

Sheffield Park Garden

Sheffield Park is undoubtedly one of the top-notch gardens in Sussex. Covering an impressive 120 acres, of which almost a third is water, in autumn the colours resemble New England more than the south of England.

However, Arthur Soames, who owned the park from 1910 until 1934, was as equally enchanted by rhododendrons and roses as by

cypresses and maples, which makes May a perfect time to visit. Each Tuesday and Thursday throughout this month there are tours of the garden starting at 11am (call 01825 790231 for details).

To discover more about Arthur Soames and his impact on Sheffield Park read *Inspiring Sussex Gardeners* by Lorraine Harrison, published by Snake River Press.

Out & About in Sussex

Residents of the Kemp Town district of Brighton are to be envied their wonderful independent bookshop in St Georges Road. Throughout the Brighton Festival period the Kemp Town Book Shop is staging the Backroom Art Press Exhibition of high quality numbered limited edition Giclee prints.

Featured artists include some of the finest English

painters and illustrators working in the inter- and post-war years, including Eric Ravilious, Edward Bawden and Edward Ardizzone.

Along with a wonderful selection of books the shop has a great cafe, a very friendly dog and also a stimulating range of creative writing courses beginning in June. For details of all these call 01273 682110.

It never ceases to amaze me just how many creative spirits have chosen Sussex as their home. Judging by the number of well-attended writing, painting, craft and musical workshops and courses that are held throughout the year this is a tradition that is very much alive and well.

As part of their festival programme Charleston Farmhouse, near Firle, is hosting three masterclasses this month. Art and its Representation with Andrew Motion and Patrick Gale is a full days workshop on 20th May. The Art of Characterisation with Sarah Hall and Andrew Miller is on 21st, while Writing from Life and Exploring Biography with William Fiennes, Hermonie Lee and Jenny Uglow is scheduled for 22nd.

With such a line up of talented and experienced writers the workshops promise to be stimulating, enlightening and informative for all would-be authors. Call 01323 811626 for more information. See also the item above for forthcoming Brighton courses.

Sussex Sports Quiz

1 What was the occupation of the lasses who originally played the game of stoolball?

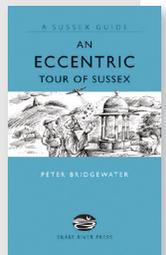
2 Which Sussex village is home to the cricket-bat makers Gray-Nicholls?

3 Who are 'the Seagulls'?

4 What is the name of the Tinsley pub that hosts the World Marble Championships?

5 Name the first county cricket club.

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 *An Eccentric Tour of Sussex* by Peter Bridgewater worth £8.99. The correct answers will be posted at www.snakeriverpress.co.uk next Saturday.



Sussex Celebrity

H.G. WELLS
1866-1946



One of the most popular authors of his time, Herbert George Wells had two important links with Sussex. Though he was born in Kent, his mother worked as a house-keeper at the great West Sussex mansion of Uppark from 1880 to 1893. She had previously been a maid at Uppark and Wells's father was a gardener there when the couple met. Though she was not supposed to have any of her children live with her, Wells was frequently at

the house, and was allowed to use the extensive library - something that greatly helped his intellectual development.

Wells is now best remembered as one of the inventors of the modern literary genre of science fiction. Among his best known books are *The Time Machine* (1895), *The Invisible Man* (1897) and *The War of the Worlds* (1898), all written at the start of his career. A less-known book, *The World Set Free* (1914) predicts the invention of the atomic bomb.

From *Sussex Writers & Artists* by Edward Lucie-Smith, published by Snake River Press.

Lost words

“ Look out of your window tonight and if it's a clear and cloudless sky you will see it is full moon, so there will be no need to employ a Sussex-Moon if you are going out on the town. No idea what this is? In former times a Sussex-Moon was the term for a man who was sent to walk in front with a lantern fastened behind him to light the way. However, if it's a hazy night (misty) you'll certainly need him. Here are some other lunar terms:

Moonshine: Smuggled spirits, the contraband usually being moved under the cover of dark.

Moonshiner: A beast that will not fatten up; a diseased beast that has to be driven off to the butcher's yard by night.

Live & learn

Some games, like marbles, just never go out of fashion but did you know that the World Marble Championships are held at Tinsley in West Sussex every year? Or that the marbles 'season' falls between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday? Here are just a few terms used by marble players. If you know what they mean please email us at the address below.

Tollry or Taw
Mib or Kimmie
Nose Drop
Lagging
Flicking
Knuckling Down

We would love to hear from readers of similar interesting, quirky or strange facts relating to the county. Email us at: editorial@snakeriverpress.co.uk