

WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Autumn 2003

Discovering the Museum's smaller artefacts

*How the Museum's new stores
bring our ancestors' working lives
within reach*

Making our nationally-important collections of traditional buildings and rural life accessible to people has been a driving force for the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum since its inception.

Today 'access' to collections is at the top of the Government's agenda for museums. For grants, Museum Registration, Designation of collections – at every turn museums have to show that they not only care for their collections, but that they actively make them available to the widest possible audience. Our exhibit buildings have always been on public display, but until now the majority of our collections of smaller artefacts have not. That changed at the beginning of the year when the Collections Team completed the move from the old stores at Charlton into the basement of the Downland Gridshell.

Both areas of the Downland Gridshell – the workshop on top and the stores below – were defined in the design



The daily lunch-time tours of the Gridshell workshop and collections stores are popular with visitors.

process as being "open access". The demands of safety and security make it impossible for visitors to wander unattended, but we have established access arrangements that come as close as possible to that ideal. In the workshop a large area at the west end of the building is open and accessible to the public throughout the day, and every day at 1.30pm there is a 30-minute guided tour of the building, which includes a visit to the stores below. The lobby to the stores is open at all times and visitors can see

the layout and some of the contents through the glass doors. If they have some special interest they are encouraged to make contact with the curatorial team who are keen to offer access to the stores.



One of the end panel displays giving a taste of items on the racks behind.



Shepherd's crooks lined up on the racking units and accessible for all to see in the new stores.



Discovering the Museum's smaller artefacts

The term 'open-access store' is thought by many in the museum world to be an oxymoron – items stored in boxes on shelves are not easily visible, and normal museum stores are neither safe nor welcoming for visitors. Our solution has been to equip the ends of the racking units with panels onto which we have

The Gridshell has scooped top honours in the 2003 Wood Awards, winning the award in the structural category and becoming the recipient of the first ever overall Gold Award. The Gridshell was chosen from over 200 entries nationwide and was described by the judges as "an amazing feat of wood engineering."

fixed items from the collections, complete with descriptive labels. Visitors find this absolutely fascinating, and wander mesmerised down the aisle exclaiming with glee as they spot items that remind them of their father, grandfather – or sometimes their own working life.

The Museum's collections were started in the very early days. The first formal accession was a 12in heavy bent heading knife (a glazier's tool) in 1968, and in June of that year the contents of Lintott's walking stick workshop at Chiddingfold were saved by a working party – including a young volunteer named Christopher Zeuner – and those items are now proudly displayed in the new stores. The collections continued to expand and now contain around 10,000 items.



Wheelwrighting display using artefacts from the Museum's nationally-designated collections.

From the mid-1970s until 1989 they were collected, accessioned and cared for by Heather Champion, and it is thanks to her that the great majority of items are clearly labelled and recorded. She was followed by curators Bob Powell and Julie Massey. Then in preparation for the move to the Downland Gridshell and in a Designation Challenge-funded project Collections Manager Mike Wall and his team carried out a thorough sort and survey of the collections. This paved the way for our recently-appointed Curator, Julian Bell, to carry out the move and establish the new stores.

Richard Harris, Museum Director

Organising the Museum's new Collections Store

Following the move of the collections of smaller artefacts from Charlton at the beginning of this year the collections team of staff and volunteers have been busy organising the storage and display in the new stores. The artefacts are stored in subject groups such as carpentry, blacksmithing, dairying, and building parts and the team has recently finished displaying examples from each of the groups on mesh panels on the end of each racking unit, together with explanatory information in text and images. These displays give a succinct overview of each subject group.

We are now working on the creation of 'location records' – adding to the record of each object a reference to where it is stored. This information is crucial for the efficient retrieval of items in response to enquiries, and in the process of creating these records we are carrying out a final and complete inventory of every item in the collections – a massive task!

All our efforts are directed towards improving access to the collections for



Volunteers Jeremy Capadose and John Hurd busy at work in the new stores.

staff, volunteers and, most importantly, our visitors. An appointments system has been set up so that anyone with a particular interest can come and study artefacts in detail and at leisure. For further information, please call us on 01243 811035.

Julian Bell, Museum Curator

The Downland Gridshell – at work!

In its first 18 months the Downland Gridshell has been intensively used, and all involved have been learning how to maximise its usefulness in many diverse ways.

The building has been showered with prizes, mostly due to the wonderful Jerwood Gridshell Space housing the workshop on the upper floor. For Joe Thompson, the Museum's resident timber framer, this is now his principal workshop area and his work in repairing and creating timber frames takes precedence over all other uses. Through careful planning and liaison we have managed to accommodate a host of other activities and events without too much disruption of his work.

One of the chief uses of the space is the conservation of large items from our collections, and during the year these have included two shepherds' huts, the bellows from the Museum's smithy, a cast-iron hop press and a horse-drawn Jarman side rake. Another major use has been for many of the training courses run by the Museum in historic building conservation and traditional rural trades and skills, including our phenomenally successful *Timber Framing from Scratch*. Many of these courses make use of both the

large open space and the enclosed classroom, which together form an extremely flexible facility.

There have been numerous gatherings and events that have occupied most of the Jerwood Gridshell Space for a few hours at a time. In March and November we have gatherings of the 'Museum Community' – our staff, contractors, volunteers and local friends – which have proved both useful and popular. Two of the Museum's special events have used the space, the Sustainable Building Event and the Wood Show, and we have hosted two conferences (*Time for Timber* and the annual conference of the Carpenters' Fellowship) and various public events, including West Sussex County Council's launch of its *Cultural Strategy*. The biggest occasion of all was the Summer Ball in June this year, and the beautiful lighting and decoration of the space will be remembered by all who were there.

And all this in a workshop! How did it all fit in? By the willingness of all concerned to plan sensibly, and to appreciate that such a stunning structure as the Downland Gridshell can never be anyone's private preserve.

Guy Viney, Gridshell Manager

Historic buildings reveal their secrets



in special Winter tours

The Museum is offering a fascinating opportunity this winter to discover more about our historic building exhibits. *Under the Surface* tours will be offered every Wednesday throughout the winter, led by Museum Director Richard Harris, one of the country's leading authorities on historic timber-framed buildings.

The tour offers an exclusive insight into the construction traditions and techniques of a number of the buildings in the Museum's collection dating from the late 17th to the late 19th century. Participants will be treated to an explanation of early carpenters' traditional

framing systems, together with the surface marks they used to guide them, as well as the plans and organisation of building structures which help us trace the evolution of patterns of living that are still familiar today.

The tour also takes in the 21st century with a visit to the spectacular Downland Gridshell, home to the Museum's conservation workshop and rural artefacts collection. The tour examines the unique design and construction of the first timber gridshell building in the UK – winner of a number of awards – and visits the Museum's extensive collection of rural artefacts in the basement.

Participants will also enjoy a delicious

and authentic Tudor lunch prepared by costumed cooks in the working Tudor kitchen at Winkhurst, before spending the rest of the afternoon exploring the Museum's other exhibits, including Bayleaf medieval farmstead, the working 17th century watermill and the Victorian schoolroom.

Tours run every Wednesday from 12 November until 25 February 2004 (excluding 24 and 31 December and 18 February) from 10.30am – 4.00pm. Places cost £20 plus VAT and must be booked in advance with Christine Standing, Group Bookings Secretary on 01243 811459 or groupbookings@wealddown.co.uk.

Visitors, 2003

Visitor numbers this year were about 10-15% ahead of last year until mid-August. The late and fine Easter holiday got us off to a good start, and the predominantly sunny and warm weather undoubtedly helped achieve this result – perfect for being outside in the Sussex Downs and wandering amongst the Museum's historic buildings! In August, however, the words 'very hot' and 'hot/humid' start appearing in the weather notes in the Museum's day-book – too hot to go anywhere except, maybe, the beach – and the lead over last year has diminished, a downturn experienced also by other outdoor attractions in the area.

There has been an interesting change in the composition of our visitor figures, in that adults this year form a noticeably higher proportion of the total, possibly as a result of our new advertisements and leaflets.

	2003 (so far)	2002
Adults	27%	25%
Over 60s	13%	12%
Children	6%	6%
Families	14%	14%
Child group	1%	1%
School group	16%	18%
Adult group	1%	1%
Special	1%	1%
Friends	18%	18%
Free	3%	4%

The figures seem to confirm that there really is something for everyone at the Museum – roughly 40% of visitors are adults (including some with children under five, or within a larger family group), 22% are children, and 14% are family groups with at least two children. This breadth of appeal is one of our greatest strengths. Some museums like children to be seen but not heard, but we can demonstrate that we can offer the space and freedom for all to enjoy the Museum without compromising anyone else's visit.

Gail Kittle, Operations Director

New faces

Cathy Clark has joined the Museum staff as the new part-time Marketing Officer, having previously spent most of her marketing career in the computer/hi-tech industries. The new role is a refreshing and rewarding change from the world of bits and bytes, she says. Cathy is responsible for Museum publicity, including all the events, which covers advertising, leaflets, posters, distribution of press releases and contact with the media.



Cathy Clark, left, and Rebecca Osborne

Rebecca Osborne has started work part-time as Assistant to Diana Rowsell, Course Development Officer, having left Hampshire Record Office where she was an archive assistant. Her responsibilities include administering and servicing the adult education courses. She says she is looking forward to helping Diana develop even further the range of courses available. This is her first job in a museum, having just completed a Master's in Heritage and Museum studies. The Museum is grateful for support for this new post from Nick and Wendy Sargent.

Julia Burdett started work as a cleaner at the Museum in April. Julia was already a familiar face as she had worked here as a cleaner before the birth of her daughter. In addition Julia has been, and continues to be, a Sunday volunteer.

Early in the year Carol Brinson, who has worked part-time at the Museum in a variety of roles over the years, took up the part-time post of Events Co-ordinator, and has concentrated on administering all the events as well as choreographing them on the day itself. Woodland Heritage has been a great support for our events this year.

Diane Walker

Diane Walker, who has been Education Officer at the Museum since June 2000, left the Museum in August. She has enrolled at Greenwich University to do a graduate course in Heritage Management.

During her three years at the Museum Diane has impressed us all with her professionalism and dedication.

Sharing ideas with European Open Air Museums

The Museum has long had strong links with the Association of European Open Air Museums, formed in the 1960s to provide a meeting place for directors of open-air museums throughout the continent. A conference is held in a different European country every two years and this year it was based in Glasgow. I joined as the Weald & Downland representative.

The conference programme included both visits and working sessions. The themes of the working sessions were *Multiculturalism*, which opened my eyes to the ways that museums are seeking to communicate with new audiences; and *Education or Entertainment*. Perhaps the most memorable paper was given by Jan Vaessen of the Netherlands Open Air Museum on a new exhibit showing a barracks that had been lived in by Moluccan refugees in the 1960s.

The visits started with Beamish – The North of England Open Air Museum near Newcastle, an extraordinarily successful museum with brilliantly researched exhibits reflecting life in the north of England. From Glasgow we moved to Aviemore, our base for a visit to Fort George, built by the British Government after the Jacobite Rising of 1745-6 and hardly altered since – not an open-air museum, exactly, but sharing many of our problems of visitor handling, access and maintenance.

The next day was spent at a museum I have long wanted to visit, the Highland Folk Museum, where the Curator was Bob Powell, who I knew very well when he was Curator at the Weald & Downland in the early 1990s. Bob has recently also been Acting Director, and was the host for the conference – we have since heard that he has been appointed Director in succession to Ross Noble, who has been ill for some time. The Highland Folk Museum is on two

sites a few miles apart: the tiny original museum at Kingussie, which opened in 1944, and a much bigger site at Newtonmore which has only recently been developed. The displays there are very interesting, as they include not only a traditional open-air museum with buildings that have been dismantled and rebuilt, but also a re-created Highland township of the early 18th century, based on archaeological research – very much like our Hangleton cottage but including a whole community.

Our final visit was to the brand new Museum of Scottish Country Life in East Kilbride. This is a partnership between the National Museums of Scotland and The National Trust for Scotland, and has two elements: an historic farm, based on a late 18th century farmstead complete with house, farm buildings, gardens and fields; and a wonderful modern exhibition building with galleries covering *Land, People and Tools*, together with access to some of the collections storage areas. The new museum and its displays are extremely impressive and well worth a visit.

This conference was invaluable in giving me opportunities to get to know my fellow open-air museum directors, to share problems, and discuss issues of common concern. Way back in 1974 and 1978 I attended conferences of the Association at Graz in Austria and here in the UK when I was connected with Avoncroft Museum, and I was pleased to meet old friends from that era, including Stefan Baumeier from the Westfalian Open Air Museum at Detmold and Ivan Balassa from the Hungarian Folk Museum at Szentendre. Above all, of course, I could share with numerous members our warm memories of Chris Zeuner who was President of the Association in 1993-7.

Richard Harris

have run for the last two years in partnership with Barclays bank.

We wish Diane every success in her future career. For the time being Ian Pearce has moved from Assistant to Acting Education Officer, and will run the department while the recruitment process takes place this winter.

Richard Harris

Field strips demonstrate historic crop methods

The small area of field strips that we formed last October has been fascinating to watch during the year. The first crops have established the basis for the rotation: the six strips are in three pairs, and the crops were *wheat* on the pair at the west end, *oats* and *barley* on the pair in the middle, and *fallow* next to peas and beans on the eastern pair.

Chris Baldwin, of the Woodland Craft Centre, is managing the strips for the Museum (as well as training our pair of working oxen), and he has kept a detailed diary of the work done and the health of the crops. Seeds were broadcast sown, and the harvesting was a combination of hand-cutting high with a sickle, and mechanical cutting with the horse-drawn binder.

In each pair of strips, one is being treated as being late-medieval, while the other reflects later farming practices of the 18th-19th century. The medieval strips will be worked with oxen, while the later ones will be worked with horses. The medieval rotation will be wheat-rye-fallow, while the later one will be based on wheat-oats-beans. The table gives the outline of the rotation in the six strips (the darker colour denotes the medieval strips).

For the time being, modern seeds are being used, but we are about to start building up seed of old varieties of



Above, Chris Baldwin broadcasting seed on the field strips. Left, top, harrowing the field strips with a pair of horses drawing the wooden harrow. Left, bottom, harvesting the wheat crop using a horse-drawn binder.

The upper part of the field, above the strips, has been laid with Fittleworth stone to form a firm bed for dung from

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1st year	wheat	wheat	oats	rye	beans	fallow
2nd year	oats	rye	beans	fallow	wheat	wheat
3rd year	beans	fallow	wheat	wheat	oats	rye

wheat, oats and rye. Initially we can only obtain very small quantities of these precious seeds – just a few grams – but over the next few years we will plant and carefully nurture them to build up sufficient stocks to use on the strips.

the stables, and to provide a firm path for visitors. We intend to open up the field to visitors to walk in and inspect the strips, giving a whole new dimension of interest to the Museum landscape.

Gridshell Ball raises £14,000

The Gridshell Charity Ball, held in June, proved to be a great success. Over £14,000 was raised for Museum funds and the event also showed off the versatility of the Downland Gridshell to spectacular effect. The ball committee wishes to thank all the sponsors, donors, advertisers, guests and helpers for their support in making the evening so successful and enjoyable. In the picture the ball committee prepares to enjoy the evening. Left to right, Maurice Pollock, Frances Messenger, Mary Tomlinson (committee chairman), Ann Pollock, Cynthia Rivett and Andrew Ferrier.



News in brief

■ For the third year running the Museum's resident pair of barn owls have brought up a brood successfully with thousands of visitors as daily companions below their roost in Court Barn. Once again they produced four owlets and the parents could be seen regularly flying around the Museum site seeking food for their young. This is a remarkable achievement, says Graham Roberts, West Sussex County Council ecologist who is licensed to handle barn owls, as most pairs rear only one or two. The young owlets have been ringed and on this occasion Graham was also able to ring the mother bird.

2003 – The Year in Pictures

Left, Jon Roberts refurbishing the grey shepherd's hut formerly displayed by the lambing fold. This hut is now in use at the stables for oxen equipment. Its place at the fold has been taken by another example, which is more typical and better provenanced.

Right, Roger Champion, recently retired Museum carpenter, erects his scale model of North Cray hall house in the market square with Walderton Cottage in the background.

Below, the Wood Show – one of the Museum's successful events this season – visitors enjoying the furniture displays in the marquee, and a modern mobile sawmill demonstrating in front of Lurgashall Mill.



Three images from the Winkhurst Tudor kitchen, one of the busiest and most interesting parts of the Museum. Top, resident Tudor kitchen cook Dawn Stevens gathers herbs in the Bayleaf Farmhouse garden ready for use in the many tempting recipes she follows. Below, Dawn and her colleagues, and, bottom, Jon Roberts, busy cooking inside the atmospheric kitchen. Visitors are fascinated by the replica Tudor equipment, the ingredients and the methods. This winter the Museum is offering the opportunity to dine on Tudor fare in Winkhurst – see page 12.



