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Spring 2006

**Discover the
secrets of
Hangleton Cottage**

**2006 Events
and Courses
Programmes**

**Old-established trug workshop
comes to Museum**

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The Museum is very sad to report the deaths of two of our most stalwart volunteers just as the Magazine went to press. Peter Stock, who with his wife, Ruth, had for over 20 years been vital to the operation of Lurgashall Watermill, died at home on Saturday, 25 February. Brigadier Walter Greenway, whose story was prepared a month ago and is printed on page 34, died on Wednesday, 1 March at St Richard's Hospital following a road accident.

How the Museum has benefited from its Designated status

'Hidden histories' plans to bring agricultural equipment to life

The Designation Challenge Fund (DCF) is continuing to support work at museums with Designated collections for another two years. In years 1-3 we carried out research on our exhibits, moved Winkhurst, refurbished Pendean, and employed Mike Wall to prepare our artefact collections for the move from Charlton to Gridshell. In years 4-5 we wrote our Interpretation

Strategy, and carried out the Volunteer Support Project, generating videos and reference material for volunteers to use to find out more about the Museum and its exhibits. Then in years 6-7 we have carried out a major project on the large items in our collections that are stored off-site – mainly agricultural equipment. This has been extremely successful, and comes to an end on 31 March.

For years 8-9 (2006-8) we have been invited to make two applications. One, which is common to all non-hub museums with Designated collections, is for funding to help us collect and collate core audience and other data to link in with the *Renaissance in the Regions* programme. The other is headed *Opening up collections* and is a competitive

Celebrating working horses and the countryside

Heavy horses and rural life form a big part of our special events in summer and autumn. The Heavy Horse Spectacular on 4 June attracts Shires, Clydesdales, Suffolks and British Percherons from all over the south east and the Autumn Countryside Celebration on 7/8 October offers a great opportunity to get close to working horses, vintage tractors and steam threshing.



The timber crane currently being restored for the Museum's new timber yard is expected to be completed by spring and will provide an extremely interesting addition to the Museum's working machinery.

The work is being undertaken by the collections team in the Jerwood Gridshell Space and progressing very well considering the complexity of the project and the very heavy weight of each of the pieces involved. The crane, which has been in the Museum's collections since 1997, is from Basing Home Farm, near Alton, Hampshire, where it was used to move timber from carts and waggons into stores and workshops.

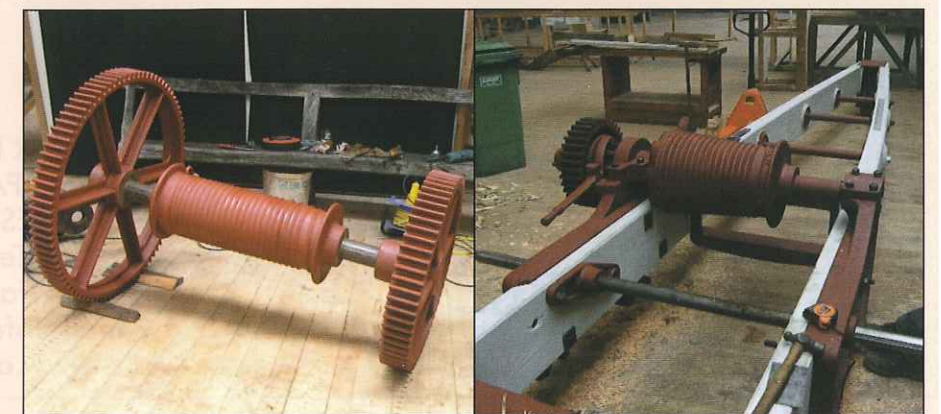
During the winter all the ironwork was freed and removed from the large, vertical 'A' frame which forms the crane's central structure. Attached to this are all the other parts – the jib and outriggers, the cable drums and winding gears. Much of the ironwork had seized during its years of inactivity and it took great effort and perseverance on the part of Ben Headon and Paul Pinnington to free the mechanisms. One of the winding shafts and gears had to be replaced due to irreparable damage, but it is hoped these will be the only pieces of new ironwork required.

The ironwork was treated and reinstated onto the 'A' frame in full working order. The next piece in the jigsaw was the huge outriggers which attach to the top of the 'A' frame and run at a 45-degree angle to the ground behind the crane; these huge lengths of timber provide stability, strength and a point

Timber crane restored ready for new working life



Crane and winding gear before, left, and right, after restoration.



Left, the larger cable drum after restoration. Right, the completed 'A' frame.

of counterbalance when loads are lifted using the jib.

Some of the original timbers from the 'A' frame have been retained for reference purposes, although the frame now comprises totally new, Douglas fir

softwood which will provide sufficient structural strength when the crane is re-erected and used in the Museum's reconstructed timber yard.

Julian Bell
Curator



application intended for innovative projects that have an impact beyond our own institution. Projects should increase and sustain user participation, provide benefits by developing our own organisation and workforce, and benefit users through improved access to, and use of collections. (See also *Museum hubs?* ... on page 14.)

This is a tall order! We have chosen to make an application under the heading 'Hidden Histories', intended to reveal the hidden stories behind Designated collections. Our proposal is to take advantage of our unique resources – we not only have collections, but land to use them on, animals to work them, and people with the necessary skills. Our proposal is entitled *Sustainable power: the use and maintenance of animal-powered agricultural equipment*, and our intention is to build tools and resources to bring

to life animal-powered agricultural equipment, not only at our Museum but also at other rural life museums with similar collections.

To appreciate these pieces of equipment, which are normally in static displays, audiences need to see and understand their actual operation, use and maintenance, so we propose to assemble a series of videos and manuals, each dealing with a generic type of equipment (ploughs, drills, harrows, etc), providing a resource that can be shared with other museums and used for exhibitions, on-line reference, and training. We have the skills, livestock and land to achieve this, and we will collaborate closely with the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading, drawing on its archive and photographic resources (now much more easily accessible in its magnificent new premises).

We believe that by drawing out these 'hidden histories' from our collections, we will bring the material to life by

connecting people and skills with the artefacts. There is increasing interest in sustainable agriculture from farmers and smallholders, but there is also the possibility of fostering international links with organisations such as ATNESA (Animal Traction Network for Eastern and Southern Africa) working with colleague Paul Starkey of *Animal Traction Development*. We expect interest from European organisations too, such as FACE (Farming and Countryside Education), the *Societe d'Ethnozootechnie*, and the *Arbeitsgruppe Runderansparung*.

Finally, this project builds on two previous DCF projects. We will use the video equipment purchased for the 2002-4 Volunteer Support Project, and the farming equipment to be used has been conserved under the 2004-6 DCF project to catalogue and provide digital access to our large objects that are currently stored off site.

Richard Harris
Museum Director

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Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associates appointed

As reported in the Autumn 2005 magazine, the Museum has entered into a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) scheme with Reading University, and we have now appointed the two Associates provided for under the KTP agreement. The project is expected to last for two and a half years.

The first to be appointed was Danae Tankard, the history Associate, who started work in October. Danae has an MA in Medieval Studies and a PhD in History from Birkbeck College. Much of the research she has undertaken has been concerned with the history of communities and the reconstruction of the lives of individual men and women. Her job at the Museum is to research the social and economic background to our main exhibits so that we will be better equipped to answer visitors' most common question – what was life like for the people who lived in our houses? She has started with Hangleton cottage, and her initial report is on page 7. Her KTP supervisor is Margaret Yates, Lecturer in History at Reading.

The other Associate was appointed in January 2006. Peter Curd is a graduate of Reading University with a degree in Cybernetics and Control Engineering, and he expects to register for a PhD to be based on his work at the Museum. His brief is to research and assemble a package of systems to enable visitors in our proposed Orientation Gallery to access background information about the Museum, our exhibits, and our region as simply and flexibly as possible, and to look more widely at ways in which IT could be used in interpretation at the Museum. He will be supervised by two of the Museum's trustees, Jeff Houlton and Maurice Pollock, both of whom come from a professional background in computers and software.

An important part of the KTP scheme is that it is a way of giving the Associates experience of the reality of business life. The projects are run with quite a formal structure of planning, monitoring and reporting, and the Associates are expected to become fully integrated with the 'company partner' – i.e. the Museum. These two appointments mark a significant and innovative step forward for the Museum.

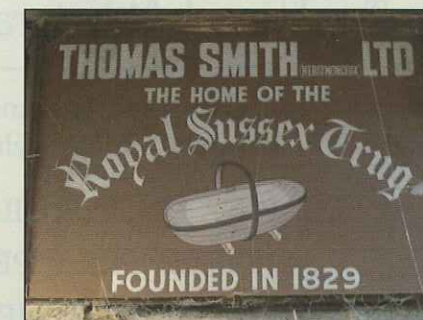
Trug workshop moves to the Museum

The contents of one of the oldest-established trug-making workshops in the country have been given to the Museum by the owner following a decline in the market for the craftsman-made items.

The Museum was approached in December by Mr Robin Tuppen who had run the long-established trug workshop for the past 25 years. The firm he operated was initially set up by Thomas Smith of Herstmonceux, East Sussex in the 1820s and is the latest incarnation of this company which through the course of its existence won a Gold Medal at the 1851 Great Exhibition, supplied trugs to Queen Victoria and was awarded the Royal Warrant. More recently Mr Tuppen battled to keep the craft alive by diversifying into more modern materials, introducing the plywood trug and working hard to develop markets abroad. Very sadly, the workshop is no longer commercially viable, suffering from a very poor market and cheap imports from China.

Mr Tuppen was unable to keep the business afloat any longer. However, being extremely passionate about the art of trug making and keeping the craft alive, he was keen that the contents of his workshop should not simply be broken up and sold, but remained together, so that trugs could continue to be made in one form or another, or at the very least, their manufacture could be demonstrated. To this end, he contacted the Museum who agreed that the workshop contents should come to us.

Most of the equipment from the workshop arrived at the Museum just before Christmas and we are now awaiting advice from Mr Tuppen so



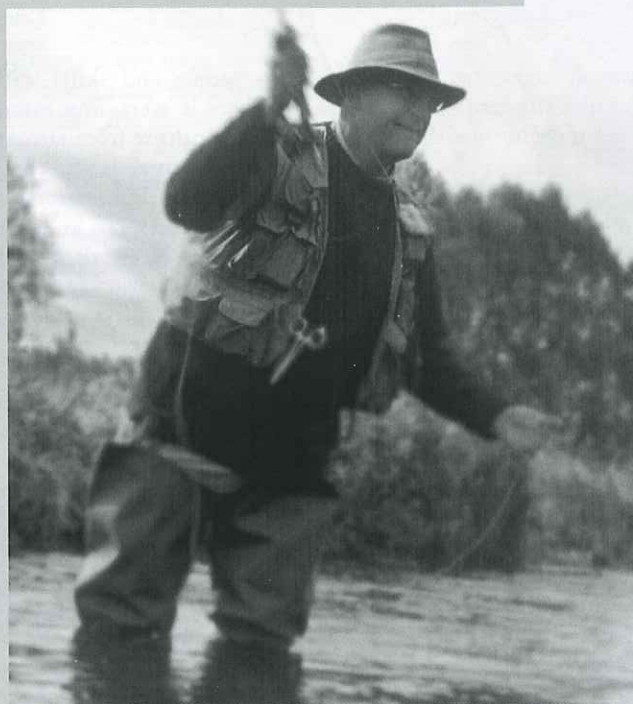
Trug formers in the workshop.



Raw materials and completed trugs.

that the items can be catalogued. He and a colleague are very keen to demonstrate the art of trug making at the Museum, and a suitable area and working arrangements need to be found to enable this to happen.

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Hangleton cottage, reconstructed at the Museum.

corresponds to what is now Hangleton Way and track 2, which has disappeared (Figure 2). The remains of two 'long-houses' were found, measuring approximately 40ft by 20ft, each divided internally into three rooms. All the other buildings were less than 30ft long, some with two rooms, some with one. The remains of six ovens were found, two within what otherwise appear to be living houses, three in separate outshuts (two in one outshut and one in another) and one within a free-standing kitchen. The pattern of building combined with the dating of pottery sherds suggested that the period of densest occupation was from c.1250 to c.1325 and that the population of Hangleton contracted substantially at some point after that.

The Museum's cottage

The Museum's cottage is an amalgam of two buildings (buildings 3 and 11) because no house was sufficiently well preserved to allow for reconstruction on

Hangleton Cottage and its medieval village

By Danae Tankard

The village of Hangleton

The medieval downland village of Hangleton was situated just above the village of Hove about two miles from the sea, with an estimated population in the early 14th century of approximately 200. Hangleton's nearest towns were New Shoreham (4.4 miles) and Lewes (10.5 miles) and it was presumably to one or both of their markets that the villagers bought their surplus produce for sale. The manor of Hangleton formed part of the Fishersgate Half Hundred, together with the neighbouring manors of Aldrington and Portslade, situated within the Rape of Lewes (Figure 1). The lords of the manor from 1291 to 1446 were the de Poynings, a Sussex gentry family with lands in Sussex, Kent, Suffolk and Norfolk.

A medieval village uncovered

The village site was excavated between 1952 and 1954 by Eric Holden and John and Gillian Hurst when plans for additional housing (overspill from Hove) threatened to (and subsequently did) remove all traces of the village for good (Holden, 1963; Hurst, 1964). In total the remains of 12 building groups (20 buildings) were excavated, covering a period from the 13th to the 15th century. These were spread out in a linear development away from the village church along two tracks, track 1 which

Figure 1. Map showing location of Hangleton (Holden).

