

**WEALD & DOWNLAND
OPEN AIR MUSEUM**

Spring 2005

**Caring for
the Museum
landscape**

**2005 Events
and Courses
Programmes**

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Museum Friends' contribute over £1 million

The Museum's Friends organisation has made a vital and substantial contribution to the Museum's work since it was established in 1970 – grants in the 34 years since then have amounted to nearly £1.2 million.

Friends' honorary treasurer Maurice Pollock has analysed the accounts over the period and finds that the average grant in the 1970s was £2,582, which rose in the 1980s to £14,648. In the 1990s this increased to £43,404 and in the early 2000s it has amounted to £118,742 each year.

Friends' chairman, Frances Messenger, said: "The Friends was set up as a charity to give moral and financial support and is one of the largest museum Friends' organisations in the country. We have more than 4,000 members representing some 10,500 individuals, who are making a valuable contribution to the work of one of the most popular heritage attractions in the region."

Independent museums like the Weald & Downland receive no direct Government funding. New projects can attract capital funding but revenue income is more difficult to raise. Visitor admissions and income from the shop, catering operation and training courses all help towards this and the Friends' grants are often used to support the day-to-day running of the museum. Friends' donations can also be used as vital matching funding for capital projects.

Among the projects supported two of the most significant in recent years have been the Downland Gridshell, where the Friends' grant of £60,000 enabled much of the early design work to be done, and the Winkhurst Tudor kitchen. Grants totalling £58,000 enabled the Museum to obtain a matching grant from the Designation Challenge Fund for the relocation and interpretation of this popular exhibit.

In 2004 the Friends donated £139,495 to the Museum. Among the individual grants made were –

- Exhibit enhancements and maintenance (replica items for Poplar cottage and essential work at Lurgashall mill) – £15,382
 - Working horses and Southdown sheep flock (replacement harness and veterinary expenses) – £16,754
 - Schools service (special workshops and demonstrations, plus the appointment of the Schools Service Manager) – £20,000
 - Gardens development (plants and maintenance of the Museum's period gardens) – £15,000
 - Marketing and publicity (leaflets, brochures and Museum magazine) – £13,500
 - Curatorial and collections (care, repair, storage and display of the artefact collections) – £4,000
 - Demonstrators (regular demonstrations by specialist craftsmen) – £4,900
- In addition the Friends has contributed towards site maintenance, computer upgrading, staff and volunteer

training and children's activity days. Exceptional payments have been made to help the Museum with its health and safety commitments, an access audit, staff recruitment and the feasibility study into the proposed Orientation Gallery.

The Friends also runs social and fund-raising events, such as the Family Barn Dance and the Murder Mystery Dinner planned this year and puts together a programme of off-site visits to places of interest including the annual Spring Tour. See page 27 for more information on these events.

As a charity the Friends is able to claim Gift Aid on membership subscriptions, which enables it to attract an extra 28p in each £ given by members.

To join the Friends and make a major contribution towards the Museum contact Friends of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU. Tel Friends Office 01243 811893 (manned part-time). Email friends@wealddown.co.uk

Keeping the lifeblood flowing

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Museum – we have a rota of some 250 who help keep the show on the road throughout the year. They do everything, from serving in the shop, car parking, manning Getting to Grips – our hands-on exhibition on building materials and techniques – to stewarding the historic building exhibits and supporting our most popular attractions, Lurgashall Watermill, the working horse stables, Winkhurst Tudor kitchen and the period gardens. Others serve as trustees and Friends' committee members – reflecting a wide range of commitment to this award-winning charity museum. Each year at the

beginning of the season volunteers gather to hear about plans and ideas, share thoughts and raise questions for debate – this year's Museum Community Forum is on 16 March. In the picture volunteers get together for an end-of-season party last November in the Downland Gridshell.



Richard Harris

Major improvements at Lurgashall mill

This winter has seen major changes to Lurgashall mill, with improved access to the building, a new viewing area and improvements to the water management system.

The mill is powered by water from the top pond, which was created by major earthworks in the early 1970s and is fully lined with a butyl rubber liner. It holds about 3.5 million gallons of water and was originally filled, and is still topped up, by pumping from a borehole. It is also fed by drains and gullies that collect surface water from the car parks, and there is even a pipe that brings some of the water that flows down Town Lane outside the Museum entrance.

Having passed over the mill wheel (at a rate of about 72,000 gallons per hour) the water collects in the lower pond, from where it is returned to the top pond by a powerful electric pump at 1,200 gallons per minute. However, there has always been a problem with water loss from the lower pond into the chalk. The lower pond is not lined, and when the water table is low it takes only a few days for it to empty completely: normally, of course, daily use of the mill keeps it topped up. The 'dry' months, which are marked by the river Lavant being dry, last from sometime in the spring until late in the year. When the water table is high (in the winter months when the Lavant is flowing) the opposite happens – water flows into the lower pond from the surrounding chalk.

So what we have been doing is allowing water in the dry months to escape into the chalk, then pumping it out again through the borehole. This is expensive and our extraction from the borehole is limited to 3 million gallons per year.

At the beginning of last year our consultant millwright, Robert Demaus, put forward some proposals to solve these problems, and these have been carried out this winter. What we have done is to use a butyl rubber liner to create a small waterproof section of the lower pond, which is linked to the rest of the lower pond by pipes with a sluice gate. In the dry months water flowing over



The Museum's consultant millwright, Robert Demaus, making repairs to timber work at the mill leet.

the mill wheel will be restricted to the new waterproof pond, and thus we will not lose water into the chalk, but in the wet months the linking pipes will be opened so that the whole 'system' is fed by water flowing in naturally from the high water table.

The waterproof pond has been formed by building a strip across the lower pond, and part of this has been surfaced and fenced to create an improved area from which visitors will be able to view the waterwheel turning. A gentle path

Visitors enjoying Lurgashall Mill.



has been created so that people with limited mobility can easily use this new facility, and the step has been removed from the entrance to the mill itself, which will make access easier and safer for everyone. New planting and natural vegetation will establish itself around the pond over the next few years.

Robert Demaus has rebuilt the 'launder' (the timber channel that carries the water onto the top of the wheel), which had become rotten and leaked badly, and improvements have also been made to the leet that channels the water out of the top pond. Finally, Roger Champion is making a bench that will be installed near the mill as somewhere for weary visitors to take the weight off their feet! This bench is in memory of Peter Vincent and has been paid for out of the generous donations made by his friends and colleagues after he died a year ago, for which we are most grateful.

Richard Harris

Changes for Boarhunt

The hall from Boarhunt is extremely important, being the earliest-dated exhibit building and our only cruck structure, so it is understandable that it was accepted as an exhibit even though it had lost many of its original timbers. In particular, none of its original outside wall frames survived except for one small fragment of wall plate – and even that was only recorded, not rescued. After much discussion we decided to re-erect it with a door and window in what must have been the correct positions in the hall, but only on one side, on the basis that one conjecture is better than two!

Over the last 30 years, however, it has become clear that this policy was over-cautious. It is rare, if not unknown, for a hall house at that period (probably c1400)

not to have a door and window on both sides of the hall. We have therefore altered the north wall, all of which is conjectural and dates from the Museum reconstruction in the late 1970s, to insert a door and window opposite those in the south wall. Roger Champion has carried out the changes, including the provision of doors and shutters.

Together with the Hangleton cottage, Boarhunt has always been something of an 'orphan' at the Museum, beyond the reach of many visitors and without any interpretation to explain its significance. Once the physical alterations are complete, we intend to research and install suitable furniture in both cottages, so that they can be brought up to the same level of domestic interpretation as Pendean, Bayleaf, Winkhurst and Whittaker's cottages.

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Rare horse-drawn vehicles join Museum collection

The Museum's collections team has had an unusually busy period recently following three donations of large horse-drawn artefacts in exceptional condition.

The Reading caravan which we acquired just over a year ago has been joined by two other superb wheeled vehicles which are in surprisingly good condition. Our plans to conserve the Reading van have now been amended to include similar treatments for the two other vehicles: the rare cattle waggon acquired in August last year (see *Autumn magazine*) and a furniture waggon from the Reynolds company in Bognor Regis, acquired in January this year. The Reynolds company has been in existence since the early 1900s, selling furniture and providing storage and funeral services.

The detailed examination of the Reading van has been completed and a useful report produced for the Museum describing its original colour scheme. This highlights an almost undisturbed area of highly decorated woodwork found, surprisingly, on the undercarriage, well out of the general line of sight. The collections team plans to use this report as the basis for necessary restoration work this spring. Areas of timber will be repaired, old paintwork will be removed and the original colours restored using traditional paints and methods.

The collections team, including special help from our regular volunteers, Mike Piggott and John Hurd, are completing basic conservation to the cattle waggon, ready to use at the Museum's Heavy Horse Spectacular in June. We have also



Containerised furniture waggon donated by Mr Dominic Reynolds

recently had the good fortune to make contact with two granddaughters of Mr Stephen Horder, the original manufacturer of the vehicle, based in Loxwood. We hope to receive additional information concerning the vehicle from them and also involve them in the heavy horse event.

The furniture waggon is extremely interesting as it provides a comparison to motorised transport today. It consists of a horse-drawn, flat-bed waggon, upon which a removable wooden container is carried. Lifting points on the roof of the container allow it to be transferred from the waggon to other transport such as railway carriages – virtually the same principal used for articulated containers and trailers on our roads today. The original Reynolds livery is still evident on the container and we plan to carry out similar conservation work to that involved with the cattle waggon.

Museum's storage and access project moves forward

The Museum is making good progress in its £70,000 two-year storage and access project, addressing improvements to the remaining off-site collections stores. Funded by the Designation Challenge Fund, the project has been broken down into manageable sections and, with the employment of a collections assistant (Katy Elliott), we have managed to meet all the milestones agreed, providing a benchmark against which progress can be measured.

We have also been fortunate to have had help from Ben Headon over the winter period, and from volunteers John Walshe and Alan Deller which has

enabled us to progress work at a steady rate. This team is to be especially commended as conditions are not easy at the off-site stores during the winter months.

The project's major element is to conserve, document and photograph all the artefacts stored off-site and this is progressing very well, with around 80 artefacts having been completed at the time of going to press.

The Museum has also acquired a new computer database system onto which we will add all existing artefact information and the new data and images collected during the latest project. The database will eventually

be accessible by staff, volunteers and the public via the Museum's website and through a dedicated computer terminal, sited in the Gridshell foyer, adjacent to the main artefact collections.

The collections team has taken small groups of staff and volunteers to the off-site stores on a number of occasions to view the work in progress. Anyone wishing to do this should contact Julian Bell, Curator, on 01243 811035.



Example of image taken during the Designation Challenge Fund storage and access project, which will be added to the new database.

FAMILY BARN DANCE

**SATURDAY 9 JULY 2005 at 6.30 pm
in the Downland Gridshell**

After the success of last year's Family Barn Dance, this event is being repeated by popular demand – we recommend you get your tickets early!

Come and enjoy an evening of lively music and dancing for all the family provided by The Reel Thing. The music is a combination of British and American folk tunes played for dances that can soothe or exhaust you; punctuated by songs and music to allow you to get your breath back for the next stint. The caller tells you what to do and when to do it; so come along and enjoy a great evening's entertainment.

Bring your own picnic food and drinks.

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For tickets contact Sarah Casdagli on 01243 811260

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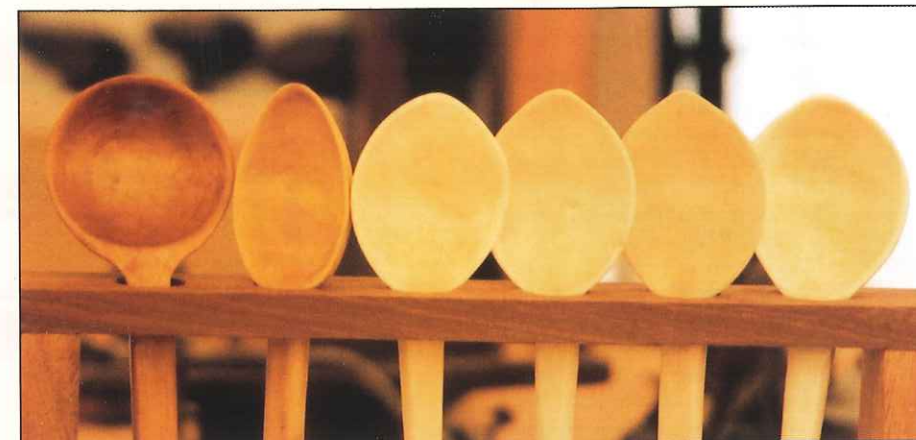


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For wood lovers the Museum is the place to be on **10-11 September**, when a two-day festival celebrates the beauty and versatility of wood. **The Wood Show** features working craftsmen offering all kinds of products of traditional woodlands - hurdles, turned bowls, besom brooms, exquisite wooden carvings, fine furniture, basketry, musical instruments, toys and modern timber buildings made in the traditional way. The Museum's own historic buildings, dating from the 15th century, are fine examples of the use of timber, a wonderful natural material. Special demonstrations will be held in the Downland Gridshell, itself a fine example of innovation in timber



The Wood Show - special event for wood lovers!



engineering. The Wood Show is sponsored by Chantry House Oak Ltd of Chichester, makers of fine furniture - visit their website on www.chantryhouseoak.co.uk or their shop in North Street, Chichester. They will have their own stand at The Wood Show.

News in brief

■ Gift aid on visitor admissions is to continue for one more year, with a modified scheme likely to be in place from April 2006. The announcement by the Chancellor in his Autumn statement is good news for museums like the Weald & Downland, as the scheme is generating revenue of some £50,000 each year. During last year there were fears that the scheme would be withdrawn, which made financial planning very difficult. However organisations such as AIM (Association of Independent Museums), of which the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum is a founder member, had considerable success in their lobbying activity.

■ Olah Roma! Traditional Gypsy Festival comes to the Museum on 6-8 May when the Downland Gridshell will be the venue for a celebration of Gypsy culture. Evening concerts will be by leading Gypsy performers - Romano Drom (Hungary) on 6 May and Vera Bila and Kale on 7 May, both at 8.00pm. In addition to the concerts the Museum will be focusing on other aspects of Gypsy culture over the weekend with a variety of exhibits and activities around the site, including its recently acquired Gypsy Caravan dating from the late 1800s. The event is being run in association with Roots Around the World, which promotes a greater understanding of cultural diversity in West Sussex. Tickets for the concerts can be obtained from the Museum office on 01243 811363 or from Roots Around the World on 01243 774641.

Museum Fundraising Event

Murder Mystery Dinner

The famous actor-manager Quentin de Borghe is touring with his troupe of Has-been and Wannabe actors, the glamorous and the hopeless, promoting his unique and controversial theory on the origins of William Shakespeare's plays.

But is there complete harmony in the company? It seems not. Bitter undercurrents of jealousy and hatred emerge as the evening progresses until finally it all boils over in dramatic murder.

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and a delicious three course dinner is just £30 per person.

For bookings, call Sarah Casdagli on 01243 811726

The Friends of the Museum are grateful to
Barclays Bank plc for supporting this event



The original appearance of the Lavant building

WHEN the building from Lavant was being taken down in 1975 it was not appreciated that the plaster around some of the windows and doors was part of the original finish. Photographs taken at the time show the surviving areas of plaster and some of the colour on adjacent mortar joints (Figures 1 and 2), and the direct and indirect evidence is extremely strong that the building originally had colour-washed bricks and white plastered surrounds.

There is no doubt that these white plastered surrounds of the 17th century were intended to imitate real stonework. On some buildings the front elevation has real stone surrounds, while the rear elevation has to make do with plaster. This is part of a long tradition of decorative treatment, with evidence both in earlier and later times for comparable techniques. In the 19th century it became extremely common to apply

plaster surrounds to the sash windows of brick houses, and in many cases to plaster the plinth as well – as can be seen in Chichester, and even Lavant, in the present day – so it should not surprise us that Tudor and Jacobean society, with their love of pattern and display, did something similar.

Timothy Easton, whose previous article on painting brickwork was published in the Spring 2001 Museum Magazine, has kindly contributed this further article on his research into colour washing and plastered surrounds. We believe that this treatment should be applied to the Lavant building at the Museum, and our objective in publishing this article is to generate debate and further research, so that perhaps in a year's time we will be in a position to take the plunge and apply paint and plaster.

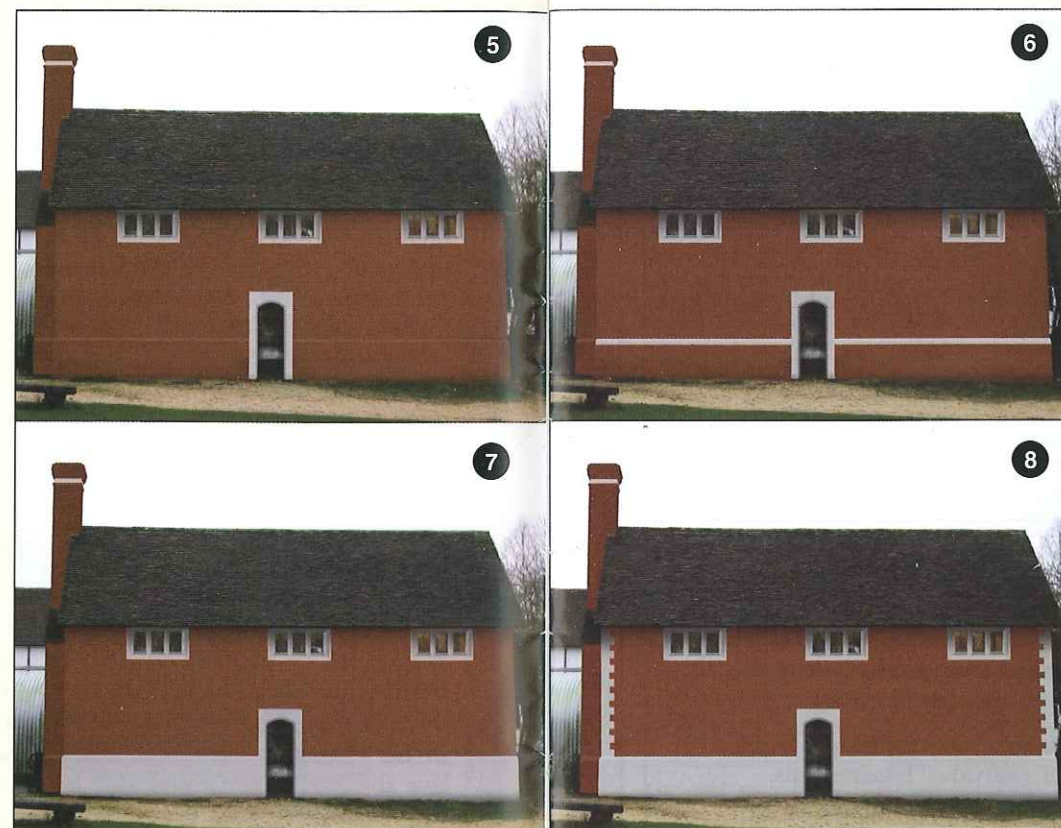
Richard Harris

It is now recognised that external plaster and colour is perfectly normal treatment for good brick buildings of the 16th and 17th centuries – the Lavant building probably dates from the first quarter of the 17th century. Many 17th century English examples retain evidence indicating that the brickwork was

colour washed over the bricks and mortar joints, which makes the plastered 'stone' windows stand out even more. Another technique, which the Museum has used on the brickwork in Pendean farmhouse, was to paint white or black 'pencil' lines to give the effect of fine pointing.

Colourwash and plaster on 17th century brickwork

by Timothy Easton



1 One of the small square windows in the Lavant building during dismantling, showing the surviving plastered window surround. There are three of these small windows on the west side of the building, but none on the east side which is shown in the reconstructions.

2 The door to the Lavant building during dismantling in 1975, showing the original plaster surround still surviving. The mortar joints underneath the plaster are clean, but those to the left of the doorway show traces of surviving colourwash.

3 Window, quoin and plinth at Long Melford Hall, Suffolk. The quoins and plinth are stone, while the window surround is plaster.

4 A detail of a house in Worcestershire showing windows built with moulded bricks, then plastered to imitate stone.

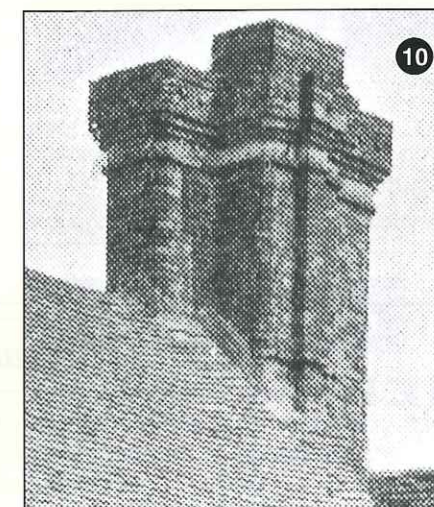
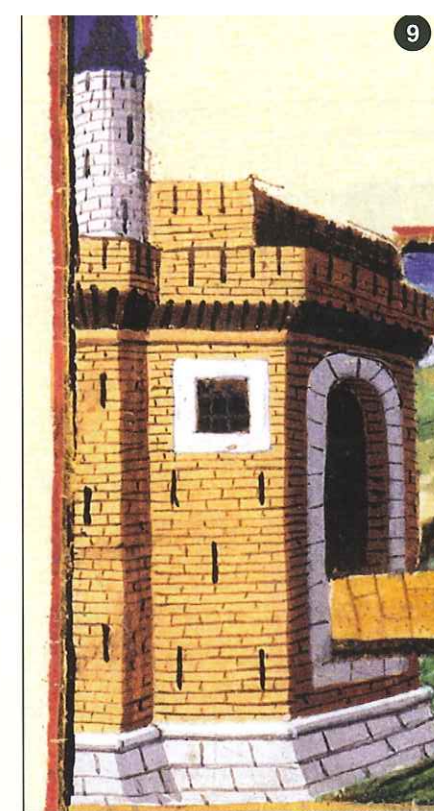
5-8 These four pictures show various combinations of reconstructed features on the Lavant building. All four show the brickwork colourwashed so that the mortar courses are only just visible, with a white band around the chimney cap and plaster surrounds to the doorway and windows. Figure 5 shows only

these features. Figure 6 shows the addition of plaster to pick out the line of the plinth offset course, imitating the effect of a course of stone. Figure 7 shows the whole of the plinth plastered to give the effect of a stone base to the building. Figure 8 shows the addition of indented plaster quoins.

9 This small detail from a late-medieval manuscript shows a brick building with plaster clearly used around the window (a small patch of plaster has fallen off) and the arched doorway (in which the brick reveals are clearly shown). The white plinth and round tower are also probably plastered. This illustrates the very long history and wide currency of the use of plaster on brick buildings to imitate stone.

10 This detail is taken from Nathaniel Lloyd's Building Craftsmanship and clearly shows a white plaster band around the cap of this chimney on a farmhouse in Robertsbridge, East Sussex.

11 Capron House in the main street running through the centre of Midhurst, West Sussex showing the surviving straight-edged plaster surrounds to windows which have been subsequently bricked up.



Richard Bond, who works for English Heritage as a Historic Buildings Investigator, kindly offered to do some computer reconstructions showing how the building from Lavant may have looked originally, and one of these (Figure 5) shows just the window and door surrounds plastered. However, there may also have been other plastered elements, and one of these is the white band round the top of the chimney. This band survives on several 17th century brick houses in the USA, including Bacon's Castle in Virginia, and in England on 16th century chimney shafts in Long Melford, Suffolk. It also appears to have survived on the chimney of a house in Robertsbridge, in a photograph published by Nathaniel Lloyd (Figure 10), and some 16th and 17th century records mention that chimneys were colour washed and pencilled. It may have been a common feature, the evidence for which has mostly disappeared, so it is included on the Lavant reconstruction pictures.

Other elements that may have been



plastered are the corners, or 'quoins', of the walls, and the lower part of the brickwork, known as the 'plinth', marked by a chamfered offset course about three feet above ground level. The plinth could have been completely white, or the plaster may have been confined to the two or three courses at the plinth offset. From the surviving evidence it appears that the window surrounds were straight, rather than 'in-and-out' (indented quoins), so that is how they are shown on the reconstructions. The Museum's house from Walderton shows the alternative form, but in that case the plaster's shape follows the brick surrounds to the windows.

There is clear evidence on some 16th and 17th century buildings that the red wash is present under the plastered surrounds of windows and doors – where the plaster has fallen off, colourwash can be seen still adhering to the bricks. Evidently masons painted all the brickwork first even though some of it was destined to be covered by plaster. However, this seems not to have been the case in the Lavant building, as the photo (Figure 2) shows the mortar joints clean white where the plaster has fallen off.

It would appear that according to written sources the colour wash was made with ruddle and a size-based binder, not limewash as is often assumed. According to one surviving English contract, stale beer was also provided with the 'glover's shreds' to make the size binder. Based on observation of surviving colour it would appear that these washes needed to be freshened up every 20-25 years or so.

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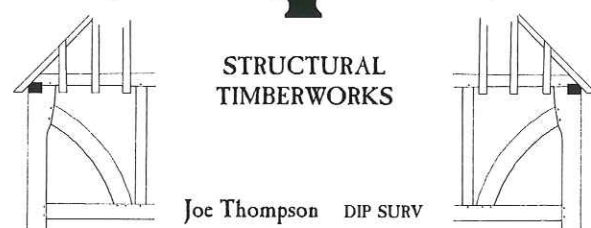
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New interpretation department established

At the beginning of the year we welcomed Hannah Miller to the Museum staff as Head of Interpretation, a new post. Hannah's responsibilities centre on the organisation and development of live interpretation on site by staff, volunteers and craft demonstrators, and the maintenance of domestic furniture and equipment.



Hannah Miller

Hannah has worked in the theatre as a stage manager, following training at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. Thirteen years as company manager and props supervisor for different theatre companies, including the Royal Court Theatre, Almeida Theatre, The Young Vic, Regents Park Open Air Theatre and Hampstead Theatre, took her to venues throughout the UK and all over the world, from Iceland to Australia.

She came to know the Museum over the last two years through her work as props supervisor at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, where there has been a great emphasis on authenticity for clothing, furniture and other items used in productions. This sparked a new interest in heritage interpretation and she is very excited and happy to be part of a new chapter in the Museum's history.

Obituaries

Dorothy Kent, who died in December, was one of the Museum's early stalwarts. She was the widow of one of the Museum's first members of staff, Geoff Kent, an expert bricklayer, who worked on many of the exhibit buildings. Dorothy worked part-time in the office for many years, helping in a wide variety of tasks in her own inimitable and determined way. Their son, Laurance, an electrician, also worked at the Museum on projects where his skills were in demand. Dorothy was a great character, who 'called a spade a spade' and she and Geoff were key members of the team at the height of its development.

Rare Breeds Show's 20th year!

The Rare and Traditional Breeds Show – the Museum's busiest special event – reaches its 20th year in 2005! Some 500 rare and traditional breeds of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry converge on the Museum on **24 July** for the event, the largest of its type in South East England. Bring the family to see orange-bristled Tamworth pigs, Pygmy goats not



much more than one foot high, Gloucester Old Spots pigs with their dramatic black blotches, Longhorn cattle with majestic curly horns and Southdown

sheep with teddy bear faces and shaped like dumplings. Other attractions include country craft and trade stands with farm and animal themes.

News in brief

■ The Museum continues to be a popular venue for weddings. Last year a total of 31 weddings and one commitment ceremony took place. Melanie Kendall, head teacher of Catherington Primary School, married Alan Williams during the summer half-term, with pupils and their parents celebrating with them. Appropriately, the Catherington Treadwheel was pressed into service with many feet treading the boards in a building which once stood in the Hampshire downland village. One couple included a falconry display in their celebrations and

another married on the day of the Autumn Countryside Celebration, with bride, groom and guests donning their wellies to see the horses and tractors ploughing after the ceremony. Twenty weddings are already booked for this year.

■ Open air theatre at the Museum this summer is Henry Fielding's riotous comedy, Tom Jones, presented by The Chichester Players. It will take place in the glorious setting of the Museum on 10-13 August. Tickets will be available from July at Chichester Tourist Information Centre (01243 775888).

humour and his deerstalker hat which he always wore, regardless of the weather.

Both Barrie and Vernon will be sorely missed.

John Cattermole, who lost his battle with cancer in December, was one of our stalwart visiting horse ploughmen who had supported the Autumn Countryside Celebration since its early beginnings, rarely missing a year. Last year, despite his advanced illness, he carried on working his horses throughout the wet weather, determined to provide a demonstration for our visitors.

Barrie Battey, who died last year, was a long-serving Friday shop volunteer who had been coming to the Museum for well over 20 years. Barrie's wife Jean also helped in the shop for many years. Barrie will be remembered for his great sense of fun and the pride he took in ensuring that the admissions till was never out at the end of the day!

Vernon Morcombe, who has recently died, was a Wednesday mill volunteer who had been coming to the Museum for eight years. Vernon was known for his lovely, quiet sense of

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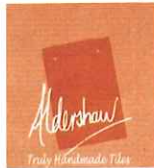
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Stewardship of the landscape has always been an important responsibility of the Museum, within the wider context of the West Dean Park and surrounding downland belonging to the Edward James Foundation. Conservation is sometimes described as 'managing change', and that certainly describes the process with respect to landscape.

Landscapes generally change slowly, but sometimes change can be rapid, in response to storms, disease or drought for example. The Museum landscape has changed enormously over the last 35 years, partly because of the Museum's presence, but as much if not more because of factors beyond our control (see pages 14/15 for aerial photographs of the Museum site since 1946).

In 1968 the Museum started its activity in a classic English parkland,

mixed planting south of the path between Pendean and Boarhunt.

Landscape and woodlands was a particular interest of our late director, Chris Zeuner, who was responsible for initiating an extensive tree-planting and coppicing programme in the early years of the Museum's development. In the 1980s there was another burst of activity and in 1981 Ruth Tittensor researched and wrote the exhibition on the development of the local landscape that is still on display in the Coldwaltham cattle shed in the woodlands. She also wrote a 'Woodland Trail' booklet which was published by the Museum the following year. In 1987 the Bayleaf 'shaws', also researched by Ruth and Andrew Tittensor, were planted, in an area where one of the original clumps had been felled in the late 1970s – early photos of Bayleaf have a backdrop of tall trees which were the remnants of the clump.

thicken them up and provide for eventual replacement of existing trees – it is absolutely essential that the northern and eastern tree screens to the site are maintained. Finally, we are to consider the possibility of planting two new clumps, and reinstating a third, in the fields to the west of the Museum, together with some 'park' planting on the grassland west of Hangleton cottage.

In addition, we have been looking closely at the woodland which forms the southern part of our site. The central block of this is long-established hazel coppice, with some standards, mostly hornbeam, and this has been brought back into an annual rotation in a series of compartments. Deer are the main problem with coppice, as they eat the new young shoots and ruin the coppice quality, so we are considering surrounding the coppice area with a fence: this

How the Museum cares for its landscape, trees and woodland

By Richard Harris

with clumps, groups and individual specimens of trees surrounded by a mature tree belt at the road side and woodlands up on the downland slopes. These woodlands were planted on open downland in the early 19th century, but had reached maturity by the late 1970s and had to be felled – a visually traumatic event at the time. Most of the clumps also succumbed to disease and maturity – Dutch Elm disease and beech bark disease killed the elms and the beech, the horse chestnut had butt rot, and the severe drought of 1976 placed all mature trees on the site under stress.

At the end of 1977 the Museum commissioned a report on the site landscape from Ivan Hicks, who was at that time gardens manager to Edward James and the Foundation. His report contains recommendations on felling and replanting policy in 16 areas of the Museum, and most of them were put into effect. Several of what are now distinctive features of the site first came into being around that time, such as the 'Jubilee clump' of trees behind the market square (where a previous clump had been felled), the group of Scots pine and silver birch between the lake and the café, the southwards extension of the middle clump straddling the site road, and the

In 1988 the Edward James Foundation commissioned a major study by the eminent landscape architect Elizabeth Banks, which resulted in major replanting proposals for West Dean Park, including small groups of broadleaves which are becoming a conspicuous feature of the landscape looking west from the Museum.

In 2004 we thought it was time to take a fresh look at the landscape to assess whether the plans formulated and followed over the last 30 years are still valid, and what new directions we need to take. Tim Heymann – Museum trustee, ex-chairman of the Friends, and former agent of the West Dean Estate – kindly volunteered to take the lead on this, and brought in Rod Stern, a forester and botanist, to help him. Their report was presented to the Museum trustees in November 2004. Their main conclusions were that the activities of the last 30 years have resulted in a site that is well wooded, and no major or radical works need be envisaged. Certain individual trees are earmarked for assessment or surgery, and the Museum carries out an annual survey with Ian Odin, the forestry manager for the Edward James Foundation. Some areas of the perimeter need new planting to

was previously done in about 1980 with a wire mesh fence. A new fence could reflect older traditions, possibly using wooden pales with a ditch and bank to afford extra protection, but these ideas have yet to be discussed and agreed. A one-acre block of woodland just east of the charcoal burning exhibit has been 'cleaned' by Tamworth pigs – extremely efficient digging machines! – and will be grass sown to provide a new area of pasture suitable for grazing sheep – an example of so-called 'wood pasture', with trees in grassland. The rest of the woodland will continue to be managed as it always has been by West Dean Estate, with naturally regenerated hardwood trees being thinned occasionally with the objective of a future crop of good quality timber.

These proposals, together with our Downland grazing, arable fields, field strips and recreated period gardens, give the Museum a landscape resource of huge interest, and our responsibility is to ensure that it is fully interpreted to our visitors, whether school parties, adult learners, or the general public.



Aerial photos show changes in the Museum's landscape

1. This aerial photo was taken by the RAF on 19 April 1946, at about noon judging by the position of the sun. It shows the 19th century park landscape fully developed and in good condition in the area between Town Lane (the old road over the hill to Chichester) to the east and the concrete track to the west, with 10 clumps spaced out in the pasture land. In the woodland, the Museum's coppice area shows up clearly, as if it had recently been cut, with the widely spaced standards which are mostly hornbeam. Gonville cottage is in the middle of the site, surrounded by trees except on its south side, and with the avenue of trees climbing the bank from the top of Gonville drive. This was essentially the landscape that the Museums founders encountered when they started work on the site in 1968.

2. This photo was taken on 14 June 1973 and shows the impact that the Museum was beginning to have on the site. On the east side the car parks have been cut into the original woodland border, and the upper millpond has been started in the north-east corner of the site, with the smithy looking rather isolated nearby, and the toll cottage in its original position opposite the main entrance. Hambrook barn has been re-erected and thatched, but Titchfield Market Hall is standing surrounded by grass, its tiled roof not yet finished.

The Catherington treadwheel and Winkhurst (on its original site) are in the shadow at the edge of the woodland, and further west Bayleaf, Littlehampton granary, and the Lurgashall and Kirdford cattle sheds are completed. The line of the main site road has been established, but its extensions to Court Barn at one end and Pendean and Boarhunt at the other are yet to come.

3. This photo was taken a month later, on 4 July 1973, and shows the east end of the site looking south. The A286 is in the foreground, the smithy can be seen to the bottom right, the earthworks to create the upper millpond at the bottom left, and the toll cottage and entrance road to the top left. To the right of the entrance road can be seen the new planting to screen the road from the site, which has now, 30 years later, matured into a dense screen. (The toll cottage was moved to its present position in 1981, and its original site is now occupied by the café.) The clump of trees in the middle of the picture – the village clump – had to be felled three years later and its site was replanted in 1977 with the Jubilee clump along the Greenways boundary which now screens the village from the rest of the site. Just below the clump is the Patching horse gin, and just beyond it is the Titchfield market hall, its bare rafters awaiting tiles.

4. This photo was taken in 1981 and shows the Museum fully established on the site as far as Boarhunt in the west. The house from Walderton is under construction. The most startling changes, however, are in the woodland. The high forest areas are almost completely bare, having been clear felled in 1979/80, but the coppiced area in the middle retains its hornbeam standards as it still does today. Although visually traumatic at the time, it is remarkable how quickly the woodlands have naturally regenerated to something like their old appearance. Another major change is the loss of a length of the screen of trees on the northern edge of the site, either side of Gonville gate. The loss of two major clumps can also be seen, one behind the market square and the other behind Bayleaf. The Bayleaf clump was replaced by the shaw planting carried out as part of the Bayleaf project in 1987/8 and, like the Jubilee planting behind the village, has matured magnificently. Comparing this picture with the one taken in 1946 shows that half the clumps have gone, but much new planting has been carried out to replace them. The landscape has lost the simplicity of the original open park, but in general the impact of the Museum has been a positive one, both in the woodland and on the open grassland of the site.



5. The Museum site in 2003 looking west towards Kingley Vale, with the broad southwards sweep of the Lavant valley leading to Chichester Harbour. The view shows the Museum's position at the east end of West Dean Park, which is dotted with both mature and recently planted specimen trees. The Park was created in the early 19th century by planting trees on what was then open grazing and farmland. It is bounded on the east (foreground) by Town Lane, running up to Goodwood racecourse, and on the north (right) by the A286. The roadside planting was designed to screen the Park from public view, a function that it still performs and which must be maintained.

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EVENTS DIARY 2005

MARCH

- 6 **MOTHERING SUNDAY/LOCAL RESIDENTS DAY** A special day to start the season! For mothers and grandmothers, free entry and a bunch of daffodils. For local village residents, £1 entry and a societies' fair for the district.
- 11-20 National Science Week at the Museum – discover traditional sources of power: wind, water, horse, oxen and human!
- 25-28 **EASTER FUN AND FESTIVITIES** Activities and Easter celebrations for all the family throughout the holiday weekend. Including: Good Friday – traditional pastimes, storytelling and music; Saturday – Easter market; Sunday – Feast Day; Monday – games day and Easter bonnet parade.

APRIL

- 16 Friends' annual general meeting and talk by His Grace, the Duke of Norfolk, Downland Gridshell – 2.30pm.
- 21-26 Friends' annual Spring tour to Bath/Bristol area.

MAY

- 1-2 **CELEBRATE THE TASTE – FOOD FAIR** Quality fare to sample and buy from the local producers of the south east, plus tastings, cookery classes and demonstrations. In association with *A Taste of Sussex*.
- 6-8 **OLAH ROMA! TRADITIONAL GYPSY FESTIVAL** A celebration of Gypsy culture including concerts in the Gridshell by: Romano Drom (Hungary) on Friday 6, and Vera Bila & Kale (Czech Republic) on Saturday 7. Presented in association with *Roots Around the World*.
- 15 **SUSTAINABILITY EVENT** Discover low impact, sustainable products and techniques for building in the 21st century. Includes seminars, demonstrations and a wide variety of exhibits.
- 16 Friends' coffee morning at the Museum – 10.00am.
- 18 Friends' visit to Waddesdon Manor, nr. Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
- 19 Side Saddle Association's annual show.

28 May – **HALF TERM ACTIVITIES**
4 June "The Natural World" inspires skills and crafts for accompanied children to discover.

JUNE

- 5 **HEAVY HORSE SPECTACULAR** An unforgettable day celebrating heavy horses. Magnificent displays and a grand parade of horse-drawn vehicles, all with continuous ringside commentary.
- 19 **FATHERS DAY** A chance for dad (and the rest of the family!) to have a go at some unusual traditional countryside activities.



JULY

- 3 **EARLY MUSIC AFTERNOON** from 2 pm. Song and dance from medieval, Tudor and Stuart times in the wonderful setting of our historic buildings. Come just to listen or join in the dancing.
- 9 Family Barn Dance – social and fund-raising event organised by the Friends' – 6.30pm.
- 20 Friends' visit: Hidden London and the Regents Canal
- 24 **RARE AND TRADITIONAL BREEDS SHOW** Over 500 cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry take part in this delightful agricultural show for rare and traditional breeds of farm animals.

27 July – **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY**
31 August **WEDNESDAYS** Hands-on activities to inspire accompanied children including countryside crafts, traditional cooking and meeting the Shire horses and farm animals.

AUGUST

10-13 **TOM JONES** – evening, open air theatre. The Chichester Players present Henry Fielding's riotous comedy of 1749 in the atmospheric setting of the Museum.

16 **ST ROCHE'S DAY ON THE TRUNDLE** An open air service on the site of the chapel of St Roche, patron saint of healing. Meet at the Trundle, transport up the hill provided if required. 6.00pm.

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Friends' visit to Christ's Hospital, near Horsham, West Sussex
- 10-11 **THE WOOD SHOW** Discover the versatility and beauty of all things wooden! Working craftsmen offer items from the products of traditional woodlands – hurdles, turned bowls, fine furniture, exquisite wooden carvings, toys and much more.
- 17 Murder Mystery Dinner in the Downland Gridshell – fund-raising event organised by the Friends': 7.30pm.

OCTOBER

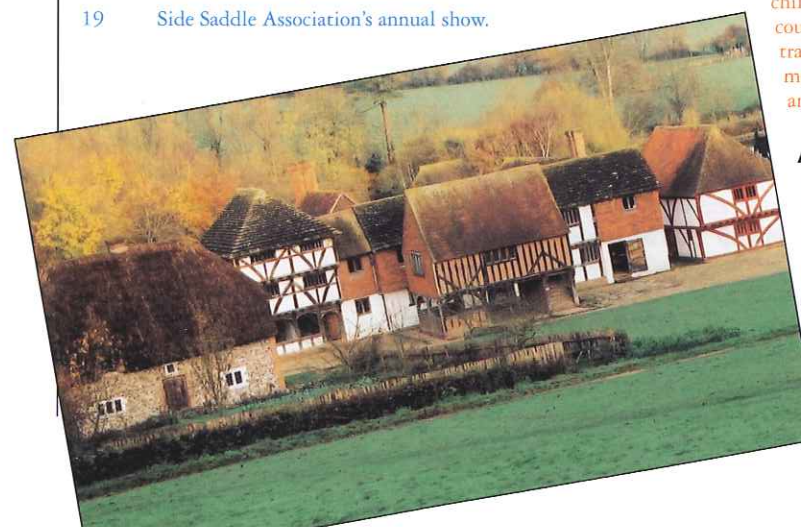
- 1-2 **AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE CELEBRATION** Come and experience the sights, sounds and smells of a traditional harvest: enjoy heavy horses ploughing, vintage tractors, steam threshing and countryside crafts.
- 4 Friends' visit to the Houses of Parliament.
- 22-30 **HALF TERM ACTIVITIES** 'Farming in the Field' – seasonal autumn activities, fun and farming for accompanied children.

NOVEMBER

- 19-20 **PIG TO PORK WEEKEND** Everything you wanted to know about pork! Learn about methods of jointing, salting and using pork. Watch demonstrations of preserving and cookery, and sample some delicious pork cooked over the open fire in the Tudor kitchen.
- 23 Friends' visit to the Museum of Rural Life at Reading University.

DECEMBER

- 4 **TREE DRESSING** from 12.30pm. A wonderful celebration of the life-giving properties of trees for all the family. Make a lantern (bring a jam jar!) and join the procession to dress the trees as darkness falls.
- 26 Dec – **A SUSSEX CHRISTMAS** Experience the traditions of Christmas past. Enjoy period music, children's activities, festive sweetmeats and warming drinks from the Tudor kitchen, and see the historic houses decorated for Christmas.

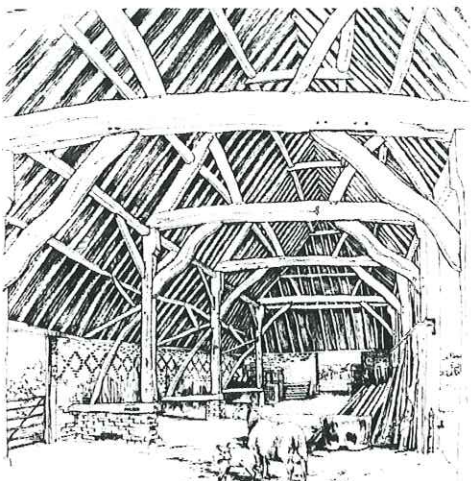


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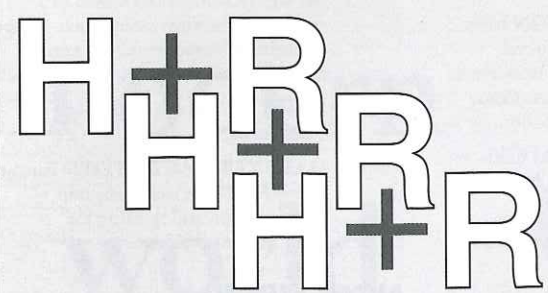
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Bursting with educational opportunity – giving children the Museum bug!

The Museum is bursting with educational opportunity – not just history, but geography, science, maths, art and English – our exhibits and collections can be used in so many ways to tie in with the National Curriculum and pupils' educational needs. The Museum has always had a go-ahead dedicated education department – attracting some 30,000 schoolchildren a year – and it goes on evolving new ideas.

This year the Museum is exploring a School Friend scheme to enhance its already strong relationships with local schools and encourage them to pop in to the Museum more often. Schools Service Manager Jennie Peel says she hopes they will also help the Museum trial new ideas. For example, the department is currently working on a pin-hole camera workshop in co-operation with Chichester designer, Louise Burston, and West Dean School, to take place in May, after the SATS tests are over.

The department is also busy enriching our current workshops for schools, including more costume and hands-on activities, and with this in mind a new Gridshell Workshop is being introduced for Key Stage 1 and 2 children. They

will have a tour of the amazing Downland Gridshell building and the fascinating collection of artefacts in the vast ground floor store, including plenty of time to find out more about the objects from the Museum's curatorial team. The visit can also be extended to take in art, design and maths.

To make the Museum more available to under-privileged children the schools service has also been building contacts within West Sussex County Council's education department and has been in touch with Peter Brannlund of the Roundstone group of schools, who wants to set up a Summer School at the Museum for gifted and talented pupils. This will be loosely based on an archaeological theme with art, music and drama sessions.

"One of our main objectives is to encourage schools to benefit from the diversity of the Museum: it has so much to offer," says Jennie Peel. "We are looking forward to a busy fun year ahead."

Further information: Jennie Peel, Schools Service Manager, on 01243 811028.

Celebrating something special

The role of museums and heritage sites in supporting special needs education was the focus of a conference in November at the Museum.

Nearly 100 delegates from the education and heritage sectors gathered in the Downland Gridshell for *Celebrating something special*, free to all due to sponsorship by Barclays PLC.

The aim was to promote heritage education in the context of special needs pupils and to cascade good practice gained by the Museum through its Special Educational Needs (SEN) Project run in partnership with Barclays PLC over the last three years.

The project included providing special themed days, such as Harvest Home, Fire and Light, and Medieval, Tudor and Victorian days, enabling many children with special needs to attend the Museum on teacher-led visits. A total of 1,105 children benefited in 2004 and almost

3,000 over the three-year period. The project, which involved volunteers from the Museum and from Barclays, was highly commended in the Charity Finance Magazine Charity Awards.

Conference delegates, including teachers from mainstream and special educational schools as well as museum professionals, heard about the project's success and its context within museum education. The keynote speech, *Understanding Learning in Museums*, was given by Eileen Hooper-Greenhill, Professor of Museum Studies and Director of the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries at the University of Leicester. Other speakers included teachers from participating schools, Jenna Eastlake from Barclays, who described the Barclays Community Investment Programme and how the project had benefited Barclays volunteers who took part, and Martin Tomlinson from West Sussex County Council, who spoke on

Keeping children busy in the holidays!

The Museum is a magnet for children during holidays and half-terms, when a wide range of special activities is laid on for them. During school holidays the Museum runs **Children's Activity Days** on **summer Wednesdays** when children can try their hand at astonishing crafts,



including blacksmithing, brass rubbing, brickwork, canal boat painting, candle making, clay work, cooking, corn dollies, felt making, milling activities, spinning, thatching, traditional games, wattle and daub and traditional song and dance. There's the chance to meet the Museum's working horses, have a go on the Treadwheel, originally used to wind water up from a deep well in the Downs and go on an adventure trail round the Museum's beautiful site. At **half-terms activities** are themed – in Summer half-term (**28 May – 4 June**) the focus is **The Natural World** and in Autumn half-term (**22-30 October**) we go **Farming in the Field**. Children must wear suitable clothing and be accompanied by an adult.

the importance of outdoor visits for all children and the importance of widening the horizons of SEN pupils.

What did the Weald & Downland Museum learn from the project? Diana Rowsell, Head of Learning, says it gave a higher profile to the importance of inclusion and access, it highlighted the importance of forms of interpretation that do not rely on the written word, and it made the Museum look at its work through others' eyes, communicate in different ways and share its resources with people who would not otherwise be able to benefit.

The conference marked the end of the SEN Project: however the Museum will continue to provide SEN days in 2005, using the knowledge and resources gained from Barclay's support. Further information: Diana Rowsell, Head of Learning on 01243 811464, headoflearning@wealddown.co.uk.

ENGLISH WOODLANDS TIMBER LTD

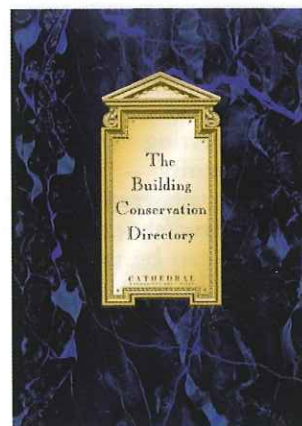
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Taking new strides –

Museum's courses programme flourishes

The Museum's Continuing Education programme is flourishing, with new and well-established courses attracting a wide range of people keen to learn about subjects as diverse as building conservation and rural crafts. The 2005 programme reflects how the Museum has significantly expanded the variety of courses available and enhanced the scope and breadth of many of its existing popular courses. Making use of different areas of the Museum, busy groups can be found on many days studying under our distinguished range of tutors.

On one perfect January Sunday no less than 36 students and five tutors were engaged in three very different activities under sunshine and bright blue skies. Seventeen MSc students were studying dendrochronology as part of the second unit of their two-year course in *Timber building conservation*. Ten heavy horse enthusiasts were learning about the *Care & management*

of these giants of the horse world and the rest set off with Museum gardener Bob Holman for a *Winter walk in the woods*.

2004 saw the success of many new courses including the Victor Chinnery series on *Oak furniture* and the *Furniture-making trades* as well as a day on the *Replication of historic interiors*.

Gift vouchers in denominations of £5, £10, £20 and £50 are available all year round for any course or training event in the Museum's programme. These are ideal to give to a friend or relative as a present with a difference. Contact Rebecca Osborne on 01243 811931.

The *Green courses* explore sustainability issues and we are working with Impetus Consulting to deliver day schools in this field. So far they have covered refurbishment, energy, gardens and general life style topics.

The *Heavy horse* courses have had their most successful year ever, with a *Horse logging day* included for the first time for a small group of experienced people learning the difficult skills of timber extraction.

The countryside skills courses have been greatly expanded. *Charcoal burning* will be run as a day school with Paul Pinnington and the *Living willow workshop* with Deborah Albon will result in each student

having a chair to take home and grow in their own garden. The *How to be a house detective* day school provides students with the skills and information needed to research the history of their own homes.

