,

stimulate the viewer to make new and interesting discoveries. Many of these works are rarely on view and represented are such wide-ranging artists as Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Fernand Leger, William Scott, Glyn Philpot and William Blake (who spent a short but largely unhappy time at Felpham in Sussex). Not to be missed.

Live & learn

Sussex is a county blessed with its fair share of seaside piers. Here is a list that illustrates their changing fortunes.

Bognor Regis, built 1863-65, original length not known and now derelict.

Brighton Pier, Brighton, built 1891-9, original length 533.3m, open to the public.

West Pier, Brighton, built 1863-6, original length 337.8m, collapsed.

Eastbourne, built 1866-70, original length 303m, open to the public.

Hastings, built 1869-72, original length 275m, closed.

Worthing, built 1861-2, original length 291m, open to the public.

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

Lost words

Looking to increase your vocabulary? Why not spice up your daily verbal interactions with a few choice provincialisms that were once commonly heard in Sussex.

Word of the Week

Coolthe: meaning coolness.

Example: 'I left the window open for coolthe.'

As you can see the current overuse of 'cool' is just so last century. Let's see if *Argus* readers can revive the nineteenth-century term for coolness and reclaim our dialect! Email your suggestions for innovative uses of coolthe to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk. The most interesting or amusing suggestions will be posted on our website next Saturday at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk

FUN FOR FREE

Mother-and-daughter team Susan and Gina Jamieson spent much of last summer scouring Sussex for fabulous family days out that only cost the price of getting there. Yes, it is still possible to have lots of fun for free and in a huge variety of ways. Let Brighton residents Susan and Gina be your guides to 20 very special family outings that cover coastlines, forests, countryside, grand houses and intriguing little museums and parks. Alongside the outings are ideas for special picnic recipes (Susan shares her family treats Aunty's Sand Cake and Crumbling Cliff Buns), games to play such as Beach Cricket, with its infinitely variable rules, instructions for making a kite and other props to construct at home before you set out, along with a host of songs to sing and poems to recite while in situ.

So as the weather warms up and the days get longer, make a pledge to discover and enjoy all that Sussex has to offer. *Old-Fashioned Family Days Out in Sussex* is available at all good bookshops or direct from Snake River Press for £8.99 (visit www.snakeriverpress.co.uk).

