

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Sussex is rich in Roman connections. An informative and highly enjoyable day out can be had over at Fishbourne Roman Palace, west of Chichester. The archaeological remains of the north wing of this 1st-century Roman Palace were only unearthed in 1961. The fantastic Roman mosaic floors are the largest collection in Britain.

Also in the west of the county is Bignor Roman Villa. Dating from the 3rd century and discovered in 1811 (when a local farmer struck the summer dining room fountain with his plough!) Bignor presents a unique insight into what life in a Roman home and on a Roman farm would have been like. Imagine the luxury of a heated hypocaust floor which the Roman occupiers enjoyed, compared with the primitive conditions of their Sussex neighbours.

For full visitor details for Bignor phone 01798 869259 or visit www.bignorromanvilla.co.uk and for Fishbourne phone 01243 785859 or visit www.sussexpast.co.uk/fishbourne.

A cut above the rest

Designer and printmaker Hugh Ribbans will again be exhibiting at the annual Wadhurst Art Exhibition from 4-13 September. Hugh has illustrated the Snake River Press title *Sussex Wildlife* and here he describes the process of producing the black and white linocut prints, one of which is shown below in the Burton Pond article.

"Linocutting requires the

retaining of areas of solid black in the print to add richness and a simplification of textures into pattern as dictated by the shape of the cutting tools. I had to concoct a range of graphic cutting pattern styles to describe the various creatures in the book, particularly for the bittern's feathers, while the Lullington spider's web is purely linear."

Out & About in Sussex

The modernist masterpiece the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea stages an innovative and stimulating programme of exhibitions and events throughout the year. If you are ever wondering where to go for a trip out then their website is always worth checking to see what's on (www.dlwp.com).

At dusk on Monday the exterior sea-facing wall of the Pavilion will become a giant

cinema screen when the film *Big Wednesday* is shown. Directed by John Milius, this 1978 American surfing movie follows the lives of three young friends during the period 1962-68. It charts their experiences from boyhood innocence to the horrors of the Vietnam War.

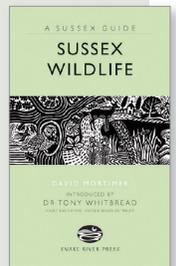
The wholly appropriate setting of the seafront should add an extra dimension to the surfing scenes.

History Quiz

- 1 Where in Sussex can a fully recreated Roman garden be found?
- 2 Which was the first ever building acquired by the National Trust?
3. Who built Brighton Pavilion?

- 4 The fossil hunter Gideon Mantell lived in which Sussex town?
- 5 When was East Sussex officially separated from West Sussex?

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 Wildlife* by David Mortimer worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Lost words

Continuing the flowery theme here are some old Sussex names for plants and flowers.

Shoes and Stockings: A wild flower of the cypripedium genus (Holloway) called in East Sussex 'pattens and clogs,' or 'butter and eggs.'

Apple-Pie: Hairy willow herb.

Lion's Mouth: Ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*).

If you know of other old Sussex plant names that were commonly in use do email them to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk. The most interesting ones will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.

BURTON POND

At Burton Pond, near Petworth, the soft mounds of sphagnum moss and the thick mounds of tussock sedge, with hemlock dropwort, yellow loosestrife and cranberry growing between them, are all to be found in abundance. But the jewels in the crown, as it were, are two delicate beauties - marsh cinquefoil, with its groups of five leaves and its five-pointed crimson flower; and the pretty little bog bean, whose pink-flecked buds open in late May to reveal brilliant white, six-pointed flowers, each petal covered with fluffy white hairs.

So writes David Mortimer in *Sussex Wildlife*, illustrated by Hugh Ribbans. Read it in full to discover more enchanting wildlife places to visit in the county (available from Snake River Press price £8.99).



Live & learn

We have a county anthem, 'Sussex by the Sea', but do you know that Sussex has a county flower? It is the round-headed rampion (*Phyteuma orbiculare*), known as the Pride of Sussex. It's an attractive but unkempt-looking plant with pretty, shaggy blue flowers. It grows to about 1ft 6ins (45cm) tall, with oval leaves and long, thready stems.

Once common across the south of England, it is increasingly rare, though fortunately still often found in the county it represents.

Can you suggest a more fitting flower to represent the county, or perhaps a particular food, drink or animal that says 'Sussex' to you? We would love to hear from readers. Email your suggestions to: editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk