

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Out & About in Sussex

There is lots happening across the county this week to celebrate Hallowe'en. Deep in the depths of spooky Wilderness Wood, Hadlow Down, children can enjoy making a host of goodies from woodland materials they collect themselves at Hallowe'en Creations on October 29 (10.30am - noon, £5.75, booking advisable). The perfect autumnal

combination of a romp in the woods followed by creative activities. If this seems a little tame, how about their Ghost Stories and Ghoulish Games, between 5 - 7pm next Saturday? The fun includes a bonfire, sausages, apple bobbing and a Best-Dressed Ghoul competition. Cost £9.45 for children, £4.20 adults. Call **01825 830509** for full details.

Dialect Quiz

1 Is 'plaw' a mythological big cat or a small wood?

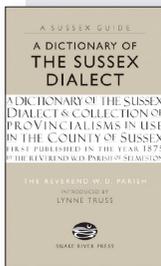
2 If a tree is called 'callow' is it bare of leaves or full of fruit?

3 What is a 'reek'?

4 If you're called 'gimsy' are you smartly dressed or shabby?

5 Does 'I'm quotted!' mean 'I'm famished' or 'I'm full'?

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 Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect by the Reverend W.D. Parish worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



These breezy autumn days are perfect for bracing walks and Sussex-dwellers are spoiled for choice with so much lovely countryside and shoreline. This weekend why not take a trip over to Highdown Hill, to the north of Worthing, for an invigorating romp with spectacular views?

High on the hill is the tomb of John Oliver, an eccentric 18th-century miller. He had the tomb (now under a tree and protected by railings) built in readiness about 25 years before he actually died in 1793. His coffin was on casters and he kept it under his bed for nightly vigils. He would also make daily visits to his future grave and meditate. John was buried upside down so that when the Day of Judgement comes and the world turns upside down, he will be the right way up.

Highdown Hill (a prehistoric fortified settlement, Saxon cemetery and even older than Cissbury Ring) is also known as the Midsummer Night Haunt of Morris Dancers - so beware the sound of jingling bells. However, you should be safe by day at this time of year!

Seasonal fun

All this week the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum is hosting seasonal half-term activities daily from 11am - 3pm. Why not make a mini-scarecrow or carve a pumpkin in time for Hallowe'en? For full details call **01242 811363** or visit www.wealddown.co.uk.

Beautiful Michelham Priory dates back to 1229 and is

surrounded by the longest water-filled moat in England. It has lovely gardens and a working watermill. Visitors next Saturday are invited to join in some Hallowe'en Fun, including watching Punch and Judy, listening to a minstrel storyteller and doing a bit of ghoulish face painting. Call **01323 844224** for more information.

Live & learn

Something that has shaped the history of Sussex and many of her great estates is the unusual inheritance practice known as Borough English. Technically known as ultimogeniture, this means that the youngest surviving son of a family inherits its estate - the opposite of the far more common state of primogeniture (whereby the eldest son inherits).

This has been a marked custom from medieval times. It is not unique to Sussex (parts of Middlesex, Suffolk and Surrey also use it), but it is unusual in Britain overall.

This is just one of the fascinating facts to be discovered in A Sussex Miscellany by Sophie Collins, an indispensable bible for all hardened pub quizzers!

Lost words

“ An idle flick through the pages of A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect by the Reverend W.D. Parish never fails to yield an etymological gem.

For instance the great man tells us that 'Poach' refers to treading the ground into holes, as cattle do in winter. It derives from the French 'pocher', to thrust or poke.

'The word poacher evidently has the same derivation; the sportsman regards his game his own, but the poacher intrudes, or pokes into the property of another.

People frequently talk of poached eggs, as if they had been stolen, instead of delicately cooked (as they ought to be) in potches or bags of wire or muslin.'

HORSHAM MUSEUM



Horsham Museum offers a rewarding outing for grandparents and older friends to accompany children on, as there is so much that would remind them of their own childhood and precipitate discussions between the generations. The museum is very atmospheric, the displays leading one to another in a series of recreated shops, workshops and cabinets. There is a chemist's shop with mysterious potions and powders, a blacksmith's, an equestrian shop, a wheelwright's workshop and a gruesome display of prison artefacts. Look into a prison cell at a poor soul languishing on his bed. Gasp at the horrifying neck chains and leg irons, huge keys and a vast lock. You can press a switch to 'look at the face of a killer, through the sky hole in the door'. We didn't dare!

Discover lots more fun things to do in Old-Fashioned Family Days Out by Susan and Gina Jamieson, published by Snake River Press, £8.99.