

A Map of Folklore in Sussex and South Downs

By the Sussex Centre for Folklore, Fairy Tales and Fantasy.
Based on research by Prof. Jacqueline Simpson.



Illustrated map © Abi Daker.

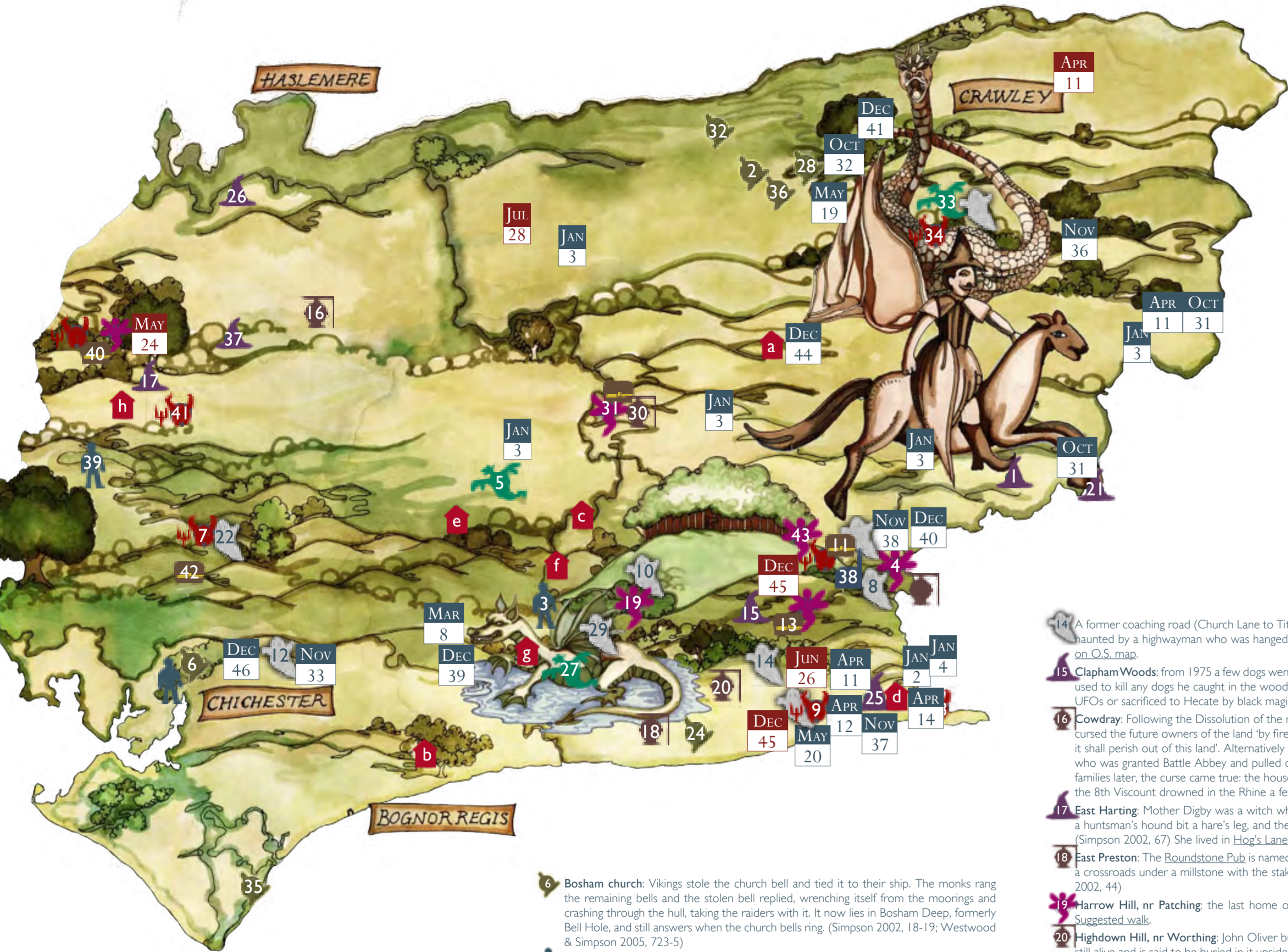
How to use this map:

1. Zoom in and click on an icon to be taken to its folktale.
2. Clicking on place-names in the folktales take you to the location on the map (at the top left of your screen).

