

# SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

I am indebted to Ian Steedman for the following fascinating piece of Brighton history. Ian writes, 'The 1000-yard-long Hartington Tunnel was part of what must have been a very expensive rail building project. It passes under the playground of Elm Grove School, Arnold Street, and Queens Park Road and shortly after comes out at the old Kemp Town goods yard. The Germans apparently aimed a bomb at the entrance under Elm Grove School and I believe it only damaged the playground. My late mother attended this school and told me about this attack, the pilot machine-gunned the children and a neighbour pulled her into his doorway. This was in Arnold Street.

As a boy, I can remember hearing the trains passing very slowly under my gran's house, (it was still operating for freight traffic only at this time) I could hear very clearly the coupling of the trains rattling and they seemed to take an age passing under her house. I believe the tunnel has been filled in.'

## Live & learn

Ever since the credit crunch hit the headlines, newspapers and magazines have been full of recipes promoting wholesome, cheap fare. This, of course, is nothing new and Sussex has a long culinary tradition of economical meals. Here are just a few;

**Block Ornaments:** Cheap offcuts of every kind of meat, bought by the handful or bag from the butcher, and scattered lightly across the ubiquitous suet crust to make a 'meat' pudding.

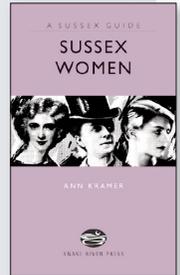
**Ten-To-One Pie:** Potato and meat pie (ten potatoes to each piece of meat).

**Swimmers:** plain suet pudding cut in slices and sweetened with jam or treacle.

## Women Quiz

1. Which female Surrealist photographer lived in Sussex?
2. What was Dot Levitt famous for?
3. Who wrote the 1916 novel *Sussex Gorse*?
4. Was Barbara Bodichon a famous feminist or musician?
5. Who was Vanessa Bell's sister?

Email your answers, along with your name and address to: [editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk](mailto:editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk). The sender of the first set of correct answers received wins a copy of *Sussex Women* by Ann Kramer worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at [www.snakeriverpress.co.uk](http://www.snakeriverpress.co.uk) next Saturday.



## Sussex Celebrity

### Marianne North 1830-90



Marianne North was the daughter of Frederick North, a magistrate and MP for Hastings. The family lived in Hastings Lodge, a large and imposing establishment and where Marianne spent 40 years of her life.

From an early age Marianne showed a great talent for botanical painting. She regularly frequented Kew Gardens to draw and paint rare specimens. In 1871, following the death of her parents, she

left Hastings and travelled to the United States, then to the Caribbean and Brazil, where, sitting in a hut in the jungle, she painted plants and flowers. She made a second solo journey to California, Borneo, Java and Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and in 1878-9 spent 15 months touring India. Wherever she went Marianne captured in oils the exotic plants and flowers native to the region she visited. Today her wonderful paintings can be seen at the Marianne North Gallery at Kew Gardens.

Read about more wonderful Sussex Women in Ann Kramer's book, or enter our quiz to win a copy.

## Lost words

How many meanings do you know for the seemingly simple word 'sew'? Well, in his Dictionary of Sussex Dialect the Reverend W.D. Parish lists no less than three definitions and none of them is the one that you probably have in mind! Here they are;

**Sew:** To drain land.

**Sew:** An underground drain.

**Sew:** A cow is said to be gone to sew when her milk is dried off.

If you know of other old Sussex words or expressions with multiple meanings we would love hear from you. Do email them to [editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk](mailto:editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk)

## Out & About in Sussex

The writer Louis de Bernières is probably most well known for his best-selling 1994 novel *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*. However, his talents are not restricted just to the written word as he plays the flute, clarinet, guitar and, of course, the mandolin. Next Saturday de Bernières will be making a special appearance at St Mary's House, Bramber.

He will join the Antonius Players for an evening of poetry and music. The event starts at 7.30 pm and booking is strongly recommended. Call **01903 816205** or visit [www.stmarysbramber.co.uk](http://www.stmarysbramber.co.uk) cost £25. This autumn also sees the publication of de Bernières' latest work entitled *Notwithstanding: English Village Stories*.

## St Mary's, Bramber

If you are unable to make the performance by the Antonius Players at Bramber on the 14th do make a mental note to visit between April and September next year. St Mary's is a fifteenth-century timber-framed house which makes an interesting destination for an afternoon outing.

Sixteenth-century panelling, oak, box and walnut burr

marquetry and gilded wall-leather are just some of the sumptuous embellishments on view. Its cellars are said to have inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle when writing *The Musgrave Ritual*.

Looking forward, on December 12 you can see special screenings of archive film clips called *St Mary's on Film and Television*.