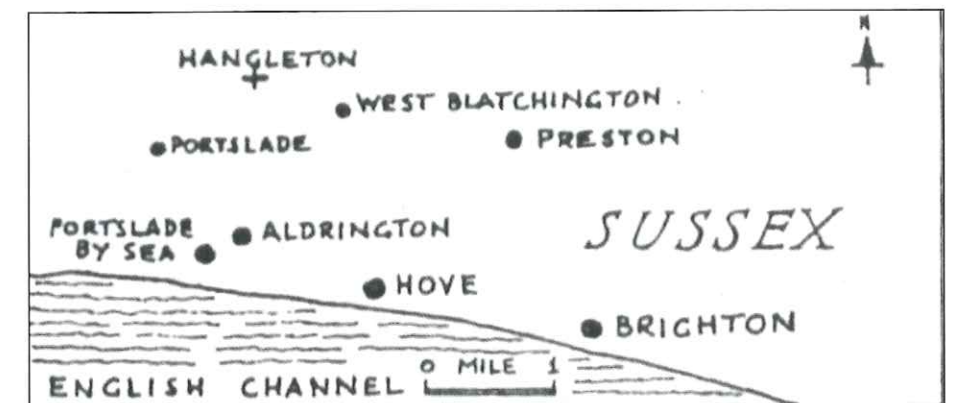
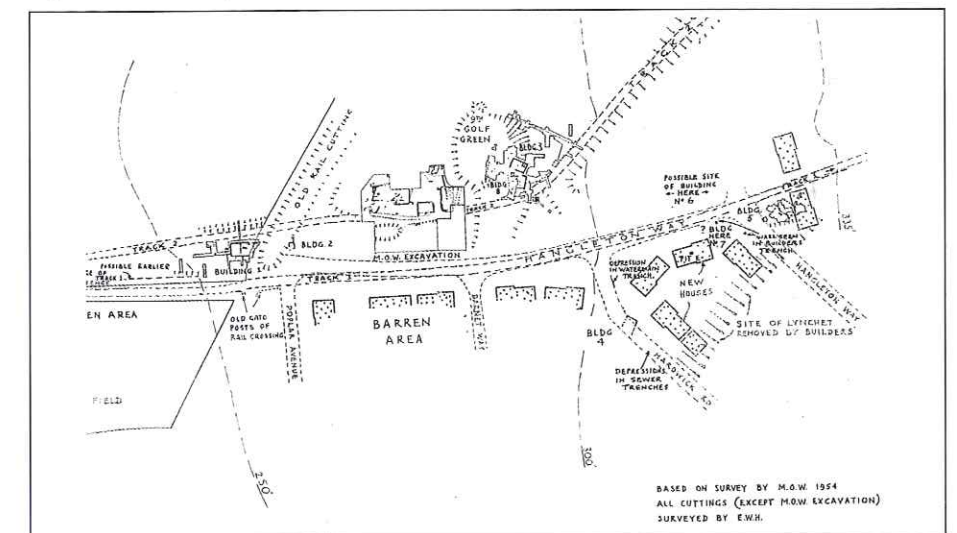
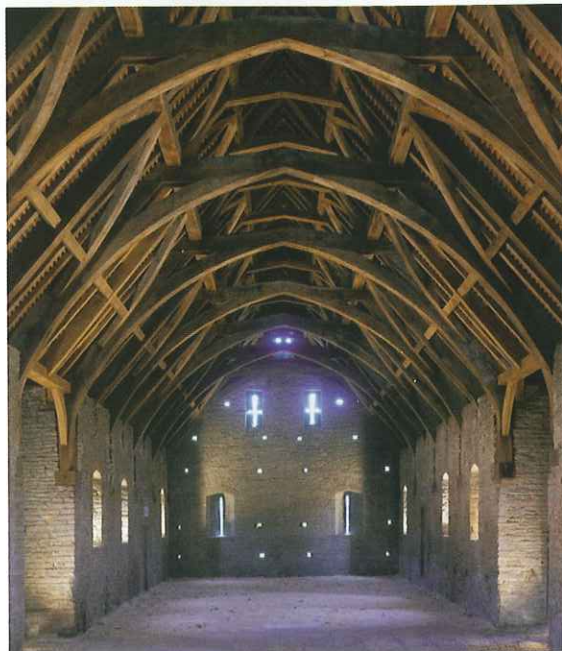


Figure 2. General plan of excavations (Holden).



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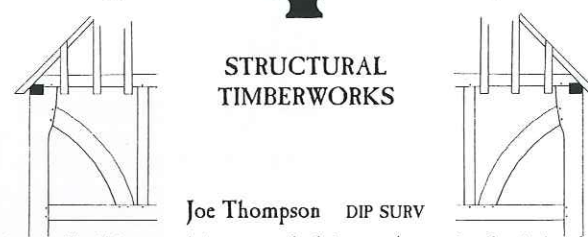
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➔ Hangleton Cottage and its medieval village

its own evidence. Both of these buildings contained two rooms, an inner room with a large domed oven and an outer room with a hearth cut into the chalk floor. There has always been some debate about their function: although they have been interpreted as living houses the possibility exists that they were free standing kitchens or bake-houses. The structure of the buildings also remains conjectural. When Holden excavated the site he found the remains of timber post-holes below the flint walls in building 3 and concluded from this that a 12th century timber-framed building was rebuilt with flint in the 13th century. The Museum's cottage was therefore built with flint walls to a height that seemed to be consistent with the amount of tumbled flint that was discovered. However, the possibility exists that the timber frame was not replaced but was simply underpinned with a flint footing when the wooden post-holes rotted. If this was the case the infill could either have been flint or wattle and daub. Alternatively, a timber frame could have been encased in flint walls.

Medieval settlements

The location of the Museum's cottage suggests an isolated building, set away from its neighbours and without any associated agricultural buildings. In fact the cottage would have formed part of a nucleated village (as can be seen in Figure 2) in a pattern of settlement found in other medieval rural communities. A typical medieval nucleated village plan consisted of a street with peasant holdings or 'tofts' arranged on either side. The regularity of some medieval settlements with each house occupying the same sized piece of land along a street or a green suggests that they were the result of a deliberate planning or re-planning by the lord. Other settlements were 'polyfocal'; that is, small groupings of holdings in close proximity to each other, representing a more organic development. The plan of Hangleton uncovered during excavation, although incomplete, indicates that the village fell in the latter category.

The typical toft would include a separate living house, a building for animals (e.g. a byre or sheepcote) and a barn or granary for crop storage grouped around a yard. A living house might be divided into one, two, three or more rooms separated by screens or walls. The hall was the main social space in a house and



The medieval church of St Helen's, Hangleton, parts of which date back to the 11th century.

might serve numerous functions, including eating and sleeping. Chambers were used primarily for sleeping but might also be used for storage. The number of people accommodated within these small buildings can only be guessed at: the average peasant family size was approximately five but actual family size would have varied enormously depending on wealth (wealthier households tended to have a larger number of children), survival and position within the life-cycle (e.g. young, old): the poor widow in Chaucer's Nun's Priest's Tale lived in her 'narwe' (i.e. small) two-roomed cottage with her two daughters. Kitchens were usually free-standing buildings or, as in Hangleton, outshuts attached to living houses.

Hangleton's peasant community

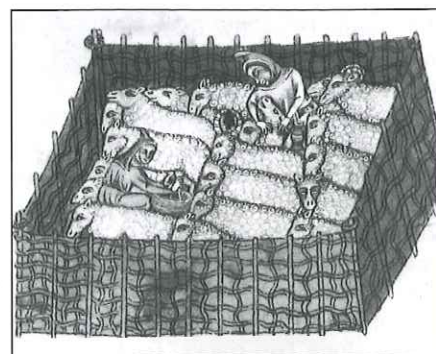
Hangleton's peasant community would have been diverse and contained within it its own social gradations. The most important of these was the division of the peasant population into free and unfree tenants (or freeholders and villeins), the principal distinction being that the former were protected by common law and the latter were not, but were instead subject to the control of the manorial lord, and required to provide labour services in exchange for holding their land. But whilst unfree status was viewed as inferior, there was no direct correlation between wealth and land tenure: unfree tenants could hold more land and thus be wealthier than their free neighbours. So there was also a social division within the peasant community based on wealth. The relative wealth of the Hangleton villagers can be gauged from their tax assess-

ments but it is reflected too in the archaeological evidence. The two largest buildings excavated at Hangleton – the 'longhouses' – rather than being used to house both people and animals were more likely to have belonged to more substantial peasants, one of whom may have been the village reeve.

Farming and the peasant economy

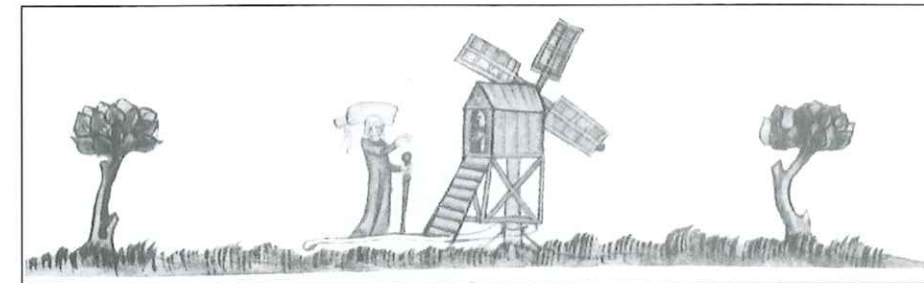
At the start of the 14th century the area of coastal Sussex in which Hangleton was situated was one of the wealthiest regions in England. The primary crops were wheat and barley but this part of Sussex was also the country's leading legume producer, grown both as an animal feed and as part of the peasants' staple diet. More intensive agriculture made possible by the elimination of a fallow period on the best arable fields meant that sowing rates were higher than elsewhere in England. A system of sheep-corn husbandry allowed sheep farming to co-exist with the extensive cultivation of grains. The sheep were penned in folds on arable overnight so

Sheepfold from the Luttrell Psalter. England, before 1340.



that their dung and urine would 'tathe' (i.e. manure) the ground before being returned to their sheep walks during the day. As a food animal sheep were kept more for their milk than meat but it was as a source of wool that they gave their best returns. The majority of Sussex wool and wool-fells were exported through Shoreham, Chichester and Seaford, with more eastern ports such as Pevensey and Winchelsea playing a lesser role. The Hangleton flock may have been relatively small in comparison with other coastal Sussex manors – possibly about 400. In contrast we know that in 1340 the neighbouring communities of West Blatchington and Patcham were pasturing 1000 and 2000 sheep respectively. The chalk downland above the village is covered with a mantle of clay-with-flints making it difficult to cultivate, and indeed excavations carried out there in 1989 and 1990 in advance of the construction of the A27 Brighton bypass found no evidence of medieval cultivation. It is probable that this area was used as sheep pasture with crops grown on the light chalk soils to the south of the village (Gardiner, 2002).

A fairly crude estimate of the average size of peasant holdings in Hangleton can be made on the basis of the number of peasant-owned plough teams recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (five plough teams ploughing an average of 100 acres each a year). On this basis each householder held approximately 11-12 acres of land, a figure which correlates almost exactly with the amount of land needed to feed a peasant family of five (estimated at between 10-12 acres). In practice of course the size of individual peasant holdings would have varied widely depending on wealth. Production on the peasant holding, whilst inevitably on a small scale, could nevertheless be quite diverse. Peasant livestock in Hangleton included cows, sheep, chickens, geese, pigs and bees. We know that the villagers of Hangleton grew flax used in the manufacture of linen cloth and hemp, used to make canvas, coarse cloth and cordage. Based on what is known about crop production on peasant holdings elsewhere it is probable that they also grew onions, leeks, peas, beans and vetches. Whilst most of this would have been for household and livestock consumption any excess would have been available for sale, boosting the peasants' cash income. Peasants were only partly self-sufficient and what they were unable to produce themselves – things such as ironwork, pottery and textiles – had to be bought. In addition they needed money to pay rent and taxes. Income could also be generated from by-employment such as



Mills were vital in early communities for producing flour for bread-making. Smithfield Decretals. England, early 14th century.

some sort of craft or industry. The main evidence for by-employment in Hangleton is the ovens which were almost certainly used for baking bread for sale outside the village and may in addition have been used for drying barley malt for ale brewing. In the late 13th and 14th century ale production was largely a domestic activity undertaken by women to supplement the household income.

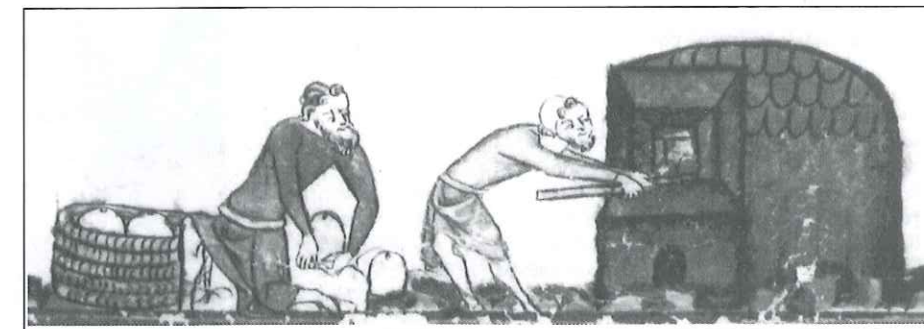
A deserted medieval village

In 1300 Hangleton appears to have been a thriving community of approximately 200 people, making a living predominantly from agriculture. By 1340 the village was in trouble. In that year the villagers of Hangleton told tax assessors that many lands in the parish were barren and uncultivated and that they were unable to live by their lands and tenements alone (the implication being that they were obliged to seek some kind of supplementary employment in order to make ends meet). Even allowing for an element of exaggeration intended to reduce their tax burden the complaints of the villagers point to some kind of economic crisis. So what had happened? There are two inter-related explanations. Firstly, the period c.1275 to c.1315 was characterised by rapid population growth putting increasing pressure on land. During this period peasant holdings tended to become smaller as land was subdivided to accommodate adult children. The effect of this was to create a large class of impoverished smallholders, with insufficient land (perhaps as little as one acre)

to support their households. The second explanation is the agricultural crisis of 1315 to 1322, which saw a succession of poor harvests caused by wet weather and accompanied by disease among sheep and cattle. It is estimated that in some parts of the South East crop yields fell during these years by as much as half and the resultant famine may have increased mortality by between 10% and 15%. Food prices soared and opportunities for casual employment decreased as producers (both large and small) tried to cut production costs. The combination of these factors may have spelt disaster for Hangleton: villagers' holdings were too small to support their families and they were unable to afford the additional food that they needed.

But this was disaster on a small scale in comparison with what was about to befall them. In 1348 the Black Death arrived in England, wiping out between 40% and 70% of the population. In Hangleton the population may have fallen by about 60%, leaving a post-plague population of between 65 to 80 people. The immediate consequence of the reduced peasant population was that there was more land available for the survivors. In Hangleton two 14th century buildings, possibly barns, were built over the remains of four earlier living houses. These were replaced at a later point, possibly in the late 14th century, with a farm complex comprising a living house, freestanding kitchen, both with tiled roofs, and barn (Figure 3).