KEY



West Sussex



- 6 Bosham church:** Vikings stole the church bell and tied it to their ship. The monks rang the remaining bells and the stolen bell replied, wrenching itself from the moorings and crashing through the hull, taking the raiders with it. It now lies in Bosham Deep, formerly Bell Hole, and still answers when the church bells ring. (Simpson 2002, 18-19; Westwood & Simpson 2005, 723-5)
- 7 Bow Hill:** if you run around the Devil's Humps six times you will summon the devil. (Simpson 2002, 63) [Suggested walk](#).
- 8 Bramber:** ghostly children begging are Baron William de Braose's grandchildren, starved to death while held hostage at Windsor by King John. (Simpson 2002, 46) [Suggested walk](#).
- 9 Broadwater, Worthing:** if you run around the oldest tomb in the churchyard, the devil will jump out. (Simpson 2002, 64)
- 10 Burpham:** A plaque reading 'JUL. 1771' locates the gallows where Jack Upperton was hanged for robbing a post-boy. Said to be haunted by him still, although the only tales are of locals scaring London tourists by pretending to be him. (Hare 2001, 20-3) [See on map](#) (zoom in).
- 11 Chantconbury Hill:** treasure is said to be buried here. (Simpson 2002, 23) At Chantconbury Ring you can raise Julius Caesar and his armies by counting the trees, or see a druid or a Saxon killed at the Battle of Hastings. (Simpson 2002, 46) If you run seven times around the Ring on a moonless night/under the full moon/on Midsummer Day/at midnight, anticlockwise/naked/backwards, the devil will come out and offer you a bowl of soup/milk/pomridge or chase you nine miles to the Devil's Dyke. (Simpson 2002, 64; Westwood & Simpson 2005, 729) [Suggested walk](#).
- 12 Chichester:** a Roman centurion haunts the [Castle \(now Chichester\) Inn](#). (Simpson 2002, 46) If a heron perches on the cathedral spire, the Bishop of Chichester will die. (Simpson 2002, 95; Westwood & Simpson 2005, 729) [Suggested walk](#) (pdf).
- 13 Cissbury Ring:** a tunnel is said to go here from Offington Hall, with treasure at one end guarded by snakes. (Simpson 2002, 23-4) The fairies can be seen dancing here on Midsummer's Eve. (Simpson 2002, 56) [Suggested walk](#).

