

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Now is the time to shake off the excesses of the festive season, turn off the television, don some warm clothes and get out walking! The perfect companion to take along is Pat Bowen, in the shape of her great book *20 Sussex Walks* (Snake River Press, £8.99). Graded from 'easy,' through to 'medium' and 'challenging,' she presents a varied collection of walks spread out across the county. Whether the country, seashore or riverbank is your favourite, you'll find the perfect walk here.

Alongside impeccable directions, clear maps and notes on public transport, you can delight in Pat's engaging stories. Read about legends of saints and smugglers, shepherds, fishermen and ghosts, all connected to particular places in Sussex. She writes, 'These legends not only draw people to such places but also inspire the telling of new tales based on personal experiences of being there, fed by imaginations alive and stimulated by walking across the land.'

Live & learn

All the wonderful words and phrases featured each week in Lost Words are taken from *A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect* by the Reverend W.D. Parish.

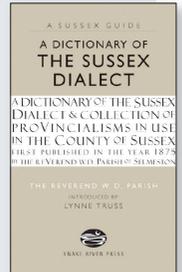
William Douglas Parish was an accomplished educator and archaeologist. He chaired the Sussex Archaeological Society and edited the huge tome, *Sussex Doomsday*. At the age of 33 he became the vicar of the village of Selmeaton. Doubtless his parishioners were a rich source of dialect material.

The original dictionary was published in 1875 but, judging by correspondence to these pages, it is of as much interest to Sussex fans today as in the 19th century. The Snake River Press edition has the added bonus of an informative and amusing introduction by Brighton resident Lynne Truss.

Dialect Quiz

- 1 What is a shaw?
- 2 Is a hogget a young sheep or a young pig?
- 3 Is fat-hen another name for the plant goosefoot or corn flower?
- 4 If a house is 'agin to the church' is it near to it or far away?
- 5 What is a twitten?

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 Dictionary of Sussex Dialect* by Reverend W.D. Parish worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Sussex Celebrity

Lydia Lopokova 1892-1981



Few more exotic women can have graced Sussex than Lydia Lopokova, ballet dancer and wife of John Maynard Keynes. She was born in St Petersburg, Russia, the daughter of a stage-struck usher at the Imperial Aleksandrinsky Theatre and his wife. All their children were destined for a life in the ballet.

Lydia attended the Imperial Ballet School in 1909. She went on to become the principal ballerina of Serge Diaghilev's prestigious new Ballet Russes. After tours of America and Europe (and a brief marriage) she married the somewhat unlikely figure of John Maynard Keynes, the economist and associate of the Bloomsbury Group.

The Keyneses settled at Tilton House, just up the lane from the Bloomsbury country seat Charleston Farmhouse, near Firlie. Notwithstanding Keynes's earlier homosexual relationship with artist neighbour Duncan Grant, he and Lydia were a devoted couple. She virtually gave up her career when he became ill in 1937 and helped him till his death in 1946.

Lost words

“ In his ever enlightening *A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect* the Reverend W.D. Parish tells us that the word 'start' means an excitement or a fuss. He goes on to cite the following example:

'There's been a pretty start up at the forge this morning! Fighting and all manner.'

When a Sussex man is at a loss for words to describe events or ideas of a somewhat discreditable nature, he gets out of the difficulty by using the phrase 'all manner!' If he wishes to describe great profusion and plenty, he says 'there was everything of something and something of everything, as the saying is;' but where he gets the saying from I have no idea.

Out & About in Sussex

The wonderful Land Girls exhibition continues at Brighton Museum until 14 March. Apart from the fascinating social history, it is worth a visit just to see the paintings of Evelyn Dunbar (1906-60).

Dunbar was commissioned by the War Artists' Advisory Committee to produce paintings of women's work in

wartime during World War II. Many were painted in Sussex and Kent, including Potato Sorting, Berwick.

Perhaps the most impressive is the large canvas *A 1944 Pastoral: Land Girls Pruning* at East Malling, on loan from Manchester. Do take this rare opportunity to see these works while they are collected together for this show.

Tell a tale

If you enjoy the stories told by Pat Bowen in her walking book, then you may be interested in a series of courses to be held at Emerson College throughout 2010.

The college, at Forest Row, is a pioneering adult education centre. Founded in 1962 it is based on the doctrines of Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925). Steiner's commonsense

principles encourage a balanced nurturing of the spiritual and material world, emphasising personal responsibility and social awareness.

The School of Storytelling is offering an interesting range of full- and part-time courses covering various aspects of this fascinating craft. Call **01342 822238** for more details.