Medieval bread oven. Smithfield Decretals. England, early 14th century.



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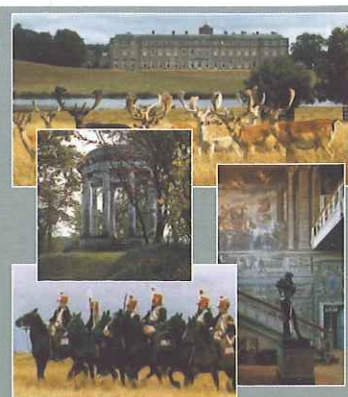
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Hangleton Cottage and its medieval village

It is this farm complex that may hold the key to understanding changes in the size and social composition of the village. Whereas c.1300 there was a sizeable community of peasants, most of whom were small landholders, by the late 14th century the village was more sparsely settled with larger and wealthier peasant landholders, whose social status may have been reflected in the increased sophistication of their buildings. This explanation, whilst only partially supported by the evidence, would nevertheless be consistent with the general trend in landholding elsewhere in the country in the post-Black Death period. The population of Hangleton continued to decline and by 1428 when there were just two householders the village had effectively ceased to exist.

References

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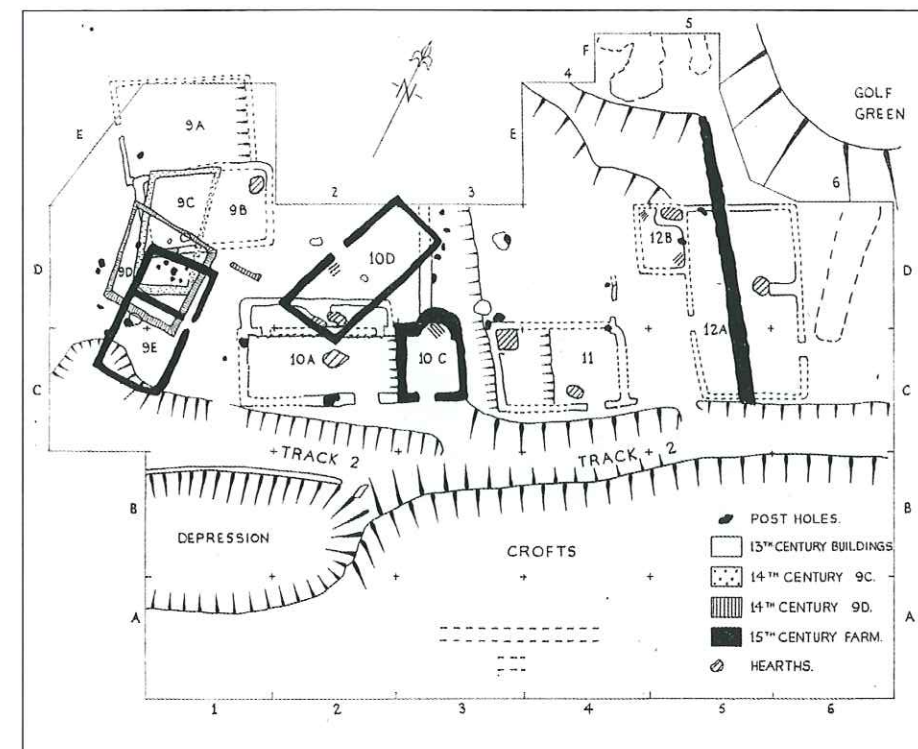


Figure 3. Interpretation plan of areas 9 to 12 (Hurst).

Holden, E W, 'Excavations at the deserted medieval village of Hangleton, part I', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 101 (1963), 54-181.

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John Hurst and archaeological reconstructions at the Museum

John Hurst, a pioneer of medieval archaeology in Britain and a leading authority on medieval pottery and deserted medieval villages, died in April 2003. What was not generally noted in his obituaries was that he was a great supporter of the fledgling Museum in the 1970s.

In 1952, after graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge, John Hurst joined the Ministry of Works' inspectorate of ancient monuments. He still held that position in 1970 when, on 15 February, he attended the first meeting of the Museum's Archaeological Committee. The other members were Betty Murray (Principal of Bishop Otter College), who chaired the meeting, Roy Armstrong, the Museum's Founder, Eric Holden, an eminent Sussex archaeologist, Marjorie Hallam, one of the Museum's founding trustees, George Newell, Museum trustee and surveyor, and John Lowe, Director of the Museum and Principal of West Dean College. The subjects discussed were the proposed reconstruction of a Saxon weaver's hut; the reconstruction of the Hangleton cottage, and the reconstruction of another Hangleton building, the 'longhouse'.

John Hurst and Eric Holden had both excavated part of the Hangleton deserted medieval village. Their excavation reports were published in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, part 1 in 1963 by Eric Holden, and part 2 in 1964 by John Hurst with his wife Gillian. The introduction to part 2

says: "The threat to the deserted village of Hangleton was developing so fast in 1954 that Eric Holden was not able to cope with the whole site in advance of the destruction. The MPBW, therefore, decided to excavate the area between buildings 2 and 3/8. These excavations took place for 10 weeks between 26 July and 3 October 1954." The committee considered proposals to erect two reconstructions: one of a cottage based on two very similar buildings, numbers 3 and 11 (of which number 3 was excavated by Holden and number 11 by Hurst), and another of a larger building, excavated by Holden, which may have been a 'longhouse', with a shippon at the low end. However, there was a feeling that to concentrate too much on archaeological reconstructions, with many elements being very conjectural, could undermine the Museum's efforts to establish its collection of 'real' buildings, so at the second meeting of the committee in November 1970 the decision was taken to reconstruct only the cottage.

Meanwhile the Saxon weaver's sunken hut had already been reconstructed in time for the Museum's first opening on 5 September 1970, complete with a loom. It was an important feature of the Museum, which at that time had only five completed exhibits - the Toll cottage, Winkhurst, Littlehampton granary, the Saxon weaver's hut, and the charcoal burner's hut and kiln.

The committee met once or twice a year and at its sixth meeting, on 15 October

1972, John Hurst was elected chairman. The agenda had now grown to encompass a wide range of projects, including medieval iron smelting, a replica glass furnace, the medieval clay and pottery group, a tilt hammer, another Saxon hut, and the new project at Butser Hill run by Peter Reynolds. The committee was working in the spirit established by projects in England and Europe - Avoncroft Museum's Iron Age huts; the Butser experiment; the reconstructed Saxon village at West Stowe, Suffolk; Iron Age reconstructions at Moesgard, Denmark; the Trelleborg Viking village, Asparn, Austria and Biskupin, Poland. Discussion papers and memoranda were produced examining the arguments for and against archaeological reconstructions.

The Hangleton cottage has endured and is a popular attraction at the Museum, but the other archaeological reconstructions were removed in 1983. The Museum felt that archaeological reconstructions must be underpinned by active archaeological involvement and in the letter from John Hurst to Museum Director, Chris Zeuner dated 7 October 1983, he says he will not object to the removal of the exhibits. Twenty years later, however, we are again in communication with colleagues at the Institute of Archaeology in London who are interested in carrying out archaeological experiments at our site. Archaeology is one of the Museum's core themes, and the tradition will certainly survive.

RH

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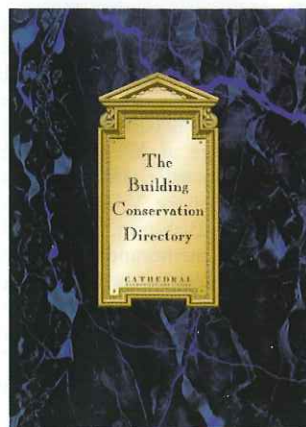
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The Programme is a development of the English Heritage Masterclass Programme, which was originally set up to provide training specifically related to the conservation of buildings and sites for its own personnel and contractors. It is a collaboration 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 2006

**27 FEBRUARY-2 MARCH 2006
CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF ARCHITECTURAL
METALWORK** **BC3D85**

Course Leader: Geoff Wallis, Director, Dorothea Restorations Limited
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.

**13-16 MARCH 2006
SPECIFYING CONSERVATION WORKS** **BC3D86**

Course Leader: Professor John Ashurst, see above
Principal Tutor: Ian Constantinides, who trained as a materials scientist with the Atomic Energy Authority, and started St Blaise Ltd in 1980 to conserve historic buildings by combining the skills and philosophy of the conservator with those of the traditional roles. The course will cover specifying conservation works from inception to final account and post-contract debrief.

**24-26 APRIL 2006
THE HISTORIC INTERIOR: COMMISSIONING AND
MANAGING CONSERVATION RESEARCH** **BC2D16**

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.

**2-5 MAY 2006
CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF MASONRY RUINS** **BC3D87**

Course Leader: John Ashurst, see above
Principal Tutor: Colin Burns, see above
Primarily designed for those concerned with the conservation of ruined structures, although the principles and skills are also applicable to roofed buildings. Assessment of the structural and surface condition of masonry walls, identification of traditional materials, fault diagnosis, removal and control of organic growth, consolidation and treatment of wall tops, specification of mortars and grouts and the preparation and placing of mortar, with practical exercises using the ruinette.

**15-18 MAY 2006
CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF PLASTERS AND RENDERS** **BC3D88**

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.

**12-15 JUNE 2006
THE ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC
BUILDINGS AND SITES** **BC3D89**

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.

**26-29 JUNE 2006
CLEANING MASONRY BUILDINGS** **BC3D90**

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.

Full inclusive residential fee £515 (Except BC2D16 = £345)
Non-residential fee £410 (Except BC2D14 = £275)
New for 2006 is the Professional Development Diploma in the Conservation of Buildings, Interiors and Sites.
For further information on all the courses in this programme, and the Professional Development 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
Web: www.westdean.org.uk

Sheep folding

Sheep grazing on the site is now taking place with the aid of a moving sheepfold.

Using gate hurdles made by Ben Headon and funded by the Friends, Lee Harrison and Pete Betsworth set up a method of managing sheep grazing on the Museum's open downland bank. The hurdles are formed into two adjacent square areas. The sheep graze in one for a few days, then a hurdle in the division is removed to allow them to move from one to the other to graze a fresh patch. The hurdles from three sides of the first patch then 'leapfrog', and are set up to form a further area.

The fold has moved in this way from one end of the bank to the other and is currently (February) on its way back again, but higher up. The system maximises the benefit to be gained from our grassland, and ensures that the sheep's valuable dung is evenly distributed.



Southdown sheep folded across the downland bank at the Museum.

This year the sheepfold adjacent to the shepherd's hut will be rebuilt. Our current flock of 12 Southdown ewes should start lambing at the beginning of April. Some of the lambs will be kept, and the others will go to market after about four months.

Sheep folding was a traditional part of Downland sheep-corn husbandry, but normally the folds were set up on arable fields after harvest. However, we plough soon after harvest, at the Autumn Countryside Celebration, so our opportunities for arable folding are limited. When the bank needs a rest from grazing we will move the sheep onto grass that is to be established in the lower part of our main arable field, where the land is too stony and the soil too shallow for successful arable crops. With continued folding the quality of the grass should improve without the need for nitrogen fertiliser.

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New additions to the Collection



A hay press . . .

This very rare hay press is one of a range of interesting items donated to the Museum over the past few months. The hay press comes from Peter Hall of Newdigate, Surrey and was originally from Betchworth. It has been conserved by Ben Headon and John Walshe. We have also received a very interesting collection of hop tallies and tokens, transferred to our collection from Horsham Museum, used originally in Kent and Sussex; an impressive grain crusher from Lella Frodsham of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, who found it in an old mill she had purchased; and a very sound and complete Sussex Waggon (among other items) from Tony White of Yapton, West Sussex which may be used as a replacement for our site waggon which has degraded in recent years.

. . . and a churn stand

Curator Julian Bell and Guy Viney have restored a recently donated timber-framed churn stand with an extended platform and tiled roof. The stand comes from Mr Boam of Fittleworth, West Sussex and was still in its original place outside a farmhouse which he has restored. The stand has been situated at the entrance to the Museum, a similar situation to its original site. In the photographs, the stand is seen on its original site (left), and in its new location by the Museum entrance.



News in brief

■ Learn more about a wide range of green products and techniques for building and sustainable living at the Museum's Sustainability Event on 21 May. This year the second day, 22 May, is a special day for schools. Demonstrations, seminars, and a wide variety of exhibits will be available to interest domestic users and professionals.

■ After its successful debut last year the Museum is again holding a celebration of Gypsy culture with music, demonstrations, displays and information about the traditional Romani way of life on 15-17 September.

■ The Museum is holding 'Open House' on Mother's Day this year (26 March) when all visitors will be admitted at just £1.00! As usual we will be continuing our long-standing tradition of a free bunch of daffodils for mothers and grandmothers. Father's Day is celebrated too, on 18 June, when fathers will be invited to try some unusual and challenging activities with a countryside theme.

■ Museum Director Richard Harris was first employed by the Museum in October 1975, for one day per week as assistant to the Research Director Roy Armstrong, and his 30-year career was celebrated by staff and trustees on 26 October with the planting of a tree. The tree is a Holm Oak, *Quercus Ilex*, an evergreen introduced into England in the 17th century. There are examples in West Dean Park and at Goodwood, but this is the first specimen to be planted within the Museum.

■ Cancer Research UK approached the Museum as a venue for one of its 2006 5K Races for Life. With the co-operation of West Dean Estate on Sunday 16 July an estimated 2000 women will run or walk through the Museum and the West Dean Arboretum to raise funds for Cancer Research. Each woman will pay a £10 registration fee and raise as much sponsorship as possible for the fund. To book your place or find out more go to www.raceforlife.org. Families will be welcome at the Museum to accompany the runners.



Museum Hubs? Renaissance in the Regions? Designation? Accreditation? What are these?

Museums work within a much more regulated framework than in the past, following a number of government initiatives intended to enhance museum provision. These initiatives apply to all museums, and have undoubtedly had a beneficial effect in improving standards and broadening access, but they tend to help large publicly-funded museum services more than independents, which have to shoulder an ever-increasing burden of bureaucracy to get a slice of the new cake!