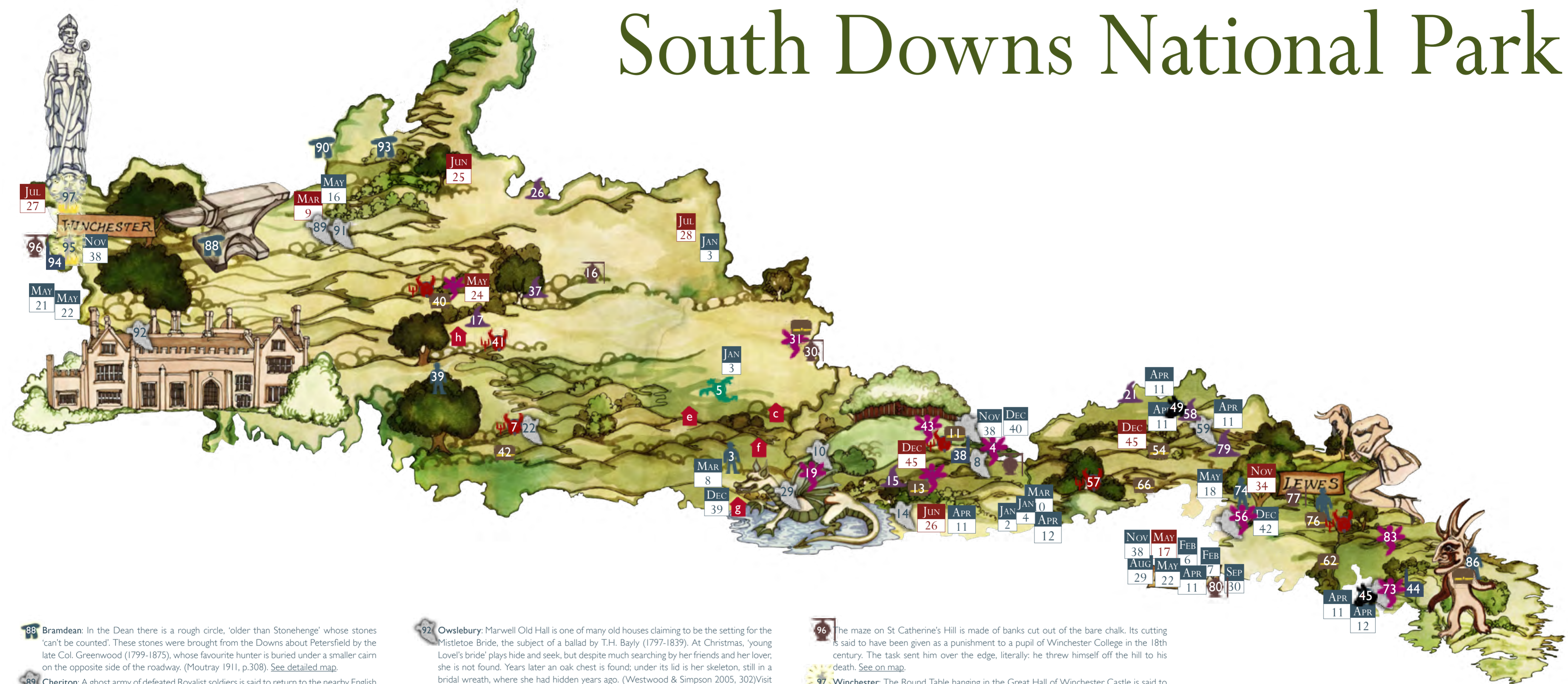
- 14** A former coaching road (Church Lane to Titch Hill) from Lancing to Steyning near here is haunted by a highwayman who was hanged at [Lychpole Manor](#). (Simpson 2002, 44) [See on O.S. map](#).
- 15 Clapham Woods:** from 1975 a few dogs went missing or were injured. A local gamekeeper used to kill any dogs he caught in the woods, but some claimed they were kidnapped by UFOs or sacrificed to Hecate by black magicians. (Simpson 2002, 76) [Suggested walk](#).
- 16 Cowdray:** Following the Dissolution of the monasteries, a prioress of Easebourne Abbey cursed the future owners of the land 'by fire and water, thy line shall come to an end and it shall perish out of this land'. Alternatively the curse was aimed at Sir Anthony Browne, who was granted Battle Abbey and pulled down its church. A mere 250 years and eight families later, the curse came true: the house burned down following repairs in 1793 and the 8th Viscount drowned in the Rhine a few days later. (Ref.) [Suggested walk](#).
- 17 East Harting:** Mother Digby was a witch who could turn into a hare. As above, one day a huntsman's hound bit a hare's leg, and the next day she was seen with a wounded leg. (Simpson 2002, 67) She lived in [Hog's Lane](#), now no more. [Suggested walk](#).
- 18 East Preston:** The [Roundstone Pub](#) is named after a criminal or suicide who was buried at a crossroads under a millstone with the stake put through the millstone's hole. (Simpson 2002, 44)
- 19 Harrow Hill, nr Patching:** the last home of the fairies in England. (Simpson 2002, 56) [Suggested walk](#).
- 20 Highdown Hill, nr Worthing:** John Oliver built his tomb, the Miller's Tomb, while he was still alive and is said to be buried in it upside down so as to be the right way up when the world ends and everything is topsy-turvy. He meditated by it every day and also kept a coffin under his bed. It is thought he was a smuggler: he 'meditated' on the hill as a look-out, used his mill to send signals, and kept contraband in the coffin. If you run round it seven times, his ghost will jump out and chase you. The verses on the tomb are a code telling where smuggler's treasure is buried. (Simpson 2002, 41-3; Westwood & Simpson 2005, 731) [Suggested walk](#).
- 21 Hurstpierpoint:** in the 18th century Nanny Smart, a witch, could not die until she had sold her life's secrets. A man from Cuckfield, named Old Hockland, bought them for a ha'penny, and she died in a blue flame. (Simpson 2002, 73) [Suggested walk](#).
- 22 Kingley Vale:** the Kings' Graves or Devil's Humps are claimed to be the tombs of Viking leaders buried in 894; the yews mark the battlefield site. The woods are haunted by these Vikings, or by druids, or the trees themselves come to life and move around. (Simpson 2002, 45) [Suggested walk](#).
- 23 Kingston by Sea:** the tree by the old Rectory has a man buried under its roots with a dagger through his heart. If you run around the tree you can summon the devil. (Simpson 2002, 63) [See on Google maps](#).
- 24 Kingston Gorse, nr Ferring:** the bells of an [old church](#), drowned along with its village, still ring under the sea. (Simpson 2002, 20) Park at [Coastal Road](#), at neap tide.
- 25 Lancing:** near the Sussex Pad pub, on [Old Shoreham Road](#), a witch stopped the carters' wagons by invisibly clutching the wheels. The carters would run a knife around their iron wheels as they passed a witch's house to stop her and make her cry out in pain. (Simpson 2002, 69) NB: The Sussex Pad is now closed. [Suggested walk nearby](#).
- 26 Liphook:** A local witch, who could turn herself into a hare (which the locals knew since a dog had mauled a hare and the witch was then seen to have bite marks on her body), was blamed for the disability of a little boy who could only shuffle. By burning something connected to the victim, the child was able to walk again, but during the procedure the witch cried outside and banged on the doors and windows. Another story is of a spectral calf was seen near the water here. (Westwood & Simpson 2005, 305) [Suggested walk](#).