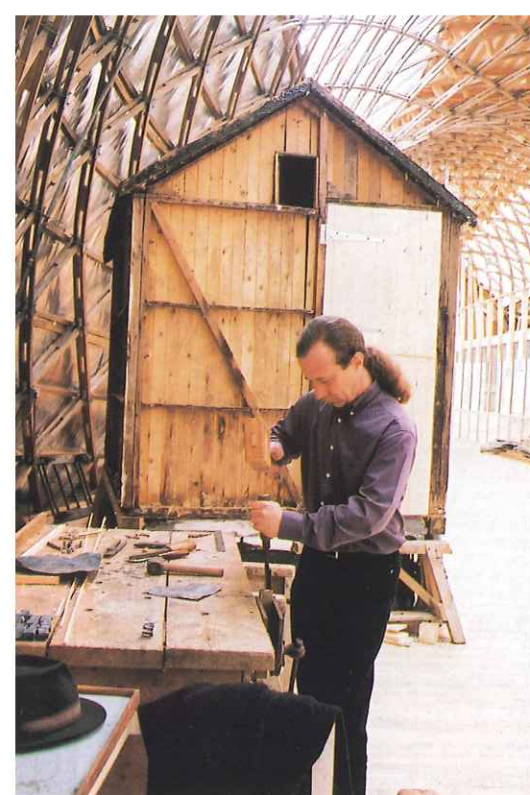
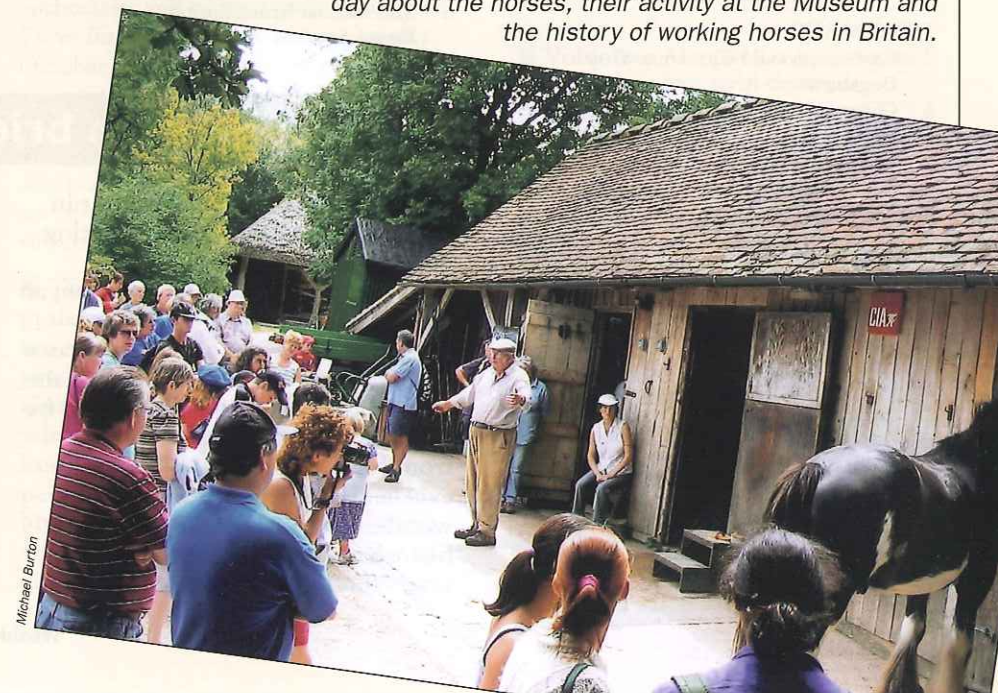
Above, the History Re-enactment Workshop, which visits each year, offers visitors the opportunity to find out more about ordinary domestic life and work in the 17th century. Based at Pendean Farmhouse the workshop's staff take on the characters of the farm's owners, farm servants and neighbours.



Right, sheep were an important part of the economy for the occupants of many of our historic buildings. Here, John Dewey shears one of the Southdown ewes and Pete Betsworth holds the year's first lamb.



Below, the heavy horse stables is at the geographical heart of the Museum and visitors of all ages enjoy the experience of getting up close to our four magnificent Shire horses. The stables group of some 10 volunteers assists stockman Pete Betsworth and horseman Derek Hilton with the myriad tasks needed to keep the horses fit for work and well cared for, as well as keeping the stables area tidy and presentable. Here volunteer Alan Wood speaks to a group of visitors on a busy day about the horses, their activity at the Museum and the history of working horses in Britain.



COURSES PROGRAMME 2003-2004

BUILDING CONSERVATION AND RURAL TRADES AND CRAFTS

NOVEMBER

- 4 Repair of timber-framed buildings: **Richard Harris & Roger Champion**
- 4- English Heritage Masterclass in timber building conservation: **Richard Harris & Peter McCurdy**
- 6- MSc Unit, Building Conservation: roofing and metals
- 10- Intermediate timber framing: **Joe Thompson**
- 14 Timber decay and its treatment: **Brian Ridout**
- 13- MSc Unit 6
- 16
- 16 Care & management of heavy horses: **Robert Sampson & John McDermott**
- 17 Joinery by hand: sash windows: **Ged Gardiner & Charles Brooking**
- 22- Woven hurdle making: **Nick Parker**
- 23



The pole lathe workshop in progress (tutor, Chris Smith, seen in the centre), with the brick drying shed from Petersfield, Hampshire behind.

- 26- Strength grading of oak: **David Woodbridge**
- 28
- 29 Introduction to coppice management: **John Booker**
- 30 Learn ploughing with heavy horses: **Robert Sampson & John McDermott**

DECEMBER

- 3 Carve a spoon for Christmas: **Guy Bagshaw**
- 3 Christmas rag-rugging: **Linda Burden**
- 3 Christmas herbal gifts and decorations: **Christina Stapley**
- 4 Traditional timber frame construction: **Richard Harris**
- 5 The painted house 15th-19th centuries: **Timothy Easton**
- 13 Christmas herbal gifts and decorations: **Christina Stapley**

JANUARY

- 15- MSc Unit 7
- 18
- 18 A winter walk in the woods: **Bob Holman**
- 18 Learn ploughing with heavy horses: **Robert Sampson & John McDermott**
- 21 Continuous hurdle fencing: **Bob Holman**
- 29 Recording vernacular buildings for conservation: Day 1 – observing and sketching: **Richard Harris**

