

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Here are two very diverse gallery-based events, one from each side of the county. Over in the east at Rye Art Gallery there is an intriguingly entitled lecture happening at 7.30pm this Tuesday February 2. Elizabeth 1st [sic] to the Sex Pistols - A Life in Conservation, is a masterclass by the conservator Corinne Farmer. She will discuss her varied career caring for a wide range of objects from both public and private collections. Call 01797 222433 or visit www.ryeartgallery.co.uk for more information.

For those in the west, Pallant House in Chichester has a wonderful exhibition that runs until May 23, so still plenty of time to schedule in a visit. The Search for the Real: The Figure from Sickert to Auerbach looks at the many different approaches to figurative art taken by a host of 20th-century artists, including Bomberg, Coldstream, Kitaj and Rego, among many others. More details at www.pallanthouse.org.uk or call 01797 222433.

Sing along!

January is the month when a great number of resolutions are made, all with the aim of self improvement. You may decide to learn a language, go to the gym, eat more healthily. Sadly few last beyond the middle of February!

Lots of research has been published highlighting the benefits of activities that are fun and enjoyable but also deliver great health and

wellbeing bonuses. And singing is just such an activity.

Tomorrow Brighton's Pavilion Theatre is staging an event that promises to lift your mood, increase your lung capacity and most of all make you smile. Sing-Along-a-Sandwich On-a Sunday is from 11am-4pm, costs £20 and is open to all who love singing. Call 01273 709709 and don't forget to bring a sandwich!

Out & About in Sussex

There are endless walks to take all over Sussex, even in the dark days of February. Just be sure to set off early to catch maximum daylight, dress in warm clothes (and boots!) and fill a flask with warming tea, coffee or better still, some home-made soup.

For those short of ideas of where to walk then Pat Bowen's 20 Sussex Walks will prove an invaluable and entertaining guide. Here are

just a few suggestions to get you inspired.

For a beautiful walk through downland and forest it is hard to beat the seven-mile hike around Lullington Heath. For river and coastal enthusiasts try the Lewes to Newhaven walk (nine miles). However, if you have been too long indoors and feel you need to start with something less ambitious then Roedean to Rottingdean is less than five miles long.

Dialect Quiz

1 Does a humble-cow have horns or not?

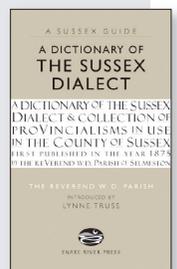
2 Are all the fish caught at one tide known as shooked or siever?

3 Is a greyhound sometimes called a long-dog or a fast-dog?

4 What bird will you find in a henrip?

5 What creature is caught in a clam?

Email your answers, along with your name and address to: editorial@snakeiverpress.co.uk. The sender of the first set of correct answers received wins a copy of A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect by the Reverend W. D. Parish worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeiverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Lost words

“ Here is another old county word that has more than one meaning, taken from A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect by the Reverend W. D. Parish.

Huss: To hiss; to buzz; said of insects.
'The old owl I fancy did huss and spet when I went to take the eggs! and just did scratch a gurt place in my harnd wud he's old to-a-nails, too.'

Huss: To caress.
The children play a game, which is accompanied by a song beginning,
'Hussing and bussing will not do,
But go to the gate, knock and ring,
Please, Mrs Brown, is Nellie within?'

HEAVEN'S ABOVE



It may sound somewhat unlikely but on the ceiling of The Church of English Martyrs, 37 Compton Avenue, Goring-by-Sea can be found a copy of Michaelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel, Rome. Our Sussex reproduction was completed in 1993 as an act of religious devotion carried out over almost six years by sign writer and graphic designer Gary Bevan.

Bevan has no formal training in painting and started his labour of love in 1987 after going on a parish pilgrimage to Rome to attend the beatification of 85 English martyrs.

Taken from An Eccentric Tour of Sussex by Peter Bridgewater, illustrated by Curtis Tappenden (Snake River Press £8.99).

Live & learn

Staying in the west of the county, just along the coast from Goring is Bognor Regis. Here, every summer, there is a world-class spectacle in silliness, the Bognor Birdman competition.

Aerodynamically-challenged lunatics from all over the world come to Bognor to out-glide each other in this human-powered flying event. Eccentric superhero contestants in an array of silly outfits launch themselves off the end of Bognor Pier and into the sea.

A prize of £25,000 is offered to anyone who can defy gravity the longest and fly past the magic 100-metre mark.

So in these days of cold and dark that's certainly one to look forward to and put in the diary for summer. I hear that splashdown is best!