

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

A Sussex Miscellany, written by Sophie Collins, is a veritable treasure trove of eclectic information about all aspects of the county. It is essential bedtime reading for all keen pub quiz competitors, and indeed for those who set the questions. Here are just a few interesting tidbits taken from the book about the various inns and hostelrys scattered across Sussex.

'The Hole in the Wall in Brighton lays claim to being England's smallest pub; 'smallest in the south' is the rather vague title claimed by The Blue Anchor at Barcombe. Neither holds the record in any official source - but they are certainly very snug sites for a drink. Sussex is probably on safer ground claiming at least some of the oldest inns in the country: the Mermaid at Rye dates from 1420, and the Swan Inn at Fittleworth has records stretching back to 1383, but the Star Inn at Alfriston pips them both with proven thirteenth-century origins.'

Live & learn

A Chichester lobster,
a Selsey cockle,
An Arundel mullet,
a Pulborough eel,
An Amberley trout,
a Rye herring,
And a Bourne wheatear,
are the best of their kind.

This is a traditional rhyme lauding some of the finest ingredients to be found in the county. All are still available to enjoy, except the wheatear which was a sparrow-sized bird. What would you include in a rhyme about your favourite Sussex foods?

We would love to hear from readers about the best foods that can be found in the county today. Do email us your culinary treats at: editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk

Sussex Celebrity Vesta Tilley 1864-1952



Vesta Tilley was a celebrated male impersonator and one of the most successful music-hall artists: during the 1890s she was the highest-earning woman in Britain. She brilliantly combined a clear, crystal voice with male outfits to produce a unique act that was very popular, particularly among women, who greatly enjoyed her mocking approach to the vagaries of male behaviour. Her life touched Brighton on many occasions:

she frequently graced the boards at the Brighton Hippodrome, honeymooned in the town and in 1947, when she was 83, bought a holiday flat in Hove.

When World War I began, Vesta Tilley and her husband, Walter de Frece, threw their efforts into performing for the troops and recruiting men for war. Dressed as a British 'Tommy', she performed patriotic numbers, including 'Your King and Country Want You', better known as 'We don't want to lose you but we think that you ought to go'.

Read more in *Sussex Women* by Ann Kramer.

Miscellany Quiz

1 Which royal used to imbibe at The King's Arms in George Street, Brighton?

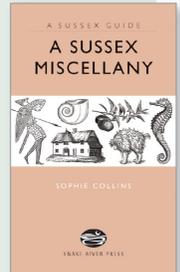
2 Which Rye inn has a famous ghost?

3 Which town is home to Harvey's Brewery?

4 The Guinea Pig Club was named after the Guinea Pig public house, where was it?

5 What health drink did people used to flock to Brighton for?

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 Sussex Miscellany* by Sophie Collins worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Lost words

“ Recently I have discovered that the names of at least two US states have their origins in Sussex.

The state of Pennsylvania was named after Quaker William Penn who was granted a large slice of land by Charles II in 1681. Penn had lived at Warminghurst for many years.

Son of Sussex Sir Thomas West (Lord De La Warr) was Governor of the English colony at Jamestown, Virginia in 1610 and the river and state of Delaware were named in his honour.

Do you know of place names with Sussex origins? If so email them to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk. The most interesting ones will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.

Out & About in Sussex

Sadly the days are beginning to shorten as autumn quickly approaches, so it seems more imperative than ever that we should all get outdoors as much as possible and enjoy the tail end of summer.

Two perfect events to entice one into the countryside are taking place over the coming days. This evening, just as the light begins to fade, you can

join the National Trust for A Bat Walk around Swan Barn Farm at 7pm. For full details call 01243 814554.

Tomorrow a guided walk of the Seven Sisters will be conducted by the trust between 11am and 2.30 pm, cost £2 (call 01323 871318). Whatever the time of year a walk along these stunning cliffs never disappoints.

Max Miller

The music hall and film comedian Max Miller (1895-1963) has no less than three blue plaques bearing his name attached to Sussex properties, each commemorating the places he lived.

In Brighton there is 25, Burlington Street and also 160, Marine Parade, along with Ashcroft, at Kingston Lane in Shoreham. The latter was

unveiled by fellow comedian Ken Dodd while Michael Aspel and Rodd Hudd did the honours at Marine Parade.

New Road Brighton also has a statue of Miller by Peter Webster. Its inscription describes Miller as "The pure gold of music hall", although most people remember him as the "Cheeky Chappie" of the music hall.