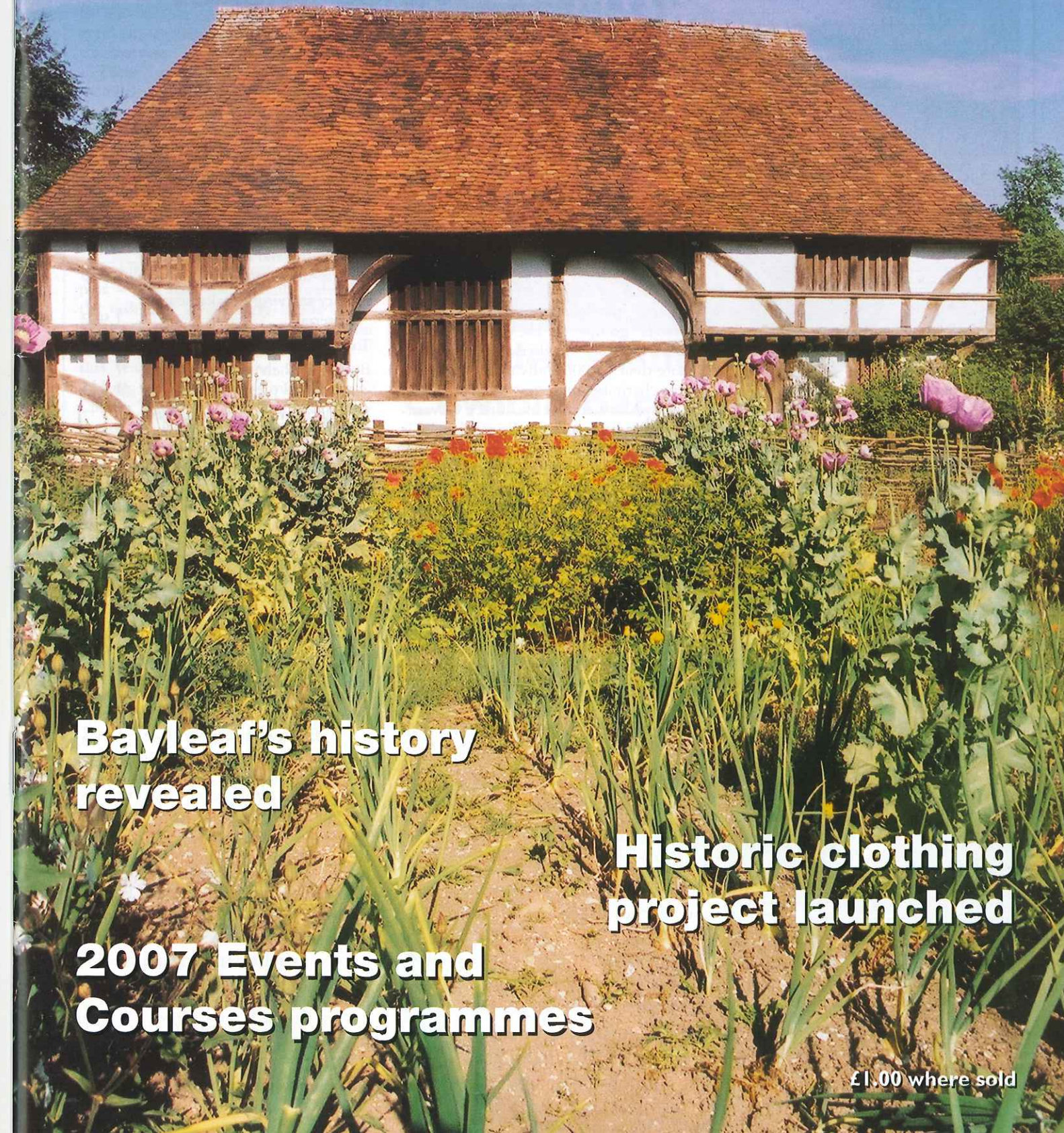


**WEALD & DOWNLAND
OPEN AIR MUSEUM**

Spring 2007



**Bayleaf's history
revealed**

**Historic clothing
project launched**

**2007 Events and
Courses programmes**

£1.00 where sold

CONTENTS

- 3 Wooden scaffolding for Cowfold Barn
- 5 Landscape management plan

Celebrate Spring and welcome Summer with special events in April and May

April and May are wonderful months, with Spring in full swing and Summer just round the corner. The Museum holds two events to celebrate Easter and May. **Easter Festivities on 6-9 April** cover traditional pastimes, storytelling and music on Good Friday; a bustling Easter market on Saturday; a feast day on Easter Sunday and a lively day of games and activities with younger visitors in mind on Monday. On **6/7 May** our popular **Food Fair** is held in association with A Taste of Sussex. **Celebrate the Taste** offers a wonderful choice of quality fare to sample and buy from local producers throughout the south east, plus tastings, cookery classes, demonstrations and children's activities.



- 9 Bayleaf – a Wealden hall house by Danae Tankard
- 15 Historic clothing project
- 19 Events Diary 2007

- 21 Courses 2007 – Building conservation and rural trades and crafts
- 28 Friends' News
- 31 Dating the Museum's buildings
- 33 Keeping evil at bay

Museum Friends' makes largest ever grant

The Friends of the Museum makes a vital financial contribution to the Museum's day-to-day operation and a variety of projects and activities. Last year a total of £178,135 was granted to the Museum – the highest annual amount ever.

Since its establishment in 1970 the Friends has grant-aided the Museum to the tune of some £1.2 million. It remains one of the largest Museum Friends groups in the country, with some 4,700 members, representing more than 11,000 individuals. Independent charitable museums like the Weald & Downland receive no direct Government funding and the Friends' help is vital in supplementing revenue income from visitor admissions, the shop, catering and training courses.

The Friends' funding comes in two ways. A substantial grant is made towards the costs of essential activities at the Museum. This grant, for £100,000 in 2006, was paid in four quarterly instalments to assist the Museum with core activities, including exhibit improvements, historic gardens development and maintenance, marketing and publicity, horses and livestock, site maintenance, schools service, staff and volunteer training and support for curatorial and collections activities.

The second tranche supports a variety of individual projects and last year totalled £78,135. It comprises:

	£
Thatching of Cowfold Barn	22,000
Dismantling the South Wonston Church	9,000
Forklift truck	7,000
Site survey for future development	4,723
Health and safety consultancy	3,772
Fitting out building for use by research team	3,736

Waste compressor to reduce cost and improve recycling efficiency	3,552
Interpretation of the Timber Yard	3,435
Upgrade to the network server	3,229
Romani Roots event development	3,045
New site paths	3,000
New trailer and repair to horse-drawn trailer	2,856
Library shelving to take new material	1,962
Toll Cottage gates renewal	1,649
Bookshop shelving to improve access and presentation	1,443
Installation of fuel tank to meet environmental requirements	1,415
Research on Tindalls Cottage timbers	1,125
Additional till for shop	993

In addition to its membership income, the Friends runs fund-raising events such as the Barn Dance and Proms by the Lake planned for this year, a programme of day trips and an annual Spring tour to interesting historical sites.

As a charity the Friends is able to claim Gift Aid on membership subscriptions which enables it to attract an extra 28p in each £ given by members. In 2006 the tax reclaimed amounted to over £31,000.

To join the Friends contact the Friends office on 01243 811893 (manned part-time) or email friends@wealddown.co.uk.

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

Further information
on Friends' activities on
pages 28/29.

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2007

Today we are so used to steel tube scaffolding that it comes as a surprise to learn how recently wooden scaffolding was still used. As late as the 1930s building textbooks were still being published that contained no mention whatsoever of steel scaffold.

Newbold's *The Modern Carpenter and Joiner* published in 1926 says: "Whilst new forms of scaffolding in materials other than timber are being placed on the market and growing in popularity for certain kinds of work, especially for works of repair, . . . it may be doubted if the old-fashioned timber scaffolding will ever be entirely superseded for new construction."

There are still many people with memories of using wooden scaffolding in their youth. Pete Betsworth, who works at the Museum, remembers that one of his first jobs on a building site was watering the scaffold ropes – they should never be allowed to dry out! In Eastern Europe, and many other parts of the world, wooden scaffolding is still used.

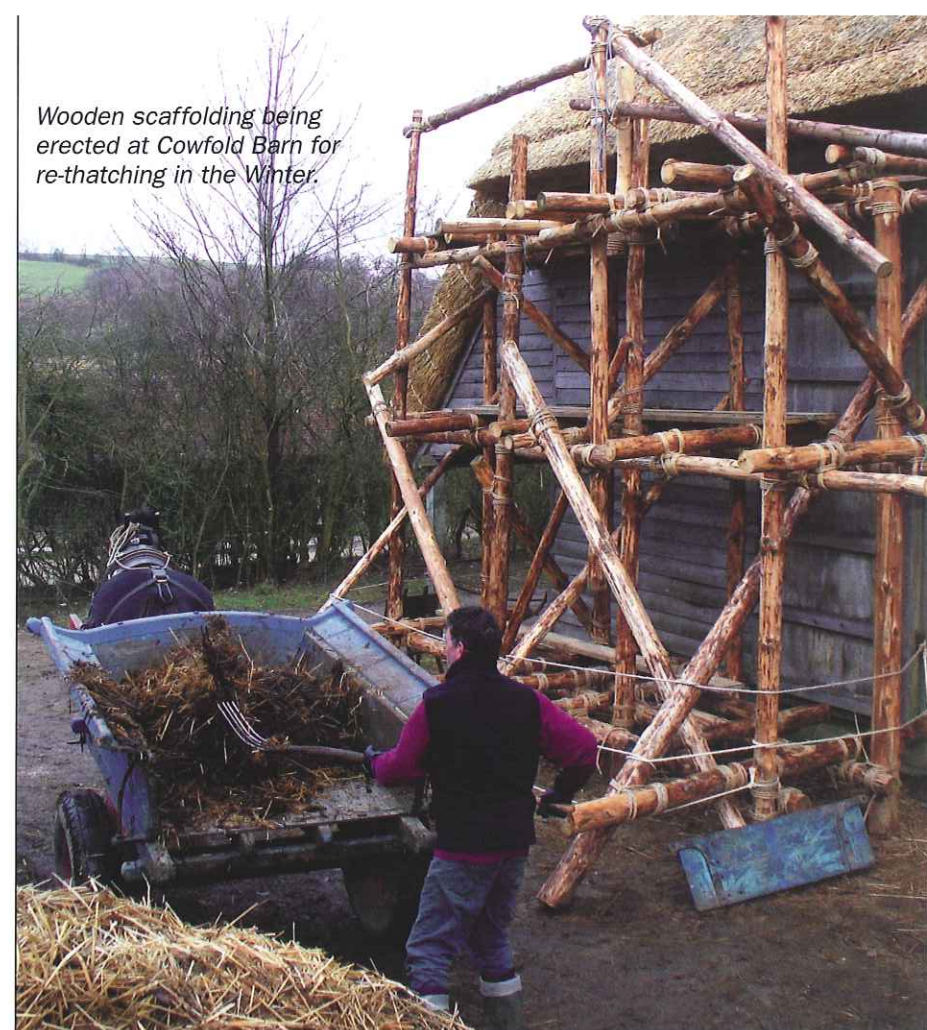
The Museum has erected wooden scaffolding as a demonstration in the past – the late Geoff Kent undertook the task here in the early 1980s – and we have been on the lookout for an opportunity to do it again. In January this year, Chris Tomkins needed scaffolding to re-thatch Cowfold barn. Charlie Tyrrell, a stonemason and member of the International Guild of Knot Tyers, agreed to erect the scaffolding. Charlie's father was a builder and kept a set of oiled scaffold poles at his yard, and Charlie learned the basic techniques from him. He tightened the knots using an antique 'heaving mallet' that was originally used in Portsmouth dockyard, an implement the shape and size of a long-handled mallet, with a brass exterior around a wooden core.

We obtained the wooden poles, and Charlie ordered 1,150 metres of rope for the lashings. The larch poles measure about 6in diameter at the butt and came from woodland thinnings from Abingdon, Berkshire, while the rope is made of manilla (from the abaca plant) rather than true hemp, for the sake of economy. Charlie and helpers Nicola Tyrrell and Sam Brown started work on 2 January, and the scaffold was soon completed. Scaffolding safety rules are very strict, but as a result of conversations with the Health & Safety Executive a safety regime for the wooden scaffolding was agreed for its erection and dismantling and for its safety in use.

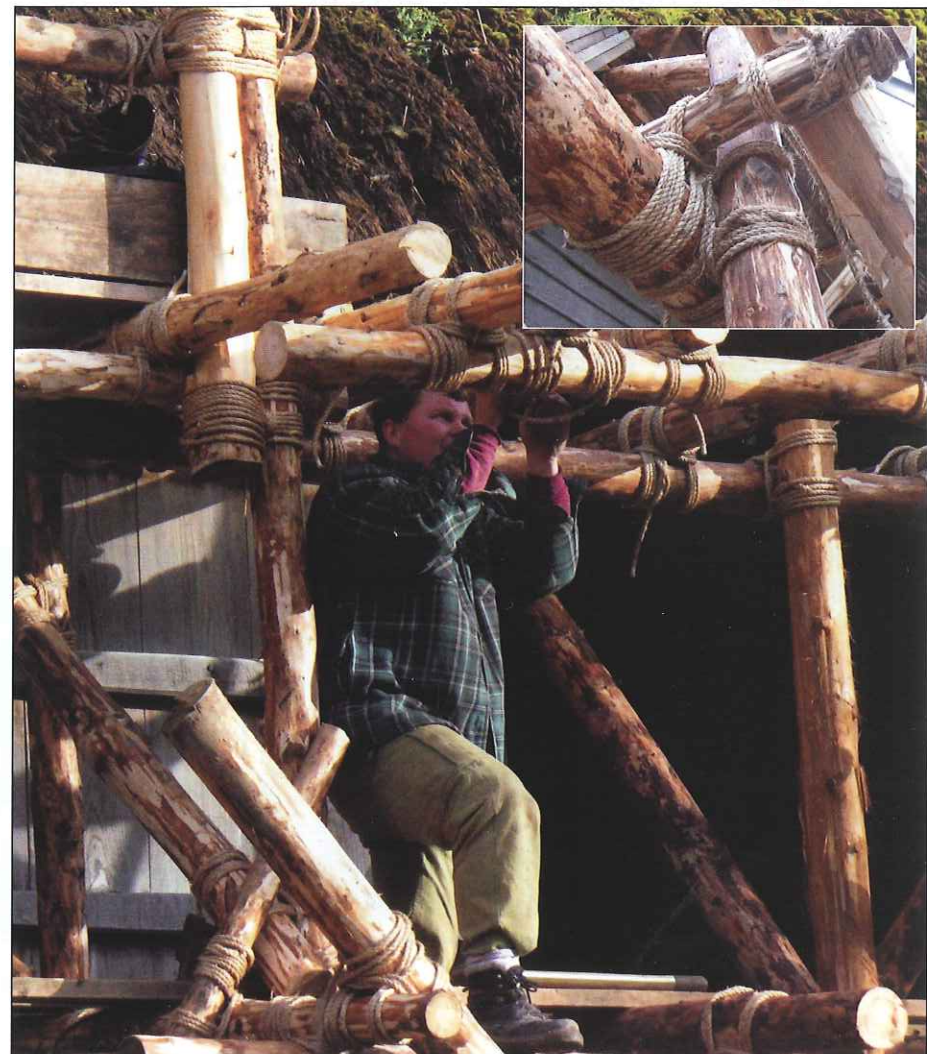
The scaffold caused a great deal of interest among visitors and it will be left in place until Easter. Then it will be taken down and stored carefully ready for re-use.

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring

Wooden scaffolding being erected at Cowfold Barn for re-thatching in the winter.



Wooden scaffolding for Cowfold Barn re-thatching



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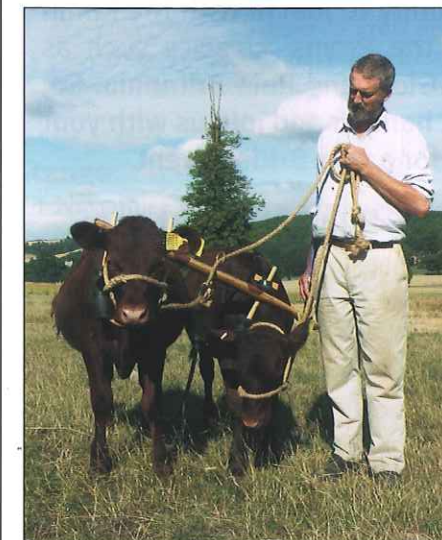
Director – Sue Shave



Farm management at the Museum

A new post of Farm Manager has been created at the Museum, and Chris Baldwin, already well known to us for his work with the working cattle, field strips and market garden, has been appointed.

Following the departure of the Museum's horseman, Lee Harrison, to take up a job at Beamish, the North of England Open Air Museum, as groom in the town stables, we are also currently engaged in recruiting his successor.



Chris Baldwin with the two young cows being trained to the yoke.

Chris came to the Museum originally to work in the Woodland Craft Centre, but moved from there to establish our six field strips and then started training our working oxen. He has been very active in developing the strips by obtaining and growing on old varieties of arable crops, and he is now patiently training two pairs of Sussex cows which will become our working team in a couple of years time when they are fully grown.

Chris and Museum Director Richard Harris will be working with consultants over the next few months to establish a new basis for Museum policy in respect of our displays of historic farming. This will involve reviewing a report written by Stephen Hall in 1988 on livestock displays, and commissioning parallel reports on arable farming and the museology of farming displays.

The field strips established by Chris are in two groups of three, one group on a rotation with a fallow, the other with a break crop; and in the immediate future we will establish four small fields on which we can explore Victorian farming methods on a four course rotation. As much field work as possible will be done using horses and cattle.

Landscape Conservation Plan will examine visitor centre site

As reported in the Autumn 2006 Museum magazine, our application for outline planning permission for new visitor facilities was submitted in September, and it came before Chichester District Council on 15 November.

The committee held a long discussion, and several councillors spoke passionately in support of the application, which was to establish the principle of development of new visitor facilities on the northern edge of the site, west of Gonville Drive. When a vote was taken, a majority of members voted in favour of approval, but Steve Carvell, Head of Development Control, told the committee that the officers felt the application contravened established planning policies and would be referred to the council's Planning Applications Referral Committee (PARC).

The officers then moved to arrange the PARC meeting as soon as possible, for 20 December. However, council policy is that PARC considers the application afresh, with whatever new material the applicant, consultees or public want to submit. We argued that such a short timescale did not give us time to prepare new material, and the officers agreed that the PARC meeting would be called when we were ready.

A further complication then arose, in that English Heritage, who are statutory consultees on planning applications within registered historic parks (of which West Dean Park is one, Grade II*), were not consulted until after the committee meeting on 15 November,

and we were informed of their response just before Christmas. Subsequent discussion with them has convinced us that the best course of action is for us to join forces with the Edward James Foundation to commission a Landscape Conservation Management Plan for West Dean Park, and we are preparing an application to English Heritage to grant aid this process.

Everybody seems to agree that we need to do something to improve our visitor access facilities, but not everyone is yet convinced that our proposed site is the right one, despite the careful feasibility studies that we have already carried out. The planning officers, for example, have stated that "a building located adjacent to the core of the Museum buildings, closer to the existing access and car parking areas, would be more likely to achieve a positive recommendation". One of the aims of the Landscape Conservation Management Plan will be to examine all possible sites for development and set out a clear appraisal in terms of the Park landscape – past, present and future.

If the Landscape Conservation Management Plan can be completed by mid to late summer, we will hope to have the application finally determined in time to include a full report in the Autumn Museum magazine. All documents relating to the planning application can be seen on the Chichester District Council's web site.

Richard Harris
Museum Director

Celebrating Romani lifestyle

The Museum's beautiful downland setting makes an appropriate backdrop to this colourful celebration of Gypsy culture with displays, demonstrations, music and information about the traditional Romani way of life. **Romani Roots** is on 15/16 September.



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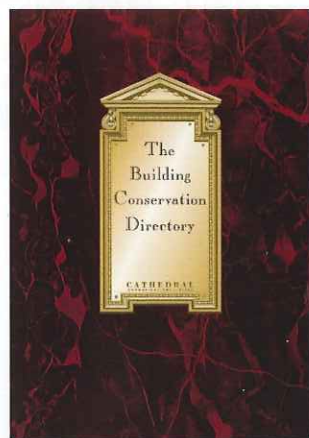
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Proms by the Lake

at the Museum Saturday 30 June

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evening than sitting by the Museum's lake and
listening to the wonderful music of the Bognor
Regis Concert Band? During the evening, there
will be the opportunity to join in with the famil-
iar 'Last Night of the Proms' classics such as
Land of Hope and Glory and Rule Britannia. So,
dig out your picnic hamper and join us with your
family and friends for a very British event.

Gates open 6pm. Band starts at 7pm.

Tickets purchased before Saturday 23 June –

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Collections update

The period leading up to Christ-
mas is traditionally a quiet time
for acquisitions, but the end of
last year saw an unusually large
amount of material come forward
for our artefact collections.

Numerous items were added to our
handling collection as well as to our
main collections. The artefacts in the
handling collection are accepted specifi-
cally to be used or demonstrated; they
are genuine, historic items but are
either duplicates of material we already
have, or items which fall outside our
general collecting remit.

The collection continues to grow and
is providing an increasingly important
resource for interpretation in the
Museum.

Range

In November we were offered a domes-
tic range from Peter Carter of Bognor



Regis. Fortunately, we had previously
agreed with Worthing Museum that a
domestic range from our collections that
had been on loan to them for many years
should be returned to us for installation
in Whittaker's Cottages, where the
range needed to be replaced. They had
agreed, but were very pleased when we
were able to offer them a further loan of
the new range from Bognor.

Plough

Fostering close relationships with other
museums has many benefits, not least
the potential for the redistribution of



Timber yard develops

Following the successful restora-
tion and re-erection of the
timber crane in the Museum
timber yard alongside the working
rack-saw, we have recently added
other features which bring the
project almost to completion (see
photograph above).

The first is a saw pit, which has
deliberately been made shallower than
usual in order that visitors will be
more easily able to see both sawyers
when the pit is in use. It has been dug
in such a position that it can be ser-
viced by the timber crane: felled logs
can be moved around the yard, from
delivery, to storage, to sawpit, to saw
bench, all using the crane. The timber
yard is easily accessible from the track,
so that logs can be brought to the yard
using the Museum's heavy horses and
timber-moving vehicles.

A bay of the workshop opposite the
timber yard has been brought into use
for the repair of larger horse-drawn
vehicles. Before Christmas one of the



wheels of the timber carriage was
repaired and currently the heavily-used
boat waggon is undergoing repair to
its chassis and deck.

In May this year the cattle shed
from Coldwaltham, which has stood in
the woodland area since 1975, is to be
dismantled for re-erection facing the
timber yard, where it will be used for
housing tools, equipment and demon-
strations. The shed (pictured above)
currently houses an exhibition on the
development of the landscape, written
by Ruth Tittensor and opened in
1982, and we plan to make the infor-
mation available by other means.

artefacts. Towards the end of Summer
2006 we accepted the transfer of a
Sussex plough from the Museum of
English Rural Life (MERL) in Reading.
The plough originated in Horsham and
had been in MERL's possession for many
years, but due to duplication in their
collections it was surplus to require-
ments. The plough is a wooden bodied
example, probably from the mid-late
19th century, and is in remarkably good
condition considering its age. Wooden
ploughs are rare compared to their iron
counterparts, and we are fortunate to be
able to add this one to our collections.

Flour cleaner

This was donated to the Museum
during November by Mrs Toomey of
Waldron, along with numerous other
interesting items. We were unsure of its
purpose at first, but it is labelled as
'Gardner's Patent Rapid Sifter and



Mixer', so we believe it is for cleaning
flour. It remains in excellent working
condition, along with its original paint-
work and written decoration.

Julian Bell
Curator

ngs gardens open for charity

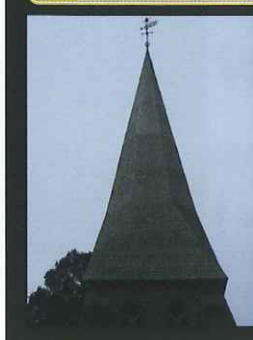
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WHOLESOME FOOD FROM A WHOLESOME ENVIRONMENT

Bayleaf – perhaps the most iconic building to be re-erected at the Museum – is a timber-framed Wealden hall house from Chiddingstone in Kent. It has six rooms, four on the ground floor and two upstairs. The house was built in two phases. The earliest part, which has been dendro-dated to 1405-1430, consisted of an open hall and service end. This was probably attached to an earlier structure, which stood where the solar or upper end bay now stands. It is believed that the upper end bay that gave the building its present form was added in the early 16th century, replacing the earlier structure.

The parish of Chiddingstone, comprising about 6,000 acres and with an estimated population in the 1560s of 475, is on the western side of the Kent Weald, close to the Surrey border. The village of Chiddingstone consists of a high street and the church of St Mary. Most of the inhabitants were (and still are) scattered widely throughout the parish. Chiddingstone straddles both low and high Weald, the original site of Bayleaf lying in the low Weald. The high and low Wealds were separated both demographically and industrially, with the high Weald more heavily populated and industrialised than the low Weald. Overall the Kent Weald was the poorest of Kent's agricultural regions and within the Kent Weald the western Weald was poorer, less industrialised and more sparsely populated than the other Wealden districts, particularly the central Weald where the woollen textile industry was based.

The 'gentry manor' of Bore Place

All land in the Kent Weald, like elsewhere in England, was held of some lordship or directly of the Crown. However, seigneurial control was weak and tenants' involvement with their manor was limited to paying a small annual quitrent or ground rent, doing (occasional) suit of court and paying a heriot (usually the best beast) for the right to take up land on the death of the previous tenant. A feature of the late 15th and 16th centuries was the appearance of what are described as 'gentry manors' or estates in all parts of the Weald, the result of either successful estate building by local residents or of purchase by newcomers to the Weald. These estates frequently included land held of more than one manor. An example of this was the Bore Place 'manor', or estate, with lands in at least three different manors. The owners of Bore Place, like most other landowners in the Weald during this period, managed



Bayleaf – a Wealden hall house from Chiddingstone, Kent

By Danae Tankard



their property by leasing out large blocks of it and rents would have formed an important part of their income. Unlike some landowners, however, they retained demesne lands, which in 1518 included approximately 50 acres of arable and 150 acres of pasture, together with meadows, woods and parkland.

From the late 15th century and throughout the 16th century Bore Place was held by a succession of eminent London lawyers, all of whom continued to maintain London residences. John Alpegh held the estate until his death in 1489. He left it to his daughter,

their property by leasing out large blocks of it and rents would have formed an important part of their income. Unlike some landowners, however, they retained demesne lands, which in 1518 included approximately 50 acres of arable and 150 acres of pasture, together with meadows, woods and parkland.

Margaret, and her husband, Robert, later Sir Robert, Rede. On Rede's death in 1518 the estate passed to his daughter, Bridget, and her husband, Thomas, later Sir Thomas, Willoughby. Bridget continued to hold the estate after her husband's death in 1545 and on her own death in 1558 it passed to her grandson, Thomas Willoughby.

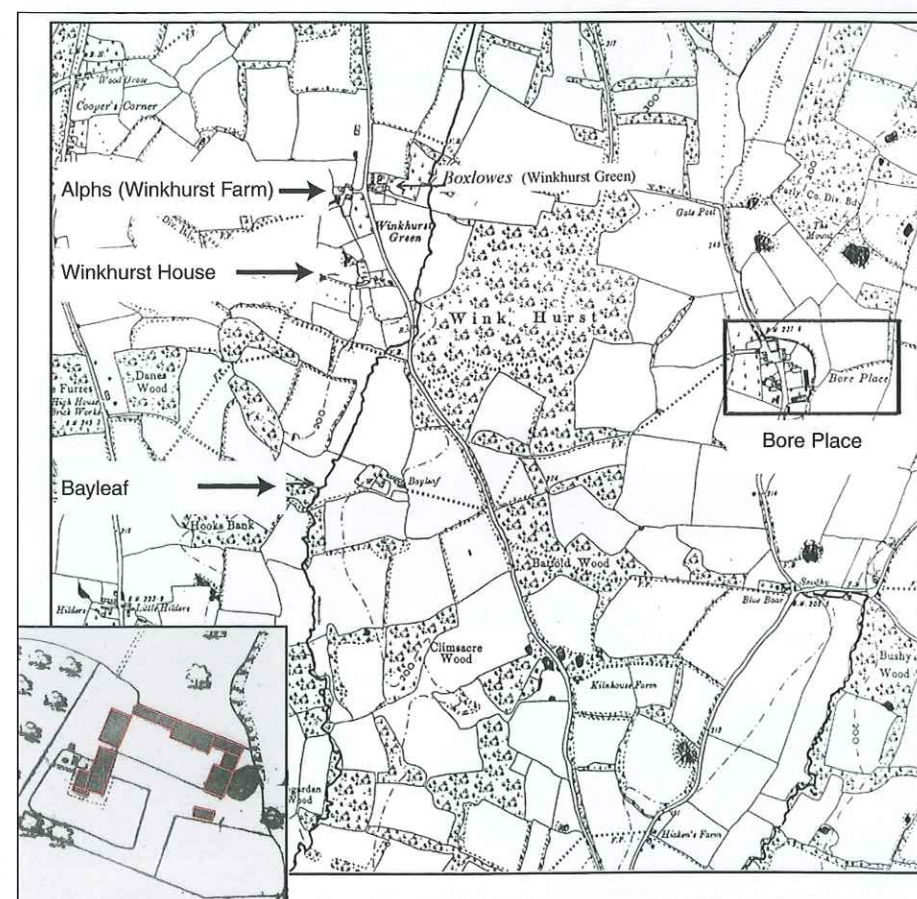
➡ Bayleaf – a Wealden hall house from Chiddingstone, Kent

Bayleaf farm

The origins and development of Bayleaf are unclear. The name 'Bayleaf' is a corruption of the word 'Bailey' and it is probable that it was named after its original occupant, Henry Bailey. We know that at the end of the 14th century Henry Bailey was holding about 100 acres of land in the area that later became Bayleaf farm and that he died in around 1430. He may therefore have been responsible for building the original house. The earliest reference to Bayleaf ('Bailes') is in the will of John Alphegh dated 1489, and it thereafter



Bore Place, Chiddingfold.



Map showing the relationship between Bayleaf, Bore Place, and the other houses displaced by the Bough Beech reservoir. Inset, block plan showing Bayleaf on its original site.

appears regularly in rentals and other documents throughout the 16th century as 'Baylys', 'Bailes', 'Bayleaze' and 'Baylies'.

From the early 16th century Bayleaf is described as a 'fee farm' and the tenants paid an annual rent of 110s. The exact acreage at this date is unknown although it is reasonable to assume on the basis of earlier and later evidence that it was somewhere in the region of 100-130 acres. The description of the tenants as 'farmers' (*firmarius*) and the

fact that they were paying a fixed rent indicates that Bayleaf was being held on a long-term lease, for a term of years or for a succession of lives (usually three – e.g. father, son, grandson). This means that the tenants were unaffected by the custom of 'gavelkind' which was distinctive to Kent and was characterised by partible inheritance amongst male heirs (that is, land was split equally amongst them).

The evidence for tenure of Bayleaf during the 16th century is relatively

clear, although the exact dates for each tenant are not. It is likely that Thomas Wells (the first) held Bayleaf from at least 1500 to 1510, Edward Wells held Bayleaf from about 1510 to 1520, Richard Scoriar held Bayleaf from about 1520 to 1540 and Thomas Wells (the second) held Bayleaf from about 1550 to about 1590. The exact relationship between these men is unknown: an obvious explanation would be Thomas Wells (the first) was the father of Edward Wells who was the father of Thomas Wells (the second), but other relationships are possible. Why Richard Scoriar was holding the lease is unclear: possibly it was during the minority of Thomas Wells (the second). The only one of these men about whom anything is known is the second Thomas Wells. No wills survive for any of them, one of the most useful sources of information for men and women at this date.

What do we know about Thomas Wells?

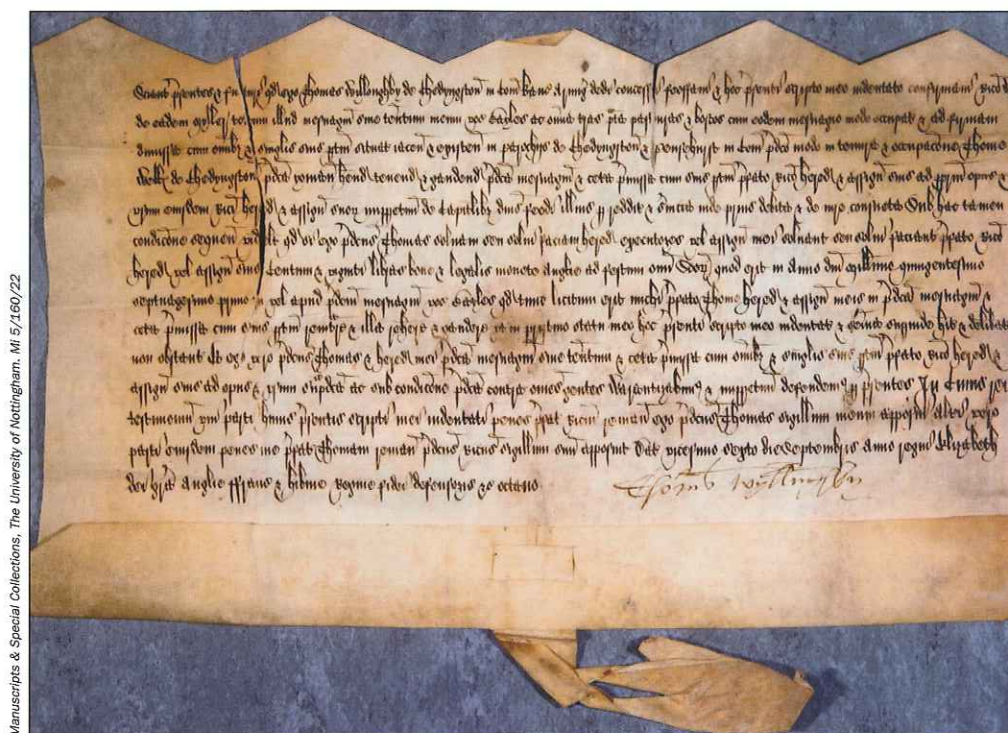
There is a document dated 1556 which records an agreement between Thomas Wells and Lady Bridget Willoughby, then the owner of Bore Place, in which he agrees to supply her with wheat and oats for a period of five years and to 'bring and carry or cause to be brought and carried yearly during the space of 20 years' from London to 'the house of the said Lady Willoughby called Bore one sufficient wain load of such victuals and stuff as she or any other to her use shall buy and provide for the provision of her house'. In this document Thomas Wells is described as a 'carpenter and farmer'. Ten years later when Thomas Willoughby (the second) mortgaged Bayleaf 'with all its lands, appurtenances, pastures and woods now in the tenure and occupation of Thomas Wells' to Richard Water, a wealthy miller, Thomas Wells is described as a yeoman. So he was a farmer, a carpenter and, at least by 1566, a yeoman. A yeoman is a

recognised economic class in the early modern period and usually describes someone who was farming at least 100 acres. He was above 'husbandman' but below 'gentleman'. In other words, yeomen constituted a rural middle class. He would expect to produce a large marketable surplus each year and be a regular employer of non-family labour.

Evidence from London, where carpenters were organized in a craft guild (the carpenters' company) suggests that the profession was not a very profitable one. However, outside London and the larger provincial towns the activities of carpenters were unregulated which means that there are few details of how the craft was organised or of the wealth it generated. As a carpenter Thomas Wells might have been responsible for building entire houses as well as commercial and industrial buildings. The more successful carpenters acted as architect-contractors, arranging for materials and sub-contracting with other craftsmen.

Analysis of tax and poor rate assessments suggests that Thomas Wells was a wealthy man within his community – in the top 10% of the Chiddingstone population – which would have made him a substantial, and respected, member of the community. This is reflected in his local office holding. In 1562 he was elected to the office of constable of the hundred of Somerden, an unpaid position he would have held for two years. A hundred was a unit of administration covering a number of parishes. As a constable for the hundred he (together with another constable) would have overseen the collection of poor rates, the supervision of parochial officers and the maintenance of roads and bridges. Together with petty constables they were also responsible for controlling any disturbances within their communities. Between 1565 and 1566 Thomas Wells also served as one of two collectors of the poor, an office (later called overseers of the poor) that emerged from the developing poor law legislation of the 16th century.

Bayleaf farm comprised between 100-130 acres of land, a mixture of arable, pasture, woods and meadow. How it is farmed is unclear. In this region of Kent livestock farming – cattle rather than sheep – was predominant. Only one quarter of the demesne lands were being used for arable in the early 16th century, the remainder being pasture, even though this meant that the owners of Bore Place were obliged to buy in additional grain to supply their household. Like Thomas Wells, they grew wheat and oats. Barley, which did not grow well on the heavy clay soils of the Weald, had to be bought in. The commercial value of cattle was in their meat



Document recording the mortgage of Bayleaf in 1566 by Thomas Willoughby of Bore Place to Richard Waters of Chiddingstone, miller, and describing the farm as 'my messuage or tenement called "Bailes"'. . . now in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Wells of Chiddingstone, yeoman.'

and hides, with some of the cattle destined for the London market. Bailiff's accounts for Bore Place which survive for the years 1513-1514, 1516-1517 and 1517-1518 show that the bailiff (William Walker) was selling livestock to individual traders spread out over an approximately 40-mile radius from Chiddingstone, including to a trader from Southwark where the London tanning industry was based.

The baptism register for Chiddingstone, which begins in 1566, records the birth of five of Thomas Wells' children within a 10-year period – three boys and two girls. By this date he already had at least one son, Thomas, which we know because there is a record of his burial in 1572. Another son, Percival, died aged two in 1571. A 'snapshot' of the Wells family in December 1578 at home in Bayleaf would find Thomas and Mrs Wells, Anne aged seven, Henry aged five, Ralph aged two and Martha aged one month. There may have been one or two older children whose births pre-date the start of the baptism register and who survived to adulthood. It is likely that the Wells' household included at least one, and probably two, female domestic servants, so called 'life cycle' servants who entered service in their mid-teens and stayed until they married in their early to mid twenties. This means that the Wells' household is likely to have been large at between nine and 10 people, considerably larger than the average early modern house-

hold of five but consistent with what is known of other Chiddingstone yeomen families at this date. Thomas Wells must have relied on paid labour to manage his farm, probably day labourers who would have been employed on a seasonal basis. Such men are likely to have maintained their own households and so would not have been resident in Bayleaf.

It is probable that Thomas Wells was illiterate. Although unequivocal corroboration for this is missing, in 1581 only seven out of 17 jurors of the Somerden hundred court – men of the same status as Thomas Wells – were able to sign their names: the rest indicated their assent with their 'mark'. Had he been able to write one would expect him to have signed the 1556 agreement he entered into with Lady Bridget Willoughby, discussed above. Instead, he 'signs' it with his seal. Although nationally literacy levels were rising throughout the early modern period, outside of London and larger urban centres illiteracy remained the norm below the ranks of gentry.

Bailiffs for Bore Place?

The question of whether or not the occupants of Bayleaf were literate takes on more significance when we consider the evidence for whether or not they were bailiffs. The link between the occupants of Bayleaf and the office of

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➔ Bayleaf – a Wealden hall house from Chiddingstone, Kent

bailiff derives, in the first instance, from the belief that 'Bayleaf' is a corruption of the word 'bailiff'. However, as we have seen, it is more likely that Bayleaf took its name from the original occupant, who was probably Henry Bailey. Whilst the surname 'Bailey' derives from the office of bailiff, by the 15th century the link between the occupation and the surname had become historic. Weight has been added to the Bayleaf/bailiff association by the reference in Lady Bridget Willoughby's will of 1556 to 'William Wells my bailiff'. Who William Wells was and his relation to the tenants of Bayleaf is unclear. His name does not appear in contemporary tax records for Chiddingstone or the adjacent communities, which may indicate that he fell below the tax threshold or that his status as a dependent servant exempted him. Whilst it is reasonable to assume he was related to Edward or Thomas Wells, he may have been part of their wider kin network, resident either in Chiddingstone or its environs. We do know that between 1513 and 1518 the Bore Place bailiff was a man called William Walker, who had no connection with Bayleaf. In his will of 1519 Sir Robert Rede left Walker a tenement called 'Mayes' in the neighbouring village of Sundridge, and it is likely that this is where Walker lived during Rede's lifetime.

Select Bibliography

G Jones, 'The Bough Beech Buildings'



Bayleaf during dismantling. The solar end has been removed, leaving the original hall and service end.

(report commissioned by the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, 2000). J Munby, 'Wood' in J Blair & Nigel Ramsey (eds), *English Medieval Industries* (London, 1991), 379-405. M Zell, *Industry in the Countryside: Wealden Society in the Sixteenth Century* (Cambridge, 1994).

Acknowledgements

It is nearly 40 years since Bayleaf was dismantled and brought to the Museum, and numerous people have contributed to its success as an exhibit. Raymond Wood drew up the plans and marked the timbers for the dismantling, which took place in the winter of 1968-9.

- Museum celebrates iconic building with special exhibition
- Take part with your own favourite image

Images of Bayleaf

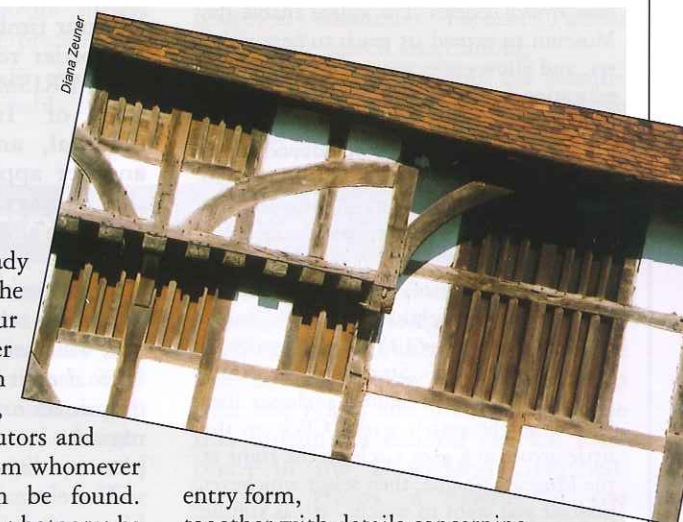
Bayleaf remains one of the most popular historic building exhibits at the Museum and this year a special exhibition celebrating it in many different media is to be held on 31 July – 12 August. *Images of Bayleaf* will take place in the Downland Gridshell where visitors will be able to enjoy representations of the iconic building in different forms, including paintings, jigsaws, models, drawings, photographs, and even tea towels!

Gordon Rushmer, local artist and Museum course tutor, is curating the

exhibition and has already begun delving into the archives for material. Our plan is also to gather together works from amateurs and professionals, schools, colleges, course tutors and their students – in fact from whomever and wherever works can be found. Offers of models, rugs, photographs and engravings have already been received, and we will be happy to sell work for those exhibitors who wish to do so.

Everyone interested will receive an

entry form, together with details concerning presentation. So please raid your walls, mantelpieces and lofts for your favourite image of Bayleaf, and call Rebecca Osborne on 01243 811931 to register.



Museum films now available as podcasts

What on earth is a 'podcast'? The word derives from Apple's 'iPod' and 'broadcast'. It is a system that allows contributors to place their work on an internet site – in this case, Apple's 'iTunes store' – and users to download the files onto their computers and thence, if they wish, onto their iPod, usually at no charge. Users can choose to become subscribers, so that the iTunes Store will automatically download all new files in your chosen category whenever you connect to it.

Still with me? At first it was used largely for audio files, and they are still in the majority, but podcast videos quickly gained popularity. In July 2006 the BBC started podcasting the *Ten O'Clock News* and *Newsnight* television programmes, and Angela Merkel started a regular weekly video podcast about current political issues.

The Museum's video team has made a range of films about the Museum available as podcasts, which anyone in the world can access anytime, anywhere, free of charge – and if you want to, you can choose to receive automatically new videos posted by the Museum.

The Museum's podcasts already include five titles, and more will have been added by the time you read this. The most ambitious production is called *The Founding Years* which traces the story of the Museum from its earliest days – the complete video lasts for 40 minutes, but has been posted as four episodes in order to reduce download times. In addition, there are short videos about the construction of the Downland Gridshell, the Museum artefact store, our Romani Roots weekend held last September, and our *Timber Framing from Scratch* courses. The videos enable the Museum to extend its reach to new viewers, and allow easier access for schools and educational purposes.

In order to access the videos you will need a PC or Mac with a broadband Internet connection, and a copy of iTunes. To help you, we have put a link on our website – go to www.wealddown.co.uk, click on 'Latest News' and then the link to 'WDOAM Podcasts'. If you are not an iTunes user already you will have to install it on your computer (it's a free download), then in the 'iTunes Store' use the search box to find the Museum's podcasts (use 'weald' as the search term). Click on the little arrow in a grey circle to the right of the Museum's name, then select whichever podcast you want to watch – it's as simple as that, and free!

If you encounter any problems with the podcasting, or if you are a Mac user, the video team will try to help: email videoprojects@wealddown.co.uk.

Victoria Reed

Filming agricultural machinery in action



Drilling is one of the agricultural tasks filmed by the Museum's video team.

The Collections Film Project funded by the Designation Challenge Fund (DCF) has been running since September last year when we were joined by three recent graduates from Portsmouth University who form the Museum's video team for the duration of the project.

They have captured footage of a wide range of Museum activities as well as the horse-drawn agricultural machinery which is the primary aim of the project. To date we have a nearly complete ploughing film, footage of seed drilling and the horse gin in action, and a record of various Museum events.

With a view to maximising future availability of the videos, the team has

established the Museum's presence in the 'iTunes Store', to which a link is available on the Museum's website. We plan to use the site to host versions of the agricultural films produced by the team, together with other Museum videos produced under previous DCF projects.

Our funding application to the DCF was made jointly with the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), who are running a parallel filming project to record traditional rural crafts. MERL is contracting an external company to produce their films, but we hope that our team will also be able to produce one of MERL's films. This is likely to take place during the spring and will probably record the work of a wheelwright.

Threshing drum to be restored

The successful project to restore our timber crane to full working order received external funding from PRISM, the fund for Preservation of Industrial & Scientific Material, and we plan to submit another application for funding for the conservation and repair of the Museum's Marshall threshing drum.

This impressive machine was acquired in the early 1980s, along with numerous other items from Mr Stevenson, who farmed in the Ashdown Forest. Since then it has been stored off-site and despite its impressive age (built c.1875) remains in remarkably good and complete condition.

There are a few structural repairs to be carried out, together with the replacement of the top boards and kick boards, and a full repaint. The main expense, however, will be new wheels. At some point its original wheels were replaced with pneumatic tyres, which damaged the axle ends, so four new



wheels need to be built. We have detailed information on the dimensions of the original wheels and so can replicate them very accurately.

We hope to begin the project by Easter. The work will be carried out by Paul Pinnington and Ben Headon, who carried out the conservation of the timber crane.

Power!!

The countryside was dependant on various forms of power to drive the economy at the time of the Museum's historic building exhibits. Two of these are celebrated at special events this year. Draught animals were vital to survival for centuries, and our **Heavy Horse Spectacular (2/3 June)** and **Autumn Countryside Show (6/7 October)** provide wonderful opportunities to see heavy horses in action, demonstrating their pulling power in a variety of ways. The Museum's young working



cattle, currently being trained to the yoke, will also be on display. The Autumn event also provides visitors with an opportunity to see steam power in action, with a steam traction engine providing the drive for the threshing drum, threshing the wheat crop grown at the Museum. This year, for the first time for many years, a **Steam Festival** is also to be held, on **18/19 August**. All kinds of steam engines will be on display and demonstrating around the Museum site the work for which they were originally designed. Watch out for steam rollers, steam lorries, working models, model boats on the lake and a variety of steam-orientated trade stands. In the photographs are, top, David Baker from Ovingdean, Brighton, with his team of four Percherons to a beautifully restored waggon, and below, threshing the Museum's wheat crop with a steam-driven threshing drum.



Historic clothing project launched

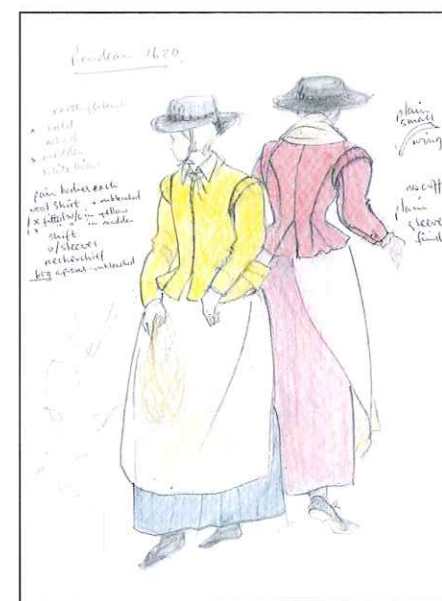
The Museum has a clear policy for interpretation of our exhibits: people come first!

'Person-to-person' is our cornerstone, recognising that a key strength is the extent to which visitors can talk to stewards, guides and interpreters during their visit. In many cases people will be demonstrating activities, adding depth to the visitors' experience, and some will be wearing replica period clothing. Our policy is to restrict the use of historic clothing to specific appropriate activities, and always in 'third person' rather than 'first person' interpretation. With 45 exhibit buildings spanning seven centuries, we need at all costs to avoid giving a jumbled 're-enactment playground' feel to the site.

Eventually we want to be able to offer domestic interpretation in all our exhibit buildings, so we need to build up a comprehensive stock of replica historic clothing with complete outfits that cover a range of sizes as well as all the appropriate periods.

Responding to this challenge, Hannah Miller, Head of Interpretation, has formed a Needlework Group of staff and volunteers with the following aims:

- To produce historically accurate clothing to be worn by staff and volunteers at the Museum and to work on other projects such as the repair and maintenance of bed linen.
- To demonstrate traditional needlework and domestic handicraft skills such as knitting, weaving and embroidery on the Museum site as part of our domestic interpretation.
- To learn and share skills that will make the project sustainable in the long term.



Design by Barbara Painter for a costume appropriate for use at Pendean Farmhouse.

The project is expected to run for about four years and funding for the first phase has been donated by the Friends of the Museum. Clothing will be made in durable replica fabrics coloured with authentic natural dyes, and hand sewn. Shoes and accessories such as belts will be purchased ready-made. The distinctive clothing style for each period will be as specific as possible to our region in colour, cloth and design, and of a status appropriate for our exhibits. The project will be run by Hannah, with social historian Ruth Goodman and historical costumer Barbara Painter providing research and training.

If you would like to join the Needlework Group, please contact Hannah Miller at the Museum on 01243 811363.

News in brief

The Museum is the venue for all kinds of different gatherings. Kate Easson (daughter of Volunteer and Visitor Services Manager Bob Easson) was married to Matt Stenning in the Downland Gridshell on a bright sunny day in July. WI groups and local councils have enjoyed rather different days out, taking part in educational workshops such as Tudor cooking and apothecary sessions, and other local government departments continue to use our facilities for conferences and seminars. A group of Dutch farmers on a

fact-finding mission were entertained in the Gridshell by the South Downs Joint Committee. We have had several wakes at the Museum over the years, and for the first time this autumn a funeral service took place in the Downland Gridshell. Jennifer Hayes, a Friend of the Museum and a frequent visitor in her role as a child minder died suddenly. Many of the children she had looked after carved pumpkins, as Jennifer loved Halloween, and as darkness fell these were lit on the deck of Gridshell.



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News in brief

■ Two *Timber Framing from Scratch* courses held last summer have yielded a number of oak frames for sale. They are all approximately 10ft x 10ft x 7ft to the eaves and can serve as an attractive and traditional extension, garden room, play house or office, clad in various materials. One student has purchased the frame he worked on over three framing courses. The frames are in various states of completion, some a basic frame, some with studs and braces, some complete with hipped or gabled roofs (as in the one pictured below). Prices start at £2,500 for a basic frame and rise to £4,250 plus VAT for a complete frame. Further information: Diana Rowsell on 01243 811464.



■ The Museum is again hosting Chichester Cancer Research UK's 5k Race for Life, on Sunday 15 July. Last year 2,000 women took part and £124,000 was raised for the charity. Further information: Diana Rowsell on 01243 811464.

■ After a successful performance last August, The Company Presents will return to the Museum on Sunday 26 August to perform another gala evening of Shakespeare, *Will at the Weald*. Once again a team from Regent's Park Open Air Theatre will take part. Keep an eye on the local press for details of performances and bookings or contact the Museum office 01243 811363.



Just the same old leap frog – children playing the age-old game in a Peter Breugel painting.

The games Tudor children played

A new workshop based on how children played in Tudor times has been developed by the Museum's Schools Service.

During the Winter Schools Service Manager Jennie Peel worked with colleagues and volunteers to develop this interesting new workshop. When we study people from other times and cultures, we are most often struck by the differences between their lives and our own. However children's play seems remarkably similar.

Using as a starting point, the Breugel print *Children's Games*, pupils are encouraged to explore the differences and similarities and to make comparisons with their own lives. By providing replica toys and games from the period they have the chance to discover how children learned and played. After trials with a local school the Museum is offering this activity either as a workshop at

the Museum or through Outreach and as a loan box. The Museum's semi-retired carpenter, Roger Champion, made the project possible by studying the Breugel print and creating the replica toys.

"I'm now considering extending this theme into the Victorian period, as it has been so well received," says Jennie, "and perhaps relating it to an historical timeline in different cultures, and a cross-curricular project including Art and Design Technology."

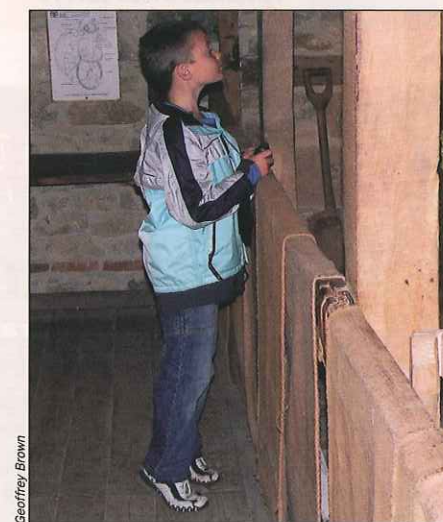
The Schools Service Department is also looking forward to its involvement with the Year of Food and Farming, being run nationwide in 2007, as it will give the Museum the chance to explore different approaches with young people about food and farming issues, and to develop best practice in this area of Learning Outside the Classroom.

Children discover countryside and history

Children enjoy the Museum in so many ways, whether they visit with family and friends (like this boy enjoying Lurgashall Mill) or come in school groups. The Museum holds special activity weeks during the February, May and October half terms, and in the Summer holidays there is no excuse for them to feel bored – the Museum hosts a variety of activities every Wednesday to keep children busy and occupied with discovery.

(Half term activities: 28 May-1 June, 22-26 October.

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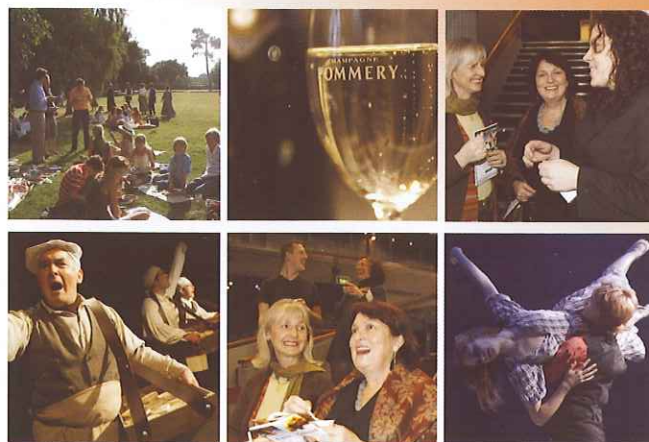
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EVENTS DIARY 2007

MARCH

18 OPEN HOUSE ON MOTHERING SUNDAY A special spring day to welcome visitors at the start of the season! £1 entry for all, plus our traditional bunch of daffodils for mothers and grandmothers! From 10.30am-4pm.

6-9 April 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. From 10.30am-6pm.

APRIL

14 Friends' Annual General Meeting at 2.30pm in the Downland Gridshell, with talk by Museum Gardener, Bob Holman

26-1 May Friends' Annual Spring Tour to County Durham

MAY

6/7 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*. From 10.30am-6pm.

15 Friends' visit: Kew Gardens and Kew Palace

20 SUSTAINABILITY EVENT (Schools Day - 21 May) 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 exhibits to interest domestic users and professionals on Sunday 20, and a day specifically aimed at children and school groups on Monday 21. From 10.30am-5pm.

28-1 June COUNTRYSIDE ADVENTURES HALF TERM ACTIVITIES Come and enjoy the great outdoors and make the most of the countryside, 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-5pm, under cover if wet.

JUNE

2/3 HEAVY HORSE SPECTACULAR One of the south's biggest gatherings of heavy horses: two days of displays, demonstrations and a grand parade of horse-drawn vehicles, with continuous ringside commentary. From 10.30am-6pm.



17 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. From 10.30am-6pm.

20 Friends' visit: River and Rowing Museum, Henley-on-Thames

JULY

1 EARLY MUSIC AFTERNOON 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! From 2pm-6pm.

3 Friends' visit: Thames Barrier Park and Crossness Pumping Station

15 Chichester Cancer Research UK's Race for Life



22 RARE 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. From 10.30am-6pm.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

25 July-29 August

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 5pm, under cover if wet.

31 July-12 August IMAGES OF BAYLEAF

Bayleaf Farmhouse was one of our first exhibit buildings and is a firm favourite with visitors. To celebrate this special building we are staging an exhibition in the Downland Gridshell of paintings, models, drawings, photographs, tea towels and more!

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. From 6.30pm.

18/19 STEAM FESTIVAL A new event for 2007 - all the bustle and excitement of a Steam Festival, with steam engines on display and demonstrating the work for which they were originally designed. Steam rollers, steam lorries, working models, model boats on the lake, and a variety of trade stands.

26 *Will at the Weald*, Shakespeare at the Museum



SEPTEMBER

15/16 ROMANI ROOTS A celebration of Gypsy culture with displays, demonstrations, music and information about the traditional Romani way of life. From 10.30am-6pm.

24 Friends' visit: Ightham More, Kent

OCTOBER

6/7 AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE SHOW Come and experience the sights, sounds and smells of a traditional harvest: enjoy heavy horses ploughing, vintage tractors, steam threshing, Wood Show and countryside crafts. This year also incorporating the West Sussex Honey Festival! From 10.30am-6pm.

10-14 Walking West Sussex Festival, hosted by the Museum

22-26 AUTUMN ACTION HALF TERM ACTIVITIES Wickedly wonderful seasonal activities, fun and farming for accompanied children of all ages! Make a mini scarecrow; discover an interesting use for the humble apple; carve a scary pumpkin; enjoy arts, crafts and more. Activities from 11am-4pm, under cover if wet.

23 Friends' visit: Faith, Hope and Charity, London

NOVEMBER

10/11 PIG TO 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. For younger visitors, don't miss the *Big Pig Gig*, with piggy arts, crafts, games, stories, poems and more! From 10.30am-4pm.

DECEMBER

2 TREE DRESSING 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, storytelling, music, dance and seasonal tasty treats! From 12.30-4pm

A SUSSEX CHRISTMAS

26 December-1 Jan 2008

Experience the traditions of Christmas past. Enjoy period music and games. Sample delicious festive food and drink prepared in our historic houses, each one decorated as it would have been for the festive season - come and enjoy a truly merry Sussex Christmas! From 10.30am-4pm.

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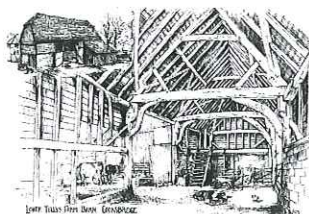
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Learning about buildings and rural crafts through the Museum's extensive courses programme

Historic building conservation

Two of the Museum's craftsmen tutors came together recently to plan the *Singleton Shingled Spire* and *Oak Shingling* courses which start this month – Joe Thompson and Peter Harknett. Joe had made a small model of the spire, and Peter (the oldest working steeplejack in the country) held us spellbound whilst he showed us some shingles over a century old, and told stories of 'the woodpecker problem.' Visitors will be able to see the fruits of their labours, and those of the students later in the summer.

A rare opportunity has arisen for anyone interested in timber buildings to get involved in dismantling and re-erecting one of the Museum's own buildings. The cattle shelter used for the Woodland Exhibition is to be moved to the developing Timber Yard near the charcoal burner's camp. In five days from 21-25 May the building will be surveyed, numbered, dismantled and re-erected, with any timbers repaired where necessary, and moved with the assistance of the Museum's heavy horses. Spectators will be welcome, but participants must book their place in advance. Please call for further details.



Early oak furniture.

Details have now been finalised for *Early Oak Furniture: an in-depth exploration*, which is a two-day off-site course led by leading English furniture expert, Victor Chinnery. Day one will explore collections of furniture at the National Trust's Chalfield Manor and Red Lodge in Bristol, and day two will be spent at The Museum of Welsh Life St Fagans, Cardiff. Overnight will be spent in Bristol with an evening lecture.

Traditional rural trades and crafts

Bookings are flooding in for many of the courses in this season's programme, and some are already full, including *Coracle making*, *Make a bentwood chair*, *Irons in the fire*, *Traditional English long-bow making* and the *Celtic silver bracelet workshop*. The *Improver's watercolour workshop* in September booked up so quickly that an additional week will be held on 25-29 June. November's *Meat and more meat* course was a success, with men and women plucking, eviscerating, stuffing and cooking under the expert eye of Ruth Goodman of the Tudor Group. Two more courses will be run this autumn.

All course enquiries to Diana Rowsell,
Head of Learning, Weald & Down-
land Open Air Museum, Singleton,
Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU.
Tel 01243 811464/ 811931. email
courses@wealddown.co.uk. Website
www.wealddown.co.uk.

New textile courses this spring and summer include *Knitting for beginners* on 19 March led by talented knitter Alison Ellen who takes the craft in new directions.

Birds of prey experience

Sally Buckland has been bringing her beautiful birds of prey to the Museum for some time to present displays – an extra treat for daily visitors. Sally has now offered to lead an experience day, so that a small group of people can have the opportunity for a closer look at these interesting birds and the way they can be worked. The day will involve learning about husbandry and training, making items such as anklets and jesses, handling and flying the birds and learning about the history of hunting with birds. Places are limited so book soon to reserve a place.

Wildlife and the law

On 14 September the Museum will hold a day school entitled *Wildlife and the Law* for anyone who needs to understand the legislation relating to wild creatures and plants, including the Wildlife &



Timber-framing from scratch.

Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Local wildlife enthusiast and law enforcer Malcolm Scott is well known at the Museum and in Singleton village. His knowledge about the laws protecting our native flora and fauna is immense, and he is happy to share his expertise.

At home with the ancestors

Museum research associate, Dr Danae Tankard, has completed research on more than half of the Museum's re-erected historic houses, and she will be sharing her knowledge in a new day school *From Hangleton to Poplar: a history of the Museum's houses*, on 27 April.

The day will appeal to all those interested in social history or with a love of rural heritage. Participants will explore the history of each house, its inhabitants and their community, giving an insight into the daily lives of rural people in south east England over a 400-year period. The day will include visits to each of the houses, so suitable footwear and warm clothing is advised.

The April day school will cover the medieval cottage from Hangleton, the hall from Boarhunt, Bayleaf Farmhouse, Pendean Farmhouse, the house from Walderton and Poplar Cottage. A second course on 26 September will study buildings from Victorian times, finishing with Whittaker's Cottages.

Courses for museum professionals

The Museum has a wealth of professional expertise, and an immense number of contacts in the museum world. This has been brought together in a new series of courses aimed at the needs of museum professionals, and covering a range of topics including making collections accessible, moving collections, setting up a new museum, and furnishing, clothing and preserving the past. The Museum's own curator, Julian Bell, will lead some of the days and other tutors include historic house consultant Peter Brears, Victor Chinnery, Timothy Easton, Barbara Painter and Danae Tankard.

Courses Programme 2007 – Building Conservation and the use of traditional materials and processes

AN INTRODUCTION TO DATING TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

The roof timbers often provide the best evidence for the period of construction. We will use the Museum buildings to look at roofs dating from the 1400s to the 1900s. Learn to spot the differences between a crown post and a king post, see how radically different the medieval roof is to the Georgian roof, watch the purlins appear and disappear over the centuries and marvel at the skill of the carpenters in their precise work. A wonderful opportunity to observe and be guided around so many varieties of roof all within easy walking distance of each other.

Leader: Joe Thompson **Wednesday 7 March £95**

STRENGTH GRADING OF OAK

A certified course. An introduction to the methods used for stress grading hardwoods. Successful completion of this course will result in a Certificate of Proficiency to Visually Strength Grade Temperate Hardwoods (oak) to BS 5756:1997.

Leader: David Woodbridge **Wednesday-Friday 7-9 March £450**

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 12 March £100**

RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS FOR CONSERVATION

Six linked day schools. If all six days are booked together a reduced price of £540 applies.

OBSERVING AND SKETCHING

Improving the accuracy of rapid sketches, the geometry of construction, using string lines, drawing individual timbers, rubbing surface features. Recording brickwork.

Leader: Richard Harris **Tuesday 13 March £95**

RECORDING HISTORIC BUILDINGS USING COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN SOFTWARE: VECTORWORKS

Students will use Vectorworks to produce an accurate and highly editable and good-looking drawing, using a measured survey as a starting place.

Leader: Steve Brann **Wednesday 14 March £95**

IMPOSING A GRID

Setting up a plan grid, setting up levels, recording a timber frame, using a grid to record complex patterns by sketching, tracing and photography.

Leader: Richard Harris **Tuesday 20 March £95**

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Using Stitcher and Photoshop to stitch multiple photographs together to produce wide angle and/or panoramic photographs of exteriors and interiors.

Leader: Steve Brann **Wednesday 21 March £95**

STUDIO TECHNIQUES

Basic equipment and materials, technical conventions, line, shade, stipple, shadows. Three dimensional visualisation. Drawing for publication.

Leader: Richard Harris **Tuesday 27 March £95**

PREPARING CONSERVATION PLANS

Designed for those responsible for managing repair projects in historic buildings, providing an insight into the preparation of conservation plans. Techniques of building investigation and recording will be explored. Conservation professionals will be taken through the process from initial survey, specification, work carried out and presentation of the final report.

Leader: Eddie Booth **Wednesday 28 March £95**

ENERGY CONSERVATION IN TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

The day will include looking at the implications of improving energy efficiency for traditional buildings, a review of the relevant regulations and guidance, case studies and a practical session of carrying out an air pressure test.

Leaders: Richard Oxley and Phil Oxley, Oxley Conservation **Friday 23 March £95**

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 23 March £75**

Cob walling – history, theory and practice.

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 26-28 March £300**

THE SINGLETON SHINGLED SPIRE

Thousands of steep spires were added to medieval church bell towers replacing the simpler pitched roof. Over three weeklong courses we will frame and erect on the Museum site a 14-foot high spire based on a local example. The resulting polygonal frame will be used as the model for teaching the craft of shingling.

Week 1: framing up the principal (large) timbers that make up the basic skeleton of the spire. **Monday-Friday 26-30 March**

Week 2: framing up the secondary (smaller) timbers that flesh out the shape of the basic spire. **Monday-Friday 30 April-4 May**

Week 3: erecting the spire and cladding with boarding, in which we will teach and apply knowledge of the roofing square to mark out the compound angles of the ends of the boards.

Leader: Joe Thompson **Monday-Friday 4-8 June £450 per week**

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 16-17 April,

Monday-Tuesday 3-4 September £180

TIMBER FRAMING FROM SCRATCH

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

Leader: Joe Thompson

Monday-Friday 16-20 April,

17-21 September, 15-19 October £450



Lath-making.

LEADWORK COURSES

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 19 April £110**

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 20 April £110**

Advanced leadwork

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 20-22 June £300**

EARLY OAK FURNITURE: AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION

An off-site course taking a detailed look at important collections of early oak furniture, including guidance on distinguishing originals from good reproductions. Visits to a National Trust property and Red Lodge in Bristol on Day 1, Day 2 will be focused on the furniture at the Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagans. Overnight will be spent in Bristol and will include an evening lecture.

Leader: Victor Chinnery **Monday-Tuesday 23-24 April £250**

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.

Leader: David Bone **Wednesday 25 April £95**

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 1 May £95**

TRADITIONAL TIMBER-FRAME CONSTRUCTION

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

Leader: Richard Harris **Thursday 3 May £95**

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2007

OAK SHINGLES: HISTORY, MANUFACTURE AND USE

A day of talks, demonstrations and practical experience of the equipment used in cleaving and finishing oak shingles under the guidance of the most experienced steeplejack in the country.

Leaders: Peter Harknett & John Deal **Tuesday 8 May £95**

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 10 May £95**

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 14-16 May £300**

The Museum's MSc course

New students on the *MSc in Timber Building Conservation* already have two units under their belts, following the introduction of electronic submission of assignments. A record number of finishers from the previous group meant that 15 students earned their PGDip at the end of last year, and five who have already submitted their dissertations are expected to graduate in March.

The Museum is also working on a new *MSc in Building Conservation*, which will cover a broader range of historic building materials and their conservation issues. We are pleased to be working once again with Dr James Strike who has led building conservation courses at the Museum in the past, and who is to be course leader. It is hoped the MSc will be validated by Bournemouth University in time for a start in November.

INTERMEDIATE TIMBER FRAMING – ROOF FRAMING

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

Leader: Joe Thompson **Monday-Friday 14-18 May £450**

TIMBER FRAME DISMANTLING AND RE-ERECTION

On this course you will learn how to survey, number, dismantle, move and re-erect a timber frame building. We will be moving the Woodland exhibition cattle shelter, or 'lewin' from its current position in the woodland at the top of the site to the Museum's wood yard site above Pendean.

Leader: Joe Thompson **Monday-Friday 21-25 May £450**

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 6 June £95**

A DOOR IN A DAY

"The making of a simple four-panel inside door was considered a good day's work" (Walter Rose, *The Village Carpenter*, 1937). This course will cover all of the procedures involved in making a door by hand. Imperial measurements will be used for historical authenticity and almost all of the tools used will be of the 19th century.

Leader: Ged Gardiner **Monday 11 June £150**

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 **Wednesday 13 June £95**

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 18-20 June £300**

INTERMEDIATE TIMBER FRAMING – WALL FRAMING

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 constructed on a Timber framing from scratch course. The completed work is erected on the last afternoon.

Leader: Joe Thompson **Monday-Friday 18-22 June £450**

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2007



Roof framing.

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 21 June £95**

TRADITIONAL LIME PLASTERS AND 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 25-26 June £190**

THE ROOFING SQUARE

The use of the roofing square is a fundamental skill of carpentry. Learn how to mark and cut all the timber components for lean-to, gable and hipped roofs. This day will help demystify this essential carpentry skill.

Leader: Joe Thompson **Friday 29 June £95**

TRADITIONAL ROOFING METHODS

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

Day one: Thatch, lectures and practical thatch demonstrations.

Leaders: English Heritage specialist & Chris Tomkins

Day two: Tile, the history of hand-made clay peg tiles and their refinements. Leaders: Peter Minter & Michael Fildes

Day three: 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 four: Shingles, explore their use in historic buildings, and learn how to shingle on part of the newly constructed Singleton spire. Leaders: Peter Harknett & John Deal

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

Monday-Friday 2-6 July £95 per day (all five days £450)

SQUARE RULE TIMBER FRAMING

A hands-on course learning how the North Americans were fabricating timber frames in the 19th century. Their system had evolved from the 'melting pot' of European carpentry cultures combined with the straight timbers available from the virgin forests. However the roots of the new system can clearly be seen in the scribe rule practised in Sussex in the 18th century. Students will mark and cut the timbers for a small frame that will be erected on the Friday afternoon.

Leader: Joe Thompson **Monday-Friday 20-24 August £450**

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Explore the symbols made on buildings to protect the work of tradesmen, and how they made the occupants feel more secure against intruders, when witchcraft was at its height in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Leader: Timothy Easton **Thursday 6 September £95**

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 17-18 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 19 September £95**

TRADITIONAL CARPENTRY AND JOINERY

This day will bring Walter Rose's superb and inspiring book *The Village Carpenter* to life with practical demonstrations and talks, detailing the work of the carpenter and joiner in the 19th & early 20th centuries. The Museum's Whittaker's Cottages, dating from 1865, will be used as a case study.

