

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Out & About in Sussex

Mid summer is the very best time to visit many English gardens and Pashley Manor Garden, Ticehurst, is one of the best in Sussex.

From mid-July to mid-August the gardens and woodlands at Pashley are filled with the intoxicating scent of hundreds of flowering lilies. Well over 40 varieties have

been planted. This is also the time to see the restored kitchen garden at its most plentiful and visitors have the opportunity to sample much of the produce grown there in the cafe.

Admission is £7.50, for more information phone 01580 200888 or visit www.pashleymanorgardens.com

Along with garden visiting, July and August is also the traditional time to head for the beach. Sussex is especially rich in beach life, having a southerly coastline 76 miles long. Let David Arscott be your entertaining and informative guide in his book *A Tour Along the Sussex Coast* (read his thoughts on Littlehampton below).

If you want miles of wonderful sand head for Camber in the east or West Wittering in the west. For sedate strolling along the prom, then Worthing or Eastbourne are hard to beat. Pagham Harbour is a haven for waterfowl watchers, while the stretch from Beachy Head to Seaford affords the energetic walker spectacular, vertiginous views.

David is nothing if not comprehensive on his coast-long tour. In his discription of Brighton ('London-by-the-Sea') he covers the geology of the chalk cliffs to the east; discusses the inappropriateness of siting a supermarket and cinema on the marina; celebrates the architects responsible for the fine Georgian squares and enjoys some kiss-me-quick fun on the pier.

Beach Quiz

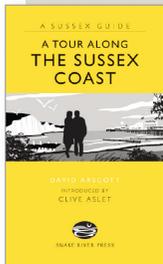
1 Is the Manhood Peninsula in the east or the west of the county?

2 From which beach might one be able to view a Frank Gehry masterpiece in future years?

3 Who designed the 'Daddy Longlegs' shoreline railway?

4 Where can the remains of a tide mill still be seen?

5 Which beachside town is the unlikely setting for the Modernist landmark designed by Serge Chermayeff?



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 *A Tour Along the Sussex Coast* by David Arscott worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.

Bognor's Mermaid

In *Sussex Women*, Ann Kramer tells the story of the woman who became known as 'Bognor's Mermaid.' Mary Wheatland (1835-1924) saved at least 30 souls from drowning in the flourishing resort of Bognor. 'Not all would-be bathers were good swimmers, which is where Mary's skills came in; she was an excellent and powerful

swimmer, she learnt to dive from the pier and often spent an hour or so swimming for her own amusement, despite being encumbered by the heavy costumes of the period. She became notorious for her habit of diving underwater and standing on her head, waving her legs in the air, something she continued until the ripe old age of 71.'

Live & learn

Sussex is particularly rich in fossils, but for centuries the local people who came across them, lying among rock falls on the shore, or under the blades of their ploughs, did not know how to identify them, believing them to be giant's bones, or dragon's teeth (which, of course, in a sense they were).

Fittingly, it was a Sussex man, the doctor and naturalist Gideon Mantell (1790-1852), who was one of the first to attempt to categorise his findings into a specific sort of animal.

When huge teeth and bone fossils were found at Cuckfield in the early 1820s, he noticed that they resembled those of the iguana, but were around 20 times the size. From this came the name *iguanodon*, used ever since.

Lost words

As you might expect of a county with so much water, the Reverend W.D. Parish found many local terms in use for sea-related items. Here are just a few featured in *A Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect*, originally published in 1875 and now available from Snake River Press.

Beach: Shingle brought from the sea-coast is always called beach, as opposed to the inland gravel.

Gull: To sweep away by force of running water; a breach made by a torrent.

Salts: Marshes near the sea, overflowed by the tides.

Siever: All the fish caught at one tide.

LOVELY LITTLEHAMPTON

Into the unpretentious holidayscape of Littlehampton has been planted a striking elongated, low-level building which has had the architects drooling. The East Beach Cafe (designer Thomas Heatherwick) is made of bronze-washed patinated steel, its land-facing side a series of armadillo-like plates, its seaward front almost uninterrupted glass. One critic suggested that by inspiration alone it might galvanise 'narcoleptic' Littlehampton, although it's perhaps a bit much to expect so much of one small building on such a lengthy promenade.

This is just one of the many fascinating accounts of the county's shoreline to be found in David Arscott's *A Tour Along the Sussex Coast*, illustrated by Ivan Hissey.

