

# SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

## Out & About in Sussex

Wondering what to do with the children on Easter Monday? Then why not head for Devil's Dyke, north of Brighton, and take part in the traditional pursuit of egg rolling? First hard boil a generous quantity of eggs then decorate them with faces, patterns or whatever takes your artistic fancy. The egg that rolls the

furthest down the Dyke wins and there are lots of prizes on offer for the Best Decorated Egg. Even those who don't win get to eat their eggs.

The National Trust is hosting their Easter-Egg Rolling Competition from 10.45am-12.00 on the 13th. Normal admission plus £1. Call 01273 857712 for details.

For chocoholics Easter is a dangerously tempting time. As with so many of the pleasures one can eat or imbibe the secret is to consume smaller amounts but of greater quality. Fortunately for the Sussex chocolate lover there is something of an embarrassment of riches right on their doorstep as the county is home to some of the very best new chocolate producers.

The award-winning organic manufacturer The Chocolate Alchemist operates from Lodswoth in West Sussex and many top London stores sell their beautifully decorated Easter eggs. Over in Horsham, Cocoa Loco also produce organic chocolate delights, including a fabulous range of brownies. In Brighton The Chocolate Empire creates an exotic range of organic chocolates flavoured with such exciting things as ylang ylang and essential oils. Also in the town can be found two wonderful emporiums devoted just to chocolate, Montezuma and Choccywoccydoodah. Just remember, with fine chocolate less is more.

For more delicious comestibles produced in the county read Good Food & Drink in Sussex by Fizz Carr.

## The Garden Quiz

**1 Which famous writer, part of whose garden is open to the public, lived and gardened in Rottingdean?**

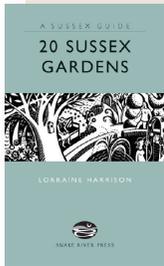
**2 Which Gardeners' World presenter runs a gardening and cookery school in the county?**

**3 Many fine hybrid rhododendrons belong to the Loderi Group. In which famous Sussex garden were they originally bred?**

**4 What is the name of the shallow, oval basket used by gardeners and made in Sussex?**

**5 Which West Sussex garden hosts an annual chilli festival?**

Email your answers, along with your name and address to: [editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk](mailto:editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk). The sender of the first set of correct answers received wins a copy of 20 Sussex Gardens by Lorraine Harrison worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at [www.snakeriverpress.co.uk](http://www.snakeriverpress.co.uk) next Saturday.



## Cluck, cluck, cluck...

Looking ahead a little but still continuing the eggy theme, Much Ado Books, Alfriston are holding a Chicken Day on Saturday 25th April from 2-5pm. Keeping a few hens in the garden has become a popular pastime for town and country dwellers. Apart from the pleasure of their company, chickens provide a regular supply of delicious eggs, with

the deepest yellow yolks you'll ever see, and will gratefully gobble up all your food scraps. Nothing ever goes to waste with chickens around!

Charlotte Popescu, author of Hens in the Garden and Eggs in the Kitchen, and chicken expert Gabrielle Moore will be available on the day to answer all your chicken-related queries. Call 01323 871222 for details.

## Live & learn Lost words

Of course not all eggs are made of chocolate and, as every child knows, before the egg must come the hen and Sussex has one of the best. The ever-popular Sussex breed boasts seven colour varieties.

**Sussex Red:** a rich red with black points in the cocks, slightly paler in the hens.

**Sussex Brown:** deep brown with black points in the cock.

**Sussex Light:** a white body with black and white striping to the neck and black wing- and tail-tips.

**Sussex Buff:** similar striping to the Light, body a gingery buff.

**Sussex Silver:** black body with silver-laced feathers throughout.

**Sussex White:** pure white hens and cocks.

**Sussex Speckled:** brown and black feathers, with a white tip.

“The naming of plants is a minefield for gardeners; some species or other is always being renamed or reclassified. One way to get around this is to stick to old local names, which usually sound far more poetic than fussy old Latin. Here are a few examples once common in Sussex.

**Alf Hoof or Lion's Mouth:** ground ivy.

**Bethwine or Tombacca:** wild clematis.

**Bread-and-Cheese:** hawthorn buds.

**Butter-and-Eggs or Pig's Pettitoe:** bird's foot trefoil.

**Dead Men's Fingers:** purple orchid.

**Grandmother's Pincushion:** field scabious.

**Kiss-Me:** wild viola.

## PERFECT PARHAM

Easter Sunday sees the opening of one of the most perfect gardens in Sussex, Parham Park at Storrington. In 20 Sussex Gardens Lorraine Harrison extols its plentiful virtues, from the beautiful parkland alive with deer, to the Pleasure Grounds, Walled Garden, Herb, Vegetable and Cutting Gardens to the pond and fine quality of the statuary. And as if these are not enough to tempt you there is an Arts and Crafts greenhouse.

Lorraine writes 'The wonderful scents that drift towards the visitor now lead you into one of the loveliest greenhouses I have yet seen. Long and narrow, it is formed from a wall on one side with glass roof and side constructed of teak. Ornate cast-iron benches topped with slate line the walls, although these are difficult to discern due to the numerous pots overflowing with a dazzling array of plants.

The flowers of pelargonium, plumbago, fuchsia, datura and the stunning blue of morning glory all jostle against ivy and cactus.'

Call 01903 744888 for details.