Christina Stapley is offering an additional day school: *Aromatic waters* will reveal the stillroom secrets of cosmetics and medicines of old. The *Tudor kitchen courses* will be led by Ruth Goodman of the Tudor Group with the exception of the *Bakehouse day* which will be led by our own Jonathan Roberts, who built the oven and knows it better than anyone. On the same theme a new day school, *Wild foods*,



Above, Timber framing from scratch – learn how to frame a small timber structure beginning with the log. The Museum's flagship course runs on 25-29 April, 26-30 September and 17-21 October. Left, student beekeepers learn how to drive bees to a new hive. This year's Beekeeping courses are on 27 May, 10 June and 24 June.

Courses Programme 2005 – Building conservation and the use of traditional materials and processes

Tree to timber

A practical hands-on workshop to include selecting timber, crosscutting, hewing, pit-sawing, trestle sawing, see-sawing and large saw sharpening. Tool kit provided.

Leader: Joe Thompson 3 March £90

Introduction to gauged brickwork

A theoretical and practical course designed for practising professionals concerned with conservation and eager to have a closer knowledge of gauged brickwork.

Leader: Gerard Lynch. 7-9 March £270

Victorian developments in building design

Victorian Britain saw a huge increase in the number and variety of new buildings. This study day will explore the main aspects of these developments.

Leader: Susie Barson & colleagues 9 March £90

Wattle and daub

Insights into the historic use of wattle and daub, and its repair and conservation today. A morning of touring the Museum's examples followed by an afternoon of 'hands on' practical exercise applying wattles and daubing them.

Leader: Joe Thompson. 14 March £100

From crown post to king post

A celebration of the carpenter's art of roofing, touring the Museum buildings with demonstrations of the tools and techniques used.

Leader: Joe Thompson 22 March £90

Flint walling: a practical course

A two-day course covering the sorting, selection, preparation and knapping of flints. Experience of different styles of laying flints and the use of lime mortars.

Leader: Chris Rosier 11-12 April, 5-6 September £160

Building stone in the Weald and Downland region

Geology moulds the landscape and the local building materials. A day examining the geology of local stone, production methods and regional traditions in its use using the resources of the Museum buildings.

Leader: Anne and David Bone 12 April £90

Design and specification of leadwork

A foundation course for those with little or no experience of working with lead. Based on the theoretical application, concentrating on design and specification. Case studies of repair and renewal projects.

Leader: Nigel Johnston of the Lead Sheet Association. 13 April £90

Practical leadwork

For those who have already attended the foundation course. Based on the practical aspects of working with lead sheet by bossing, leadwelding and casting.

Leader: Nigel Johnston of the Lead Sheet Association. 14 April £90

Advanced gauged brickwork

A theoretical and practical course designed for those with some experience of gauged brickwork. Hands-on work will include setting out, cutting and constructing a gauged arch.

Leader: Gerard Lynch 18-20 April £270

Traditional timber-frame construction

A one-day course on traditional systems of timber framing, including demonstrations and practical sessions on timber conversion, principles of layout, scribing method, pegs and assembly.

Leader: Richard Harris. 21 April £90

➡ Taking new strides . . .

will explore the riches of the woods and hedgerows.

Spinning and dyeing workshops and *Tapestry weaving* join the range of textile courses on offer. And Gordon Rushmer is to lead an extra watercolour week in the autumn. The *Downland sketchbook* will be

based at the Museum, with participants exploring the local countryside on foot, capturing the scenes in paint. An exhibition of Gordon's work will be held in Crawley Hall on 22-28 August and an exhibition of his students' work on 14 May.

Timber framing from scratch

A superb opportunity to gain hands-on experience of timber framing. A 5-day practical course introducing students to the historic use of structural oak framing, tools and techniques. The posts, cills, plates and tie beams of a 10ft square timber frame are prefabricated during the course using only traditional tools and techniques, and the frame is erected on the last afternoon.

Leader: Joe Thompson 25-29 April, 26-30 September, 17-21 October £450

Oak and Iron

A day school covering the theory and practice of the interaction between metal and oak structures. A detailed look at the materials used for in-situ conservation and repair.

Leader: Joe Thompson 13 May £90

Joinery by hand: sash windows

The historical development of sash windows with practical demonstrations of traditional joinery processes. Opportunity to examine original examples from the Brooking Collection.

Leaders: Ged Gardiner and Charles Brooking. 16 May £90

Intermediate timber framing – roof framing

A 5-day practical course for students who have attended the Timber framing from scratch course. The common, principal, hip and jack rafters are marked, cut and fitted to a timber frame that was made on a Timber framing from scratch course. All the completed roof members are pitched on the last afternoon.

Leader: Joe Thompson 16-20 May £450

Timber repair workshop

A day of demonstrations and practical hands-on sessions showing the development of repair methods at the Museum over the past 30 years. The day covers traditional methods and contemporary systems using epoxy resin.

Leader: Roger Champion 24 May £90

Strengthening timber with steel

A day school examining the principles, applications and problems involved in the use of steel to strengthen timber structures including the fire risks and illustrated with case studies.

Leader: Peter Ross 25 May £90

Repair of timber-framed buildings

Day school including a lecture on the repair of timber-framed buildings by Richard Harris, a workshop session with Roger Champion and a critical examination of repairs executed at the Museum over 30 years.

Leader: Roger Champion 26 May £90

Cob walling – history, theory and practice

The day school will explore the various types and methods of cob wall construction in the region. It will also examine causes of failure, repair strategies and problems relating to alterations to cob structures. Some hands-on practice.

Leader: Kevin Stubbs 8 June £90

An introduction to conservation of historic ironwork

Study the history and development of ironwork using examples from the Brooking Collection. Case studies from Dorothea Restorations and practical demonstrations in the Museum forge.

Leaders: Geoff Wallis, Charles Brooking & Andrew Breese 10 June £90

Tutor Kevin Stubbs (centre) oversees students building a cob wall during last year's first Cob walling: history, theory and practice course. This year's takes place on 8 June.

New additions to the walks series include spring and summer *Wildflower walks* around the fields and woods of the Museum led by Miriam Van Ewijk. There will also be a guided *Tree walk* in May.

The early technology workshops now include *Prehistoric toolmaking* with flints, led by John Lord and *Prehistoric bead-making* with Neil Burridge who has expanded the range of archaeology-based courses with *Pewter spoon casting*. Students on the new *Longbow making* course in July will make and then learn to shoot a longbow based on a medieval design, crafted from a single stave of timber.

The SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) funded Rural Training Facility, behind the brick drying shed, which will be used as a base for the wet building trades, is nearing completion. Having a purpose-built area will greatly enhance the teaching of the brickwork courses and facilitate the *Evening*

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2005

Flint buildings – their history, repair and restoration

A day school which will explore this plentiful but difficult to use local building material, aiming to encourage sensitive and authentic repairs using local craft skills. Lectures and demonstrations.

Leaders: Brian Dawson & Chris Rosier 13 June £90

Timber frame repairs and reconstructions

A day of case studies on a wide variety of interesting projects including the Globe Theatre, Chatham Dockyard, Harmondsworth Barn, Barley Hall, York and Long Crendon Courthouse and smaller church porches and industrial buildings.

Leader: Peter McCurdy 15 June £90

Timber: identification of species

An introduction to the identification of timber species through examination of anatomical features, demonstrations and practical work using hand lenses and microscopes.

Leader: David Woodbridge. 16 June £90

Repair of traditionally constructed brickwork

Causes of failure and decay and selection of methods of repair. Practical sessions including cutting out bricks, taking out defective joints, stitch repairs and re-inforcement and patch pointing using lime mortars.

Leader: Gerard Lynch 20-22 June £270

Three day advanced leadwork course for those who wish to progress their leadworking skills. This course is three days of practical work where students will make patterns for a planter or hopper-head to their own design including decorative embellishments.

22-24 June £250

Lime mortars for traditional brickwork

Lectures and practical demonstrations on the traditional preparation and uses of limes and lime mortars and the modern misconceptions about them.

Leaders: Gerard Lynch & Douglas Johnston. 23 June £90

Traditional lime plasters & renders

A practically based two-day course covering the fundamentals of lime plastering from the simplest renders to the finest ornamental work. Lectures followed by practical demonstrations, hands-on experience and opportunity for discussion.

Leaders: Ian Constantinides & Jeff Orton 27-28 June £180

Traditional roofing methods

Five linked days exploring the traditions, methods and materials used in the roofing industries.

Day one: **The Roofing square**, theory and practice of 'cut & pitch' roofing.

Leader: Joe Thompson

Day two: **Thatch**, lectures and practical demonstrations.

Leaders: David Brock & Chris Tomkins.

Day three: **Tile**, the history of hand-made clay peg tiles and their refinements.

Leaders: Peter Minter & Michael Fildes.

Day four: **Slate**, conservation and repair of slate roofs and regional variations.

Stone, conservation, repair and the use of new local stone slabs. Leaders: Terry Hughes & Michael Fildes.

Day five: **Leadwork**, theory, repair & replication. Leader: Nigel Johnston.

11-15 July £90 per day

courses for builders and farmers. These will start in May and go on through the summer on Wednesday evenings. Topics will include the history and repair of brickwork and flintwork, uses of lime mortars, putties and plasters, the geology of local stone, timber frame construction and repair and roofing.

The *Flint walling* courses rivalled the

Timber-framing from scratch course in numbers of fully-subscribed courses last year and will be tutored this year by Chris Rosier.

Mills, furnaces, breweries and bridges was a great success, with 13 students giving valuable feedback on the types of vernacular buildings which should be represented in the vernacular architecture series to be launched in the autumn.

Geology experts Ann and David Bone's day school, *Building stone in the Weald &*

Left, Gerard Lynch leads the historic brickwork courses. This year the courses run on 7-9 March, 18-20 April, 20-22 June, 12/13 September and 14 September.

Above, flint walling is a stunning feature of the downland architectural landscape. Students can learn how to lay flints on our specialist courses on 11/12 April and 5/6 September.

The Museum offers a wide range of practical workshops and seminars for surveyors, architects, craftsmen and anyone else with a keen interest in building conservation. All courses are suitable for CPD (Continuing Professional Development).

Joining and pointing of historic brickwork

The development of joining and pointing from the Tudor period to 20th century. Practical sessions to include selecting materials and tools, preparation of joints for re-pointing, mortar mixes and preparation and after care of joints.

Leader: Gerard Lynch. 12-13 September £180

English brickwork: Tudor to Edwardian

An introduction to the historical development, the causes of failure and the conservative repair relevant to Tudor, Jacobean, Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian periods in the history of English brick. Lectures and demonstrations.

Leader: Gerard Lynch. 14 September £90

The Victorian village carpenter

An introduction to and demonstrations of the carpentry and joinery involved in the construction of Whittakers Cottages, a pair of 1865 semi-detached cottages on the Museum site.

Leader: Joe Thompson 7 October £90

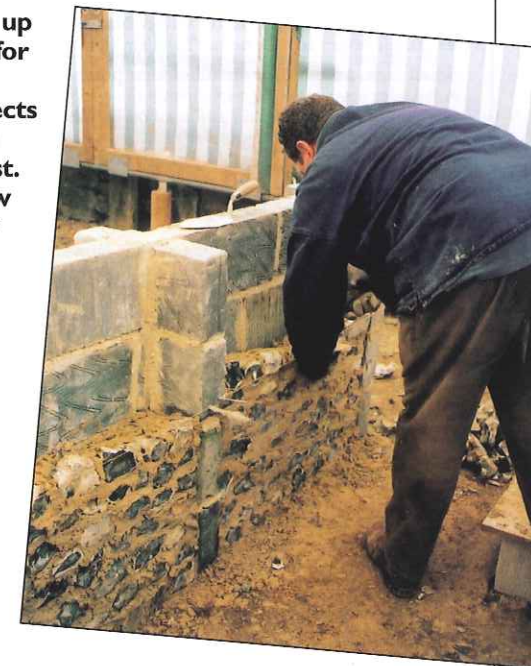
Intermediate timber framing – wall framing

A 5-day practical course for students who have attended the Timber framing from scratch course. The studs and braces of wall frames are marked, cut and fitted into a timber frame that was made on a Timber framing from scratch course. The completed work is erected on the last afternoon.

Leader: Joe Thompson 7-11 November £450

Enquiries to Diana Rowsell, Head of Learning, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex on 01243 811464, fax 01243 811475, email courses@wealddown.co.uk, Website www.wealddown.co.uk.

The Museum is very receptive to the needs of the conservation industry and sets up bespoke courses for small groups of surveyors, architects and conservation officers on request. Please let us know the needs of your organisation.



Downland region and Peter Ross' *Strengthening timber with steel* are just two of more than 30 new courses which have been added to the programme since the appointment of Rebecca Osborne. Her post is part-funded by the Sargent Charitable Trust, with the condition of expanding the programmes by 36 courses in two and a half years – so we have very nearly achieved that goal.



Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2005

Courses Programme 2005 – Rural trades and crafts

Heavy horse experience days

A series of days designed to give people the opportunity to work with the Museum's team of heavy horses and have a thoroughly enjoyable day. All days are hands-on and physically demanding.

