

SUSSEX BOOKENDS

A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE SUSSEX CHARACTER

Now is the time to dust off your copy of Old-Fashioned Family Days Out in Sussex by Susan and Gina Jamieson (or buy a copy if you haven't yet got one) and plan your trips out for the forthcoming months. If you have always promised a jaunt out to Tilgate Park near Crawley, or Petworth Park, but never quite made it, this book has all the vital information you need for a memorable day out.

Other suggestions include playing Pooh sticks at Pooh's Enchanted Place (Hartfield, Ashdown Forest), flying kites at Highdown Hill outside Worthing and staging a full-scale Victorian picnic set against the awesome backdrop of Balcombe Viaduct.

Susan and Gina not only provide inspiration for unusual venues but also suggest games to play, such as dragon-hunting in St Leonard's Forest (complete with instructions for making dragon masks), and provide a recipe for Crumbling Cliff Buns, to be enjoyed at Cuckmere Haven.

Live & learn

Sussex is full of places offering effective insights into the past. It's awash with museums and centres where old crafts, from smithing to basket-weaving, are demonstrated, which give the onlooker the strong sensation that time really can be brushed aside.

The Weald & Downland Museum at Singleton has a remarkable collection of buildings - largely medieval and Tudor - brought from all over the country and re-erected. Ancient breeds of farm animals live on site.

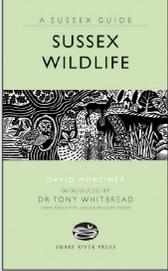
Ripley's Museum of Rural Life at Robertsbridge has complete shop interiors, a village garage, and demonstrations of smithing.

Just east of Berwick is Michelham Priory with a working water mill, and flour milling demonstrations.

Wildlife Quiz

- 1 **Eccelstone Glen is in which Country Park?**
- 2 **What is the common name of the bird *Luscinia megarhynchos*?**
- 3 **Is Burton Pond near Petworth or Pyecombe?**
- 4 **What type of creature is a stonechat?**
- 5 **Name the important Sussex wetland site close to Storrington.**

Email your answers, along with your name and address to: editorial@snakepress.co.uk. The sender of the first set of correct answers received wins a copy of *Sussex Wildlife* by David Mortimer worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakepress.co.uk next Saturday.



Sussex Celebrity

E.F. Benson 1867-1940



Henry James's successor at Lamb House in Rye was the prolific novelist and story-writer Edward Frederic Benson, who moved into part of the house shortly after James died in 1916, and took over the full lease in 1920. Benson was the son of an Archbishop of Canterbury, and for part of his time in Rye shared his home with his brother, A.C. Benson (author of the words to 'Land of Hope and Glory').

Today E.F. Benson's reputation rests on his series of comic novels about the rival ladies Mapp and Lucia. When first introduced the two appear in quite separate narratives, though Mapp is already settled in Rye (which Benson called Tilling) in *Miss Mapp* (1922). The two did not confront each other until the publication of *Mapp & Lucia* in 1931. In describing Lucia's adventures he drew heavily on his own experiences in Rye, even promoting her to mayor of the town, an office he himself held for three terms.

Read more in *Sussex Writers & Artists* by Edward Lucie-Smith (published by Snake River Press, £8.99).

Lost words

Here is another miscellany of old Sussex words taken from *A Dictionary of Sussex Dialect* by the Reverend W.D. Parish, published by Snake River Press at £8.99.

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

Hob-up: To bring up anything by hand, such as raising an orphaned lamb.

Took-to: Ashamed, vexed. 'I was quite took-to when you come in, for I hadn't had time to tight-up all day.'

Tight-up: To clean, to put in order. 'To tight oneself up' is to dress or put on clean clothes.

Out & About in Sussex

Among those who will welcome the longer days are the growing number of keen amateur photographers. Those who already have a degree of competence but wish to sharpen their skills may like to attend the forthcoming photography workshops at Nymans.

Focusing on the abundant spring flowers currently

growing in profusion, the workshops run from 9am - 4pm this Monday and Tuesday and cost £50. Call **01444 405250** to find out more.

Later in the summer (4 June) Sheffield Park Gardens will also host a day-long photographic workshop. Aimed at all levels of ability the cost is £42.50. For details call **01825 790231**.

Summer's here!

Tomorrow sees the very welcome start of British Summer Time (BST), whereby we need to set our clocks forward from Greenwich Mean Time by one hour.

Do remember to adjust all your clocks and watches if you want to be sure to arrive on time for forthcoming engagements (rather than an hour early!). BST runs from

the last Sunday in March through until the last Sunday in October. It heralds the start of longer days and warmer temperatures.

Today we are all so governed by clock watching that it is difficult to imagine life before the invention of electric light, when people went to bed with nightfall and would rise with the sun.