

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

This month sees the welcome publication of two new books from Snake River Press. *Salacious Sussex* by Viv Croot, with an introduction by Simon Fanshawe, is a riveting romp of a read. The enticing jacket copy says it all; 'Fed up with the seaside, sunshine and rolling hills? Very little digging throws up some juicy scandals for every taste, from ancient history to the modern age (as far as the law will allow). Take your pick from a select trail of hanky-panky and murder (sometimes both), via chicanery and shenanigans, with a detour into lechery and satanism. Indulge your darkside!' Read more in the panel below.

On a less sensational note *The Shaping of the Sussex Landscape* presents an intriguing in-depth look at how the county we live in came to look as it does today. Written by the well-known historical geographer Peter Brandon, with an introduction by Lord Denis Healey, it will be featured in next week's *Sussex Bookends*.

Hove amber

Many readers will be aware of the exciting exhibition currently on display at the British Museum in London. But how many are aware that one of Brighton and Hove City Council's treasures forms part of the ambitious History of the World show?

Known as the Amber Cup, this 3,5000 year-old Bronze Age relic is normally housed in Hove Museum. The piece

was discovered in 1857, during the excavation of a large burial mound known as Hove Barrow, on the site of what is now Palmeira Avenue.

Thought to have originated in northern Europe, the teacup-like item is intricately carved from a single piece of solid amber. It was enclosed within an oak coffin which also contained skeletal remains.

Out & About in Sussex

There are several events happening across Sussex this weekend that encourage lots of hands-on family participation.

Over in the east of the county, at Bodiam Castle, children and adults can enjoy a knight's trail through this most wonderful of castles. An added bonus is the award that awaits those who complete the adventure. Join the trail today and tomorrow between 10.30am - 3pm, cost

is £2 per trail and call **01580 830196** for more details.

For those who live further west between 11.30am - 2.30pm this weekend there are drop-in workshops in seed planting at Nymans, near Handcross. As spring begins to put in an appearance this is the perfect time of year to start growing vegetables and flowers, if only in a few plants pots. Call **01444 405250**, cost £2 (includes seeds).

Artists Quiz

1 What is the name of Ben Nicholson's artist father?

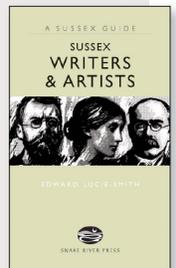
2 Which art movement is Lee Miller associated with?

3 As well as sculpture and printmaking what else is Eric Gill best known for?

4 Which patron lived at West Dean?

5 The two Nash brothers were both artists, what are their first names?

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 Writers & Artists* by Edward Lucie-Smith worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Lost words

Here is another collection of old dialect words taken from *A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect* by the Reverend W. D. Parish.

Greybeards: Earthen jugs formerly used in public-houses for beer, and so called from having on them the face of a man with a grey beard.

Pennock: A little bridge over a water-course; a brick or wooden tunnel under a road to carry off the water.

Shooler: an idle, lazy fellow; one described as 'a man who goes about with his boots undone.'

Do send your own old Sussex words and phrases to editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk

HANKY PANKY



As everyone knows, Brighton is the capital of hanky panky; it is, as Keith Waterhouse describes it, a town with 'the perennial air of being in a position to help the police with their enquiries' and it is where gentlemen used to go to manufacture sordid evidence so that their wives could divorce them. This is why I begin my book in the town, but I don't want you to think that it holds the monopoly on smut; the whole county quivers with jiggery pokery and goings-on; there is a special Sussex word for it: mollocking. This was coined by Stella Gibbons, and it is chief occupation of Seth Starkadder in *Cold Comfort Farm*, but Gibbons was really only creating a label for an ancient established Sussex tradition.

Do read more in *Salacious Sussex* by Viv Croot, illustrated by Curtis Tappenden (Snake River Press, £8.99).

Live & learn

Sussex is the home of the bee-orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), one of the oddest members of an eccentric family. Not only do the orchid's flowers cunningly disguise themselves as bees, but they also secrete a smell that resembles natural bee pheromones strongly enough to confuse the - usually discriminating - insects.

Failed attempts to mate with the flowers lead to the male bees departing disappointed, but coated with pollen - all the better to fertilise the next bee-orchid to attract them.

If any readers have been contemplating keeping bees then now is the perfect time to get in touch with your local beekeeping group. The best place to start is the Sussex Beekeepers Association, www.sussexbee.org.uk.