Horse logging

For those with some heavy horse experience. A day working with heavy horses extracting timber from the Museum woods. Participants must be agile and physically fit. **6 March £75**

Driving heavy horses for those with experience

Develop your driving skills with further experience of chain, shaft and pole work, obstacle and cone driving. Participants must have attended at least two of the earlier days in the series. **10 April £75**

Plaiting & show preparation

Experience preparing heavy horses for shows and parades: grooming, plaiting and decorating manes and tails. **12 June £75**

All the days start at 10.00am at the Museum stables and finish around 4.00pm. A ploughman's lunch is included; please bring any other refreshment you may need. Everyone must wear sensible warm and waterproof clothing and suitable sturdy footwear.

Countryside skills

Basic woodworking tool skills

A beginner's day in how to use basic hand and power tools. You will make a rustic bird table, either free-standing or wall-mounted, to take home. Ideal for those participating in the Make a bentwood chair course, who need a little more confidence in their skills. 9.30am – 4.30pm. **11 March £60**

Make a bentwood chair

Learn how to make a comfortable natural bentwood chair, selecting your own timber and using a minimum of tools to facilitate the steaming process. 9.30am – 4.30pm. **12-13 March £165**

Willow workshop: weave and wale a basket

Using English brown willow and traditional techniques learn to 'weave and wale' a basket to take home. 9.00am – 5.00pm. **2 April, 9 July, 1 October £50**

Willow workshop: an improvers course

A two-day course for people who want to take their basket-making further with different handles, and borders on round and oval baskets. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **15-16 October £120**

Irons in the fire

A practical day school in the Museum's 150-year-old working smithy, learning about the traditional skills of the village blacksmith. Each student will make their own simple object to take home. 10.00am – 4.00pm. **9 April £50**

Small farm animals for smallholders: poultry handling

A half-day session giving participants the opportunity to handle a variety of poultry species. Advice and guidance on retailing eggs. 10.30am – 2.30 pm **14 April, 3 November £40**

Small farm animals for smallholders

A day school to explore the feasibility and management of a smallholding with sheep, pigs and poultry. Feeding, housing, breeding and regulations. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **5 May £65**

A dowsing workshop

Exploring the background and practising the ancient craft of dowsing. 10.00am – 1.30 pm. **29 April £25**

Corn dolly workshop

Learn the history and development of this ancient craft, as well as the practical skills involved in weaving a corn dolly. 10.00am – 5.00pm. **7 May, 13 August £40**

Pole lathe turning: turn a simple object the traditional way

An introduction to wood-turning on the traditional pole lathe. Participants will have their own simple turned objects to take home. 9.30am – 4.30pm. **14 May £50**

Introduction to charcoal burning

A day school looking at charcoal burning, from selecting the wood to lighting the kiln and marketing the product. 9.00pm – 5.00pm. **14 May £50**

Bees for beginners

An introduction to bee-keeping past and present. See inside a traditional skep and a modern hive, learn about their function and take part in driving bees to a new hive. 10.30am – 4.00pm. **27 May, 10 June, 24 June £40**

Woven hurdle making

An introductory two-day course for novices to learn the basic skills and make a traditional woven hazel sheep hurdle. 9.30am – 4.30pm. **12-13 November £165**

Walks

Wild flower walks

Spend an afternoon learning about the wild flowers which grow in the meadows and woodland on the Museum site. Walks will take place in spring and summer. Starting at 3.00pm with a talk, you will then take a guided walk around the Museum site, finishing with tea and cake. **Spring wild flower walk: 24 March. Summer wild flower walk: 1 July £10**

Tree walk

Stroll through the woods at the Museum whilst your guide shows you different species of tree and gives advice on how to identify them. Starts at 2.00pm and finishes with tea and cake. **13 May £10**

Dawn walk with breakfast

Guided walk through local woods to hear the dawn chorus. Start at 4.00am and finish with full breakfast at the Museum. **14 May £12**

Nightjar walk

Guided walk through local woods to find nightjars, glow worms, deer and other nocturnal creatures. Start at 9.00pm and finish with hot drinks at the Museum. **17 June, 24 June £8**

Bat walk

Join our guided bat walk, where bat detectors will be used to locate and identify the different types of bat that live around the Museum site. A wonderful opportunity to learn about these beautiful and fascinating creatures. 8.00pm start, ending with hot drinks. **2 September £8**

Fungi walk

Explore the variety of fungi on the Museum site and in the woods, and be guided as to their delicacies and dangers. Start at 3.00pm and finish with tea and cake. **DTBA October £10**

Textiles

Rag-rugging – a traditional textile form

Rag-rug making is a uniquely accessible folk craft. This workshop gives a lively modern feel to this Victorian textile skill. 9.30am – 4.00pm. **4 March, 24 June, 16 September £40**

Felting for fun

An introduction to felt making – produce a colourful piece of handmade felt using dyed wools. Includes preparation of the fleece and some 'rainbow' dyeing. 10.00am – 4.00pm. **7 June £40**

Felt bag workshop

Design and make a seamless bag from hand-made felt using updated traditional techniques. Dyed and natural wool will be provided. 10.00am – 4.00pm. **11 June £40**

Spinning

Try your hand at a variety of spinning methods, including the drop spindle, big wheel and spinning wheel, to create woollen yarn, whilst learning more about this most ancient craft. 10.30am – 4.30pm. **25 July £40**

Natural dyeing

Learn the basics of dyeing with natural materials, covering different types of mordants and their effects on colours obtained, dyeing with fresh and dried materials, dye-plant identification, environmental considerations, and the effects of dyes on various fibres. It's almost like magic! Students will have a selection of dyed yarns to take home. 9.30am – 4.00pm. **29 July £40**

Christmas rag-rugging

Make seasonal decorations and gifts in a Christmassy atmosphere! Traditional rag-rugging plus some glue and glitter. 9.30am – 4.00pm. **25 November £40**

Early technology workshops

Letters in stone

A four-day workshop learning the craft of carving in stone while creating a work of art. Beginners welcome, all tools and equipment will be provided. 10.00am – 4.00pm. **5, 12, 19 & 26 May £200**

Leaded-light stained glass workshop

Learn the traditional techniques of leaded-light windows and in just three days make something that will last forever. 9.30am – 4.30pm. **9-11 May, 3-5 October £180**

Bronze flat axe workshop

Make a bronze flat axe from the early Bronze Age to take home. You will melt and cast the bronze, and explore the processes and problems of the ancient metalworkers' craft. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **21 May £75**

Green stone axe workshop

The early settlers in the Weald cleared the tree cover and changed the Wealden landscape, firstly with flint axes, but later with hard stone axes. The green stone axes from Cornwall were probably some of the best. This workshop will cover knapping, grinding and polishing. 10.00am – 5.00pm. **22 May £60**

Bronze rapier workshop

As Bronze Age casting methods improved, blades increased in length. A classic rapier 17 inches long will be cast using a stone mould and authentic techniques. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **25 June £85**

Gold sun disc workshop

A unique opportunity to work with pure gold and make a pair of sun disc earrings and to understand why early metal workers held this soft yellow metal in such high regard. 10.00am – 5.00pm. **26 June £65**

Make a traditional English lowbow

Learn to make a working longbow from a single stave of timber to a medieval design. 9.30am – 5.00 pm. **22-24 July £250**

Celtic silver coins workshop

The coinage of Iron Age Britain created some of the finest artwork of the ancient world. Participants will manufacture coin discs in silver and strike 10 coins using bronze dies. 9.30am – 5.00pm **23 July £50**

Pewter spoon casting workshop

Cast your own spoons using a bronze mould and charcoal. The spoons will be of a design called the 'commonwealth puritan' dating from around c1600, based on one made by Steven Venables, the famous spoon maker from London. Each student will make 10 spoons, with one being cleaned and polished during the day. 10.00am – 5.00pm. **24 July £55**

Prehistoric tool making workshop

Using the methods of ancient British people, including flint knapping, cordage manufacture from natural fibres, working with bone and antler, you will produce your own hafted tool to take home. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **6-7 August £90**

Celtic silver bangle

During this workshop you will work with pure silver sheet and rod to create a classic leaf-shaped bracelet with opposite spiralled ends, using the techniques of punch decorating and spiralling. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **27 August £50**

Bronze age pottery workshop

Exquisite pottery comes from the early Bronze Age burials sites. In this workshop participants will make their own pot and learn how to build a simple kiln for firing afterwards. 10.00am – 5.00pm. **28 August £40**

Bronze flanged axe workshop

This workshop will centre on the archaeology with the smelting of copper and tin ores, forging and hardening of bronze. An exquisitely decorated flanged axe will be cast and cleaned. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **24 September £65**

Prehistoric bead workshop

Beads are one of the oldest forms of body adornment, and probably started with animal teeth and seashells. Working with shell, bone, jet, amber, tin and red ochre this workshop will make beads using ancient technology. 10.00am – 5.00pm. **25 September £45**

Drawing and watercolour workshops

Beginners watercolour workshop

Five consecutive days of basic watercolour tuition, working out of doors in the Museum environment. This course offers a real-life challenge of working with watercolour. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **4-8 July £220**

Drawing for watercolourists workshop

Spend five days drawing a wide variety of aspects of the Museum environment in a variety of media and techniques. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **8-12 August £220**

Improvers watercolour workshop

Five consecutive days of advanced watercolour tuition, working out of doors in the Museum environment. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **12-16 September £220**

Downland sketchbook

Using the Museum as a base, you will spend five days exploring and painting the local downland countryside. Wear your walking boots! 9.30am – 5.00pm. **10-14 October £220**

Homes and Gardens

Living willow workshop

Come along to this one-day workshop and make a living willow structure which you can plant in your own garden. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **5 March, 6 March £75**

Beyond the green baize door

An outstanding opportunity to learn about how households were managed over a period of 400 years with site visits to Cowdray ruins and Petworth House. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **15-16 March £100**

English furniture-making trades of the 16th & 17th centuries

An illustrated lecture considering the ways in which trade practices dictated the form and appearance of post-medieval furniture and woodwork, followed by an accompanied tour of the furnished interiors around the Museum site. 10.00am – 4.00pm. **6 April £75**

Wild foods

A day discovering and sampling the fruits of the local countryside. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **30 April £50**

Home owners' day

A day filled with expert guidance for owners of old houses and cottages put on with the support of Jackson-Stops & Staff. Will include advice on period gardens and opportunity to see Museum buildings. 9.45am – 4.00pm. **11 May £45**

Willow for the garden

Make interesting contemporary plant supports to enhance your garden using English willow and traditional methods. A two-day course. 9.30am – 5.00pm. **14-15 May, 17-18 September £120**

The cottage herb garden for beginners

Traditional herb growing for the medieval to the Victorian cottage garden. Learn the tried and tested methods of organic cultivation and harvesting of native herbs. The origins of the herbaceous border, when and how to sow, plant, clip and harvest for best results. 9.30am – 4.30pm. **27 May £45**

Aromatic waters

Hysteria or calm – it's all in the waters! Stillroom secrets opened; from cosmetics to medicine and aromatic waters today. 9.30am – 4.30pm. **21 June £45**

Victorian herb favourites to enjoy

Lavender, violets, chamomile tea and much more! A day of exploring the Victorian era and making delights to take home. 9.30am – 4.30pm. **9 September £45**

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2005

Stained glass produced by students on the three-day Leaded-light stained glass workshop. This year's courses are on 9-11 May and 3-5 October.

Re-fencing Bayleaf farmhouse. Hazel rods are being woven into upright chestnut stakes on a Continuous hurdle fencing course run by Museum gardener Bob Holman in January.

How to be a house detective

Techniques for tracing the history of your house will be revealed in this day school covering both physical features and the use of primary sources commonly held in record offices and local history libraries. 9.30am – 4.30pm. **16 November £60**

Christmas herbal gifts & decorations

Make up to five different festive herbal compositions such as wreaths, fragrant baskets and candle decorations. 9.30am – 4.00pm. **10 December, 15 December £35 plus some materials on the day**

The Tudor kitchen

An exciting series of day schools which explore the processes of Tudor food. All set in the fully equipped and interpreted Winkhurst kitchen, they will be hands-on days which follow the seasons and the diets of Tudor times, learning about the dishes enjoyed by courtiers and endured by peasants.