Accreditation is a scheme to ensure that all museums reach a good standard in their security, governance, care of collections, and accessibility to visitors. It has been in development (previously known as Registration) for many years but seems now to have reached its final form. The Museum has full Registration; our application for Accreditation was submitted last October and we await the result.

Designation is a scheme introduced in 1997 which aimed to identify about 50 regional museum collections that are of national importance. The Museum's application was successful and we are therefore a "museum with Designated Collections" – strictly speaking it is the collections that are designated, not the Museum itself. Designated status brought access to the Designation Challenge Fund for improvements to collections care and interpretation, and the Museum has benefited greatly from the fund over the past seven years.

Renaissance in the Regions is a nationwide project designed to improve standards and increase resources in museums. There are many facets to it but the most obvious is the creation of museum 'Hubs' in each English region. Each Hub has four or five main partners, always larger museums. In our region, for instance, these are Hampshire County Museums Service, Brighton Museums, Chatham Historic Dockyard (a large independent) and University of Oxford Museums. The Hub partners are provided with money to undertake various projects, many to do with improving access (in all its forms) to museums and their collections, and they are expected to be "centres of excellence and leaders of their regional museum communities, piloting new ideas and providing examples of best practice for wider application", cascading their successful initiatives down to the other 'non-Hub' museums. So far this has been patchy, at best – some would say non-existent; perhaps it's early days. Organisations such as AIM (Association of Independent Museums), of which the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum is a founder member, are working hard to try to improve this situation.

The Hubs have to operate to centrally-approved plans, and they must support common aims. The core aims are currently expressed as follows:

- engaging people and building audiences
- creating new opportunities for people to enjoy collections through innovative and participative activities
- developing the capability of organisations and their workforce for the benefit of users.

So these have to be our aims too, at least in so far as we are using public money.

Designation was originally a free-standing initiative, but now forms part of the Renaissance in the Regions project, and is therefore subject to its criteria – about half of the 42 Hub partners in the nine English regions are museums with Designated collections. The museum sector pulled together all its various strands to promote the Renaissance project several years ago as this was seen to be the best way to obtain more money for museums from the Government. As an example, all non-Hub museums with Designated collections – which includes this Museum – have been invited to apply for up to £15,000 "to collect and collate core audience and other data, in line with the processes already in place for Hub museums". The success of projects funded from the public purse has to be measurable, and the measurements have to be directly comparable. The project is administered by the Museums Libraries & Archives Council (MLA) and supported by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS).

Most museums – of which there are about 2,500 (some half of which are independently-administered) – desire Accreditation; without it, access to all public and most private sources of funding would be closed. But Accreditation is a bureaucratic burden that museums have to bear from their own resources. The 50+ museums lucky enough to have Designated collections have had access to government funding over the past seven years to help them achieve higher standards of collections care, interpretation and access, but the funding has been accompanied by increasingly tight specification of the kinds of projects that can be funded. Now that Designation is administered within the Renaissance framework we will be bound ever more tightly into its aims – even though we have no influence over them!

Independent museums work hard to secure income for their work from a variety of sources such as visitor admissions, catering and retail, sponsorship and donations – but this is never enough. We are fortunate in having Designated collections, and we have to seize all opportunities open to us to ensure a viable future.

News in brief

■ 'From small acorns large trees grow', it is said, and this has proved the case with the Museum's sales of Gränsfors Bruks axes, imported from Sweden. They were discovered by Richard Harris in the USA in 1998 and were first sold to students on timber framing courses. The Museum is now the largest importer into the UK of these fine tools and has built up an extensive customer base of both retail and wholesale buyers. Over the past three years the range of tools and numbers sold has grown – starting with just five models in the range and sales of around 50 axes a year, to sales in 2005 of over 1,000! More tools are to be added to our range from a new supplier, S. Djärv Hantverk AB, and these tools will complement the current range and offer customers the chance to purchase top quality woodworking tools not freely available in the UK.

■ Gordon Rushmer, who runs the Museum's painting and drawing courses and was our Artist in Residence in 2000, is to hold a retrospective exhibition of his work in Crawley Hall from 26 September–1 October. This show will celebrate Gordon's 40th year as an exhibiting painter and will include works from his student days, pieces produced in his role as a war artist and a selection of his tranquil country scenes so popular when he has shown at the Museum in the past. Many of the landscapes will be recent paintings and most of the works will be for sale. Following the success of our watercolour exhibition by students of Gordon's watercolour courses last year, the Museum is staging a similar exhibition of work from the 2005 courses. Visitors to the Fathers' Day event at the Museum on Sunday 18th June will be able to view the exhibition in Crawley Hall.

New oxen pair to begin training

Our pair of Sussex oxen, Lamb and Leader, trained by Chris Baldwin, have been a familiar sight at the Museum for the last three years, and we expected that this year would see them in full action, ploughing, carting, rolling and harrowing. Unfortunately, it was not to be. Last year, Leader was frightened by a loose dog in

Museum catalogues on the Web

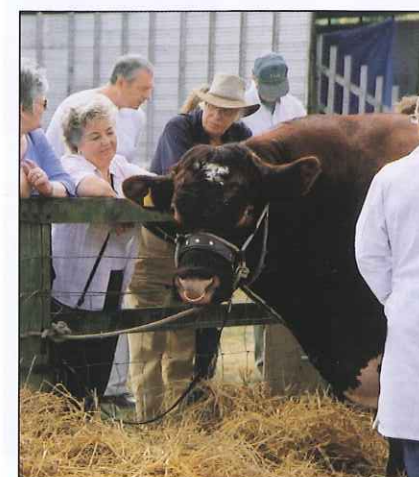
Web surfers can now access the Museum's library and collections catalogues on the internet. The databases form part of the West Sussex Past Gateway, a remarkable initiative led by the County Library Service.

In 2001 the Library Service made a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable the formation of a West Sussex Photo Heritage Database. The Library Service brought in seven local museums as partners in the project, and each contributed a selection of images to be scanned into the database at the project headquarters in Worthing. Eventually over 6,300 images were acquired, of which over 20% were from this museum, chosen by volunteers Sue Davis, Anna Jackson and Richard Hilder. The pictures can be viewed at www.westsussexpast.org.uk/pictures/, and they can be freely downloaded or printed for private or educational use.

Having established the photo database, the Library Service then moved on to create a remarkable research facility for the county. The eight members of the Pictures Consortium were joined by another nine institutions to form the West Sussex Heritage Consortium, including the University of Sussex; University College Chichester; Horsham, Crawley and Worthing Museums, and the West Sussex Record Office. Between them, the partner organisations have contributed 29 databases comprising about two million records of books, images, archives and objects.

So how do you access this goldmine of data? The key to the project is innovative software called DScovey. Simply type a word or two as search terms, and the gateway software finds all the records matching your terms. Go to www.westsussexpast.org.uk and follow the links to the gateway.

Rare Breeds Show celebrates 21st anniversary!



Over 500 cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry take part in this delightful agricultural show for rare and traditional breeds of farm animals. The event offers a great chance to see the spectacular variety of farm livestock close to, enjoy the craft and trade stands with a countryside theme and watch the show's popular classes for young handlers.



Greenways field. He recovered his reliable behaviour, but in December there was a recurrence after which he seemed unable to get the experiences out of his mind.

While he presented no immediate danger (and Lamb, his partner, seemed unaffected by the incident) we decided it would be wise to sell the pair on, and they have been replaced by a pair of

heifer calves bred at Brinsbury (the agricultural campus of Chichester College). Their names are Gwen and Graceful, and they are Sussex X Shorthorns – the same beautiful red colour as the Sussex, but of slightly smaller build, and polled (having no horns). They will be trained as a working pair, and visitors can expect to encounter them around the Museum this season.

News in brief

Joan Harding, who died in June 1993, was one of the Museum's longest-standing and most loyal supporters. Based in Surrey, in 1970 she founded the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) which was dedicated to the systematic study and recording of vernacular buildings in the county. For a while she attended pottery classes, and used the time to produce a wonderful series of pottery models of some of the houses she had recorded. Before her death she



donated most of the models to the Museum, and last summer Roger Champion built and installed a cabinet to house and display them on the landing outside Crawley Hall. With the addition of extra lighting, they look splendid, and are a constant talking point for the many people who use Crawley Hall for courses and conferences. Copies of her reports on the relevant buildings will be available for visitors who want to take a closer interest.

The Museum's Schools Service, Adult Learning and the Interpretation Department are collaborating to put together four day schools aimed at local children from less advantaged backgrounds. The days will be on Fridays in August and each day there will be a choice of four activities. Drinks and a picnic lunch will be provided, with organised games for the energetic. The courses will be free of charge: local headteachers will be asked to nominate those who would benefit most. The Museum hopes that local companies will support this project in the form of sponsorship.

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Vital help from the Friends

The Friends of the Museum continue to make a vital financial contribution to the Museum's day-to-day operation and a variety of projects and activities. A total of £134,716 was granted to the Museum in 2005.

The Friends' funding comes in two ways. A substantial grant is made towards the costs of essential activities at the Museum. This grant, £90,000 last year, was paid in four quarterly instalments to assist the Museum with budgeting and planning and contributed to the following areas –

- £15,000 – Exhibit enhancements
- £15,000 – Gardens development
- £15,000 – Marketing and publicity

- £13,000 – Horses and livestock
- £10,000 – Site maintenance
- £10,000 – Schools service
- £7,000 – Staff and volunteer training
- £5,000 – Curatorial and collections management

The second tranche supports a wide variety of individual projects and totalled £44,716 in 2005. Among projects supported were major repairs and improvements to Lurgashall Mill; gate hurdles for the moveable sheep fold; consultant support for health and safety training, and a new storage building to support the Museum's working oxen.

Full details of grants and Friends' activities are included in the Friends' Annual Report and Accounts.

Win this hand-made log-cabin design quilt in the Friends' Grand Draw!

The Friends is very fortunate to have been given a beautiful log-cabin design quilt made by member, Olwen Gudgeon. The quilt will be raffled and the draw will take place at the Autumn Countryside Celebration on Sunday 8 October. Tickets are £1 each and will be on sale in the Museum shop and at the Friends recruitment table at all special event days. The quilt will be on display at these events.



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News in brief

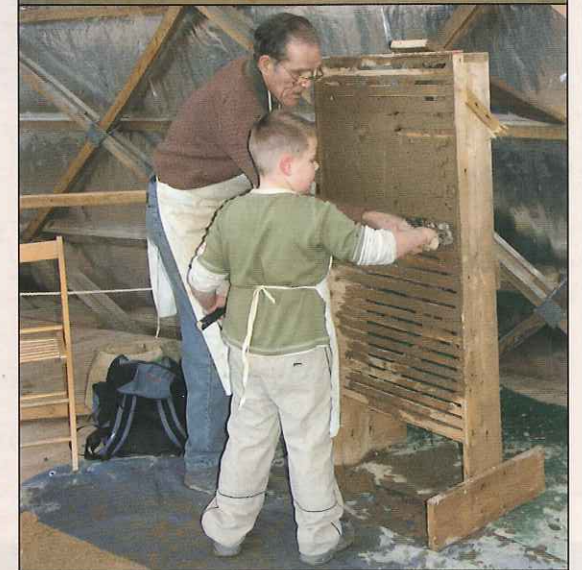
The Downland Gridshell has been the venue for a number of special events. In November the launch of the South Downs Forum brought together all the bodies involved in working towards the South Downs National Park. The South Downs Joint Committee's southern area office is within the Museum. Main speaker was BBC Wildlife presenter Chris Packham, and later the 120 delegates broke into discussion groups to explore five important themes: cultural heritage, landscape & land management, nature conservation, recreation and socio-economic issues. In January the Gridshell was the venue for a Finds Day organised by Liz Wilson, Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The scheme encourages members of the public, particularly metal detectorists, to contribute to our heritage by voluntarily recording the objects they find. More than 100 people attended the event, where they browsed trade stands, talked to conservationists and had a go at archaeological recording. The Museum contributed to the day with hewing and conservation demonstrations, tours of the artefact store and under-the-surface tours of the exhibit buildings. Finds brought on the day included a gold Iron Age coin, an iron spearhead and a collection of flints and pottery from a nearby Roman site.

The MG Car Club will be holding their summer gathering at the Museum on Sunday 6 August, and some 200-250 cars are expected. The gathering will take place in Lower Greenways field, and Museum visitors will be welcome to watch the activities, including MG-related displays and stands, a pride of ownership contest and driving skill competitions.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and the Worshipful Company of Plumbers are to hold a two-day Conservation of Decorative Leadwork conference at the Museum in May. It will consist of lectures and practical demonstrations and give delegates the opportunity to network with experts in this very specialised field.

Let's face it – children have fun at the Museum!

Children get up to all sorts of exciting tricks at the Museum. There are plenty of opportunities to get stuck in at our Children's Activity Days in the summer holidays. Bring them along every Wednesday for a wide range of countryside and building-based activities. In the photograph, below right, Museum volunteer Reg Knights helps a boy with his plastering technique. It's a good place to bring children during half terms too – pictured top is a splendid face made out of vegetables during the October half-term activities Farming in the Field.



Vegetables of all shapes and sizes

Old varieties of vegetables grown on the Museum site will again be available from the shop this year. They proved most popular in their first season last year, produced by Chris Baldwin from our market garden on the arable fields. Visitors enjoyed their novel colours, shapes and varieties. Pictured below are the vegetables on display in the Museum shop, and, top, a delicious dish – white carrots, golden beetroot and flat-leaved parsley, together with strips of red cabbage. Steam the carrots and beetroot till tender, cool, dress with your favourite oil and balsamic vinegar and serve the perfect starter!



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EVENTS DIARY 2006

MARCH

26 **OPEN HOUSE ON MOTHERING SUNDAY** A special spring day to welcome visitors old and new at the start of the season! £1 entry for everyone, plus our traditional bunch of daffodils for mothers and grandmothers!

APRIL

8 Friends' Annual General Meeting in Downland Gridshell: talk by Alan Jones, Chief Executive, Chichester Cathedral Trust, 2.30pm.

14-17 **EASTER FESTIVITIES** Activities and Easter celebrations for all the family throughout the holiday weekend. Good Friday – traditional pastimes, storytelling and music; Saturday – a bustling Easter market; Sunday – Feast Day; Monday – a lively day of games and activities with younger visitors in mind, plus an Easter bonnet parade.