FEBRUARY

- 1 Learn ploughing with heavy horses: **Robert Sampson & John McDermott**
- 12 Recording vernacular buildings for conservation: Day 2 – Imposing a grid: **Richard Harris**
- 15 Learn to drive heavy horses: **Robert Sampson & John McDermott**
- 26 The Georgian tradition: **Neil Burton & Will Palin**
- 26 Poultry handling: **David Bland**
- 27 From crown post to king post: **Joe Thompson**
- 29 Learn to drive heavy horses: **Robert Sampson & John McDermott**

MARCH

- 10 Victorian developments in building design: **Neil Burton & Susie Barson**
- 11 Recording vernacular buildings for conservation: Day 3 – Studio techniques: **Richard Harris**
- 13- Make a bentwood chair: **Nick Parker**
- 14
- 15- Introduction to gauged brickwork: **Gerard Lynch**
- 17
- 18 English brickwork: Tudor to Edwardian: **Gerard Lynch**
- 19 Rag rug workshop: **Linda Burden**
- 21 Learn to drive heavy horses: **Robert Sampson & John McDermott**
- 22 Wattle and daub: **Joe Thompson**
- 24 Medieval roof carpentry: **Joe Thompson**
- 25 Small animals for small holders: **David Bland**
- 25- MSc Unit 8
- 28
- 27 Willow basket workshop: **Deborah Albon**
- 28 Driving heavy horses for those with experience: **Robert Sampson & John McDermott**
- 29- Flint walling: a practical course: **Duncan Berry**
- 30

APRIL

- 1 Design & specification of leadwork: **Nigel Johnston**
- 2 Practical leadwork: **Nigel Johnston**
- 8 The seasonal larder: Spring: **Dawn Stevens**

- 21 Conservation of historic ironwork: **Geoff Wallis, Charles Brooking, Andrew Breese**
- 22 Letters in stone: Day 1: **Cliff Palmer**
- 24- Mrs Beeton's guide to furniture care: **Guy Bagshaw**
- 25
- 26- Timber framing from scratch: **Joe Thompson**
- 29 Letters in stone: Day 2: **Cliff Palmer**
- 29 Traditional timber frame construction: **Richard Harris**
- 30 A dowsing experience: **David Russell**

MAY

- 6 Letters in stone: Day 3: **Cliff Palmer**
- 8 Corn dolly workshop: **Verna Bailey**
- 8- Willow for the garden: **Deborah Albon**
- 9
- 10- Leaded light stained glass workshop: **Tricia Christian**
- 12 Home owners day with **Jackson Stops & Staff**
- 13 Letters in stone: Day 4: **Cliff Palmer**
- 14 Oak and iron: **Joe Thompson**
- 15 Dawn walk with breakfast: **Bob Holman**
- 15 Pole lathe turning: **Chris Smith**
- 17 Joinery by hand: sash windows: **Ged Gardiner & Charles Brooking**
- 18- Traditional painting and decorating techniques: **Wilm & Joy Huning**
- 21 Pole lathe turning: **Chris Smith**
- 19 The 16th century dairy: **Dawn Stevens**
- 20 The 16th century dairy: **Dawn Stevens**
- 22 Bronze axe workshop: **Neil Burridge**
- 23 Green stone axe workshop: **Neil Burridge**
- 27 Repair of timber framed buildings: **Richard Harris & Roger Champion**

JUNE

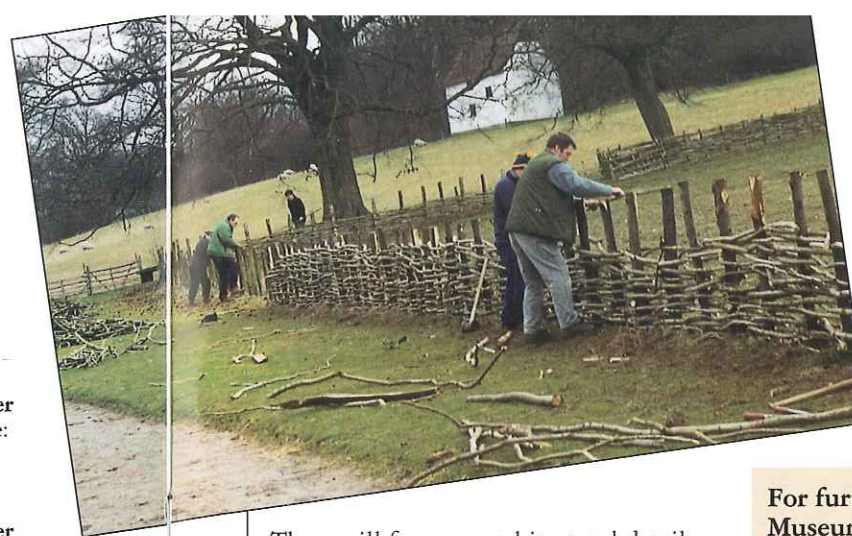
- 5- Improvers willow workshop: **Deborah Albon**
- 6
- 9 Cob walling, history and practice: **Kevin Stubbs**
- 9 Cottage Herb Garden for beginners: **Christina Stapley**
- 11 Felt for fun: **Janice Britz**
- 12 Felt bag workshop: **Janice Britz**
- 14 Flint buildings, history and restoration: **Brian Dawson & Duncan Berry**
- 26- Garden gate from scratch: **Guy Bagshaw**
- 27

Course news in brief

■ Joe Thompson, our carpenter in residence, is offering some exciting new day schools covering the interaction between *Oak and Iron*, an insight into the work of *The Victorian Carpenter* and *From Crown Post to King Post*, a celebration of the craft of roofing. These promise to be stimulating opportunities to learn from Joe who, as well as being an excellent craftsman, also has a wonderfully analytical eye for historical detail. The second of this year's three *Timber Framing from*

Scratch week-long courses, led as usual by Joe, culminated at the end of the Wood Show with the sale by auction of the four timber-frames built on the courses. Bidding was competitive and resulted in the largest frame being knocked down to Alison Bunning, an architect and Museum volunteer.

