

Out & About in Sussex

With the onset of the apple festival season you know that autumn has truly arrived. This weekend the Apple Affair takes place in the lovely West Dean Gardens near Chichester.

Over 150 different varieties of apples will be on show and there's something for everyone amid the array of displays, tastings and apple bobbing.

This year marks the 200th birthday of the much-loved Bramley Apple, so I expect they'll be a few tasty apple pies on sale!

The fair is open 10.30am - 5pm, admission for adults is £7.50 and £3.25 for children, family tickets are also available. Phone **01243 818210** or visit www.westdean.org.uk

Church Quiz

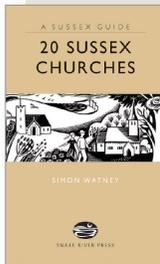
1 Which Brighton church is sometimes said to be based on the proportions of the ark?

2 Charles Barry designed which church in Brighton?

3 In the centre of which Sussex town is St Mary de Haura?

4 Only one of the two county towns of Sussex has a cathedral. Is it Lewes or Chichester?

5 Which church is decorated by members of the Bloomsbury group?



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 20 Sussex Churches by Simon Watney worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.

In 2000 The Campaign for Drawing was launched by the Guild of St George. The guild is a small charity which was originally founded by the influential nineteenth-century thinker and critic John Ruskin. Ruskin believed that drawing is the key to knowledge and understanding and 2000 was his centenary year. As their website states, 'Drawing is a valuable life skill; it helps us think, invent and communicate - regardless of age or ability.'

The campaign holds a nationwide celebration of the art of putting pen to paper each October called The Big Draw. This year over 1000 events are scheduled. The aim is to encourage everyone to look, draw and experiment in a wide range of innovative and exciting ways.

To read about the work of The Big Draw and find out about events happening throughout this month visit www.thebigdraw.org.uk. You can participate in one of their events at the West Dean Apple Festival today and tomorrow (for details see Out & About in Sussex). The Little Big Draw, for 2-5 year olds, will take place at Brighton Museum on 6th, 15th and 20th.

Comets and curry

Fancy doing something completely different on October 7? Then why not go to the Comets and Curry evening at the Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux.

This annual event marks the time when the Earth passes through the dust trail of comet Ericke. After enjoying a curry and a glass of wine you

can try and spot a shooting star. If inclement weather inhibits star gazing then a comprehensive tour of the telescope will be given.

The evening costs £22.20 and takes place between 7-11pm. Booking is essential on **01323 832731**. For more details of this and other things happening at the observatory see www.the-observatory.org

Live & learn

It is hardly surprising that the Royal Pavilion at Brighton has attracted its fair share of detractors as well as admirers over the years. After all it is an extraordinary sight. The nineteenth-century bookseller, pamphleteer and writer William Hone wrote the following verse expressing his view. If only architectural critics were as eloquent today!

The queerest of all the queer sights I've set eyes on
Is, the whatd'ye-call-'t thing,
here, THE FOLLY at Brighton
The outside - huge teapots, all
drill'd round with holes,
Relieved by extinguishers,
sticking on poles:
The inside - all tea-things, and
dragons, and bells,

The show rooms - all show,
the sleeping rooms - cells ...

Lost words

“ In his A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect the Reverend W.D. Parish lists three meanings for the word 'holt'.

Holt: A small plantation of trees.

Holt: To hold.
'Tis just like a lawyer, if once
it takes a holt 'an ye, ye doant
very easy get free agin.'

Holt: (Corruption of 'halt').
A call always used to stop a
person.

Do you know of other old
interesting Sussex terms
with multiple meanings?
If so email them to
editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk
Answers will be posted at
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ST NICHOLAS CHURCH



Much the most important thing at St Nicholas Brighton is the magnificent drum-shaped lead-lined stone font (c.1160), which is all that survives from the original church. Although the surfaces were partly re-cut in 1745, little lasting harm seems to have been done. The style has no close parallel in England, which has led some to suggest that it was carved in France and imported, although there are no exact French parallels either. It illustrates a sequence of scenes, rather like a scroll, including The Last Supper and the Baptism of Christ.

From 20 Sussex Churches by Simon Watney, illustrated by Sarah Young.