20-25 Friends' Annual Spring Tour to Derbyshire.

30 – 1 May **CELEBRATE THE TASTE – FOOD FAIR** A wonderful choice of quality fare to sample and buy from the local producers of the south east, plus tastings, cookery classes, demonstrations and children's activities. In Association with *A Taste of Sussex*.

MAY

BAYLEAF TUDOR SUPPERS
Saturday 13 May, 17 June, 15 July, 12 August at 6pm
Enjoy a seasonal Tudor supper in the wonderful setting of Bayleaf 15th century farmhouse. Meet the costumed cook in the Tudor kitchen, where the team will use period recipes to prepare a delicious three-course meal, and learn about the intricacies of Tudor food and manners.
£45 per person (inc apple juice). Max 30 people per night, please book in advance. We are also happy to consider requests for bespoke gatherings. Please contact the Museum Office.

17 Friends' visit: City Churches and St Paul's Cathedral.

21/22 **SUSTAINABILITY EVENT** 21 May – general public, 22 May – schools only. Learn more about a wide range of low impact, 'green' products and techniques for building and sustainable living in the 21st century. Includes seminars, demonstrations and a wide variety of exhibits to interest domestic users and professionals on Sunday 21, and a day specifically aimed at children and school groups on Monday 22.

29 – 2 June **HALF TERM – COUNTRYSIDE ADVENTURES** Come and enjoy the great outdoors and make the most of the countryside which is bursting with life at this time of year. Learn about the natural world with trails, scavenger hunts, arts and crafts using natural materials, and a host of outdoor games. For accompanied children of all ages, from 11am – 4pm, under cover if wet.



JUNE

4 **HEAVY HORSE SPECTACULAR** One of the south's biggest gatherings of heavy horses: an unforgettable day of displays, demonstrations and a grand parade of horse-drawn vehicles, all with continuous ringside commentary.

8 Friends' visit: Charleston Farm House and The Clergy House, Alfriston.

10 Family Barn Dance in the Downland Gridshell, organised by the Friends.

18 **FATHERS DAY** Toys For The Boys! A chance for dad (and the rest of the family!) to try some unusual and challenging countryside activities. Sample some of the Museum's courses in traditional rural trades and crafts, drive a vintage tractor and work with the Shire horses.

2 **EARLY MUSIC AFTERNOON** From 2pm. 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!

JULY

2 Friends' visit: Fawley Hill (home of Hon. Sir William McAlpine) for Special Family Steam Day.

23 **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. Plus craft and trade stands with a countryside theme.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

26 July – 30 August (6 Wednesdays)
Hands-on activities to occupy children of all ages! Have a go at all kinds of interesting and unusual country skills, crafts, activities and games: many similar to those undertaken and enjoyed by our rural ancestors. Lots of outdoor and indoor fun from 11am to 4pm, under cover if wet.

AUGUST

16 **ST ROCHE'S DAY SERVICE** A free 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.



SEPTEMBER

15-17 **ROMANI ROOTS** A celebration of Gypsy culture with displays, demonstrations, music and information about the traditional Romani way of life.

19 Friends' visit: Houses of Parliament.

30 Friends' Michaelmas Supper in Sole Street building.

OCTOBER

7/8 **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 to browse and buy.

17 Friends' visit: Royal British Legion Poppy Factory and Marble Hill House.

23-27 **HALF TERM – AUTUMN ACTION** Wickedly wonderful seasonal activities, fun and farming for accompanied children of all ages! Help with the harvest (bring your wellies!); discover an interesting use for the humble apple; carve a really scary pumpkin; and enjoy arts, crafts and much more. Plus – join the Harvest Procession on Wednesday 25 at 1pm. Activities from 11am – 4pm, under cover if wet.

29 **FIRE EVENT** A fiery insight into the world around us! Demonstrations of countryside activities which make use of fire – blacksmithing, leadworking, candlemaking, cooking, pottery and more. Plus music and dance, a fire-fighting display by a horse-drawn steam fire engine, and a bonfire party in the woods with a hog roast as darkness falls.

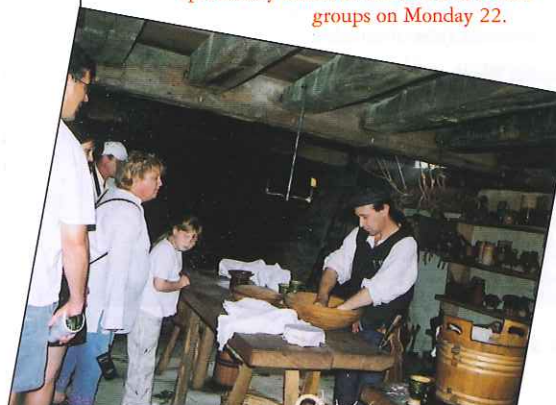
NOVEMBER

18/19 **PIG TO PORK** Now incorporating the Big Pig Gig! Everything you wanted to know about pork! Learn about 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. And for younger visitors, don't miss the *Big Pig Gig*, with piggy arts, crafts, games, stories, poems and much more!

DECEMBER

3 **TREE DRESSING** 12.30 – 4pm. A wonderful celebration for all the family of the life-giving properties of trees. Make a lantern (bring a jam jar!) and join the procession to dress the trees as darkness falls. Plus headdress-making, story-telling, music, dance and seasonal tasty treats!

26 – 1 Jan 2007 **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 as they would have been for Christmas.



Five Museum MSc students achieve academic success

Five students on the Museum's Master of Science in Timber Building Conservation course graduated in November, with two more achieving their Postgraduate Diplomas in the subject.

In the current sixth run of this two-year part-time course run by the Museum for Bournemouth University no less than 15 students are nearing the completion of their taught PGDip units, the largest-ever number of completers. The group is a mix of young and mid-career craftspeople and professionals including a policeman and a photographer. Most will use the PGDip to lead into research for a dissertation towards a MSc degree.

The dissertation topics of the five 2005 graduates were:

Steve Corbett: *A study of the use and behaviour of green oak in the construction of the Downland Grid-shell*. MSc awarded

Chris North: *An investigation into the evidence for carpentry techniques practised in West Suffolk during the 12th & 13th centuries*. MSc with distinction awarded

Robert Bartlett: *An investigation of cart lodges in the East Kent region and evaluation of their importance*. MSc awarded

Mark Evans: *Contrasts and contradictions in the repair of timber-framed buildings: the work of FWB Charles*. MSc with distinction awarded

Tony Taylor: *The introduction of new methods of timber construction 1800-1860*. MSc awarded posthumously

Applications are now invited for the next cohort who will start the course in November 2006.

FIRE!!

A fiery insight into the world around us, this event on Sunday 29 October is a positive feast of fire. Demonstrations of countryside activities will include blacksmithing, leadworking, candlemaking, cooking and pottery. There will also be music and dance with a fire theme, a bonfire party in the woods with a hog roast as darkness falls, and the highlight, a spectacular fire-fighting display by Rowena and John McDermott with their horse-drawn steam fire engine.



One man's Christmas display delights visitors

A chance meeting at the Museum with Alec Peters last year led to a fascinating display in the Lavant building over Christmas. Alec, who admits to being something of a jackdaw, displayed his collection of Christmas ephemera from the past 150 years delighting visitors young and old. His infectious enthusiasm and nostalgic display of Victorian Christmas cards, children's toys and games, 1940s train set and much more, resulted in visitors reminiscing on happy times from their own childhood.

Give your taste buds a treat in May

Reduce the food miles, and buy quality locally-produced food at our annual Food Fair – Celebrate the Taste, on May bank holiday weekend, 30 April – 1 May. This popular event is run in association with A Taste of Sussex and brings together local producers of all kinds of food and drink from throughout the south east. Tastings, cookery classes, demonstrations and children's activities spice up the day.



Geoff Busbridge

After a brief but valiant fight against cancer, Geoff died in November. Geoff was a familiar figure at the Museum for many years, manning the forge mainly on weekdays, frequently three days a week. He has demonstrated to countless children in school groups and thousands of other visitors in a very engaging and sometimes challenging way.

Born and educated in Tottenham he qualified as a toolmaker and saw service in the Royal Signals before working as technical director for a small engineering firm in south London. In the late 1960s he moved to Bognor Regis and in 1974 met and married his wife Margaret.

He took employment with Britax Wingard of Chichester, the seatbelt manufacturer, as a senior technician and toolmaker. During this time he formed an intense interest in archaeology and was involved in several digs in the Chichester area. He met and befriended the archaeologist and Justice of the Peace, Alec Down. In 1978 Geoff was appointed a JP on the Chichester bench and served until 1987 when ill health prompted his retirement.

On his return to health he became involved in various voluntary activities including the Citizens Advice Bureau and in 1992 the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum. After a brief spell on general duties with the 'Tuesday Gang' he gravitated naturally to the blacksmith's forge. Within a short time he became an enthusiastic demonstrator of the blacksmith's skills. His archaeological knowledge undoubtedly enhanced his description of iron making and iron working.

Geoff suffered the pain of the last weeks with dignity and humour. He was a fighter, a loyal friend and a devoted husband.

John Herniman

Staff changes

Carol Brinson

Carol, who has been Events Co-ordinator at the Museum since 2003, is moving to Cyprus with her husband, Malcolm, who is to become Director of Music for the Anglican Churches of Paphos.

Carol's association with the Museum goes back to her first visit in 1971. In 1972 she became a volunteer, and then took a job at West Dean College as assistant to the college Director, John Eves. The following year she became minutes secretary for the newly-formed Friends of the Museum, then joined the committee and remained a member until 1993, while continuing as a Museum volunteer. In 1984 she took a part-time job at the Museum, helping with fund raising, and in 1988 became one of the part-time wardens. She also took on the job of organising the Museum's 'Dovetail' arts programme. In 2001 she went to Kuwait with her husband, who took a one-year contract to teach music there, then on her return in 2003 was welcomed back to the Museum as Events Co-ordinator.

In her words, she is "checking out but not leaving"! It is hard to imagine life at the Museum without Carol's presence, and we look forward to her return!

Mick Betsworth

Mick Betsworth retired in October, having worked at the Museum since 1993, when he was first employed to build the stone basement and brick chimney stacks of the house extension from Reigate.

After a lifetime in the building industry Mick was a fund of knowledge and possessed excellent traditional skills, seemingly able to tackle any job with confidence. After the completion of Reigate he moved on to work on the re-erection of Longport farmhouse. I have a fond memory of a morning in 1994 when I had to tell him that owing to a mistake of mine, a stone wall of critical importance that he had built the day before would have to be taken down. I was quaking in my boots, but Mick took it in his stride, smiled at me, and rebuilt it by lunchtime!

No job seemed to daunt him, and his last contribution was to build the stone wall around the newly formed lower pond for Lurgashall mill. Mick's younger brothers Ron and Pete have also worked for the Museum for the last 10 years, and I know that the rest of

the Museum staff, and many volunteers, share my sense of privilege at having had the opportunity to know and work with them.

Richard Harris

Chris Woolnough

Chris Woolnough joined the Museum staff as site maintenance worker following the retirement of Mick Betsworth in December.



Chris recently completed an NVQ in Practical Habitat Management at Merrist Wood College, near Guildford, giving him experience of countryside management,

ranging from woodland and wetland management to rural politics and economics. As a volunteer he worked on rights of way in the Chichester district, and he has also worked in coppice woodland in Surrey for the Woodland Trust and in the high forest of the Weald. These activities also enabled him to gain experience with livestock management and wildlife. For a period Chris was self-employed working on neglected coppice in Sussex and has worked with Mark Odin from West Dean in forestry operations.

Chris's experience will come in handy with the wide range of tasks he will be undertaking at the Museum, and he is topping up his skills with attendance at several of the Museum's own courses in traditional building techniques.

John Procter

John Procter joined the Museum as Finance Officer in January, following the departure of Terry Smith. John is not new to the Museum as he filled the same role briefly in 1997-8, having previously been Group Financial Controller for the Goodwood Group of companies. Since then he ran his own travel business in Chichester for six years, but he has fond memories of the Museum, and looks forward to renewing old friendships and meeting all the new staff, trustees and volunteers.



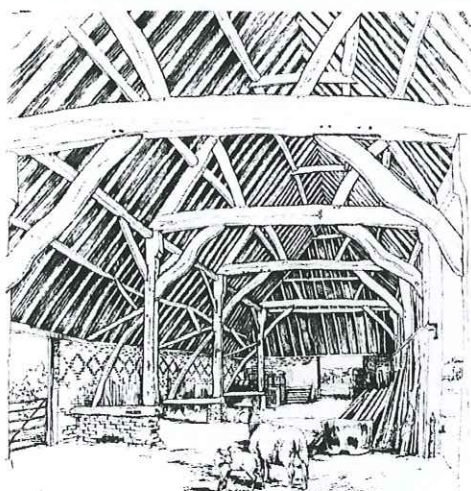
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Museum's courses reflect building skills and rural craft themes

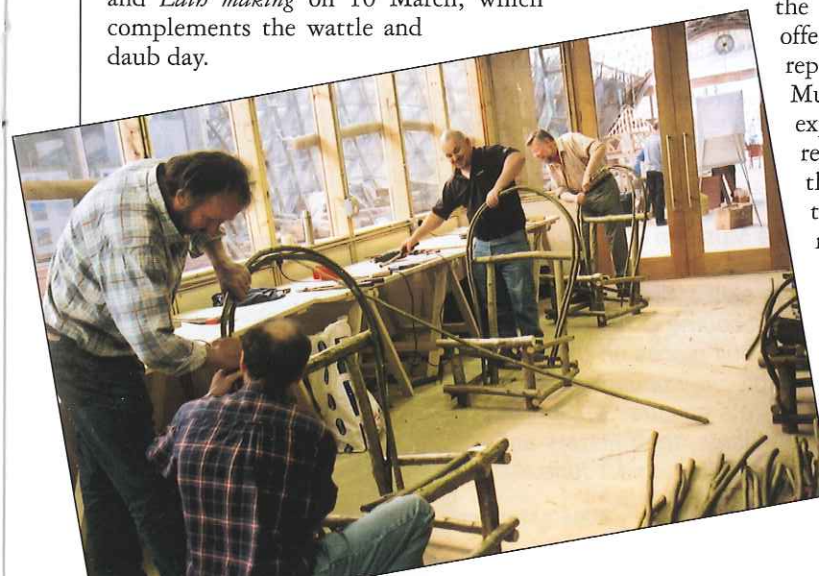
The Museum's Continuing Education is flourishing with the largest-ever programme offered this year. Courses have expanded in number over the years to reflect the Museum's themes of traditional building skills and rural trades and crafts and meet the needs of students across a wide range of disciplines. They have been developed to suit both professionals and enthusiasts, attracting high quality tutors and taking place in the pleasant atmosphere of the Museum's beautiful site and fascinating building and artefact collections.

