

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

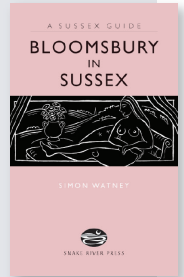
This week saw the reopening of one of the area's best-loved and most visited cultural shrines, Charleston Farmhouse. The former home of Bloomsbury artists Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant is a visual delight quite unlike any other.

Informative tour guides take visitors on a journey through the idiosyncratically decorated interiors of the house, while telling the interesting, and often complex, story of its erstwhile inhabitants' lives, creative output and entangled love affairs. The garden is one of the loveliest and most individual in the county, the shop stocks a unique range of Charleston-inspired objets d'art, clothes and books, the gallery holds exhibitions throughout the season and the café serves unbeatable cake! Telephone 01323 811626, or visit www.charleston.org.uk for more details.

The Bloomsbury Quiz

- 1 What is the name of the Sussex home of Leonard and Virginia Woolf owned by the National Trust?
- 2 Where is the village church containing murals painted by Vanessa and Quentin Bell and Duncan Grant?
- 3 Which novel by Virginia Woolf forms part of the plot of the 2002 film *The Hours* starring Nicole Kidman?
- 4 Name the frequent visitor to Charleston Farmhouse who wrote the ground-breaking biography *Eminent Victorians*?
- 5 A famous economist who has been much in the news lately was a neighbour of Vanessa Bell. What is his name?

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



Live & learn

The Sussex Downs are currently alive with the amusing antics of leaping lambs but just imagine the difficulties if you were a shepherd and had to count them into or out of a pasture! Various systems for counting sheep have evolved in different regions of the country. The rhyme below is associated with Sussex shepherds and the counting was usually done in pairs (so for instance 'den' would be 20 sheep).

One-erum one
 Two-erum two
 Cock-erum. three
 Shu-erum four
 Sith-erum five
 Sath-erum six
 Wineberry. seven
 Wagtail. eight
 Tarry diddle nine
 Den ten

Sussex Celebrity

VANESSA BELL 1879-1961



Vanessa Stephen and her sister Virginia (later Woolf) hosted intellectual 'at homes' for their brothers' Cambridge friends at their home in Gordon Square, in the Bloomsbury district of London, thus forming the basis of what we think of today as the 'Bloomsbury Group.'

Vanessa married Clive Bell and had two sons, but the lasting love of her life was artist Duncan Grant (1885-1978). During World War I Grant set up home at Charleston Farmhouse, near Fittlehampton, with Vanessa and her boys. Writer David Garnett, Grant's lover, completed the ménage. In 1918 Vanessa gave birth to Grant's daughter, Angelica. Vanessa studied painting at the Royal Academy Schools and at the Slade in London. Alongside her paintings she designed fabrics, decorated ceramics and illustrated her sister's books. But perhaps her most lasting legacy is Charleston itself, with its decorated walls, furniture, ceramics and its artist's garden.

Read more about Vanessa Bell in *Sussex Writers & Artists* by Edward Lucie-Smith, *Sussex Women* by Ann Kramer and *Inspiring Sussex Gardeners* by Lorraine Harrison.

Lost words

“Sussex is a beautiful county, especially its shoreline, but sometimes words can fail even the most poetical of us when trying to describe it. Here's one that you might find useful when next strolling along the prom and wanting to impress your companion.

Word of the Week

Popple: To bubble, when the waves rise and fall with a quick and sudden motion this is a poppling sea.

Do you know any other picturesque old Sussex words for natural phenomena? If so email them to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk. The most interesting ones will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.

Out & About in Sussex

Sussex boasts one of the loveliest Arts and Crafts houses in the country, Standen near East Grinstead. Designed by Philip Webb (1831-1915) the interior is resplendent with wallpapers, fabrics, furniture, metalwork and paintings by some of the great artists and designers of the period, including William Morris, William de Morgan,

George Jack and W.A.S. Benson. The twelve-acre garden affords wonderful views of the High Weald and Weir Wood Reservoir. Until 26th April there is also an exhibition entitled *In Focus: Victorian and Edwardian Houses Through the Lens of Country Life*. For more details visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01342 323029.

Eats, Shoots & Thieves

I'm sure many Argus readers are fans of the popular Radio 4 series *Inspector Steine*, written by long-time Brighton resident Lynne Truss. The series, set in 1950s Brighton, follows the comic exploits of the chief inspector and features such wonderfully named hoods as Kemp Town Charlie and Fiveways George. More of the inspector's

investigations will be coming to the airways this summer but if you can't wait that long the first two series, *Inspector Steine* and *The Casebook of Inspector Steine*, are available as BBC audio books.

Lynne also wrote the introduction to *A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect* by Reverend WD Parish, from which our Word of the Week is selected.