- 27 Lymminster:** [Knucker Hole](#), from the Anglo-Saxon *nicor*, 'water monster', held a dragon. Local man Jim Pulk/Puttock baked a poisonous pie for the dragon; unfortunately some of the poison stayed on Pulk's hand and he died wiping his mouth after a celebratory pint. Another version says a wandering knight killed him and was offered the king's daughter by way of thanks. [His tomb](#) can still be seen inside the [church](#), with faint marks supposed to be the hero's sword laid across the dragon's ribs. (Simpson 2002, 34-9; Westwood & Simpson 2005, 732) The church has a stained-glass depiction of the tale. [Suggested walk](#).
- 28 Nowhurst:** see [Alfoldean](#). [Nowhurst Lane](#), RH12 3PJ, on the [West Sussex Literary Trail](#).
- 29 Poling:** at the former [Preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers](#), you might hear ghostly organ music and Gregorian chant. (Simpson 2002, 46) [Suggested walk](#).
- 30 Pulborough:** Toat Tower is said to contain a man buried with his horse, both upside down. (Simpson 2002, 42) Start at [Black Gate Lane](#).
- 31 Pulborough Mount/Park Mound:** treasure is said to be buried here. (Simpson 2002, 23) A fairy funeral was once seen at this spot. (Simpson 2002, 56) Start at [Stopham Road](#).
- 32 Rudgwick:** see [Alfoldean](#). [Suggested walk](#).
- 33 St Leonard's Forest, nr Horsham:** St Leonard lived here and killed a dragon. Wild lilies sprang up where the saint's blood had dripped, and the nightingales, who had interrupted his prayers, were silenced. It was believed the woods were full of monstrous snakes, and a nine-foot dragon, or serpent, was seen here in 1614. (Simpson 2002, 31-4) 'Squire Paulett' is a headless ghost who would cling to passing horse riders until they reached the other side of the forest. (Simpson 2002, 46)
- 34 At Mike Mills' Race,** noted smuggler Mike Mills raced the devil in return for his condemned soul, won and became immortal. (Simpson 2002, 65; Westwood & Simpson 2005, 737) [Suggested walk](#).
- 35 Selsey Bill:** the bells of the sunken cathedral of St Wilfred still ring underwater. (Simpson 2002, 20) Start at [East Beach car park](#).
- 36 Slinfold bell:** see [Alfoldean](#). [Suggested walk](#).
- 37 Stedham:** An old woman here could stop carters' wagons, until the carters cut or flogged the wheels, which cut the woman's hands; she herself admitted this to the carters. (Simpson 2002, 69) Start at [Elsted Road car park](#).
- 38 Steyning:** St Cuthman pushed his mother in a wheelbarrow from Devon to Sussex looking for a heavenly sign to build a church; his wheelbarrow broke at this spot. (Simpson 2002, 17) [Suggested walk](#).
- 39 Telegraph Hill, nr Compton:** Bevis's Thumb, a fine prehistoric long barrow named after the Sussex giant, is here. (Simpson 2002, 28) [Suggested walk](#) (pdf).
- 40 Torberry/Tarberry Hill, nr South Harting:** There's treasure here: Who knows what Tarberry would bear/Would [or Must] plough it with a golden share. (Simpson 2002, 23) The fairies can be seen dancing here on Midsummer's Eve. (Simpson 2002, 56)
- 41 Treyford Hill:** the Devil's Jumps were used by the devil to jump over; which annoyed Thor, who threw his hammer at him. The devil ran away but his jumps are still there. (Simpson 2002, 58-9) Start [by Monkton House](#) (private property).
- 42 Trundle:** Aaron's Golden Calf or a mass of Viking treasure is said to be buried here, with a ghostly calf to guard it. (Simpson 2002, 22; Westwood & Simpson 2005, 731) Start at [Trundle/St Roche's Hill car park](#) or try this [suggested walk](#).
- 43 Washington:** There is a story of the Pharisees (or Sussex fairies) who were congratulated for their work by the farmer, which greatly offended them and they never helped him again. (Simpson 2002, 54) [Green Farm](#) is on an old Roman route to Chantconbury Hill (ref.). [Suggested walk](#) (pdf)

Folklore, Fairy Tales and Fantasy: Who Lived Where?