Course places are snapped up

Almost a third of available course places for 2006 had been sold by the end of January, and bookings were still coming in thick and fast, so don't delay in booking your place! Some courses are already full, including *Irons in the fire*, *Traditional longbow making*, *Practical flint walling* (April), *Intermediate roof framing* (May), April and July's *Willow workshops*, *Make a bentwood chair*, *Improvers watercolour workshop*, *16th century dairy* and the first two *Driving with heavy horses* courses. Waiting lists are being run for many of these, and extra dates may be added depending on demand, so do ring and add your name to the lists.

Responding to needs

The Learning Department is always keen to respond to student needs, and amongst this year's new courses as a direct result of feedback are: *Green architecture*, which took place on 6 February, and *Lath making* on 10 March, which complements the wattle and daub day.



Sale of timber frames

The products of four courses – September and October's *Timber framing from scratch* and November and January's *Wall framing* course are two 10ft square timber-framed structure, 7ft high to the eaves, with all braces completed. These have just been sold, proceeds being ploughed back into the courses. With four TFPS courses taking place this year, along with the intermediate roof and wall framing courses, there will be more opportunities to purchase frames in 2006.

Unleash your creative talents!

Our *Letters in stone* course will be run for the third time this April: in previous

"Very good. Wonderful workshop space. Joe Thompson was an excellent teacher." Intermediate timber framer

years students have produced some wonderful items for use as house nameplates, or simply as sculptures. This year, to add a new dimension, the Museum is also running a *Carve a green man* course for those who would like to try their hand at carving in wood. The 'Green man' is an ancient and mysterious image which can be found in churches and historic houses across the region.

Timber structures and the use of tools

In response to student feedback we have given a new breadth to the day schools we offer on timber frame repairs. Here at the Museum most of our experience is in repairing dismantled timbers, but in the outside world most repairs have to be achieved in situ. Peter McCurdy's *Timber-frame repairs*

Our **Traditional roofing methods** course covers thatch, tile, slate and leadwork as well as theory and practice of 'cut & pitch' roofing. The course is on five linked days from 3-7 July.

& reconstructions (16 June) looks at a number of case studies including in-situ repairs and reconstructions from historical evidence. Peter Ross's *As good as new: in-situ repairs to historic timber structures* (2 May) offers a step-by-step approach to the specification of remedial work to historic structures, partly or wholly made of timber, including criteria for repair, stresses and strains, strength and durability. In addition to the very well received *Length & breadth: specialist tools for measuring* (29 March) led by Jane Rees, the new programme includes a two-day course *The cutting edge* (13-14 June) led by Bruce Luckhurst. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn how to sharpen woodworking edge tools to professional standards.

Making a bentwood chair has proved popular, with this year's April course already full. More are planned in the future.

Courses Programme 2006 – Building conservation and the use of traditional materials and processes

The Georgian tradition

The purpose of this study day is to set out the main developments in architectural style and technology during the Georgian period from 1700 to 1830.
Leader: Neil Burton and colleagues **Wednesday 1 March £90**

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 **Thursday 2 March £90**

Furnishing the past: the replication of 16th and 17th century interiors in museums and historic houses

In its way an exercise in experimental archaeology, attempting to replicate the physical conditions and material culture of our ancestors, this day-school surveys the approaches taken in various historic settings such as Shakespeare's Birthplace, and includes a tour of the furnished houses of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum.
Leader: Victor Chinnery **Wednesday 8 March £75**

Lath-making workshop

Learn how to split oak, ash and hazel to form laths for plastering or daubing. Students will make a panel to take home.
Leader: Nick Parker **Friday 10 March £75**

Wattle and daub

Insights in to 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 **Monday 13 March £100**

Victorian and Edwardian building types

Victorian and Edwardian 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 **Wednesday 15 March £90**

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 **Tuesday 21 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 **Monday-Wednesday 27-29 March £300**

Length and breadth: specialist tools for measuring

Different trades developed their own tools as a result of their need to measure in specific ways. A day examining the tools they devised and developed.
Leader: Jane Rees **Wednesday 29 March £75**

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 **Thursday 6 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 **Friday 7 April £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.
Leaders: Mark Middleton & Chris Rosier **Monday-Tuesday 24-25 April FULL Monday-Tuesday 4-5 September £160**

Building stone in the Weald and Downland region

Geology moulds the landscape and the local building materials. A day examining geology of local stone, production methods and regional traditions in its use using the resources of the Museum buildings.
Leaders: Anne and David Bone **Wednesday 26 April £90**

As good as new: in situ repairs to historic timber structures

A course for architects, engineers and surveyors offering a step-by-step approach to the specification of remedial work to historic structures, wholly or partly in timber. The course covers stresses & strains: frame behaviour under load, the criteria for repair: strength/durability/appearance, the conservation view point, repair forms: traditional timber/steel/resin, and case studies.
Leader: Peter Ross **Tuesday 2 May £90**

Traditional timber-frame construction

A one-day course on traditional systems of timber framing, including timber conversion, principles of layout, scribing method, pegs and assembly.
Leader: Richard Harris **Wednesday 3 May £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 **Monday-Wednesday 8-10 May £300**

"Very good course – good mix of lectures and practical examples. Learnt lots of useful trade tips." **Traditional roofing methods**

Intermediate timber framing – roof framing

A five-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 **Monday-Friday 15-19 May FULL Monday-Friday 20-24 November £450**

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.
Leaders: Richard Harris & Roger Champion **Thursday 25 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 **Monday 5 June £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 **Wednesday 7 June £90**

Conservation of historic ironwork

Study the history and development of ironwork using examples from the Museum's collection. Case studies from Dorothea Restorations and practical demonstrations in the Museum forge.
Leaders: Geoff Wallis & Andrew Breese **Friday 9 June £90**

Flint buildings, their history, repair and restoration

A day school which will explore this plentiful but difficult to use local building material, will aim to encourage sensitive and authentic repairs using local craft skills. Lectures and demonstration.
Leaders: Brian Dawson & Chris Rosier **Monday 12 June £90**

The cutting edge

Need your tools in tip-top condition? A two-day workshop tuning and sharpening woodworking edge tools to professional standards.
Leader: Bruce Luckhurst **Tuesday-Wednesday 13-14 June £150**

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.
Leader: Nigel Johnston **Wednesday-Friday 14-16 June £300**

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 **Thursday 15 June £90**

The Museum is one of the few places where you can learn the skill of flint walling. The April course is full but there are still places on the 4/5 September course, and there's a course on flint buildings, their history and restoration on 12 June.



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 **Friday 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 **Monday-Wednesday 19-21 June £270**

Intermediate timber framing: walls.

A five-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 previous course. The completed work is erected on the last afternoon.
Leader: Joe Thompson **Monday-Friday 19-23 June £450**

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 **Thursday 22 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 **Monday-Tuesday 26-27 June £180**

"A superb course. I could have spent all day in there (the rural life artefact store). It was out of this world." **Victorian Village Carpenter**

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 thatch demonstrations. Leaders: English Heritage specialist & 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 **Monday-Friday 3-7 July £90 per day (all five days £400)**

Timber framing from scratch

A superb opportunity to gain hands-on experience of timber framing. A five-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 **Monday-Friday 18-22 September Monday-Friday 16-20 October £450**

Jointing and pointing of historic brickwork

The development of jointing 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 **Monday-Tuesday 18-19 September £200**

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 **Wednesday 20 September £90**

The Victorian village carpenter

An introduction to and demonstrations of the carpentry and joinery involved in the construction of Whittaker's Cottages, a pair of 1865 semi-detached cottages on the Museum site.
Leader: Joe Thompson **Friday 6 October £90**

Everything you wanted to know about oak

An introduction to the growth, conversion, seasoning and use of oak for carpenters, joiners and cabinet-makers.
Leader: Joe Thompson **Friday 10 November £90**

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).

Signs & Symbols: made in an age of superstition and fear

During the 16th and 17th centuries, a time when a belief in witchcraft was at its height, tradesmen applied symbols to specific parts of buildings. This was not only to protect the work of carpenters, masons and plasterers but also to make the occupants feel more secure against intruders.
Leader: Timothy Easton **Friday 24 November £75**

Construction & repair of timber framed buildings

Exploration of the background to timber framed buildings, dating techniques, structural problems and sympathetic remedial methods.
Leaders: Richard Harris & Richard Oxley **DTBC £90**

Structural timber: an appreciation

For those concerned with the specification, sourcing and use of structural timber, particularly for new-build, reconstruction projects or renovation work. Includes an introduction to the structural use of timber and how it is assessed and graded, guidance on the selection of suitable timber/grade/strength class combinations for various structural applications, and information on the principal Standards & Codes concerned with the specification and use of structural timber. A valuable introduction for those who may wish to take a certified Strength Grading course at a later date.
Leader: David Woodbridge **DTBC £90**

Timber framing from scratch – the Museum's

flagship course – when students learn to frame a small oak building from the raw timber is on 18-22 September and 16-20 October. There are numerous other courses on which students can learn about timber framing techniques and tools, including Intermediate timber framing, a five-day course for TFFS students who want to further improve their skills and knowledge.



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.
Leader: Victor Chinnery **DTBC £75**

The painted house: brick, plaster & stone

The brickwork of the fireplace was nearly always decorated using paint until about 1700. How was this practice adapted by bricklayers and masons to other parts of buildings, from the chimney down to the basement? This day will examine buildings of many sizes from palaces and cathedrals down to the smallest houses and garden walls.
Leader: Timothy Easton **DTBC £75**

Timber decay and its treatment

An examination of the causes of decay in hardwoods and softwoods, fungal and insect damage. Treatments with and without the use of chemicals, monitoring to maintain healthy buildings.
Leader: Brian Ridout **DTBC £90**

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.

Courses Programme 2006 – 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.

Sunday 12 March £75

Driving heavy horses

Harness up and drive the Museum's draught horses in the field and on the track, chain harrowing and shaft and pole work. Beginners and improvers equally welcome.

Sunday 23 April **FULL** Sunday 14 May **FULL** Sunday 21 May £75

Plaiting & show preparation

Experience preparing heavy horses for shows and parades: grooming, plaiting and decorating manes and tails.

18 June £75

All the days start at 10am at the Museum stables and finish around 4pm. 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. If you book and pay for four or more courses at one time you may deduct £15 from the total.

Countryside skills

Garden gate from scratch

Make your own garden gate in two days. On the first day, the frame will be made using mortice and tenon joints. On day two rails will be prepared and fixed to the frame, to make one of various styles of gate to take home. 9.30 am – 4.30 pm.

Saturday-Sunday 11-12 March £240

Willow workshop: weave and wale a basket

Using English brown willow and traditional techniques learn to 'weave and wale' a basket to take home. 9am – 5pm

1 April **FULL** 8 July **FULL** 30 September £50

"My confidence was zero at the start, but much higher by the end, thanks to both excellent instructors." **Horse logging**

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

Saturday-Sunday 8-9 April **FULL** £200

*Poultry husbandry

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

Thursday 20 April £40

*Small farm animals: sheep and pigs

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

Thursday 27 April £65

Dowsing workshop

Exploring the background and practising the fascinating ancient craft of dowsing. 10 am – 1.30 pm

Friday 5 May £25

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. 10am – 4pm

Saturday 6 May **FULL** £50

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.

Saturday13 May Saturday 1 July £55

Introduction to charcoal burning

A practical day exploring charcoal burning, from selection of wood to lighting the kiln, to marketing the product. 9.00am-5.00pm

Saturday 13 May £50

Bees for beginners

An introduction to bee-keeping past and present. See inside a skep and a modern hive, learn about their function and take part in driving bees to a new hive.

10.30am – 4pm

Friday 26 May £40

Corn dolly workshop

Learn the history and development of this ancient craft, as well as the practical skills involved in weaving a corn dolly. 10am – 5pm.

Saturday 1 July Saturday 26 August £40

Leather belt workshop

Do your trousers keep falling down? come and make a plain, laced or stamped leather belt with a choice of buckles and designs on this one-day workshop.

9.30am-4.30pm

25 November £60

*Leather wallet workshop

Need a new wallet? Make a simple leather wallet with carved design, learning hand-stitching and hand-dyeing techniques. Make one for yourself, or give as a unique present. 9.30am-4.30pm

Saturday 2 December £60

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. Starts at 2pm and finishes with tea and cake.

Spring wild flower walk: Friday 7 April

Summer wild flower walk: Friday 30 June

£10

Wild foods

A day discovering and sampling the fruits of the local countryside. 9.30am-5pm

Saturday 6 May £50

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 2pm and finishes with tea and cake

Thursday 18 May £10

Dawn walk with breakfast

Guided walk through local woods to hear the dawn chorus. Start at 4am and finish with full breakfast at the Museum.

Saturday 20 May £12

Nightjar walk

Guided walk through local woods to find nightjars, glow worms, deer and other nocturnal creatures. Start at 9pm and finish with hot drinks at the Museum.

Friday 23 June Saturday 1 July £8

Bar 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. 8pm start, ends with hot drinks.

Friday 1 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 2pm and finish with tea and cake.

Friday 13 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 – 4pm

Friday 10 March Friday 23 June Friday 15 September £40

Spinning for improvers

Dust off your spinning wheel! Come and learn how to create different yarns, how to ply using the wheel, and prepare wool for knitting or weaving. A challenging day suitable for those with some spinning experience. 10.30am-4.30pm

Tuesday 14 March £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. 10am – 4pm

Tuesday 6 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. 10am – 4pm

Saturday 10 June £40



Making a traditional English longbow has proved popular – this year's course in July was full as we went to press.

Blooms, bobbles and bangles

Try your hand making beautiful felt flowers to decorate bags, hats, jackets etc. Felt bobbles can be used for necklaces or as buttons for bags and clothing, and thin felt rope joined in a circle can make bracelets or lengths for bag straps. 10am-4pm.

