

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Airbourne, Eastbourne's international airshow, opened on Thursday and runs until Sunday evening. It's described as the 'world's biggest seafront airshow,' and the undoubted stars of the event are the Red Arrows, or to give them their official title, the Royal Airforce Aerobatic Team. The Arrows have been astounding audiences with their daring displays since 1964 and will be thrilling the crowds on each day of the show.

However, not all displays happen up in the clouds and there is lots going on all along the town's lovely seafront. What small (or large) boy can resist inspecting the replica aircraft at close quarters, sitting in a cockpit or asking pilots and crew members what it's really like up there in the sky? The arena is also open daily from 10am-6pm and hosts an array of demonstrations and entertainments, from dog displays to an RAF band.

For full details of the programme call 0871 6630031 or visit www.eastbourneairshow.co.uk

Poetry Quiz

1 Which Sussex poet wrote Hills and Sea, 1906?

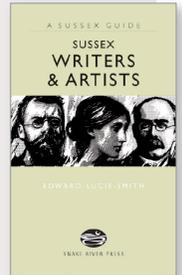
2 William Blake lived in which Sussex village?

3 For a short time Ditchling was home to the author of In Parenthesis, what is his name?

4 Who wrote the poem If?

5 Where was Percy Bysshe Shelley born?

Email your answers, along with your name and address to: editorial@snakeiverpress.co.uk. The sender of the first set of correct answers received wins a copy of *Sussex Writers & Artists* by Edward Lucie-Smith worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Live & learn

With its precipitous cliffs, the Sussex coastline is not the safest walking county for over-excited dogs. The Sussex record for a fall by a living dog is held by Henry, a retriever, who fell over 140ft from the cliffs near Beachy Head, landed in the sea, and swam to safety with a few bruises and a broken leg.

Henry isn't the furthest faller in England, though. That record is held by a terrier in Dorset who fell over 300ft and survived to tell the tale with just a few bruises and a cut lip.

To learn more fascinating facts culled from the county's history and culture read *A Sussex Miscellany* by Sophie Collins, from which this cheering canine tale is taken. Available from Snake River Press priced £8.99.

Sussex Celebrity

W.B. Yeats
1865-1939



Two crucial episodes in Yeats's life are linked with Sussex. In the winters of 1913 to 1916, he spent time in Stone Cottage, in Ashdown Forest, with the American poet Ezra Pound. The two had a profound effect on each other's work. Although Pound was ostensibly Yeats's employee, and worked as his secretary, it was in reality a conversation between equals.

Although successfully married to Georgie Hyde-Lees, after his long, frustrating courtship of the beautiful Maud Gonne, Yeats had several mistresses in his later years. In the last months of his life he paid a visit to one of them, Edith Shackleton Heald, at Chantry House in Steyning, which now carries a plaque commemorating his association with the place. Here he made the preliminary prose draft of his final play, *The Death of Cuchulain*, which is also his farewell to life.

From *Sussex Writers and Artists* by Edward Lucie-Smith, published by Snake River Press, illustrated by Ivan Hissey.

Lost words

“ The Reverend W.D. Parish lists three meanings for the word quick, apart from 'to hurry'.

Quick: Pregnant. 'Faith, unless you play the honest Trojan, the poor wench is cast away; she's quick.' (Shakespeare, *Love's Labour Lost*, Act V. sc.2)

Quick: Alive. 'I thought that the sheep was dead when I first saw it, but I found it was quick still.'

Quick: An expression applied to the sands when they are insecure from not being sufficiently firm and dry. 'You should not ride on the sands so soon after the tide has turned, for they are sure to be quick and shifting.'

Out & About in Sussex

Rudyard Kipling has featured many times in past Sussex Bookends pages as he was such an influential figure in the county. His former home Bateman's, at Burwash, is owned by the National Trust and can be visited until November 1 this year.

This beautiful 17th-century sandstone house is surrounded by a stunning garden and

makes for a very enjoyable day out. If you venture there today or tomorrow you can attend a talk called Kipling's Knick Knacks, held at 12pm and 2.30pm in the house. Learn all about the specialist care and techniques the curators employ to look after the precious collection in the great man's study. Call 01435 882302 for full details.

Lest we forget

On the night of July 3 1941 a Wellington Bomber from 142 Squadron crash landed in the heathy slopes of Ashdown Forest, just missing the village of Nutley. All six aircrew were killed.

A few years after the tragedy, the co-pilot's mother came to live in Nutley. It was she, along with the other mothers of the men who died,

who decided to create a permanent memorial to their sons. At first just a simple wooden cross was erected on the exact spot where the plane came down. In 1954 this was replaced with a white stone cross, later a sheltering wall, a plaque and trees were added. It is now a place of pilgrimage and reflection, nestled in the forest.