The 16th century dairy

Milk, butter and cheese played essential roles in the Tudor diet and daily life. During this practical day participants will use a hand churn to make butter, which will be salted and potted for winter and learn the processes of making soft and hard cheeses. An overview of all aspects of 16th century dairy production and use. 10.00am – 4.00pm **18 May £50**

Potage to peacock – Tudor cooking across the social divide

This hands-on day offers the chance to prepare, try out and taste dishes from both ends of the social scale, from the plain and simple to the sumptuous and spicy. Genuine recipes and authentic replica equipment to produce two very different meals with a glimpse of the political and economic trends at the time. 10.00am – 4.00pm. **9 June £50**

Sugar and spice: the Tudor banquet

High class feasting in the 16th century was not complete without the 'banquet' course to finish off the meal in real style. This workshop provides the opportunity to make and sample delicious banqueting fayre. 10.00am – 4.00pm. **14 July £50**

Preserving food in the 16th century

This workshop takes the practical approach to learning the key methods of preserving foodstuffs in Tudor England. This was essential to keep the population alive and well until the next harvest. Herbs, apples, preserves, pickles. 10.00am – 4.00pm. **15 September £50**

The Tudor bakehouse – using a 16th century bread oven

Museum milled flour will be used to make common brown loaves of the working folk in the kitchen's historic bread oven. The day will include the role of bread in Tudor life, the law of the time and the special loaves baked for festivals. 10.00am – 4.00pm. **4 October £50**

Enquiries to Diana Rowsell, Head of Learning, Museum Office, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex on 01243 811464, fax 01243 811475, e-mail courses@wealddown.co.uk. Website www.wealddown.co.uk

Bursledon Brickworks Industrial Museum

EVENTS 2005

Sundays 10.00 – 16.00

Steam Engines, Narrow Gauge Mineral Railway,
Wildlife Friendly Garden

20 Mar	Spring Time Steam Up
17 Apr	Woodcrafts & Tractors
8 May	Crafts In May
12 Jun	Keen 2B Green
17 Jul	Classic Vehicles, Model Makers & Collectors
18 Sep	Restoration on Display + Autumn in the Garden
16 Oct	Autumn Steam
20 Nov	Christmas Crafts

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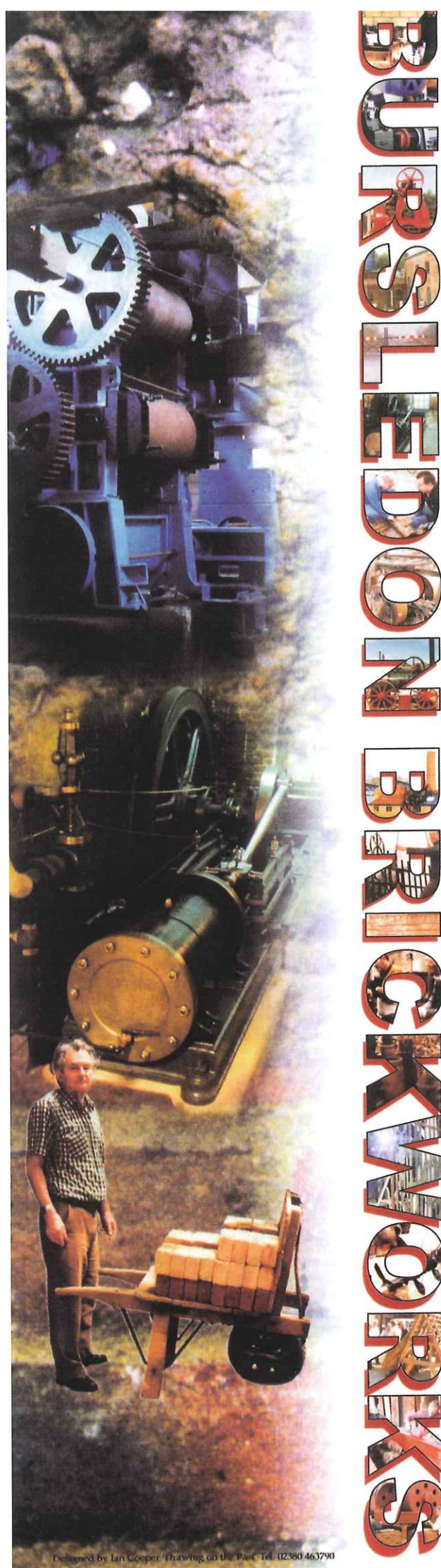
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FRIENDS' NEWS

Day trips 2005

Waddesdon Manor nr. Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Wednesday 18 May

This National Trust property was built in the 1870s for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to house his collection of 18th century art treasures. The house is built in the style of a French Renaissance chateau. On arrival there will be a 45-minute presentation outlining the history of the house, its garden and the Rothschild collection. There is also parkland to visit, the Victorian Rococo-style aviary and wine cellars containing more than 15,000 bottles of Rothschild wines. Lunch may be purchased in one of the restaurants, or picnics brought.

Depart Singleton 8.30am, return 6.45pm

Cost: National Trust Members £13.00, non-NT members £22

Hidden London and the Regents Canal

Wednesday 20 July

Our guide will meet the coach at London Wall and take us on a walking tour between Aldersgate and Newgate via a maze of narrow streets and alleyways. We will walk beneath a Tudor gatehouse, visit a plague pit and see the stately Charterhouse along with several homes of famous people in history. Lunch will probably be taken in the Barbican area where there is a choice of venues or you may like to bring a packed lunch. In the afternoon we will be taken on a 50-minute guided cruise on the Regents Canal. Before departing for home there will be a chance to have tea.

Depart Singleton 9.30am, return 8.30pm

Cost: £20.00

Christ's Hospital near Horsham, West Sussex

Thursday 8 September

On arrival we will be met by our guide and taken to the museum for a taster of the history of the school. Lunch will be a set menu (including a vegetarian option), taken in the Gallery cafe. There will then be a tour of the school and a chance to see many wonderful paintings, buildings and the grounds. Please be aware that there is quite a lot of walking, uneven paths, steep stairs and narrow staircases. Before departing for home the cafe will be open for tea. Depart Singleton 10.00am, return 5.15pm

Cost: £22.00 (including lunch)

Houses of Parliament

Tuesday 4 October

This tour has been arranged through our local Member of Parliament, Mr Andrew Tyrie. We will have a fully guided tour after which you will have a free afternoon to take lunch locally and a chance to visit other attractions in the area or to do some shopping.

Depart Singleton 8.30am, return 6.30pm

Cost: £10.00

Museum of Rural Life at Reading University

Wednesday 23 November

This is England's primary museum of rural life: it describes itself as 'dedicated to the spirit of the English countryside and its people'. The museum is re-opening in spring 2005 in part-new and part-refurbished buildings. The many displays include waggons, dairying, agricultural hand tools, farming in the industrial age, agricultural machinery and mechanised farming. Lunch will be provided and is included in the cost.

Depart Singleton 9.30am, return 5.45pm

Cost: £16.00

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2005

Social events

Coffee morning

Monday 16 May

All Friends are warmly invited to a coffee morning to be held in Crawley Hall from 10.00am to 12.00noon. Entry will be by the donation of a bottle (preferably alcoholic!) for our bottle tombola to be held at the Murder Mystery Dinner on 17 September. We hope to welcome as many of you as possible to the coffee morning; a good opportunity for us to get to know you and for you to meet the committee.

Fund raising

Family Barn Dance

Saturday 9 July

After the success of last year's Family Barn Dance, this event is being repeated by popular demand. Come and enjoy an evening of lively music and dancing for all the family provided by The Reel Thing. The music is a combination of British and American folk tunes played for dances that can soothe or exhaust you; punctuated by songs and music to allow you to get your breath back. The caller tells you what to do and when to do it; so come along and enjoy a great evening's entertainment. Bring your own picnic food and drinks.

Cost: Adult £10, Family £25 (2 adults and 2 children), Children £5

For further details see the advertisement on page 5.

Murder Mystery Dinner

Saturday 17 September

We are delighted to welcome the Cloak and Dagger Company who will 'commit a murder' in front of our very eyes and the audience will identify the murderer! The event will take place in the Downland Gridshell and includes a delicious three-course dinner for tables of eight.

Cost: £35 per person.

For further details see the advertisement on page 7.

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 16 April at 2.30pm in the
Downland Gridshell

After the annual general meeting the Museum director, Richard Harris, will update members on developments at the Museum. His Grace, The Duke of Richmond, will then give a talk, *The Goodwood Estate, Past, Present and Future*.

How to book

A booking form, giving costs of each event for the trips and fund raising events, is included with this mailing. Please read the instructions carefully. Applications for trips will be opened on 18 March. If any trips are over-subscribed, tickets will be allocated by lot. In the event of anyone being unable to attend a booked trip, no refund will be made unless the ticket can be re-sold. Gratuity to the driver is included in the price. Booking forms should be sent to: Mrs Sarah Casdagli, Little Yarne, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0HA and not to the Museum office. Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your tickets.

Oxen at work

In October 2004 I attended an international meeting entitled *Cattle at Work* in the tiny Eco-museum in the French village of Alzen, near Foix (Ariege). It arose from previous meetings in 1997 and 1998 of the well-established French *Societe d'Ethnozootecnie*, which had revealed great interest among historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, veterinarians, and others in the practical aspects of working oxen. There is also worldwide interest in the use of oxen in developing countries, particularly in Africa, and all those present were keen to establish a working oxen network. There is already a study group in Germany, the Arbeitsgruppe Runderansparung (see www.zugrinder.de), and some of those at the meeting had participated in a British tour in April last year led by Drew Conroy of Maine, USA, which included the Museum in its itinerary.

One of the presentations at the conference was by Paul Starkey, the other representative from England. Paul is a specialist in animal traction and is attached to the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading. He has travelled

extremely widely and showed illustrations of oxen in all kinds of use worldwide, including an ox pulling a lawnmower in India. His website is at www.animaltraction.com.

The main part of the conference consisted of demonstrations organised by Olivier Courthiade, one of the top oxen handlers in France, who works as a breeder, trainer, judge, consultant and demonstrator. He gave a detailed presentation on the Alzen museum's collection of regional types of yoke, then demonstrated his handling of three pairs of animals: a superb pair of Casta oxen, the racehorses of the ox world, now rare with less than 200 cows; a pair of black Salers; and a pair of Bearnaise, the most rare with only 124 cows remaining. This last pair had been trained but their training had not been maintained and it was interesting to see Olivier handle them with considerable skill and force. The oxen were demonstrated pulling a cart, a reversible plough, and a small harrow, all on sloping ground, and the Salers were shown pulling timber out of the woods, down a vertiginous slope!

I came away with two main impressions. First, our oxen operation at the Museum, with Lamb and Leader having been trained by Chris Baldwin from only five-weeks-old and being given consistent training several times a week,



Casta oxen being demonstrated at the Cattle at Work conference in the French village of Alzen

is of high quality compared with many similar operations at museums and elsewhere in Europe. Indeed, the oxen are probably one of our most unusual, authentic and well-focused resources.

Second, I became aware of the intense interest in the use of working oxen worldwide as a forward- rather than backward-looking resource in developing countries, which fits well with our own interest in the wider aspects of sustainability. The Downland Gridshell has shown that the Museum can bridge from the past to a prize-winning future, and open air museums are in a unique position in being able to use resources from the past and demonstrate an understanding of interlocking technical and social systems to help map a course into the future.

Richard Harris

New horseman arrives

Last month we welcomed our new full-time horseman to the Museum. Lee Harrison comes to us from Acton Scott Historic Working Farm, Shropshire where he was ploughman and waggoner. Lee is in fact an American, from New York State, where his grandfather and father farmed. From the age of six Lee would go out with his grandfather and the horses learning the whole range of farming tasks.



Lee and Ruth Harrison

Lee came to Shropshire in May, 2003 and fell in love with England. He discovered Acton Scott Historic Working Farm which epitomised much of his own philosophy and became friendly with Jim Elliott, its then waggoner, who is the four-times World National Champion Horse Ploughman. Lee, who collects ploughs, has taken part in ploughing championships throughout the country. He also fell in love with Ruth, who was a field warden at Acton Scott and they married in December 2003. The Weald & Downland Museum is never slow to spot an opportunity, and Ruth has been engaged on our staff too, as a domestic interpreter.

Lee takes over from Diana Zeuner as stables manager and Derek Hilton as part-time horseman. Diana will continue her involvement as a 'consultant' (her historic knowledge of the heavy horse stables' development and role as publisher of *Heavy Horse World* magazine and author of two books on the subject coming in useful). Derek has been a dedicated horseman with great skill in working and caring for the horses and training our volunteers. Derek now plans a short rest from his tasks and it is hoped he will return in his original role as a volunteer.

Lee will be managing and working the Museum's four Shire horses and managing the dedicated support team of Pete Betsworth as assistant and some 10 stables volunteers. He will also be responsible for grassland management at the Museum. Ruth will be working in Winkhurst Tudor kitchen and other exhibit buildings, providing our visitors with information on how they worked on a daily basis.

Getting greener – the Museum tackles the issues at its Sustainability Event – 15 May

Straw bale building is one of the demonstrations which will be taking place during the **Sustainability Event** on Sunday **15 May**. The Museum's fourth celebration of sustainability and 'green' building technology will focus on exciting developments in modern building methods, materials and techniques as well as alternative energy sources, recycling and sustainable water use. The event includes displays by specialist organisations demonstrating products such as solar and biomass heating, sun tubes, green paints, timber from renewable sources and specialist insulation. Visitors will be able to join in constructing a small straw bale house on the Museum site! The Museum is also promoting its new programme of 'green' day-schools, in partnership with Bognor Regis-based Impetus Consulting, which address environmental issues in the home, such as a greener approach to energy, home refurbishment and planning greener gardens. See also pages 24/25.