Saturday 24 June £40

Quilting

Using the Museum buildings and environment as inspiration for the design, you will make the centre of a quilt or a cushion cover, and learn about this history of traditional English quilting. The day is ideal for beginners – if you can thread a needle you can quilt! 10am-5pm

Saturday 8 July £40

Spinning

Try your hand at spinning to create woollen yarn, using both the drop spindle and the spinning wheel. During the day you will also learn about fleeces and carding wool ready for spinning. 10.30am – 4.30pm

Monday 24 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 – 4pm

Friday 28 July £40

"Packed full of interesting information. I am always impressed with the facilities and resources – today was no exception." **Spinning**

Christmas rag-rugging

Make seasonal decorations and gifts in a Christmassy atmosphere! Traditional rag-rugging plus some glue and glitter. 9.30am – 4pm

Friday 8 December £40

Early technology workshops

Carve a green man in wood

The carved image of a 'green man', made up of leaves and fruit, is found in churches and other historic buildings around the country. In four days, students will carve their own version of this ancient image in oak, as a way of learning or improving their carving skills. 10am-5pm

Wednesdays 5, 12, 19 & 26 April £240

Letters in stone

A four-day workshop learning the craft of letter carving in stone while creating a work of art. Why not make a house name for yourself or a friend? Beginners welcome, all tools and equipment will be provided. 10am – 4pm

Wednesdays 3, 10, 17 & 24 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

Monday-Wednesday 8-10 May Monday-Wednesday 2-4 October £180

Bronze flat axe workshop

Make a bronze flat axe from the early Bronze Age to take home. You will experience at first hand the melting and casting of bronze with charcoal, and the problems that early metalworkers had to overcome. This workshop centres mainly on casting with a charcoal heat source and stone moulds. 9.30am – 5pm

Saturday 27 May £75



Natural dyeing is a popular course in our textiles programme – this year it's on 28 July. In the photograph tutor Michelle Green is pictured with her students on last year's course.

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. 10am – 5pm

Sunday 28 May £60

Bronze rapier workshop

As Bronze Age casting methods improved, blades increased in length. A classic rapier 17in long will be cast using a stone mould and authentic techniques. Could this be the root of the sword of Arthurian legend? 9.30am – 5pm

Saturday 24 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. 10am – 5pm

Sunday 25 June £65

Traditional English Longbow

Learn to make a working bow, from a single stave of timber to a medieval design, and then learn to fire it. 9.30am-5.00pm

Friday-Sunday 7-9 July **FULL** £250

Silver wrist torque casting

Cast your own classic Bronze Age wrist torque with round body and flared terminals in pure silver, to a design starting from around 4000 BC.

9.30am – 5pm

Saturday 29 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 four spoons, with one being cleaned and polished during the day. 10am – 5pm

Sunday 30 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 – 5pm

Saturday-Sunday 5-6 August £90

Celtic silver bracelet workshop

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 – 5pm

Saturday 26 August £50

Prehsitoric cooking workshop

How did people cook in the past, and what did they eat? Explore different cooking methods and sample delicacies from the ancient past, from making flour and cooking bread, to cooking in clay pots, cooking on stone and boil-in-the-bag Stone Age style, 3000 years before Ray Mears.

10am – 5pm

Sunday 27 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 – 5pm

Saturday 23 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. 10am – 5 pm

Sunday 24 September £45

Drawing and watercolour workshops

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 – 5pm

Monday-Friday 10-14 July £220

more courses ➡

➔ Courses Programme 2006 – Rural trades and crafts

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 – 5pm

14-18 August £220

"Constructive advice and understanding of individual problems. Outstanding."
Improver's Watercolours

Improvers watercolour workshop

Five consecutive days of advanced watercolour tuition, working out of doors in the Museum environment. 9.30am – 5pm

11-15 September **FULL** £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! 9.30 – 5pm

9-13 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 – 5pm

Saturday 4 March Sunday 5 March £75

Furnishing the past: the replication of 16th and 17th century interiors in museums and historic houses

In its way an exercise in experimental archaeology, attempting to replicate the physical conditions and material culture of our ancestors, this day-school surveys the approaches taken in various historic settings such as Shakespeare's Birthplace, and includes a tour of the furnished houses of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum.

Leader: Victor Chinnery

Wednesday 8 March £75

Below stairs

A look beyond the green baize door will reveal how an 18th – 19th century household worked. Includes a visit to Petworth House, to view the kitchens, cellars, icehouse and other parts not normally open to the public.

Friday 17 March £75

Greening your garden

An introduction to environmentally sensitive gardening techniques to help make your garden more productive, wildlife-friendly and enjoyable.

Friday 24 March £75

Soap and soap making

Find out how people lived without modern detergents. A day-school on Tudor hygiene and cleanliness, learning how to make lye and soap, and the uses of soapwort. 10am-4pm

Wednesday 5 April £60

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 – 5pm.

Saturday-Sunday 13-14 May Saturday-Sunday 16-17 September £120

The cottage herb garden for beginners

Find out how the cottage herb garden evolved to supply the needs of the family, and how this can be interpreted in your own garden today. The day includes planning and maintaining a herb garden, integration with flowers or vegetables, techniques for successful herb growing, and an introduction to the use of herbs in cookery, fragrance and home medicine. (See also *The cottage herb garden: herbs for health* and *The cottage herb garden: culinary herbs*) 9.30am-4.30pm

Friday 19 May £50

Home owners' day

Expert guidance for owners of old houses and cottages, including surveying, planning and refurbishment issues, run with the support of Jackson-Stops & Staff. The day will also include an exploration of the furnishings, artefacts and gardens of the Museum's exhibit buildings to give an insight as to how people lived and worked. 9.30am – 4.30pm

Wednesday 24 May £50

Secrets of the Tudor stillroom

The stillroom was the source of a variety of potions, salves, pest repellents, cleansers, cosmetics and fragrant mixes in addition to the all-important distilled aromatic waters. Come and explore some of the recipes handed down over the generations from medieval times, making cough sweets, salves, herb honeys and drinks. 9.30am – 4.30pm

Wednesday 21 June £50

*The cottage herb garden: culinary herbs

An appreciation of cottage garden herbs that have been grown, gathered and prized in cookery over the centuries. Details of when to gather and how to dry and store herbs, with recipes past and present and some hands-on experience included. 9.30am-4.30pm

Thursday 6 July £50

*The cottage herb garden: herbs for health

The origins of the herbaceous border lie in growing herbs for home remedies in the past. Led by a medical herbalist, the course offers guidance on the most safe and useful herbs to grow and how to harvest and use or preserve them. A practical day, including the opportunity to make a footbath, herbal honey syrups, herbal teas, infused oil, a herb pillow and more. 9.30am-4.30pm

Friday 7 July £50

16th century domestic painting techniques

Explore the painting techniques used in Tudor furnishing and furniture. A hands-on course, which introduces the student to painting on canvas and wooden board using period preparations, techniques and materials. Whether you are a painter, interior designer, or would like to re-decorate your historic home, this course will appeal to you

Saturday-Sunday 2-3 September £160

Victorian herb favourites to enjoy

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

Friday 8 September £45

"Very organised and welcoming – I liked the balance between learning technique and doing your own thing." Living willow

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

Wednesday 15 November £60

Christmas herbal gifts & decorations

Make up to five different festive herbal compositions such as wreaths, fragrant baskets and candle decorations. 9.30am – 4pm

Friday 15 December Monday 18 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.

Fish and fast days: recipes for Lent

How did religious festivals influence the Tudor diet? Come and try out some traditional recipes cooked during Lent, which demanded a meat-free diet, with the emphasis on fish and almonds. 10am-4pm

Wednesday 1 March £60

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 cheeses. An overview of all aspects of 16th century dairy production and use, plus a look at early 17th century dairying. 10am-4pm

Wednesday 17 May **FULL** £60

The Tudor bakehouse – bread

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 technology of the Tudor bread oven, the law of the time and the special loaves baked for festivals. 10am-4pm

Wednesday 13 September £60

The Tudor bakehouse – pies and pastries

A selection of techniques and recipes from a Tudor bakehouse, from hand-raised standing pies to deep fried choux pastry bennets. 10am-4pm

Thursday 14 September £60

Preserving food in the 16th century

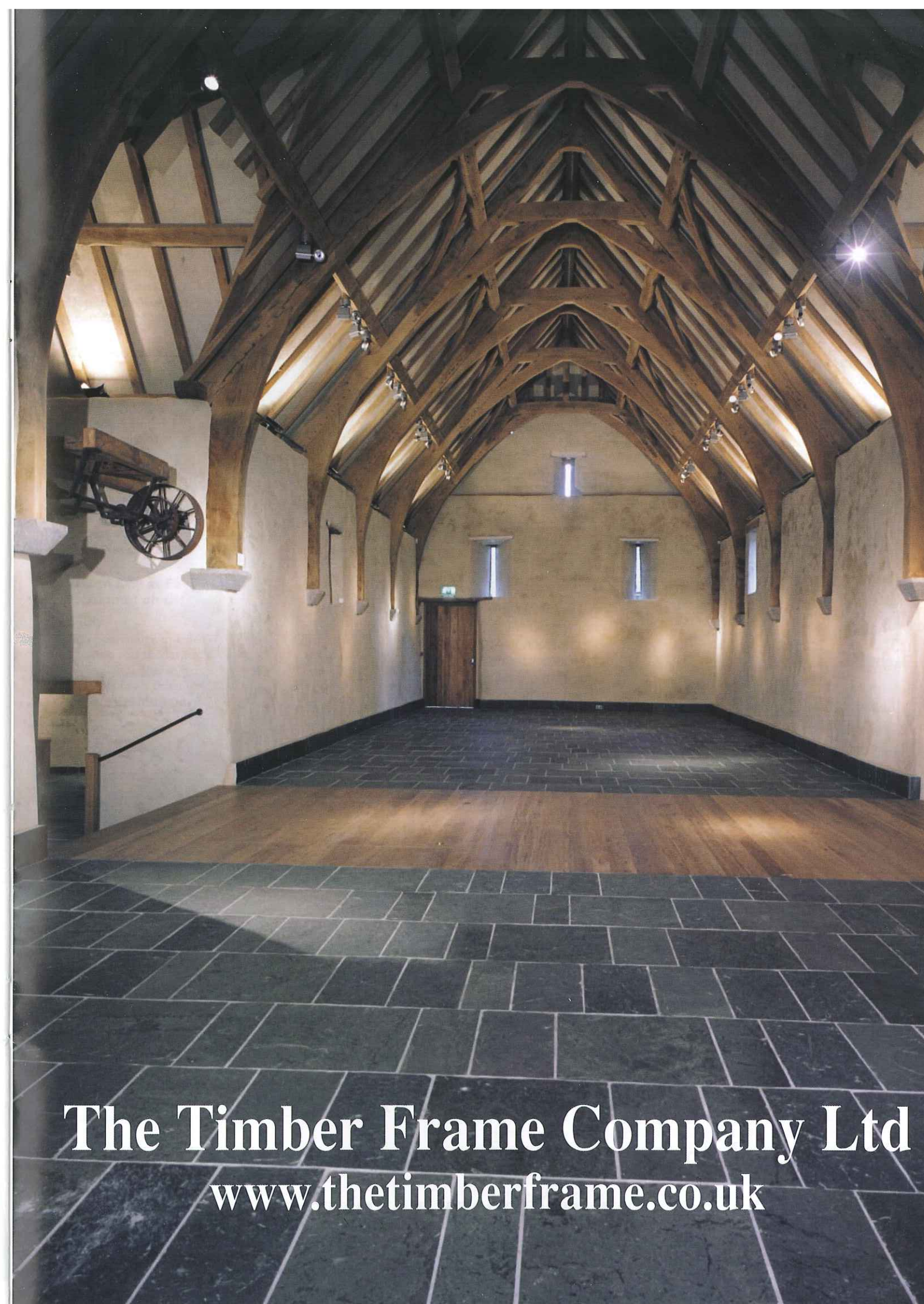
This workshop takes the practical approach to learning the key methods of preserving foodstuffs in Tudor England. This was essential to keep the population alive and well until the next harvest. Meat, fish, herbs, vegetables and fruit. 10am-4pm

Wednesday 4 October £60

**Courses with an asterisk have moved to a new date from the previously published programme*

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.

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2006



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FRIENDS' NEWS

Friends' day trips 2006

City Churches and St Paul's Cathedral

17 May

A day in celebration of the cheerful genius of Sir Christopher Wren with City and Village tours. The morning will be spent visiting three city churches at a leisurely pace with our guide. Lunch can be taken in the vicinity of St Paul's Cathedral in one of the many cafés or pubs. The afternoon will be devoted to a fully guided tour of St Paul's. After a tea break there will be the opportunity to join in Evensong. Depart the Museum 8.45am, return approx. 8.30pm
Cost: £25

Charleston Farm House and The Clergy House, Alfriston

8 June

Charleston was the home and country meeting place for the writers, painters and intellectuals known as the Bloomsbury Group. The interior was painted by artists Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, and together with their collection forms a unique example of their decorative style. Lunch can be taken at one of the many cafés in Alfriston and at 2.30pm we will visit The Clergy House, the first property acquired by the National Trust. There will be an introductory talk followed by a self-guided tour, then time for a cup of tea before departing. Depart the Museum 8.45am, return approx. 6.00pm
Cost: National Trust members £15, non-members £18

Steam Day at Fawley Hill (home of the Hon. Sir William McAlpine) on the Special Family Day

2 July

An opportunity to ride on an open-air steam train, visit a signal box, a station and the largest museum of railway memorabilia in the south of England. Please bring a picnic, drinks available. This outing is available to all Friends over the age of nine years. Depart the Museum 9.15am, return approx 6.00pm
Cost: £14

Houses of Parliament

19 September

Following last year's popular visit, a chance for those who were not lucky in the ballot. There will be a guided tour in the morning. As the House is not sitting, there will be the chance to visit both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Lunch can be taken in one of the cafés or pubs in the surrounding area. The afternoon is free for you to visit other local attractions. Depart the Museum 8.30am, return approx 6.30pm
Cost: £10

Poppies and Periwigs

17 October

Our day begins with tea and biscuits at the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey. We will have a guided tour of the factory followed by lunch at a place of your choice in Richmond. In the afternoon we will travel to Marble Hill House, a fine villa in a Thames meadow built by Henrietta Howard, mistress to George II. The horror of the Georgian beauty regime will be revealed and we will learn how to show a leg, curtsy in the correct manner and flirt with our fans! Tea and biscuits are available before heading home. Depart the Museum 8.30am, return approx 6.30pm
Cost: £22

Social events

Barn dance

10 June

The 3rd Annual Barn Dance will take place in the Downland Gridshell at the Museum on 10 June starting at 6.30pm. All families are

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2006

warmly welcomed. Music will be supplied by The Reel Thing and our caller will be Hilary Bolt. Please bring a picnic to be eaten during the supper break.