Leader: Joe Thompson **Friday 5 October £95**

Courses Programme 2007 – 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, starting at 10am and finishing at 4pm.

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 11 March £75**

DRIVING HEAVY HORSES

Harness up and drive the Museum's draft horses in the field and on the track, chain harrowing and shaft and pole work. Beginners and improvers equally welcome. **Sunday 22 April, Sunday 20 May, Sunday 27 May, Sunday 10 June £75**

If you book and pay for four or more courses at one time you may deduct £15 from the total.

COUNTRYSIDE SKILLS

TRADITIONAL ROPEWORK

Come and try your hand at the art of traditional rope work. Students will make a round clout mat and a sailor's whisk brush during the day. 10am-4pm. **Saturday 10 March £40**

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 24-25 March £200**

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. **Saturday 31 March, Saturday 7 July, Saturday 29 September £50**

MAKE A BIRDBOX

Why not help the birds in your garden by giving them a new home. Using hand and power tools you will make one or more boxes suitable for a variety of garden birds including blue tits, blackbirds, thrushes, house sparrows, or whoever lives in your garden! **Friday 13 April £60**

CORACLE MAKING WEEKEND

Coracles are traditional riverboats. Round in shape, they are paddled with one oar. On this two-day course you will make a traditional ash slatted coracle to take home, and try out your boating skills on the Museum's millpond. 9.30am-4.30 pm. **Saturday-Sunday 14-15 April £200**

SKEP MAKING

Learn to make a useful addition to the beekeeper's equipment from straw, and find out how skeps are used in beekeeping. A rustic feature to a cottage garden, even if it is not inhabited by bees! 10.30 am-4 pm. **Friday 27 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. **Saturday 28 April £65**

IRONS IN THE FIRE

A practical half day 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. **Saturday 5 May 9am-1pm, Saturday 5 May 2pm-6pm £40**

DOWSING WORKSHOP

Exploring the background and practising the fascinating ancient craft of dowsing. 10 am-1.30 pm. **Friday 11 May £25**

Small farm animals.

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. **Saturday 12 May £40**

POLE LATHE TURNING

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. **Saturday 12 May, Saturday 30 June £55**

INTRODUCTION TO CHARCOAL BURNING

A practical day exploring charcoal burning using both traditional and current methods, from selection of wood to lighting the kiln, to marketing the product. 9.00am-5.00pm. **Saturday 12 May £50**

BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

An introduction to keeping bees. Investigate the components of a beehive, see how to make up beeswax frames and find out what equipment you will need. 10.30am-4pm **Friday 25 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 30 June, Saturday 25 August, £40**

BIRDS OF PREY EXPERIENCE

Whether you are considering taking up falconry/hawking or would simply like to enjoy a day out that offers something completely different, this course is for you. A unique opportunity to learn about the husbandry and training of birds of prey, make falconry furniture, for example anklets and jesses, handle and fly birds in the Museum's parkland and learn about the history of hunting with birds. **Friday 17 August £50**

MAKE A BAT BOX

Why not encourage these fabulous crepuscular creatures into your garden by providing a box for them to roost in, and brush up on your woodworking skills at the same time. 9.30am-4.30pm. **Friday 7 September £60**

GATE HURDLE WORKSHOP

Students on this workshop will make a gate hurdle traditionally used for penning sheep, using cleft ash and hand tools. 9.30am-4.30pm. **Saturday-Sunday 8-9 September £165**

WILDLIFE AND THE LAW

A day for anyone who needs to understand the legislation relating to wild creatures and plants, including the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the CROW Act 2000. 10.30am-3.30pm. **Friday 14 September £40**

THE BEEKEEPER'S PREPARATION FOR WINTER

Find out about when and how to take off honey stores in autumn, reducing the structure of the hive and feeding to prepare the bee colony for the coming winter. A useful follow-on from beekeeping for beginners. 10.30 am-4pm. **Friday 28 September £40**

WALKS

A WINTER WALK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Enjoy a guided walk through the local countryside. Experience the wonderful Downland scenery, whilst getting some exercise. Walking boots essential. Bring a flask. 10.30am-1pm **Saturday 3 March £5**

WILDFLOWER 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 wildflower walk: Thursday 19 April, Summer wildflower walk: Friday 29 June £10**

TREE WALK

Stroll through the woods at the Museum whilst your guide shows you different species of tree and gives advice on how to identify them. Starts at 2pm and finishes with tea and cake. **Thursday 17 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 26 May £15**

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. **DTBA, June £10**

BAT WALK

Join our guided bat walk, where bat detectors will be used to locate and identify the different types of bat that live around the Museum site. A wonderful opportunity to learn about these beautiful and fascinating creatures. 8pm start, ends with hot drinks. **Friday 7 September £10**

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 19 October £10**



Willow for the garden.

TEXTILES

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 **Friday 30 March, Monday 23 July £45**

ELIZABETHAN WALNUTS

These little drawstring bags hide a secret, they are made from covered walnut shells. Embellished with beads, sequins and stitches, these were a popular gift in the time of Elizabeth the First. Come and make like a queen for the day! 10am-5pm. **Monday 5 March £45**

KNITTING FOR BEGINNERS

For those starting out or wanting to rekindle their skills in hand knitting with an emphasis on learning a good, efficient technique, and with an adventurous approach! 10am-5pm. **Monday 19 March £45**

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 13 April, Friday 29 June £45**

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. **Monday 21 May £45**

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. **Saturday 2 June £45**

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 9 June £45**

FABULOUS FELT FLOWERS

A day making felt 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 23 June £45**

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. **Thursday 28 June £45**

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 20 July £45**

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. **Saturdays 21 & 28 April, 5 & 12 May £240**

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 centers mainly on casting with a charcoal heat source and stone moulds. 9.30am-5pm. **Saturday 28 April £75**

GREEN STONE AXE WORKSHOP

The early settlers in the Weald cleared the tree cover and changed the Wealden landscape, firstly with flint axes, but later with hard stone axes. The green stone axes from Cornwall were probably some of the best. This workshop will cover knapping, grinding and polishing. 10am-5pm. **Sunday 29 April £60**

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. **Wednesday-Friday 9-11 May, Monday-Wednesday 1-3 October £250**

BRONZE RAPIER WORKSHOP

As Bronze Age casting methods improved, blades increased in length. A classic rapier 17 inches long will be cast using a stone mould and authentic techniques. Could this be the root of the sword of Arthurian legend? 9.30am-5pm. **Saturday 26 May £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 27 May £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 15-17 June £260**

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 28 July £65**

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2007

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 29 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 4-5 August £100**

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 25 August £50**

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-5pm. **Sunday 26 August £45**

EWART PARK BRONZE SWORD WORKSHOP

A two-day workshop exploring the manufacturing of the classic leaf blade, each student will work on their own sword, cleaning, forging and fitting handles. **Saturday-Sunday 29-30 September £180**

DRAWING AND PAINTING WORKSHOPS

OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP

Oil painting in the fresh air – challenging but equally rewarding. This course will explore various painting techniques and give students of all abilities the freedom to work on a range of subjects from still life to landscapes and people. **Monday-Friday 11-15 June £220**

IMPROVERS WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

Five consecutive days of advanced watercolour tuition, working out of doors in the Museum environment. 9.30am-5pm. **Monday-Friday 25-29 June, Monday-Friday 10-14 September £220**

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 9-13 July £220**

DRAWING FOR WATERCOLOURISTS WORKSHOP

Spend five days drawing a wide variety of aspects of the Museum environment in a variety of media and techniques. 9.30am-5pm. **Monday-Friday 13-17August £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. **Monday-Friday 8-12 October £220**

HOMES

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 28 March £60**

FROM HANDLETON TO POPLAR: THE HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM'S HOUSES

Part 1: 13th to 17th centuries: The day will explore the history of six of the Museum's houses by placing them in their social and economic context and looking at the social status and household structure of their earliest inhabitants. An overview of the methods and sources for reconstructing the past will also be provided. 9.30am-4.30pm. **Friday 27 April £60**

HOME OWNERS' DAY

Expert guidance for owners of old houses and cottages, including surveying, planning and refurbishment issues, put on 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 23 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 20 June £50**

more courses ➡

Courses Programme 2007 – Rural Trades and Crafts

HERBS FOR THE KITCHEN

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. **Friday 6 July £50**

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. **Saturday 7 July £50**

VICTORIAN HERB FAVOURITES TO ENJOY

Lavender, violets, chamomile tea and much more! A day of exploring the Victorian era and making delights to take home. 9.30am-4.30pm. **Friday 7 September £50**

CHRISTMAS HERBAL GIFTS & DECORATIONS

Make up to five different festive herbal compositions such as wreaths, fragrant baskets and candle decorations. 9.30am-4pm. **Saturday 8 December, Tuesday 18 December £35 plus some materials on the day**

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 3 March, Sunday 4 March £75**

GREENING YOUR GARDEN

An introduction to environmentally sensitive gardening techniques to help make your garden more productive, wildlife-friendly and enjoyable. **Saturday 21 April £75**

WILLOW FOR THE GARDEN

Make interesting contemporary plant supports to enhance your garden using English willow and traditional methods. 9.30am-5pm. **Saturday 12 May, Saturday 15 September £60**

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 Herbs for health and Culinary herbs) 9.30am-4.30pm. **Tuesday 22 May £50**



Watercolour workshop.

THE TUDOR KITCHEN

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

THE 16TH CENTURY DAIRY

Milk, butter and cheese played essential roles in the Tudor diet and daily life. During this practical day participants will use a hand churn to make butter, which will be salted and potted for winter and learn the processes of making soft cheeses. An overview of all aspects of 16th century dairy production and use, plus a look at early 17th century dairying. 10am-4pm. **Wednesday 23 May £60**

TUDOR SALADS AND VEGETABLES

There may not have been vegetarians in Tudor England but there were plenty of vegetables, salad leaves and edible flowers. Explore a whole host of period recipes centered on herbs and vegetables of all kinds, from Peas Pottage to Grand Salat. The tradition of fasting days provides us with a strong and varied range of meat-free dishes to draw upon, and include an impressive number of different edible plants, some familiar and some less so. **Saturday 23 June £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 12 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 13 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 3 October £60**

"We came along to check out the new gallery and got much, much more than we bargained for! Will definitely be returning with friends and family to show off all this culture available on our door step!"

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One of the most important elements of the Museum's work is its extensive training programme, and research in building conservation skills and techniques. Several of our tutors and suppliers have been connected with the Museum for many years and have made a vital contribution to the continuation of their own craft skill. The Museum Magazine will be bringing specialist articles from some of these people over the next issues.

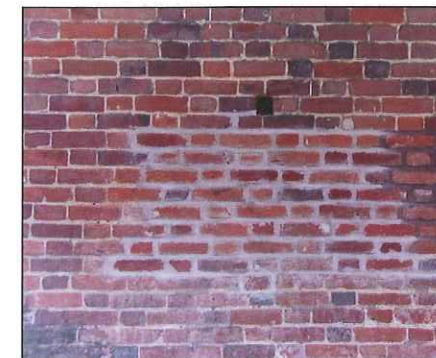
Matching old lime mortar in historic buildings

By Bob Bennett

The Weald & Downland Museum was opened in 1970 and it was at about this time that I became aware that if we were to save historic buildings and look after them appropriately, I would need to have a better understanding of lime mortar, the use of which dates back more than 12,000 years. Portland cement on the other hand, was patented by Aspdin in 1824 and is less than 200-years-old. Unfortunately, modern cement has been used in the repair of historic buildings and, in many cases, has caused irreversible damage.

Having spent the last 30 years caring for and repairing historic buildings, I am particularly conscious of the need to match the original masonry elements as well as the mortar, plaster and render used in the construction. Apart from being visually obtrusive, an inappropriate mortar repair has the potential to cause a great deal of further damage to the structure.

A simple guide line is to try to match the original mortar in colour, texture and strength. At the Lime Centre we take about 100 grammes of the original



Bad pointing.

mortar, usually from several locations, in order to obtain an average reading, and make an initial examination under a low-powered microscope. This may identify a large range of items including the presence of both silica and natural stone aggregates, cinder and ash from the firing, and fibre including straw, reed and animal hair used to reinforce the mortar.