- a Hilaire Belloc** was brought up in Slindon. He bought a house in Shipley called Kings Land in 1905. The [windmill](#) there is now the setting of 'Jonathan's Creek'. [Suggested walk](#).
- b William Blake** lived at [Felpham](#) in Sussex in 1800-3. [Suggested walk](#).
- c Eleanor Farjeon** rented a cottage near Amberley in 1917-19. Here she wrote *Martin Pippin* in the *Apple Orchard* (1921). [Stane Street cottages](#), *Adversane*, also featured in *Martin Pippin* when they were a malthouse (ref). [Suggested walk](#) (pdf).
- d David Lindsay** (*Voyage to Arcturus*) moved to Shoreham with his wife, where they ran a guest house. [Suggested walk](#) (pdf).
- e Arthur Rackham** bought a [house](#) in Houghton. There is a [memorial to Rackham](#) in Amberley churchyard, with views to nearby Rackham Hill. [Suggested walk](#) (scroll to bottom of web page).
- f Mervyn Peake** rented the [School House](#) in Warningcamp in 1940-6 and began writing *Titus Groan*. [Suggested walk](#).
- g Rosemary Sutcliff**, author of the *Eagle of the Ninth* series, spent the latter part of her life in [Swallow Shaw](#), The Street.
- h H.G. Wells** was brought up at Uppark, where his mother was housekeeper, and its tunnels are said to have inspired scenes in *The Time Machine*. Visit [website](#).

South Downs National Park



- 88 Bramdean:** In the Dean there is a rough circle, 'older than Stonehenge' whose stones 'can't be counted'. These stones were brought from the Downs about Petersfield by the late Col. Greenwood (1799-1875), whose favourite hunter is buried under a smaller cairn on the opposite side of the roadway. (Moutray 1911, p.308). [See detailed map.](#)
- 89 Cheriton:** A ghost army of defeated Royalist soldiers is said to return to the nearby English Civil War [battlefield](#) at Cheriton every four years. (Source: David Scanlan's *Paranormal Hampshire* (2009)). [Suggested walk.](#)
- 90 Farringdon:** 'Pudding stones' found either side of [Brightstone/Bridestone Lane](#) were the remains of a couple of newlyweds who went for a stroll one Good Friday and were turned to stone. This seems to represent divine retribution for enjoying themselves on Good Friday. (Westwood & Simpson 2005, 301)
- 91 Hinton Ampner:** The old Manor House was haunted to such an extent that it was finally demolished and rebuilt a few meters down the road. Reports of apparitions, footsteps, untraceable music and finally screaming all drove out the occupiers of the original building. The replacement building suffered briefly from haunting until it was gutted by fire and re-built. (Compare versions [here](#) and [here](#).) Visit [house website](#).

- 92 Owslebury:** Marwell Old Hall is one of many old houses claiming to be the setting for the Mistletoe Bride, the subject of a ballad by T.H. Bayly (1797-1839). At Christmas, 'young Lovel's bride' plays hide and seek, but despite much searching by her friends and her lover, she is not found. Years later an oak chest is found; under its lid is her skeleton, still in a bridal wreath, where she had hidden years ago. (Westwood & Simpson 2005, 302) Visit [Marwell Zoo, SO21 1JH](#).
- 93 Selborne:** There is a wishing stone on the hill at the top of the zig-zag path, round which the villagers used to circle seven times, following the sun, to make a wish. (Moutray 1911, p.308) [Suggested walk.](#)
- 94 Twyford:** Local tradition says the [church](#) stands on the site of an old Druidic stone circle – there are some greywether sarsen stones in the vicinity – and that the old yew is a survival of a grove. (Moutray 1911, p.308) [Suggested walk.](#)
- 95 Twyford Down:** modern folklore has it that St Catherine's Hill was 'the ancient burial ground of Camelot' and King Arthur was laid to rest there. The hilltop resembles a sleeping dragon guarding them. (Westwood & Simpson 2005, 313) [Suggested walk.](#)

- 96** The maze on St Catherine's Hill is made of banks cut out of the bare chalk. Its cutting is said to have been given as a punishment to a pupil of Winchester College in the 18th century. The task sent him over the edge, literally: he threw himself off the hill to his death. [See on map.](#)
- 97 Winchester:** The Round Table hanging in the Great Hall of Winchester Castle is said to be the one around which King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table met. It was almost certainly created c.1290, for a tournament to celebrate the betrothal of one of Edward I's daughters, as supported by tree-ring evidence and carbon dating. (Westwood & Simpson 2005, 314-15) [Suggested walk.](#)

The Turning Year

Red icons indicate living traditions.
Blue icons indicate past traditions – feel free to revive them!