■ Two new architecture days are planned, *The Georgian Tradition* and *Victorian Developments in Building Design*, led by Neil Burton and colleagues.



Bob Holman's Continuous Wattle Hurdling course under way, replacing the fencing for the Bayleaf farmhouse paddocks.

These will focus on architectural detail from two very interesting periods in the advancement of building technology. Architects, surveyors and conservation officers are especially welcome.

■ Due to demand from the timber industry we are running a certificated course on the *Strength Grading of Oak*. Successful completion will qualify participants to strength grade oak to the British Standard. In this venture we are being supported by W L West & Sons by the use of their local timber yard. Developments in our lead work courses include the addition of more hands-on sessions including a three-day *Advanced Leadwork Course* for those who need practical skills as well as history and background knowledge.

■ The popular *Lime Plasters & Renders* day school has been extended to two days to enable Ian Constantinides and Jeff Orton's double act to cover the

Museum resident timber framer and tutor Joe Thompson, left, steadies a timber while a Timber Framing From Scratch student uses the augur to make a peg hole.



For further information on all Museum Courses contact Diana Rowsell on 01243 811464 or Rebecca Osborne on 01243 811931. The full 2004 programme will be published in the Spring Magazine.

subject more fully. Another new introduction is *Cob Walling: history & practice*. Cob is a material which is widely used in Hampshire and this day school has been requested by existing students. Places will be limited to facilitate maximum interaction between tutor and students.

■ Interesting developments in our rural trades and crafts course programme include a new angle to the *Heavy Horse Experience Days* with beginners and improvers equally welcome on all but the more advanced driving day. These will again be run by John McDermott and Robert Sampson. *Woven Hurdle Making* and *Coppice Management* will take place in November followed by *Continuous Hurdle Fencing* in January. Tutor Bob Holman will also lead the walks including the *Winter Walk* in Goodwood Woods.

■ The *Winkhurst Tudor Kitchen* days were all very successful and enjoyed by enthusiasts and professionals alike. The *Tudor Bakehouse* day took place in early October with a full kitchen and lots of delicious smells of newly baked bread! All of this year's Tudor kitchen courses will be repeated next year with the addition of a *banquet*, a word used quite specifically for the sweetmeat course at the end of a Tudor meal.

■ The Museum continues to be very grateful to the course leaders, who are not teachers but expert practitioners in their fields who are also engaging communicators and who share their skills and knowledge with groups of eager people for a few days. This team of Museum associate lecturers adds an enormous range of opportunities to all types of users of the Museum.

News in brief

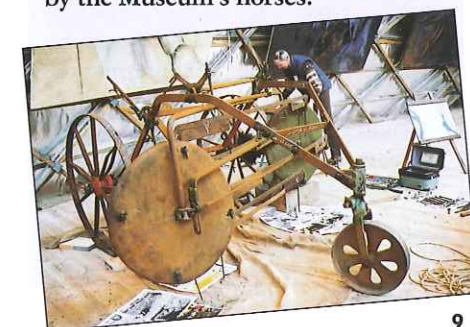
■ In the last year two Museum exhibits have had their contents and displays overhauled by the Collections Team, the Watersfield stable and the sawpit shed from Sheffield Park. This has involved the removal of any rubbish (including dead frogs from the sawpit!), cleaning, treating and redisplaying the artefacts, and replacing explanatory text panels.

■ Volunteer John Herniman has just delivered his 30,000th horseshoe for sale in the Museum shop, bringing the magnificent sum of about £24,000 into Museum funds! John took over from the late Bernard Rush the job of preparing the horseshoes which have been a long standing feature of the shop. The horseshoes are obtained free of charge from farriers at West Dean and Sidlesham and John has developed a cleaning method using water, sand and the Museum's cement mixer. A 'grotty job', he says, but with spectacular results!

■ During the summer an apple press, scrutting machine and associated equipment were kindly donated by Mrs Kenway of Rudgwick, and have been installed in Redvins yard by the Collections Team. The scrutter pulverises the apples into pulp which is put into bags and pressed – in tests it has been extremely effective! It is hoped that we will press fruit grown on site and also offer a service for local people who would like their apples converted into juice. For further information, call Julian Bell, 01243 811035.

■ The Museum is now featured on one of the UK's premier history websites, www.history.uk.com, a free searchable online history resource. This vast site offers access to more than 29,000 directory listings of history-related venues, organisations and experts in the UK.

■ Volunteer Alan Deller has carried out the complete strip down, conservation and re-assembly of a Jarmain side rake, used to rake hay by horse (see below). Currently it is awaiting new tyres and repairs to one wheel, which have to be done off-site, and we hope that next year it will be seen at work being drawn by the Museum's horses.



FRIENDS NEWS

Friends 2004 Spring Tour to Norfolk, 23-28 April

- **The 2004 Friends Spring Tour will be based on Norwich and take in a wealth of historic attractions in and near the city.**

The tour leaves Singleton in a Richardson's coach and, following a brief stop at Clacket Lane Services for coffee, travels to Audley End, an English Heritage property. The first Earl of Suffolk, Lord Treasurer to James I, built the Jacobean house and in 1760 Robert Adam remodelled the great apartments. The interior today is the product of the third Lord Braybrooke who inherited the property in 1825. It has a huge picture and natural history collection, a recently restored park and an organic kitchen garden. Arriving in time for lunch with a house tour in the afternoon, the coach leaves at around 4.00pm for the journey to the Swallow Nelson Hotel in Norwich.

The hotel is modern, fronts the River Wensum and has an attractive garden as well as a leisure club with indoor swimming pool and spa pool. The Trafalgar Restaurant, where the tour's meals will be served, overlooks the river.

