

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Out & About in Sussex

Still looking for something different to do on Valentine's Day? A few tickets may still be available for My Funny Valentine, a dinner and comedy event at Bexhill-on-Sea's De La Warr Pavilion tomorrow night.

Patrick Monahan is billed as an 'Irish/Iranian/Geordie comedian', and promises

to deliver an unusual evening of romance and laughter. Whatever else, it will certainly be less predictable than roses and chocolates!

Hosted by Sion James and starring Vikki Stone, the fun starts at 7.30pm and the £35 ticket price includes a three-course dinner. For a night to remember call **01424 229111**.

Victorian Quiz

1 Where are the Fitzgerald Almshouses?

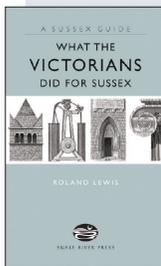
2 Where is Brighton's Victorian Extra-Mural Cemetery?

3 What is the name of the debonair former convalescent home on Brighton seafront?

4 Which Sussex town hall was designed by Henry Ward?

5 Which great Victorian architect designed St Mary Magdalene in West Lavington?

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 What The Victorians Did For Sussex by Roland Lewis worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



In the extract below, taken from his book What The Victorians Did For Sussex, Roland Lewis writes about some of the surviving almshouses that can still be found throughout the county. I often extol the virtues of all the lovely coast and countryside available to we lucky Sussex dwellers but our built environment equally takes some beating.

Roland's fascinating book opens our eyes not just to the grand and stately (such as St Saviour's, Eastbourne, the Town Hall, Brighton and the former Fitzroy Memorial Library, Lewes) but to many of the often overlooked gems that grace our streets.

Although doubtless few would welcome the opportunity to study the building at great length, Lewes Prison is a fine, if somewhat intimidating, example of Victorian public architecture. On Eastbourne's Seaside the 1863 Working Men's Hall is in the neo-Gothic style with 'a certain architectural quirkiness that adds a touch of cheer'. There is so much to see as we make our busy way around our towns and villages and this book is the perfect pocket-sized companion (Snake River Press £8.99)

A stitch in time

A very special exhibition continues until February 27 at the Friend's Meeting House in Ship Street, central Brighton. On show are 39 of the 77 beautifully embroidered panels that make up the Quaker Tapestry.

Known as 'one of the world's largest community textile projects', the tapestry represents 350 years of social

history and has been made by a staggering 4,000 people in 15 countries. As the tapestry is normally housed in Kendal, Cumbria, this is a rare opportunity to see this stunning and ambitious work in our area and is not to be missed.

For more details call **01273 770258** or visit www.brightonquakers.co.uk.

Live & learn

The two parts of the county have had individual coats of arms for centuries. As early as 1611, the Red Shield for East Sussex, and the Blue Shield for West Sussex (both with six golden martlets), were in use.

The martlet is a heraldic bird that is always shown without feet, and is often equated with the swallow. In the Sussex arms the six martlets represent the the six ancient 'rapes' or sub-divisions of the county, which existed before the Norman invasion.

Today, each Sussex crest has a golden Saxon crown in its top half, and a wavy line, symbolic of the county's bond with the sea, divides this from the martlets below.

Read more fascinating Sussex facts in Sophie Collins' A Sussex Miscellany.

Lost words

“ Do you know the difference between a hill-up and a hob-up? If not, read on!

Hill-up: To hill-up hops is to raise small hills or heaps over the roots for the purpose of keeping them dry in the winter.

Hob-up: To bring up anything by hand.

The latter phrase particularly relates to young orphaned animals. Hence the term hob-lamb, which refers to a pet lamb raised by human hand.

We would love to hear from readers of other old Sussex expressions. Email us at: editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk and the most interesting or amusing will be featured in future issues.

ALMSHOUSES



Victorian benefactors in Sussex continued an earlier tradition of providing almshouses for village widows, worn-out labourers and the infirm elderly. There is a particularly fine example of the form at the Wood's Almshouses in Church Lane, Oving. This is a neat and attractive row, very solidly built with flint facings, but also distinguished by the finely finished masonry surrounds of the windows and doors.

Seaford boasts the more substantial-looking Fitzgerald almshouses in Croft Lane, close to the High Street. These are mainly two storeys, with knapped flint facings, red brick dressings and stone lintels, but the distinctive feature is a three-storey castellated tower complete with an attached octagonal turret and cruciform arrow slits. The defensive form seems incongruous - were they trying to repulse undeserving widows? - but probably simply reflects the Victorian fashion for medieval styles.