

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

The tens of thousands of screeching and diving starlings that perform in the skies over the silhouette of Brighton's West Pier at sundown are a tremendous sight indeed. Their roost is at its height in cold mid-winter. English Nature want the birds to be considered in any future development plans for the site.

Starling numbers countrywide have fallen by two thirds since the 1970s. Changes in farming practices, loss of habitat and climate change are all thought to have contributed to their decline. Long-time residents of the town will well remember the sight, sound and, let's face it, smell of the late autumn roost in Grand Parade and the Steine many years ago. After the tragic loss of so many trees in the Great Storm of 1987, the birds decamped to the iron skeleton of the old pier.

Read more about the starlings on the Regency Square Area Society's website at www.regencybrighton.com.

Carry on watching

As autumn turns into winter what better way to spend these dark cosy evenings by the fire than watching old movies? It is surprising to discover just how many films have featured or been filmed in or around the Brighton area.

How many can you name? Obviously there is Brighton Rock (that's easy!) but what about Jigsaw, Genevieve, Quadrophenia, Mona Lisa,

The Fruit Machine, Carry On At Your Convenience (not, perhaps, a highlight), London To Brighton.

This brief list is far from exhaustive, more just a taster and 'name that film' would make a good party game, or certainly a fun round in a pub quiz. For real Brighton film fans, the excellent website terramedia.co.uk/brighton is well worth a visit.

Out & About in Sussex

Over the coming days there are lots of fascinating events taking place at Rudyard Kipling's former home, Bateman's, near Burwash.

On Monday between 10am - 1pm the conservation team will be hosting a special Putting the House to Bed event.

Visitors get a tour of the house, a chance to handle the collection and some behind-the-scenes insights into what is

involved in closing the house for the winter period.

A new series of lecture lunches opens with The Edwardians: A Golden Age on November 6. Others include The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes and Father of the Brontës.

These events begin at 10.30am, include a lecture followed by lunch and cost £20. Call **01435 882302** for more information and to book.

Film Quiz

1 Which was the first purpose-built cinema in Brighton?

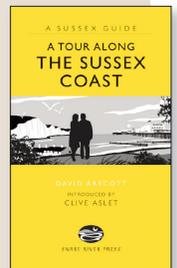
2 Where was the Sunny South Film Company based?

3 Who played the lead in the 1962 film Jigsaw?

4 Which pier featured in Oh! What a Lovely War?

5 When was Quadrophenia made?

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 Tour Along the Sussex Coast by David Arscott worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Lost words

“ In his A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect the Reverend W. D. Parish tells us that the old term 'hob-up' means 'to bring up anything by hand' and gives the following rather alarming example.

'A parishioner of mine once came to complain to me that her husband had threatened to ill-use her on account of two little pigs which she was hobbing-up; but as I found that his objection rested on the fact that she was hobbing-up the pigs so carefully that she insisted on taking them to bed with her, I declined to interfere.'

We'd love to hear about your old Sussex words, phrases and stories, send them to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk

CHICHESTER



The Romans founded Chichester immediately after their invasion of AD 43. It began as a humble garrison from which troops under the future emperor Vespasian could launch their attack on hostile tribes to the west, but it soon became the central market town for a productive corn-growing region, with villas great and small scattered about the landscape. Wherever you dig around the centre of our West Sussex county town you're likely to uncover Roman remains - there's a section of mosaic on view below the cathedral floor.

The typographer and sculptor Eric Gill, who described it as 'the human city, the city of God', particularly admired its layout: 'the plan is clear and clean and rational - a thing of beauty having unity, proportion and clarity.'

Read more about Chichester in David Arscott's A Tour Along the Sussex Coast, published by Snake River Press, £8.99.

Live & learn

As November 5 approaches the residents of the East Sussex county town of Lewes are battenning down their hatches in preparation for the annual madness that passes for bonfire night in these parts.

There are seven highly competitive and territorial bonfire societies who organise the Lewes event: Lewes Borough, Cliffe, Commercial Square, Nevill Juvenile, Southover, South Street and Waterloo. You can't join these clubs, you have to be invited and vetted. Each society has bonfire 'boys and girls' who organise fundraising and recruitment throughout the year. On the night itself, each group holds its own brilliant torch-lit parade and tries to out-do the others with their fancy dress parades and firework displays.