New Year's Day

JAN 1 **Hastings** (recorded 1870): apples, nuts, oranges and coins were thrown from windows for fishermen and boys to collect. (Simpson 2002, 99)

JAN 2 **Old Shoreham** (19th century): The **Red Lion Inn** used to provide a bushel measure of ale, decorated with green paper and flowers, free to all, as a form of wassailing. (Simpson 2002, 99)

5th January/Twelfth Night

JAN 3 **Duncton** and many other Sussex villages: 'Wassailing' was performed to ensure a good crop of apples. Dressed in bright, some might say ridiculous, clothes and carrying various 'musical' instruments, they surrounded the largest apple tree, beat it with sticks, sprinkled ale around and sang 'Here stands a jolly good apple tree./ Stand fast, root; bear well, top./ Every little bough/ Bear an apple now./ Every little twig/ Bear an apple big/ Hats full, caps full/ Three-quarter-sacks full/ Whoops, whoop, holloa!/ Blow, blow the horns! They visited every house with an orchard before stopping at the Cricketers' Inn. Other places, like **West Chiltington** and **Horsted Keynes**, this was performed by the farmers or farmers' children. (Simpson 2002, 100-2)

The **Chanctonbury Morris Men** briefly revived apple howling at Fumer's Farm, **Henfield**, in 1977, and the **Broadwood Morris Men** did likewise at Redlands Farm, **Kirdford** (Horsham). (Simpson 2002, 102)

Plough Monday (first Monday after Twelfth Night)

JAN 4 **Shoreham** and other places: 'Bessie' or 'Molly', a man in grotesque clothing, accompanied mummers pulling a plough from house to house asking for money. (Simpson 2002, 103)

Shrove Tuesday

FEB 5 **Bodiam**: held a **pancake race**, but various Sussex towns celebrated with cock-fighting and cock-throwing (throwing sticks at a tethered cockerel; whoever stunned him could keep him) until the end of the 18th century. (Simpson 2002, 104)

FEB 6 **Brighton**: In the Lanes people played Cock-in-the-Pot, throwing sticks at a cockerel strung up in a pot; whoever broke the pot kept him. This was apparently English revenge for the cockerel whose crowing woke the Danes just as the Saxons were about to massacre them. (Simpson 2002, 104-5; Westwood & Simpson 2005, 726-7)

Ash Wednesday:

FEB 7 **Brighton** and elsewhere: opening of the marbles season, which went on until Good Friday, while children also played bat-and-trap and tip-cat. (Simpson 2002, 106)

1st March:

MAR 8 West Sussex: If from fleas you would be free, Let all your doors and windows open be.
East Sussex: If from fleas you would be free, On the 1st of March let your windows closed be. (Simpson 2002, 107)

Arundel: meanwhile Arundel people shook themselves on Arundel Bridge to rid themselves of fleas. (Simpson 2002, 108)

25 March, Lady Day:

MAR 9 **Tichborne**: In the reign of Henry I or II, Lady Mabella, on her deathbed, asked her husband to set aside profits from his land to feed the poor. Sir Roger pulled a burning brand from the fire and said he would use the revenue of as much land as she could go round before the brand burnt out. Servants carried her outside and she crawled around 23 acres before it burnt out. She was carried back to bed and died, but not before warning that the family's luck would run out if the dole stopped.

In 1796 the dole was stopped, as it attracted too many tramps to the parish, and the family's next generation was only daughters, so the name died out, and in 1803 the house collapsed, scaring the family into starting the dole again. (Westwood & Simpson 2005, 311-12)

Where to park: **Tichborne House, SO24 0NA** (NB: This is a private property. The dole is given out as a gallon of flour per parishioner.)

Palm Sunday

MAR 10 **Patcham** (recorded 1831): hundreds of people broke down all the willow trees for 'palm leaves' and then went to the local inn, drank and brawled. (Simpson 2002, 108)

Good Friday

APR 11 **Battle, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Cuckfield, Ditchling, Seaford, Southwick** and **Streat** men held marbles tournaments. Battle held theirs against Netherfield. It is still played at **Tinsley Green** (**Crawley**). Women would skip in groups, to the point that Good Friday was also called Marble Day and Long Rope Day. (Simpson 2002, 110-11)

Where to park: **The Greyhound pub, RH10 3NS**.

APR 12 **Hastings, Hove, Seaford** and **Southwick** (until 1910) organised games of kiss-in-the-ring. At Hove they played on a prehistoric burial mound singing 'Hey diddle derry, Let's dance on the Bury'. (Simpson 2002, 111-12)

APR 13 **Hartfield**: in the 17th century Nicholas Smith, the son of a rich squire, roamed the country disguised as a beggar and found no charity until he reached Hartfield. So now there is a charity dole: the rector and churchwarden lay money on what is believed to be Smith's tombstone and call the names of recipients. (Simpson 2002, 112)

Where to park: **St Mary the Virgin Church, TN7 4AG**.

APR 14 **Old Shoreham** had egg-rolling down the hill behind the church, known as Good Friday Hill. (Simpson 2002, 112)

14 April

APR 15 **Heathfield**: A certain old woman attends Heffle or Cuckoo Fair: if she is in a good mood, she releases a cuckoo in her apron or basket so that bird can then be heard all over Sussex. (Simpson 2002, 113)

Where to park: **Cade Street, Old Heathfield**.

1 May

MAY 16 **Alresford**: John Duthy mentioned the summer 'Maying on the Nithe' here, with dancers in festive array. (*Sketches of Hampshire*, 1839, pp.111-12)

MAY 17 **Brighton** (until 1896): 'Bread-and-Cheese-and-Beer Day' celebrated the start of the mackerel season: boats would be decorated with flower garlands, and hot bread, wheels of cheese, and barrels of beer and ginger beer were brought to the beach for the fishermen. There was also a Punch and Judy show. (Simpson 2002, 118)

Brighton (1930s): children went door to door with paper flowers and ribbons on their clothes, chanting 'The 1st of May is Garland Day; The 2nd of May is Washing Day.' (Simpson 2002, 118)

Brighton now celebrates with **Mayday in Albion**.

MAY 18 **Lewes** (recorded 1875-85): children went to Castle Bank, where their 'garlands' (hoops covered in wild flowers) would be judged by a panel of ladies and the best won a shilling. This has recently been revived by the **Knots of May**, a women's Morris dance team. (Simpson 2002, 115)

MAY 19 **Horsham**: at Manor House, Mrs Tredcroft would give pennies out for the garlands. Chimneysweeps used to dress up as Jacks-in-the-Green, in evergreen and flowers, and dance all around town. (Simpson 2002, 116)

MAY 20 **Hove, Worthing** and nearby villages (1930s and '40s): 'The 1st of May is Pinch-Bum Day, The 2nd of May is Sting-Nettle Day', as children decided they could pinch each other's bottoms before noon on 1st May, and the next day whip each other with nettles as they were at their best then. (Simpson 2002, 118)

MAY 21 **Otterbourne**: Maypole Field still survives. The children's May Day chant was: 'April's gone! May's come! Come and see our garland.' (Moutray 1911, p.297)

29 May, Oak Apple Day

MAY 22 **Otterbourne**: On Shick-Shack Day, those who forgot to wear an oak apple were dunked in the river. (Moutray 1911, p.298)

Many village schools celebrated Oak Apple Day, remembering Charles II escaping by hiding in an oak tree in 1651. Any child not wearing an oak apple or twig was pinched or whipped with nettles. This day was also called Pinch-Bum Day. This was an official public holiday; in **Brighton** the fishermen decorated their boats with oak branches and *The King's Head* was decked out too. (Simpson 2002, 119-20)

Mayor's Day

MAY 23 **Rye**: The Mayor and councillors scatter hot pennies, as once the town ran out of pennies on this day and a boy was sent to fetch new ones from the mint so fresh they were still hot. (Simpson 2002, 120)

Where to park: **Bedford Place car park, TN31 7LR**.

Whit Monday

MAY 24 **Harting** (1812-present): Harting Old Club carry peeled wands, staves and flags around a large beech bough in the square; after the church service they have a meal at the inn and end with a cricket match. (Simpson 2002, 120)

Where to park: Harting parish church, GU31 5QB. See also the **Festivities** website.

11th June, St Barnabas Day

JUN 25 **Woolmer Forest**: Gilbert White mentions two 'bowers, made of the boughs of oaks', which 'the keepers renew annually on the feast of St. Barnabas', a custom he considered 'to be of very remote antiquity'. (*The Natural History of Selborne*, Letter vii.) This is currently re-enacted by the **Deadwater Valley Trust**.

21st June, Midsummer's Eve

JUN 26 **Broadwater, Worthing**: In recent years, local folklorists and folk singers gather around the tree at midnight hoping to see the skeleton.

15th July, St Swithun's Day

JUL 27 **Winchester**: In 862 St Swithun asked to be buried outside Winchester Cathedral, where rain would drip on his grave from the eaves and people would tread on it. In 871 the monks tried to move the body into the cathedral, which resulted in a 40-day downpour. This led to the proverb, if it rains on St Swithun's Day (July 15th), then it will rain for the next forty days. In 971 a shrine was made for him despite the storm; this was destroyed at the Reformation and a new one made in 1962. (Westwood & Simpson 2005, 314) The proverb is still widely known and discussed.

25th July

JUL 28 **Ebernoe** Horn Fair: at which the village challenges one of its neighbours to a cricket match. The man who scores the highest number of runs wins the head and horns of the ram being roasted for the village feast. (Simpson 2002, 125-6)

Where to park: **Streels Lane, Ebernoe**.

5 August

AUG 29 **Brighton** (1860s): children built 'grottoes' out of oyster shells, lit by a candle inside, to mark the oyster season (perhaps because 11 days previously, i.e., on this day in the Julian calendar, is St James's Day, whose symbol is the pilgrim's scallop shell). The children begged 'a penny for the grotto'. (Simpson 2002, 128)

September

SEP 30 **Rottingdean**, Challoners Farm: The last wagon had only a token load of corn sheaves, decorated with flags and bunting. All the workers clambered on and they went to the village, to drink at each of the pubs. The villagers came out to cheer. They finished back at the farm, where an 18-galloon of beer plus crates of lemonade and ginger beer were ready for them. Elsewhere farmers provided a festive supper with pumpkin pie and apple turnovers. 'Turn the Cup Over' was often sung. (Simpson 2002, 131-2)

25 October

OCT 31 **Cuckfield, Hurstpierpoint**: boys go around begging money for St Crispin, bonfires are lit. (Simpson 2002, 135-6)

OCT 32 **Horsham**: an effigy was burnt of someone in the town who needed ridiculing. (Simpson 2002, 136-7)

1 November, All Saints' Day

NOV 33 **Chichester** shops were full of small white-iced cakes representing the saints' white robes in Heaven. (Simpson 2002, 139)

5 November (still widely celebrated)

NOV 34 **Lewes** Bonfires and torchlit procession, where the original anti-Catholic and political sentiment stayed strong as 17 Protestant martyrs were burnt there by Mary Tudor. (Simpson 2002, 140-1)

How to get there: By train (car parks fill up early and roads close); **this website** has more information.

NOV 35 **Rye** (1860s and '70s): people caught those they had a grudge against and tarred and feathered them! (Simpson 2002, 140)

NOV 36 **Slaugham**: (1890s) the bonfire was built around a tall green post that would not burn, called the 'scrag'. After the fire burnt down this scrag was taken to the pub to be 'sold' for drinks. (Simpson 2002, 142)

NOV 37 **Worthing**: in 1852 the Bonfire Boys rolled tar barrels to the beach; this led to a clash with the police. In the 1880s the police gave up trying to control the evening. (Simpson 2002, 141)

23 November, St Clement's Day

NOV 38 **Bramber, Brighton, Burwash, Steyning** and **Twyford** blacksmiths used to make an effigy of their patron saint, St Clement, and put him outside the inn while they had their feast. At Steyning and Bramber they also went door to door asking for apples and beer. (Simpson 2002, 143-4; Westwood & Simpson 2005, 313, 725)

21 December, St Thomas' Day/Gooding Day

DEC 39 **Arundel**: the interest of £15, found on the body of a dead vagrant in 1824, was handed out. (Simpson 2002, 149)

DEC 40 **Beeding**: the vicar handed out half-crowns to anyone who sold him evergreens. (Ibid.)

DEC 41 **Horsham** (19th century): gentry gave out food, clothes and money to the poor. (Ibid.)

DEC 42 **Lewes** (1870s): surplus stocks of clothes were left outside shops for those who needed them. (Ibid.)

DEC 43 **Mayfield**: one man saved up all his fourpence pieces to distribute to poor women on this day. (Ibid.)

24 December, Christmas Eve

DEC 44 **Shipley**: children went round the village with a decorated basket or china bowl covered in a cloth. In return for a penny or cake, they would let the giver have a peep under the cloth at the decorations. (Simpson 2002, 150-1)

26 December, Boxing Day

DEC 45 45 Sussex towns had a Mummers' Play, performed by Tipteers or Tipteerers. In it, St George defeats a Turkish Knight. (Simpson 2002, 151) Mummers' plays are still performed by the following groups:

- Ashdown Forest Mummers** (see **on map**)
- Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men** (see **on map**)
- Ditchling Mummers** (see **on map**)
- Merrie England Mummers** (Eastbourne) (see **on map**)
- RATCO** (Hastings) (see **on map**)
- Sompting Village Morris** (see **on map**)
- Hampshire mummers**

31 December, New Year's Eve

DEC 46 **Chichester**: people danced around the Market Cross to see the New Year in. (Simpson 2002, 153)



Sources:

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