

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Out & About in Sussex

Fancy doing something really different this Christmas? While many Sussex residents have visited Brighton's Royal Pavilion and gazed in wonder and awe at the splendid, if somewhat over the top, decoration, how many can say they've dined there in true Regency style?

Now is your chance as on Friday December 11 the

Pavilion is hosting a special seasonal Christmas Banquet. Along with a fabulous feast, guests will enjoy a guided tour of the building and be treated to entertainments performed by historical costumed characters.

Why not spoil yourself and celebrate Christmas in style this year? Call **01273 290800** to find out more or reserve a table, cost is £85 per person.

Eccentric Quiz

1 When was Peacehaven begun, 1814 or 1914?

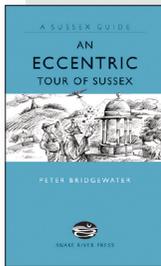
2 Where will you find the grave of The Black Princess?

3 What are Cocking's balls made of?

4 Was John Fuller thought 'mad or 'bad'?

5 Which sedate Sussex town has been home to Scientologists, Mormons, and Led Zeppelin?

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 An Eccentric Tour of Sussex by Peter Bridgewater worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



We are frequently urged to buy local food and drink and support small producers. This is no hardship for Sussex folk as the county is particularly rich in small independent breweries which produce a dazzling array of beers. As well as tasting jolly good, these ales boast a collection of names that are sometimes descriptive (Mike's Mild), sometimes obscure (Ashes to Ashes) and often amusing (Brighton Rocks).

I particularly like the local historical allusion in Adur Brewery's beer called St Cuthman's Red Wheelbarrow (Steyning's saint who used that mode of transport to push his mother about). A good old pun has been employed by Horsham's W.J. King & Co in naming their Hopping Mad. Hepworth's Light Boat Ale is sold in support of the National Life Boat Charity, so you can drink and feel good about it. Slightly sinister sounding are Cereal Thriller and Rector's Revenge, while I might need a drink before I plucked up the courage to ask for a pint of Rector's Light Relief or Hard Red Balls at the bar!

Meet Santa

Judging by his diary Father Christmas is certainly going to be busy dashing all over the county over the coming weeks.

As well as today and tomorrow, he will be at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton on December 12, 13, 20, 22 and 23 from 10.30am-4.30pm. Several of his little helpers will be conducting 'Fairytale Tours of the Palace' specially

aimed at children. A tale unfolds throughout the tour.

Just after he's finished there on the 12 December he heads, post haste, for his grotto over at Bodiam Castle. Between 5-7pm the illuminated castle will ring to sound of carol singers, and seasonal refreshments will be on offer. Call **01580-830196** for more details or to book, cost £6.

Live & learn

The Meridian Monument is not Peacehaven's only claim to fame. Less well known is Heathy Brow which is the oldest (now listed) building in Peacehaven and was a shepherd's cot or shelter. Once a common sight on the Sussex Downs it now forms part of a private house in Stanley Road. The hut existed long before this stretch of coast became the dream resort of Charles Neville, the town's maverick creator.

Neville also developed Saltdean along the coast towards Brighton. It has an iconic 1930s Lido which was undoubtedly influenced by Mendelsohn's De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill. It remains a public swimming pool and is a classic example of lido architecture. A brilliant venue on a sunny day!

Lost words

Here's another gem of Sussex dialect from A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect by the Reverend W.D. Parish.

Middling: This word has many different meanings which are expressed by the tone of voice in which it is said.

It may mean very much, as, "He lashed out middlin', I can tell ye!"

Or it may mean tolerably well, as, "I doant know but what she made out purty middlin'."

Or it may mean very bad, as, "How did the wedding go off?' 'Middling, thank you, sir.'

'What, only middling! wasn't it all right?' 'Why, no sir, not quite, for you see the parson he entirely forgot all about it, and he'd gone away, so we was forced to wait in church two hours.'"

MERIDIAN MONUMENT



The Meridian Monument is an imposing white decorative obelisk, about 3.5 metres high, its pinnacle crowned with a globe. It celebrates Peacehaven's unique position on the zero-degree longitude meridian line. This imaginary and invisible navigational line circles the globe running from the North Pole to the South, slicing through the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, then southwards via Lewes and Peacehaven, before disappearing out to sea on its journey around the planet. It is from this line that all distance is measured and from which the world sets its clocks. Braced against a bitter sea wind, it is heart-warming, if not a little surreal, to read a weather-worn plaque giving precise distances from Peacehaven to faraway and romantic destinations. From An Eccentric Tour of Sussex by Peter Bridgewater.