

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Recently I quoted a verse from Rudyard Kipling's 1900 poem *Sussex* and asked if any readers agreed with his sentiments. It seems many feel as the poet did, that we Sussex dwellers are exceptionally lucky to live here.

Ian Steedman of Worthing wrote the following, 'I agree with the things Rudyard Kipling said of Sussex, he reached into the soul of Sussex with his writings. Great Britain is still, by far, the finest country in the world, and so much of our country's success must be credited to our traditional counties, for, no matter how large or small they are in both area and population, within each one we would find a nation within a nation, so great is the people's pride in their counties. We here in Sussex are no exception to this.'

Sussex is such an artistically vibrant county that I am sure many writers, artists and musicians are still celebrating its charms. Do email your current favourites to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk.

Stocking fillers

If you are still looking for interesting ideas for Christmas presents why not give all your gifts a local theme this year? I've just discovered that such a thing exists as Brighton Monopoly!

The game plays just like the traditional version but the board is full of local locations of note rather than London ones. For example the Royal Pavilion replaces Mayfair and

the Old Kent Road becomes the West Pier.

Another nice idea is a Graham Greene Brighton Rock mug. Alternatively Snake River Press has a suitable title for just about everyone you know. Why not make a start on your gift list now? Answer the questions below and you may win a copy of *Sussex Music* in today's quiz, the perfect present for any music fan.

Out & About in Sussex

Best known for his iconic large-scale sculptures, Henry Moore (1898-1986) also produced many designs for textiles and fabrics. Dating from just after the Second World War, many of these are now on show at Pallant House Gallery, Chichester.

Alongside his commercially manufactured designs are some of the actual curtains and bedspreads that adorned Moore's home Hoglands at

Perry Green, Herts. The show continues until February 21 next year.

Also on show in the galleries are some fine etchings and wood engravings by Eric Gill (1882-1940). These stunning works reveal some of the tension between the artist's religious beliefs and his sexuality.

For more details of both exhibitions call **01243-774557** or visit www.pallant.org.uk.

Music Quiz

1 Which Sussex seaside town did Alma Cogan come from?

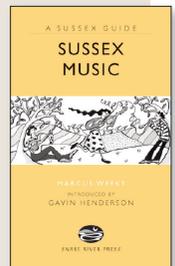
2 Which composer lived at Brinkwells, Fittleworth?

3 Did Vaughan Williams go to school in Rottingdean, Rye or Rotherfield?

4 Which Sussex singer wrote A Song for Every Season?

5 Was Bruce Welch of The Shadows born in Brighton or Bognor?

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 *Sussex Music* by Marcus Weeks worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Lost words

“ Here's three more terms from A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect by the Reverend W. D. Parish. Do see if you find them useful in conversation this week!

Mort: A great many.
"Yes, I've got a mort of children, but there's not one that's bringing in anything!"

Mortacious: Mortal; very.
"My old sow's mortacious bad, surely!"

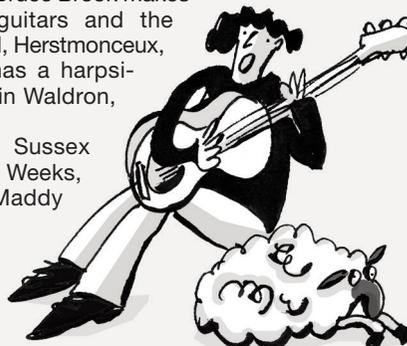
Mortal: A term of reproach.
"What a young mortal that is; he's always at something!"

Send your old Sussex words and phrases to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk

Musical Talents

Off stage a whole army of talented craftsmen and technicians makes its contribution to musical life in Sussex. As well as the many repairers, restorers and tuners maintaining local performers' instruments, there are very skilled makers who supply instruments well beyond the confines of the county. Violin makers include Restalls in Midhurst, Peter Voigt (a family firm that has been in Lindfield since the 17th century), and Godfrey Sheppard, who specialises in double basses. For many years bowmaker Brian Tunnicliffe operated from his home in Sedlescombe; Bruce Brook makes lutes, baroque guitars and the like in Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux, and John Paul has a harpsichord workshop in Waldron, Heathfield.

Read more in *Sussex Music* by Marcus Weeks, illustrated by Maddy McClellan.



Live & learn

Annually, on St James' Day, July 25, a fair is held in the tiny hamlet of Ebernoe, 8 kilometres north of Petworth. A ram is roasted and a cricket match played between Ebernoe and a rival village. The ram's symbolic horns are then presented to whichever batsman knocks up the most runs (a weird ancient tradition connected with scoring, seduction and dressing up). For the more spiritually minded, Ebernoe Fair day is also when gardeners are reminded to do a different type of seed sowing and get their spring cabbages in.

Read more of our county's eccentricities in *An Eccentric Tour of Sussex* by Peter Bridgewater.