Was there ever a distinctive Sussex dialect? Who spoke it? Was there more than one sort? How exactly did it sound? What was special about its grammar and the words its speakers used? Why did it ever get written down? Is it now finally dead?

Ever since the Rev W.D. Parish’s seminal *A Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect*, first published in 1875, there have been attempts – some more convincing than others – to replicate, codify and explain the way our forefathers spoke, but never until now has a professional linguist explored the subject with such magisterial comprehensiveness as Richard Coates has achieved in this long-awaited study.

A research professor at the University of Sussex, and professor of linguistics at the University of the West of England, Coates presents no fewer than 40 examples of the dialect for detailed analysis, from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present day.

Other features include:
- A historical guide to writings about the Sussex dialect and the literature written in the dialect
- A description of what was special about the dialect in its various local forms
- An extensive bibliography of works relevant to the Sussex dialect
- A discography of recorded material with Sussex voices
- Eighteen photographs

**The traditional dialect of Sussex**

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