On Saturday the day begins with a guided tour of Norwich with Blue Badge Guides and moves on to the Forum, Norwich's Millennium project, to visit *Origins*, a fascinating interactive journey of East Anglia through 2,000 years. After lunch there is time to explore the city's many historic buildings, including the

cathedral and Norwich Castle.

Sunday morning will be spent at leisure and in the afternoon the tour goes by coach to Somerleyton Hall and Garden, home of Lord and Lady Somerleyton, built in 1844-51. It has lavish architectural features, magnificent carved stonework, fine State rooms, paintings and woodcarvings. Outside is a beautiful garden with a 1846 yew hedge maze.

Monday is set aside to visit three gems in Great Yarmouth's South Quay: the Elizabethan House (NT) to experience the lives of families who lived there from Tudor to Victorian times; Row 111, a tenement house and the Old Merchants House, a respectable merchant's quarters which houses architectural features rescued from period properties after World War II bombing. Following a buffet lunch at The Bell Inn, St Olaves, which backs onto the riverside, the tour continues to The Otter Trust at Earsham to see British otters, Asian short-clawed otters and three lakes, home to European waterfowl and a large flock of Barnacle Geese.

On Tuesday the tour visits Roots of Norfolk at Gressingham, a fascinating museum housed in and around an old workhouse. We have arranged to have a *Workhouse Experience*, entering the world of the workhouse, its people and their stories. There is much to see: shops, homes, a

church, school and the collections gallery, and across the road, a 1920s working farm with Suffolk Punch horses, black pigs, Norfolk turkeys and the farmhouse and garden. Take a walk by the river, try a bit of pond dipping, and enjoy refreshments at the café.

On the last day, Wednesday, we leave Norfolk and visit the historic Suffolk medieval wool town of Lavenham. Arriving for coffee the tour has a guided walk of the town, with its whole streets of timber-framed houses, with Blue Badge Guides. We will also visit the Guildhall – look out for the picture of Poplar Cottage, its timber-frame and completed house! There will be time to buy lunch in one of the many cafés and hotels before rejoining the coach for the last leg of the journey home.

The cost will not exceed £365 per person and includes coach travel, bed, full English breakfast and three-course table d'hôte dinner, entrances and tours, buffet lunch on the Monday, coffee on the Wednesday and coach driver's gratuity. It does not cover insurance (participants are advised to take out their own), lunches, drinks and incidental expenses at the hotel.

For an application form please ring 01730 813126 (leaving your name and address if the answerphone is on). A limited number of single rooms are available.



Looking for a different Christmas gift this year?

Give a year's membership of the Friends of the Museum

Share with your family and friends the pleasure that membership brings through visiting the Museum, and the satisfaction in contributing to the development of this unique heritage project.

Write to, or phone, the Friends office for an application form. The completed application should be returned to us by 1 December.

Annual subscriptions (2003 rates) are:

Family (2 adults and their dependent children, or grandchildren) £38, Adult £17, Joint adults £34, Senior citizen (60) £15, Joint seniors £30, Child/student £9.

Registered Charity No 288962

- **Honorary membership.** At our AGM in April Roger Champion, the Museum's master carpenter for 27 years, was elected an Honorary Member of the Friends on his retirement from full-time employment in recognition of his unique contribution to the Museum over the years.

- **Contacting the Friends.** If you have a query about your membership, please contact our office at Friends of the Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU. The membership secretary is Lisa Neville and the hon. treasurer is Maurice Pollock. For telephone enquiries call 01243 811893. Email friends@wealddown.co.uk. The Friends' office is not staffed full time but please leave a message and we will call back as soon as possible. For information about Friends' events, please contact Jean Piggott, hon. secretary, at Westwood, Pine Close, West Lavington, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 0EW. Tel: 01730 813126.

Children enjoy the Museum



As usual it has been an extremely busy summer season in the Education Department! The activities for children held every Wednesday throughout the summer holidays have been a great success with numbers reaching 1,399 on our busiest day. The activities have been wide and varied, from making medieval tiles to shepherd's stories in the lambing fold. Thank you to everyone who helped to make these days run so smoothly.

Between the end of the summer term and the activities, we managed to slip in a costume workshop and a visit to Saint Cross in Winchester for the Education Team. The costume workshop was run for us by Barbara Painter, a freelance costume historian. Barbara has been visiting us for about three years now and is a great inspiration. This year the focus has been on underpinnings, so we spent the day watching corsets and bodices being cut and fitted in the unlikely surroundings of Easebourne Priory!

The visit to Saint Cross gave all of us a fantastic insight into life within a monastic establishment, which will help us in running the *Medieval Realms* days. The buildings and grounds at Saint Cross are extremely beautiful and peaceful



Top, children enjoying a visit at the Museum in the summer. Above, children in the Winkhurst Tudor kitchen during the Barclays Special Educational Needs project.

– I can heartily recommend a visit.

We are now looking forward to the Winter Workshop season and will be holding a series of training and refresher days on 3, 4 and 6 November. Anybody wishing to find out what happens during a Winter Workshop – or who would be interested in helping – is invited to come along and join in. As always we are on the look out for new faces to help during the winter season; welcoming and teaching the children in the virtually deserted Museum is for me one of the highpoints of the year.

Ian Pearce, Acting Education Officer

Betty Quihampton

Betty Quihampton, better known as 'Qui', died peacefully at her home earlier this year. Qui was a stalwart supporter of the Museum for over 20 years, for many of them working in the library with founder trustee Marjorie Hallam.

She was also a great supporter of Pallant House Gallery where she had performed the task of membership secretary to the Gallery's Friends organisation for many years. Her contribution to the Museum's work is very much appreciated.

Portrait of Chris Zeuner

A portrait of the Museum's late Director, Chris Zeuner, who died in January 2001, now hangs in Crawley Hall opposite the portrait of Museum Founder, Dr Roy Armstrong.

The portrait was executed by local artist, Annie Rolls, in pastels to match the materials used in the Armstrong portrait, and framed by Museum Trustee, Michael Burton.

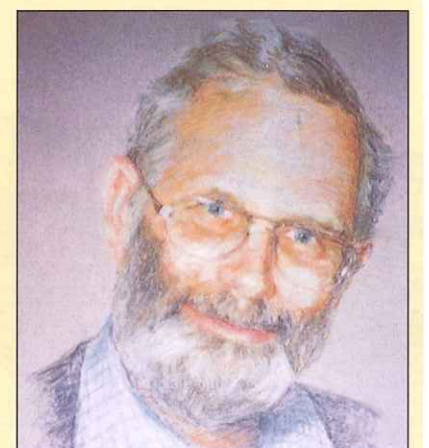
New pigs arrive at the Pendean pigsty

A year ago we reported the building of a pigsty behind Pendean – a conjectural reconstruction of a 17th century sty. That sty has been home to Amelia, a pedigree Tamworth sow, and her three litters of piglets – born in May and November 2002, and July 2003. Amelia is owned and managed by Paul Pinnington of the Woodland Craft Centre.

Amelia's last litter was very disappointing, with only three piglets, and the vet advised that she should not be bred from again. To replace her, Paul has obtained three new Tamworth pigs which arrived here on 18 August. Two of them are gilts (young females which have not yet had litters). Arabella is 13-months-old and was due to farrow at the end of September. Her piglets will be weaned in early December. The other is named Beatrice: she is four-months-old and will be put to the boar at around 9-10 months.

Paul's third acquisition is a 10-month-old Tamworth boar, Caesar, who will be able to serve both gilts. This will mean that Arabella and Beatrice will not have to be carted around the country to other boars.

The gestation period for a pig is nearly four months, so if two months are allowed for feeding the litter until they are weaned, a pig can have a litter every six months or so. With two sows we will be able to have four litters a year, roughly one every three months. Some of the piglets will be sold at eight weeks, as soon as they are weaned. Others will be fattened and butchered, for sale to staff, volunteers and local people, or for use in Winkhurst Tudor kitchen.



GET BUSY AT THE MUSEUM THIS WINTER!

Dine in Tudor style

Experience Tudor dining for yourself at special bespoke Saturday evening dinners this winter at the Museum!

The Museum is offering the opportunity for you and your friends to enjoy an authentic Tudor three-course meal in the atmospheric surroundings of the Museum's Tudor buildings.

Meals are cooked and served by costumed cooks who will be happy to talk about Tudor food and kitchens and table etiquette. For up to a total of eight guests, supper will be served in the kitchen, on a traditional oak trestle table using replica Tudor wares. Larger groups will be served in Winkhurst hall.

The meals cost £25 per person,



including ale and wine and a souvenir menu card for each guest. Dining can be booked every Saturday, beginning at 7.00pm – why not choose this inspirational and unusual setting for your Christmas party this year? Contact Ian Pearce on 01243 811363, or email groupbookings@wealddown.co.uk.

Winter days are beautiful in the Museum's downland setting with warming fires providing a welcome in some of the 46 historic homes and workplaces which form the Museum's main exhibits.

The Museum's annual tree dressing event takes place on 7 December from 12 noon offering visitors the chance to join in this festival whose origins go back to ancient times. Visitors can take part in the lantern-making workshop (bring a jam jar and a night-light), watch morris dancing, listen to story

telling, plays and songs and finally join in with the lantern procession and dance around the tree as it is dressed. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

The Museum's annual carol-singing in North Cray hall house takes place on Monday, 15 December. In Christmas week (26 December – 1 January) come and enjoy a Tudor Christmas in Bayleaf Farmhouse and Winkhurst Kitchen: both will be decorated as they would have been 400 years ago and visitors can enjoy sweetmeats and seasonal drinks.

This year's new Museum Christmas card features Bayleaf Farmhouse in the snow and is available in five-card packs. Last year's card featuring the market square is also available, both on its own and in mixed packs.

All five-card packs cost £2.49 and are available from the Museum shop or by post (postage charged pro rata.) The shop is open every day throughout the winter, offering books on buildings and countryside themes, the Museum's new series of postcards, Tudor replica pottery and glass, biscuits made with Museum flour, children's stocking filler items and special Christmas gifts.

Diary 2003-2004

Winter opening –
Weekends

1 November 2003 – 29 February 2004
(10.30am – 4.00pm)

Wednesdays – Special Interest tours of the Museum for pre-booked parties

Christmas and New Year –
26 December 2003 – 1 January 2004

(10.30am – 4.00pm)

Schools half-term –

16 – 20 February 2004

(10.30am – 4.00pm)

2004 season – Daily

1 March – 31 October

(10.30am – 6.00pm)

Daily tours of the Downland Gridshell are available at 1.30pm when the Museum is open. *Special group visits by appointment.*

DECEMBER 2003

7 **Tree Dressing** – celebration of the life-giving properties of trees. Dancing, lantern making, singing, story telling, plays, mulled wine

26 Dec- **Tastes of a Tudor Christmas** –
1 Jan enjoy festive sweetmeats and drink in Bayleaf farmhouse & Winkhurst kitchen

FEBRUARY 2004

16-20 **Half-Term Activities**

MARCH

21 **Mothering Sunday** – free entry and a bunch of daffodils for mothers and grandmothers

APRIL

11-12 **Easter Fine Food Fair** – fabulous opportunity to buy regional food directly from the producers. Brass band entertainment and cookery demonstrations

MAY

16 **Sustainable Building Event**

JUNE

1-4 **Half-term activities**
6 **Heavy Horse Spectacular** – a wonderful all-day display showing the uses, past and present, of these equine giants, plus lots of craft and trade stands

ADMISSION CHARGES until 1 March 2004

Adults £7.00 Over 60's £6.50 Children
£4.00 Family Ticket, 2 adults & up to 3
children £19.00. Under 5's free

Photographs in this issue are by Diana Zeuner, Editor, unless otherwise stated.



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The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Magazine is mailed bi-annually to 8,000 people and organisations with an interest in historic buildings and countryside skills.

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