Giants of the horse world converge on the Museum

Heavy horses feature in two special events at the Museum again this year. The **Heavy Horse Spectacular** on **5 June** is one of the largest gatherings of heavy horses in the South East, with some 50 working horses demonstrating their versatility in day-long displays packed with activity. Among the highlights this year is a fast-moving, action-packed demonstration of John and Rowena McDermott's horse-drawn fire engine involving extinguishing a real fire; parades of agricultural vehicles and brewers' drays; a decorated harness demonstration; traditional timber-handling display; obstacle driving with teams judged on their timing and driving skills and a grand parade around the Museum site. The **Autumn Countryside Celebration** on **1-2 October** sees the return of the plough horses, vintage tractors and steam threshing of the Museum's own crop of thatching straw. Countryside skills and craft and trade stands add to the atmosphere of both events. The Museum's own working horses and pair of draught oxen will be taking part. In the pictures are, right, Mike Millington from Chalton, Hampshire with his Shire pair to the George Gale & Co brewery dray, below left, Museum horseman Derek Hilton ploughing with our own Shires, Neville and Donald and below right, threshing the wheat crop gets under way, with the help of Arthur Thompson's steam engine.



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Lee Miller

5/11

Photography: Claire Park

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WEST DEAN COLLEGE

BUILDING CONSERVATION MASTERCLASSES

The Programme is a development of the English Heritage Masterclass Programme, which was originally set up to provide training specifically related to the conservation of buildings and sites for its own personnel and contractors. It is a collaboration in specialist training between West Dean College, English Heritage and the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum.

The unique ruinette – on which students can practise conservation and repair techniques – is a purpose-built masonry structure exhibiting many of the problems found on historic buildings.

Residential accommodation is provided in the College, a fine 19th-century flint-faced mansion which houses an important decorative and fine art collection. Students are literally surrounded by an extensive range of artefacts and the remarkable landscape of the South Downs.

PROGRAMME FOR SPRING 2005

7-10 FEBRUARY 2004

BC3D73

SPECIFYING CONSERVATION WORKS

Course Leader: Professor John Ashurst, formerly Principal Architect with English Heritage and Professor of Building Conservation at Bournemouth University; now with Ingram Consultancy for the repair and conservation of historic buildings

The course will cover specifying conservation works from inception to final account and post-contract debrief.

28 FEBRUARY-3 MARCH 2005

BC3D74

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF ARCHITECTURAL METALWORK

Course Leader: Bill Martin, Senior Conservator, Building Conservation and Research Team, English Heritage

This course deals with structural metalwork, as well as purely decorative features and statuary. Latest developments in the techniques of cleaning using lasers will be demonstrated, along with the use of cathodic protection as a remedial solution to rusting cramps.

14-17 MARCH 2005

BC3D75

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF BRICK AND TERRACOTTA MASONRY

Course Leader: John Ashurst, see above

Principal Tutor: Colin Burns, Master Mason and former Senior Training Officer with English Heritage

This course provides an understanding of, and basic skills in, the conservation and repair of traditional brick and terracotta masonry. A range of brick and terracotta buildings will be studied to illustrate methods of construction, common failures and decay processes.

18-20 APRIL 2005

BC2D14

THE HISTORIC INTERIOR: COMMISSIONING AND MANAGING CONSERVATION RESEARCH

Course Leader: Helen Hughes, Senior Architectural Paint Researcher with English Heritage

The course will outline the different methods of analysis commonly undertaken as part of the investigation of historic interiors with reference to completed case studies. During the course delegates will be set short assignments and asked to prepare research strategies and devise representation programmes, based on given documentation.

3-6 MAY 2005

BC3D76

CLEANING MASONRY BUILDINGS

Course Leader: John Ashurst, see above

Principal Tutor: Colin Burns, see above

An intensive and comprehensive course for practitioners and specifiers, covering the complex aesthetic, technical, practical and health and safety issues involved in the cleaning of stone, brick and terracotta buildings. With opportunities to try out a full range of equipment and techniques, this is an important course to accompany the new BS Code of Practice for Cleaning and Surface Repair of Buildings, Parts I and II.

16-19 MAY 2005

BC3D77

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF PLASTERS AND RENDERS

Course Leader: John Ashurst, see above

Principal Tutor: Colin Burns, see above

This unique course covers history, documentation, condition survey, repair options, specifications, execution and quality control of remedial works to lime, gypsum and cement-based internal and external wall plasters and renders, from roughcast to stucco and including plain, moulded, modelled and cast work, with practical workshop exercises.

13-16 JUNE 2005

BC3D78

THE ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES

Course Leader: Alan Cathersides, Senior Landscape Manager with English Heritage

Principal Tutor: John Thompson, former Nature Conservation Adviser to English Heritage

The ecological importance of many historic sites and buildings has long been recognised, but the last decade has seen a renewed interest in this special subject, and a growing acceptance of the need to integrate the care of plants and animals into the conservation of historic fabric, sites and landscapes. The course looks at the key habitats involved and their management, with particular reference to some recent examples, including the implications of wildlife legislation.

27-30 JUNE 2005

BC3D79

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF STONE MASONRY PART II

Course Leader: John Ashurst, see above

Principal Tutor: Colin Burns, see above

A course designed for craftsmen, contractors and specifiers with experience of basic masonry conservation techniques, wishing to acquire specialist skills to tackle more difficult jobs. It covers aspects of stone conservation and repair specifically relevant to ashlar and architectural detail, including recording and taking off detail, poultice design for cleaning, mortar repairs, small scale stone piecing, fracture pinning and grouting, the replication of tooled surfaces and the use of consolidants and cosmetic treatments.

Courses planned for Autumn 2005:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 3-6 October | The Structural Repair of Historic Buildings |
| 17-20 October | Conservation and Repair of Stone Masonry Part I |
| 31 October-2 November | Mortars for Repair and Conservation |
| 21-24 November | Conservation and Repair of Timber |

Fully inclusive residential fee: £515 (Except BC2D14 = £345)

Non-residential fee: £410 (Except BC2D14 = £275)

West Dean courses are worth double CPD points to RIBA members.

New for 2005 is the Postgraduate Diploma in the Conservation of Buildings, Interiors and Sites, validated by the University of Sussex.

For further information on all the courses in this programme, and the Postgraduate Diploma, please contact the Building Conservation Masterclasses Administrator at West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QZ.

T 01243 818219/811301 F 01243 811343 E bcm@westdean.org.uk W www.westdean.org.uk

News in brief

West Sussex County Council ecologist Graham Roberts has installed an infra-red closed-circuit television camera in Court Barn so that visitors can see the barn owls that have been resident in the barn since 2001 and, we hope, their 2005 brood. The owls have become part of the Museum, and they make a substantial contribution in an unexpected way, through the production of pellets. Owl pellets are solid accumulations of the indigestible leftovers from their daily meals of rodents, and dissection and analysis of them has proved a major attraction to children during our half-term activity weeks!

Court barn was re-erected at the Museum in 1979, and two years later an exhibition opened on plumbing and leadwork, organised and maintained by the Plumbing Museum Trust, specially formed by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers for the purpose. Ten years ago the Worshipful Company of Masons joined the plumbers in a new exhibition about stone and masonry, and five years later we added the display sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Glaziers showing the making of leaded lights. The Masons have now sponsored improvements to their displays, with the creation of a new demonstration area, a geological map showing the source of English building stones, display cabinets for tools, and new panel displays. This was completed in time for a visit by the Company in September 2004. We are grateful for their generosity and the high standard achieved, and to all three companies for their support in organising craft demonstrations.

The development of our recreated period gardens over the last 15 years has led to the Museum growing many old and unusual varieties of vegetables, such as white carrots, skirrets, Alexanders and Good King Henry, and we believe that many of our visitors would like to be able to take them home to try! Chris Baldwin, who developed our field strips, has fenced off an area adjacent to the strips in which he will be growing vegetables in sufficient quantity to be able to sell in our shop. The first produce is expected to be available in the spring, and there will be a succession of seasonal vegetables, with the full range of produce building up over the next two years. There is great public interest in food that is high quality and locally grown by organic methods, so we expect this innovation to be popular and successful.

500 years ago – what would you have for your lunch?

Winter is a busy time of year for the Museum's gardening team. With most of the autumn digging and manuring completed by early December we turn our attention to the wattle fences, hedges and herb beds.

Both Bayleaf farmhouse and Poplar cottage are being re-fenced this year – not an easy task because of the wire netting inside to prevent rabbits getting into the gardens. The old fence is cut into short lengths to use as firewood in Bayleaf and Winkhurst Tudor kitchen. We salvage any chestnut stakes worth keeping. The hazel we use to weave the fences comes from West



Bob Holman fencing the paddocks around Bayleaf farmhouse.



Harbingers of Spring – cowslips and primroses by a hurdle fence.

Dean in an area managed by the Sussex Wildlife Trust: our own coppices do not yield sufficient quantity with the quality we need.

The tall hedges, as well as those laid last year, have had an abundance of berries this season. This is said to foretell a hard winter, but it has more to do with the blossom set in May. Working in Bayleaf garden in early January a small flock of Redwings descended on the sloes. These Scandinavian thrushes and their close relation, the Fieldfare, are often seen in the shaws that surround Bayleaf farmstead feeding on rose hips, hawthorn and blackthorn. Last year I was lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the largest member of the finch family, the Hawfinch, feeding here.

During the cold spell early in the New Year, we were busy one morning

Winter work in the garden – preparing for the new season in medieval times.



lifting parsnips and leeks, before returning to Bayleaf to finish hedge-laying. Looking over the garden fence I wondered what might the original occupiers of Bayleaf, some 500 years ago, put into a potage on a cold January morning. What green stuff was available?

Worts or colworts, hardy brassicas like our kale, would be available all winter, as were the little bunching onion known as 'fivers', the tops of which stay green throughout the year. Early shoots of sorrel and Good King Henry were showing, delicious in a potage. Flat-leaf parsley, given some protection, will produce quantities of young leaves even in the coldest weather and were an essential herb/vegetable in late medieval times. Skirrets, a hardy multi-rooted vegetable, something of a delicacy, was available all winter and were grown throughout the medieval and Tudor periods. Alexanders, very much a winter crop, supplies large quantities of celery-like stems and leaves.

During times of famine or crop failure, edible weeds such as fat hen, chickweed, pepperwort, sow thistle and young nettles would have been part of the daily potage. So, as well as dried pulses (peas and beans), onions, leeks and parsnips a winter potage would have been, and indeed still is, pretty good winter fare.

Bob Holman
Museum gardener

How you can help

The Museum is one of the UK's leading independent museums. It is a charitable trust and receives no regular government or local authority funding but relies on visitor income, voluntary effort, sponsorship and its supportive Friends group.

There are several ways in which you can help us:

Join the Friends

As a Friend you pay an annual subscription for which you are entitled to free entry to the Museum – including event days – and receive information on social and fundraising activities. The Friends provide a vital source of support and income and made grants to the Museum of almost £140,000 in 2004. To join, call the Friends office on 01243 811893 or email friends@wealddown.co.uk

Become a volunteer

Volunteer helpers are vital to the Museum's operation, whether it be stewarding the houses, working with schools, helping run the watermill or Tudor kitchen, in the gardens or many other departments. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator on 01243 811933 or email volunteers@wealddown.co.uk.

Leave a legacy

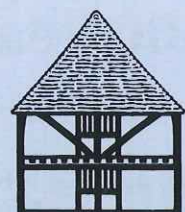
A love of our heritage lasts longer than a lifetime. The Museum and its setting are inspirational. You can help ensure they live on by pledging a legacy to the Museum in your will. Legacies allow us to plan ahead so that we can protect and develop this unique Museum. For further information, contact the Hon Treasurer through the Museum office on 01243 811363.

Provide an introduction to a sponsor or grant-giving body

Revenue from visitors to the Museum pays most day-to-day running costs but major rescue and restoration work or the development of visitor facilities can only be financed by sponsorship or donations. For further information, contact the Museum Director on 01243 811363 or email rharris@wealddown.co.uk.

Food Fair moves to May Bank Holiday

The Museum's **Food Fair** – one of our long-standing popular events early in the season – moves to May bank holiday weekend this year, **1-2 May**. Organised in association with *A Taste of Sussex*, the fair (which used to be held at Easter) attracts some 50 producers of speciality food and drink from throughout the South East. Award-winning beers and wines, sausages and bacon, succulent meat and game, delicious ice cream, aromatic bread, sauces and chutneys... will be for sale. The visiting food producers will be based in and around the Museum's exhibit buildings, and the Museum's own working Tudor kitchen at Winkhurst will also be busy, enabling visitors to get a taste of favourite foods of the period. This **Easter**, the Museum will be holding a new programme of activities covering crafts, traditional games, food and drink, story telling and Easter bonnets.



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Family (2 adults and up to 3 children) £21

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Information Line: 01243 811348

E-mail: office@wealddown.co.uk

Website: www.wealddown.co.uk

Friends membership Tel: 01243 811893

Museum Director: Richard Harris MA AADip

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