Tickets: Family (2 adults/2 children) £25 Adults £10
Children £5

Michaelmas supper

30 September

By popular demand we are re-introducing the Michaelmas Supper to be held in the Museum's Sole Street building at 7.00 for 7.30pm. After a glass of wine, with canapés, we will serve a two-course supper followed by coffee. There will also be a raffle. Numbers are limited owing to the size of the building.
Cost: £18 (including a glass of wine)

Annual General Meeting

8 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. Alan Jones, Chief Executive of Chichester Cathedral Trust, will then give a talk entitled *The Restoration of Chichester Cathedral – a 900-year tradition*.

Friends enjoy a series of day trips to interesting places each year. Last year one of the venues was the newly re-opened Museum of English Rural Life at Reading where the important collection of historic farming equipment has been redisplayed, alongside the rehousing of the extensive archive library relating to agriculture and country life.



Situation (almost) vacant

How would you like to spend a little of your precious 'spare' time helping the Friends of the Museum by using your basic financial skills? Being able to reconcile your bank account and some basic computer skills are probably experience enough. We are talking about a day-and-a-bit a week on average. Rewards? You will get a lot of satisfaction working with the Friends' committee in support of this wonderful Museum. Our treasurer, Maurice Pollock, plans to retire from the post at the 2007 AGM and, after 10 years, says it will be time for a change. It would help to have someone on board before that to hand things over. Sounds interesting? Call Maurice on 01243 811260 or Frances Messenger on 01243 573587 for a chat.

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. Closing date for applications will be 31 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.



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The publication last year of the Education and Skills Select Committee's second report on education outside the classroom and the Government's backing of school visits was a very encouraging step, says Schools Services Manager, Jennie Peel. Last year some 24,000 children (3,000 more than the previous year) visited the Museum. They were mostly in primary school groups, but there were also a substantial number of visits from secondary schools, colleges and trainee teachers reflecting the value of the Museum and its collections as a vehicle for learning.

The Museum has also recently experienced an upsurge in interest in cross curricular studying, so there is a real opportunity for us to tap into this and turn childhood interest into a lifelong passion for museums and heritage generally.

Enabling children to understand, value, enjoy and care for the historic environment is at the very heart of the citizenship ethos. So the advent of

14) Which areas of learning or the curriculum did you cover at the Museum?

History, P.E., Art, Geography, Maths, Science

School children are increasingly using the Museum to study subjects across the curriculum

citizenship in the curriculum offered the Museum an exciting opportunity to work with two local schools, Chichester High School for Boys and St Anthony's Special School on an exciting media-based project, filming the Museum's work for our new schools website.

Another very positive development is the new hybrid history and heritage GCSE which is to be trialed this year. The Schools Service hopes this will enable the Museum to do more work with older children who will be able to enjoy history as an academic subject but with many vocational dimensions.

The biggest challenge is the barriers that face schools when making visits, says Jennie Peel. "The value of such visits as a means of inspiring pupils and enhancing their learning and understanding has been proven time and again. However a combination of pressures of time and resources, and the all too well publicised health and safety risks, has meant that it is now more difficult than ever for schools to make these visits. We intend to work hard in order to reach new audiences and engage them in learning from our wonderful collections and enjoying our beautiful site."

It's an exciting time in heritage education!



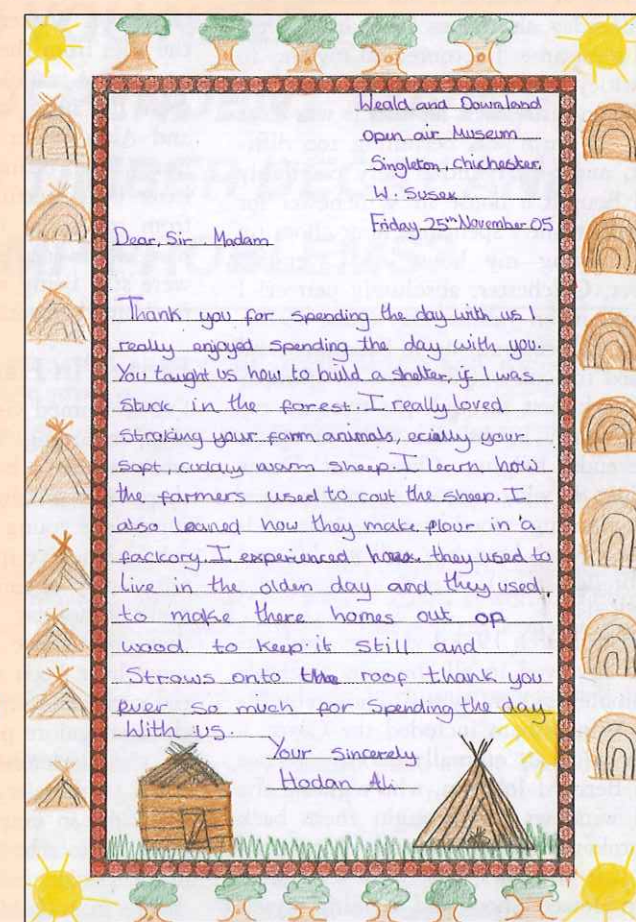
Museum links with local schools for innovative project

The Museum linked up with two Chichester schools as part of a nationwide project designed to increase pupils' access to creative and cultural learning opportunities. The Cultural Entitlement Project is sponsored locally by SEMLAC (South East Museums, Libraries and Archives Council). Media studies students and staff from Chichester High School for Boys and year 10 pupils from St Anthony's Special School focused on a theme of 'active citizenship'. Working with the Museum's Schools Services Department, the pupils created short promotional films for the Museum. Schools Services Manager, Jennie Peel, says the project

"not only enabled pupils to explore their local heritage, but encouraged active partnerships and co-operation between students from differing educational backgrounds in the Chichester area." In the photograph pupils from the two schools work together at the Museum at the beginning of the project.

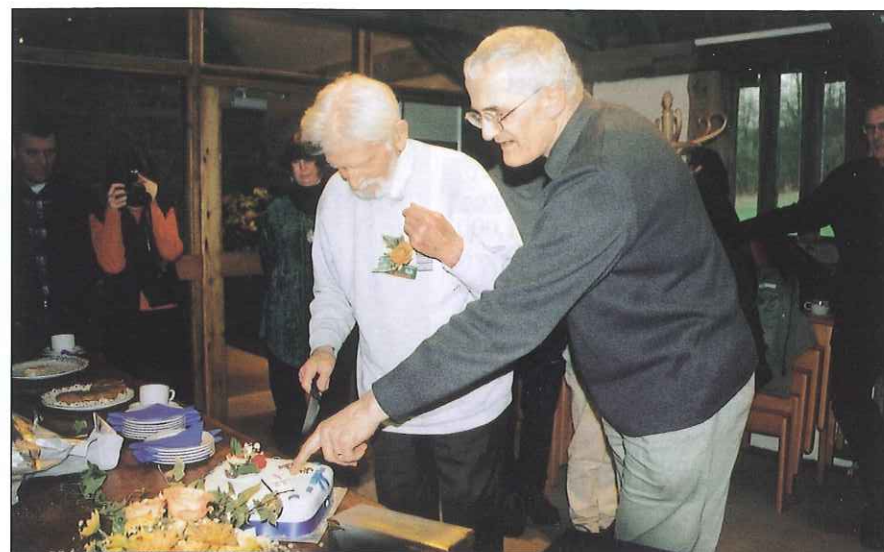
Cuddly warm sheep!

Letter to the
Schools Service
Department from a
pupil who enjoyed
his visit to the
Museum



Hooked on the Museum!

One of the remarkable things about the Museum is how steadfast many of its early supporters have been over the years. A high proportion of those involved at the very beginning are still enthusiastic supporters today, many contributing as volunteers, some as staff and others as a mixture of both! The Editor remembers Brigadier Walter Greenway when he was new! But that was a very long time ago... Here he recalls some of his memories of an involvement which, he explains, has brought him so many friends.



Walter Greenway celebrating his 90th birthday in Crawley Hall, seen here attacking the cake with Museum Director, Richard Harris, and below, at work on the overflow ticket desk during a Rare Breeds Show.

It was in 1975 that Peggy took my wife, Susan, to this new kind of museum. "You'd be very interested," Susan told me on her return, and on Monday in Goodwood Week we had lunch in The Fox and Hounds, Singleton. Unfortunately the Museum was closed (it was on Mondays in the early days!). Undeterred we tried again. In the Toll Cottage I saw a small notice: 'Volunteer Stewards Wanted.'

I was immediately hooked. I was still working at Sandhurst, but Saturday and Wednesday afternoons were often free, and sometimes I detoured on my way to Hawley to act as a volunteer.

When retirement loomed it was clear that the farm was becoming too difficult, and Susan sold it very profitably and bought a house in Winchester for herself, while I spent one hour choosing and buying my house in Cavendish Street, Chichester: absolutely perfect! I moved in on Jubilee Day (June 1977). I was still commuting to Sandhurst and I used to look out for my first glimpse of Winkhurst through the trees on my way home. I was also able to spend weekends helping Chris and Diana Zeuner do whatever was on at the time: tree planting, wood stacking (one odd-shaped beech branch is still my hat and umbrella stand), scrub clearing and much else.

From March 1978 I was free, and was soon involved in all the jobs available to amateurs. Ken Ayling's team rebuilding Windlesham included the Coxes, a man with an eternally-barking terrier and Bernard Johnson, who reglazed the end windows and brought them back unbroken from Storrington. I repaired the side windows, copying a scarf joint from Hewett's book and teaching myself as I went along. We worked on the Toll



Cottage after its removal, and I still claim that its second-best feature is the trap door. We removed and replaced all the tiles from the front roof of Pendean because of trouble with the torching. I spent one night helping Lyn Armstrong and Alan Waters on his first charcoal burn. I can claim many of the original litter bins: getting them up the stairs from my cellar was the most difficult part of the job. Some of my bell yokes were still being worn by the Museum's flock until recently.

Frozen in Hambrook barn

I've welcomed visitors in all the buildings, including Winkhurst in the days when we had a bench, a table and a fire there. I've frozen in Hambrook Barn, supervised young tilers in the Hands-on exhibition, I've spent hours in Pendean, reluctantly agreeing with Peggy, who spent a holiday there before the war, that one or two parts of the structure must have been slightly different from the current interpretation. I've watched children galore posing for their photos on the garderobe in Bayleaf. I've listened to the electric man in Walderton thanking an empty room for listening more times that I can easily count. I've taken guided tours and had letters of thanks from children and I've even written to schools congratulating them on

the behaviour of their pupils. There were days downstairs in Crawley which were so cold that we kept our feet in cardboard boxes during our book categorising tasks.

I took over the job of running the Friends' outings from Bernard Johnson, with Joan Brooks and Virginia Lyon as secretaries on my reconnaissances. The climax of these was a visit to Maxstoke Castle, with its original walls, corner turrets and gatehouse where my great-aunt Fanny once lived: I was able to return her portrait there. I celebrated several birthdays in Crawley Hall staging quizzes based on photographs of the site, in Chichester or of the Downland churches. I was honoured to have my 80th birthday celebrated in Slindon with a surprise party organised by Virginia and my 90th in Crawley Hall.

But my main job for many years was the old ticket office, situated at the entrance to the car park. I was there on the day when there were six inches of snow and four visitors. I greeted one car load with the cheerful remark: "You'll keep the bloody dog on a lead, won't you?" As an extension to this I've helped Betty and the late Bernard Rush at the overflow ticket office in all its many forms.

To my great delight I'm still allowed to talk to children in Hands-on, provided there's someone else there to ensure I don't get out of step. Adults on their own are very vulnerable; sometimes I get into trouble with 'know alls', but I've not been sacked yet.

I don't mean this to sound like a self-puff: it isn't. It is I who have been the winner from my involvement with the Museum. I owe a great debt to so many who have made my retirement into the happiest and most fulfilled part of my life.

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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 £135,000 in 2005. 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.

Don't miss Easter at the Museum!



Easter provides us with our first big special event of the year. This year we have a full programme of activities from Good Friday through to Easter Monday (14-17 April). Good Friday features traditional pastimes, storytelling and music, while Saturday sees a bustling Easter market. Sunday is feast day and Monday is devoted to games and children's activities, plus an Easter bonnet parade.



WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

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Directions

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Stagecoach Coastline
buses, just ask the driver.

By rail: Chichester 7
miles, Haslemere 15 miles.

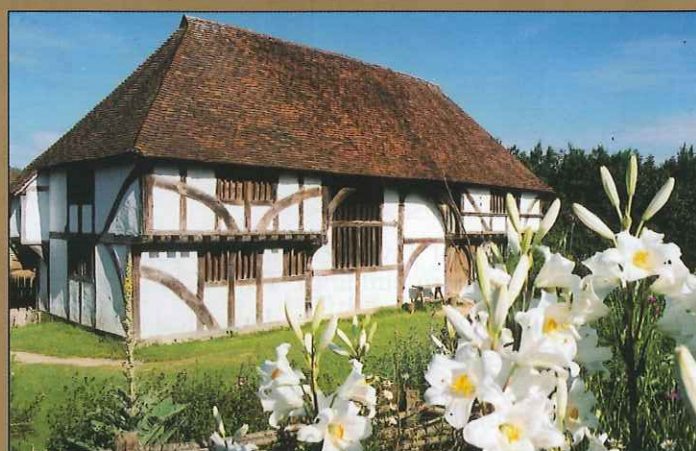


The Museum is open throughout the year

4 Jan – 12 Feb 2006 Wed, Sat & Sun only 10.30am – 4pm.
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