

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

East Wittering is the only Thankful Village in the whole of Sussex. Few families, let alone villages, were fortunate enough not to lose one of their own during the fighting of the First World War. The ubiquitous war memorial is testament to that. Those villages who gratefully welcomed the safe return of all their war heroes became known as Thankful Villages.

A plaque celebrates this blessing in St Anne's Church, East Wittering, it reads '1914-1918 No lives were lost from this parish. All returned safely. Laus Deo.' Unfortunately this was not the case in the Second World War as four servicemen were lost in action.

Neighbouring Kent has one Thankful Village, Knowlton. This is despite the fact that Knowlton was winner of the 1915 competition to find the 'Bravest Village,' as it was the place from which the highest proportion of men volunteered to serve in the armed forces prior to February 1915. Although almost 400 men joined up, all returned home safely, something to be thankful for indeed.

Lammas Festival Fun

This weekend the Lammas Festival is being held at Eastbourne. Lammas is a harvest festival and the term derives from 'loaf mass,' literally suggesting the Earth's bountiful plenty. Traditionally it was held at the cutting of the first corn.

Lammas equates with Lughnasadh, one of the Pagan Festivals adopted by the early Catholic church, latterly

re-appropriated by the modern Pagan movement. The first Eastbourne Lammas Festival, held in 2001, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the repeal of the witchcraft act.

A fun-filled weekend of traditional music, dance and carnival parades is promised. All funds raised go to the RNLI. For more information call 01323 737809 or visit www.lammasfest.org.

Out & About in Sussex

Several art exhibitions in and around Brighton are well worth a visit this summer. Drawn from Ditchling, Portraits from a Sussex Village, runs until December 13 at Ditchling Museum and celebrates inhabitants of the village and those who have painted or drawn them (call 01273 844744 or visit www.ditchling-museum.com for more details).

By contrast The American

Scene: Prints from Hopper to Pollock can be seen at Brighton Art Gallery until August 31. This has been much applauded. Richard Dorment in the Daily Telegraph wrote, 'I can't praise the exhibition highly enough ... A rich, endlessly entertaining show. It's actually twice as good as I've said, so do go.' For full details call 03000 290900 or visit www.brighton-hove.gov.org

Gardeners' Quiz

1 Which Sussex gardener wrote *The Wild Garden*?

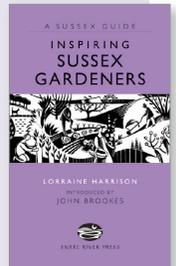
2 What is the name of John Brookes' garden?

3 Which Arts and Crafts architect laid out the gardens at Great Dixter?

4 Who designed the modernist garden at Bentley Wood?

5 The parkland at Petworth was designed by which famous designer?

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 *Inspiring Sussex Gardeners* by Lorraine Harrison worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Lost words

“ I hope few readers have been stung by a grumpy wasp this summer. Here are some waspish words from *A Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect*.

Waps: A wasp. (Pronounced Wops.)

Waps-hyme: A wasp's nest.

Wapsey: Spiteful; waspish. 'These bees of yours are terr'ble wapsey.'

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

CULTURED DITCHLING

Ditchling's heritage is recorded in Ditchling Museum, a relatively new establishment founded in 1985 by the Bourne sisters, Hilary and Joanna, in an old Victorian schoolhouse behind St Margaret's Church. Hilary Bourne's woven hangings and altar curtains hang in the church. The museum has an unusually rich collection that reflects Ditchling's rural, agricultural past as well as its important connection with the Arts and Crafts commune, the Guild of St Joseph and St Dominic, and Eric Gill and his circle.

Find out more about this most artistic of villages in *An Eccentric Tour of Sussex* by Peter Bridgewater, illustrated by Curtis Tappenden.



Live & learn

On August 4 1976 women played cricket at Lords, which reminds us just how hard fought for and long awaited have so many feminist victories been!

Sussex, along with neighbouring Kent, is credited as being the cradle of English cricket. As far back as June 17 1836 the Sussex Cricket Fund was set up in Brighton to support county matches.

Three years later it was formalised into the Sussex County Cricket Club, the first in England. Its inaugural game was played against the Marylebone Cricket Club in June 1839.

Do any readers know who won that match? If so, please email us at: editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk