

# Enjoy Sussex . . . famous connections

## Be inspired by some of England's famous artists, writers, poets and actors

Wealden District has always nurtured artistic talent, and no more so than today, with a profusion of local craftsmen, artists and writers having found inspiration here. If literature is your passion then visit the homes of some of England's finest writers including Rudyard Kipling, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Virginia Woolf. In addition, Charleston Farmhouse, frequented by the famous Bloomsbury Group, remains a testament to the life and times of some of the most influential and intriguing artists of our time.

### J. M. Barrie (1860-1937)

British novelist and dramatist. Best remembered for creating Peter Pan, the boy who refused to grow up, whom he based on his friends, the Llewelyn Davies boys. He lived at Chiddingly.

### Dirk Bogarde (1921-1999)

Actor, lived at The Old Rectory, Lullington and wrote about it in his autobiography – 'A Postillion Struck by Lightning'.

### Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)

Novelist and writer of detective fiction and science fiction, was famous for the Sherlock Holmes stories. He lived at Windlesham Manor in Crowborough for 23 years, and died there in 1930. A statue has been erected in Crowborough to honour his life. The Conan Doyle collection of memorabilia is housed at Groombridge Place.

### Edward Gibbon (1737-1794)

An English historian and Member of Parliament. His most important work was 'The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'. He came to live at Sheffield Park with Lord Sheffield. He was buried in 1794 at the Sheffield family graveyard at the parish church in Fletching, Sussex.

### Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)

Poet who wrote 'God Knows' in 1908, which was quoted by George VI in his finest wartime Christmas broadcast in 1939. Lived in Crowborough.

### Richard Jefferies (1848-1887)

Poet and philosopher, famous for his celebration of the natural world spent 1885-1886 at Downs Cottage, London Road, Crowborough where he wrote his last essays 'Field and Hedgerow'.

### Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

British author and poet, famous for work including 'The Jungle Book' and 'Puck of Pook's Hill'. Lived and wrote at Bateman's in Burwash 1902-1936. Bateman's is now owned by the National Trust and is open to the public.

### Vivien Leigh (1913-1967)

English actress, famous for films including 'Gone with the Wind' and 'A Streetcar Named Desire' lived at Tickerage Mill, near Uckfield between 1960 until her death in 1967. Her ashes were scattered on the lake at her home.



Statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who lived in Crowborough



Rudyard Kipling lived and wrote at Bateman's



The Railway Children was filmed at the Bluebell Railway

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## Malcolm Lowry (1909-1957)

Scholar and poet, wrote 'Under the Volcano'. He lived at White Cottage, Ripe for the last part of his life and is buried in Ripe churchyard.

## Lee Miller (1907-1977)

American fashion model in the 20s and 30s and renowned photographer – fashion, portraitist, surrealist and WWII war correspondent covering the Blitz in London and the war in Europe and the Balkans from 1944-45, lived at Farley Farm in Chiddingly, Sussex from 1949 until her death in 1977, aged 70.

## A. A. Milne (1882-1956)

Dramatist, novelist, journalist and children's writer. Few writers are as closely linked to the landscape as A. A. Milne. He made Ashdown Forest, Hartfield famous as the place where the Winnie the Pooh stories were written.

## Coventry Patmore (1823-1896)

English poet and critic moved to the 400 acre estate at Temple Grove, Heron's Ghyll, in 1865 and wrote 'The angel in the house', a poem on married love.

## Roland Penrose (1900-1984)

English Surrealist painter, poet, biographer of Picasso, Miró, Man Ray and Tapiès, and major promoter and collector of modern art co-founding the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London and knighted for his contribution to the Arts, lived at Farley Farm in Chiddingly, Sussex from 1949 until his death in 1984, aged 84.

## Thomas Turner (1729-1793)

The diarist, Thomas Turner, lived and worked as a village school teacher and a general stores keeper in East Hoathly from 1750 until 1787. His diaries, written over a period of 11 years, provide an invaluable historic account of 18th Century English village life.

## Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)

Virginia Woolf, novelist and essayist lived at Monks House, Rodmell. Her sister, Vanessa Bell, interior designer and painter, lived with artists Clive Bell and Duncan Grant at Charleston Farmhouse, Firle. The writer David Garnett also lived there. It became a meeting place for the group of writers, artists and intellectuals known as 'The Bloomsbury Group'. Economist Maynard Keynes lived there for a considerable period. E. M. Forster and Lytton Strachey visited often. There is an annual literary Charleston Festival held at the Farmhouse.

## Film locations about literary works

Bluebell Railway, Sheffield Park, used in the film 'Room with a View' from E. M. Forster's book. Also the 'Railway Children' and 'Khartoum' (Charlton Heston).



*Playing Pooh-sticks near Hartfield*



*The Bloomsbury Group lived and worked at Charleston Farmhouse*



*Surrealism at Farley Farm  
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