Having recorded the observations the sample is then divided, with a proportion retained as a 'control' and the remainder usually subjected to disaggregation. This method of analysis involves recording the weight of a dry sample,

(two decimal places of a gramme), before immersing in a dilute solution of hydrochloric acid. Once the binder, usually lime, has been dissolved and washed away, the remaining aggregate is dried and weighed. The resulting weights are used to calculate the binder to aggregate ratio, bearing in mind the differing relative bulk densities.

The report on the findings of the analysis identifies an aggregate that matches the original in colour and texture, (texture being the size and range of the aggregate particles), and the binder ratio.

Quite simply, the colour of the aggregate determines the colour of the mortar, the texture of the aggregate determines the appearance and the binder ratio determines the strength of the mortar.

Matching an original mortar is not difficult and there no reason why an effort should not be made to get it right, rather than make the mess we see in the picture here.

Bob Bennett MBE is proprietor of The Lime Centre, near Winchester, Hampshire and supplies the Museum with lime products.

Demonstrating early keyboards

The annual **Early Music Afternoon** is a special treat at the Museum for music lovers. Last year's was one of the most successful ever, with performers based in many of the historic buildings and in the market square. Among musicians taking part were early keyboard restorer Andy Durand and his son Robert, who brought along two instruments which they had restored to full playing order. The wonderful tone was demonstrated by internationally renowned concert pianist Bela Hartmann of Haslemere. Andy Durand began his career with Arnold Dolmetsch in Haslemere and became self-employed when the company closed in 1981. His son joined him at his Prestwick Farm, Chiddingfold, workshop in 2001. Over the years

they have restored many harpsichords, spinets, square pianos and clavichords, as well as accepting commissions to make new instruments based on early designs. Some of the instruments date as far back as 1727. Andy (seen here restoring a Kirkman harpsichord c. 1775) and Robert explain to visitors how they carefully dismantle, photograph and record each instrument, retaining all original parts where possible. Careful cleaning of the casework, the use of traditional glues, the sourcing of specific leathers and felts as well as hand-crafted brass and iron work have become trade marks of their quest to



'work alongside' the original maker. There are only a handful of early keyboard specialists in the country still able to do this work. Further information: 01428 656246. This year's **Early Music Afternoon** is on 1 July from 2-6.00pm.

The Friends is a support organisation for the Museum, which runs fund-raising events and social activities for its members. It is one of the largest museum Friends groups in the country, with some 4,700 memberships representing about 11,000 individual members. Since its inception it has raised a total of £1.2 million for the Museum, making a major contribution to the Museum's work.

Friends' day trips 2007

Kew Gardens and Kew Palace, London 15 May

On arrival at Kew Gardens, we will start the day with coffee and then proceed to Kew Palace. The intimate palace, once a rich merchant's house, was home to George III, Queen Charlotte and some of their daughters from 1801-1818 during the King's supposed 'madness'. Now, after a 10-year conservation project and with new interpretation, the palace is open to the public once more. The rest of our day will be spent in the famous Kew Gardens where you may wander at your leisure or, for the fee of £3.50, can hop on the Kew Explorer and be driven round, disembarking wherever you wish. Lunch may be purchased at any of the several catering outlets or you may bring a picnic.

Departure 8.45am, return 6.15pm
Tickets £22

River and Rowing Museum, Henley-on-Thames 20 June

The River and Rowing Museum in Henley-on-Thames, designed by David Chipperfield Architects, set out to be astonishing: built on water meadows beside the Thames, it has won several awards. The Museum has three main galleries devoted to the River Thames, the international sport of rowing and the town of Henley. We will spend the morning in the Museum. Lunch can be purchased there or you

may bring a picnic. In the afternoon, we will be taken on a guided riverboat trip. After this there will be time to visit the museum for any exhibits you may have missed, and a cup of tea before returning home.

Departure 9.00am, return 6.30pm.
Tickets £18

Thames Barrier Park and Crossness Pumping Station, London 3 July

In the morning we travel to a new park built by the Thames Barrier. Set within 22 acres of lawns, trees and uniquely coloured Yew and Maygreen hedges, the park provides a delightful urban oasis. There is a fountain plaza where 32 jets spring from the ground, giving visitors a chance to cool down. The Green Dock has been planted with a selection of colourful plants chosen by renowned horticulturists, Alain Cousseran and Alain Provost. We will have lunch in the Pavilion, sandwiches and cakes, tea and coffee (included in the ticket). After lunch we drive on to the Crossness Pumping Station, built by Sir Joseph Bazalgette as part of Victorian London's urgently needed main sewerage system. The Beam Engine House is a Grade 1 Listed industrial building, constructed in Romanesque style, and contains some of the most spectacular Victorian cast ironwork to be found today. If you have Internet access, do look at the website, www.crossness.org.uk.

Departure 9.15am, return 6.30pm.
Tickets £22.50

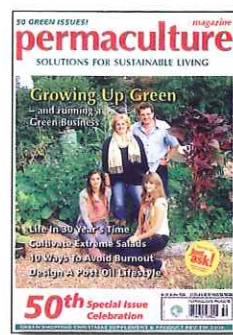
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Ightham Mote, Kent 24 September

This superb 14th-century moated manor house lies in a sunken valley in Kent and dates from 1320. The house has recently undergone an extensive programme of restoration by the National Trust. On arrival we will have an introductory talk and then be free to wander at our leisure through the most extensive visitor route available since the house was acquired by the Trust. There is an exhibition about the restoration and repair begun in 1989 and completed in 2004. Outside visitors can see the extensive garden and there are interesting walks in the surrounding woodland. You may bring a packed lunch or eat at the restaurant.

Departure 8.45am, return 6.00pm
Tickets: NT members £10, Non-members £17.50

Faith, Hope and Charity, London 23 October

We meet our guide at the beautiful café in the new International Headquarters of the Salvation Army in the City of London, for coffee. Afterwards we take a short and easy walk through the lanes and yards between the river and St Paul's. From the great monastic houses, such as Blackfriars came the terms 'pittance' and 'dole'. The guild and livery companies emerged as burial and benefit societies and founded almshouses for aged craftsmen. The City, the East End and the West End contribute to the story, so we next board the coach to hear about philanthropists such as George Peabody, Dr Barnardo and General Booth. Lunch will be taken in the Bloomsbury area, where there is a good choice of pubs and cafés.

Following lunch, we visit the new Foundling Museum and learn how the foundling hospital was set up in 1739. The hospital cared for more than 27,000 children until its closure in 1953. Celebrity fundraisers for the hospital included William Hogarth and Frederic Handel. After a cup of tea, which can be purchased on site, we head for home.

Departure 8.00am, return 7.00pm
Tickets £22.50

Fundraising events

4th Annual Barn Dance 9 June

Time to once again dust off your dancing shoes and join us at 6.30pm in the Downland Gridshell for an evening of fun, with the excellent band, the Reel Thing. Please bring the family, friends and your picnic supper! We had a wonderful time last year, so don't miss out!

Tickets: Family £25, Adults £10 and Children £5.

Proms By the Lake 30 June

What could be better on a glorious Summer's evening than sitting by the Museum's lake and listening to the wonderful music of the Bognor Regis Concert Band? During the second half of the evening, there will be the opportunity to join in with the band's excellent singer for the familiar 'Last Night of the Proms' classics such as *Land of Hope and Glory* and *Rule Britannia*. So, polish up your candlebra, dig out your picnic hamper, bring your tables and chairs and join us with your family and friends for a very British event. Gates open 6pm. Band starts at 7pm.

Tickets purchased before Saturday 23 June –
Family £25, Adult £10 and Child £5.
Tickets purchased on or after 23 June –
Family £30, Adult £12, Child £6.

Annual General Meeting

14 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. Bob Holman, who has done such a wonderful job creating and developing

the Museum's historic gardens over many years, will then give an illustrated talk on the Museum gardens throughout the year – not to be missed! Members of the Friends will find, included with the magazine, the AGM agenda, on the back of the letter from Friends' Chairman, Frances Messenger, and the Annual Report and Accounts. If further copies are required please contact the Hon Secretary, Friends of the Weald & Downland Museum, at the Museum address. Note that the accounts are in a summarised form to save on printing and distribution costs. If you require the full version, please contact the Hon Secretary.

STOP PRESS!

Two double rooms are available for the Friends' Spring Tour to Durham, 26 April-1 May. Please contact Brian Weekes on 01730 813684 for further information.



One of last year's Friends trips was to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey, after which participants visited Marble Hill House, a fine villa built by Henrietta Howard, mistress to George II.

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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John Ashurst 18-21 June 2007

THE STRUCTURAL REPAIR OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Ian Hume 17-20 September 2007

CONSERVATION AND REPAIR OF STONE MASONRY

John Ashurst 1-4 October 2007



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WWW.WESTDEAN.ORG.UK

New storage for archives

The Museum's archives are to be housed in a new environmentally-safe structure within the Mitford Foulerton Studio in the Downland Gridshell.

The Museum holds substantial paper and photographic archives. While it is not our policy to keep valuable archives that should be lodged with an appropriate Records Office, there are many documents and photographs that are quite properly in our custody. Our Founder, Roy Armstrong, left a fully catalogued collection of about 75,000 transparencies, and we have received several other donations of material from people associated with the Museum, whose interests focused on our core collections, vernacular buildings of the Weald & Downland region – most recently, the research notes of another founding trustee, Marjorie Hallam. In addition, volunteers are working on a project to ensure that the Museum's own documents, files and publications are properly archived and catalogued.

In 2002 all these archives were moved out of the library on the ground floor of Crawley Hall and into the Mitford Foulerton Studio in the newly opened Downland Gridshell. This gave the library space to expand, while bringing the archives into a space where they could be accessed more easily. Computer databases were created and improved and now we estimate that over 90% of our archives are properly stored and catalogued.

However, the Mitford Foulerton Studio, while ideal for the collections team to look after our artefact collections, is not ideal for archives: the temperature is too high and conservation activities frequently generate dust. We therefore decided to build an internal enclosure in which the archives will be stored in more appropriate conditions. Volunteer Alan Wood has prepared the designs and Curator Julian Bell and his team will undertake the construction. Our policy is to achieve the standards of the Standing Conference on Archives in Museums' *Code of practice on archives for museums and galleries in the United Kingdom*, and this new enclosure will help us to achieve that.

Richard Harris
Museum Director

Sustainable living – find out more at the Museum

Discover more about low impact 'green' products and techniques for building and sustainable living in the 21st century. The Museum's **Sustainability Event** includes seminars, demonstrations and a wide variety of exhibits to interest domestic users and professionals on Sunday, **20 May** and a day specifically aimed at children and school groups on Monday, 21 May.

Brian Weekes – Renaissance Man

Brian Weekes, a long-standing and stalwart Museum volunteer, has been featured in *Renaissance News*, a quarterly publication describing the achievements of the Government's *Renaissance* programme for museums.

'Renaissance Man' is a two-page article featuring someone connected to the programme (Brian's predecessor as 'Renaissance Man' was Culture Minister, David Lammy MP, so he is in illustrious company!)

Renaissance in the Regions is the programme delivered by MLA (Museums, Libraries and Archives Council) to further the Government's priorities for museums. It began in October 2002 when the Department for Culture, Media and Sport allocated £70 million over four years. Museum 'hubs', incorporating four or five major museum services in each English region, were created. Between 2004/5 and 2005/6 the hubs attracted nearly two million new users, with over 900,000 of them coming from social classes C2, D and E and black and minority ethnic groups. Contacts with children aged 5-16 were up 50% in the three years to March 2006.

The Museum receives support from the Designation Challenge Fund, which is part of the *Renaissance* programme, but is not a member of the South East Hub, so we were delighted that Brian was featured in its newsletter. Here is the text –

What attracted you to the Weald & Downland Museum? My interest in the countryside, and love of history. I had to pack up working as a farm manager after an accident. I lost my livelihood but you can't just give up your life, you have to do something. Someone suggested the Museum. Many people who retire early come here to volunteer and it changes their lives.

What do children learn from you at the Museum? I do guided tours, light the fires, serve in the shop and run things like beeswax candle-making. The children learn about the past and about farming, finding out where their food comes from. Today I've been talking to six-year-olds about medieval farming and I introduced supermarkets and healthy eating.

Where in a museum or gallery have you found yourself most moved? Working with and watching children with learning difficulties and the belief they have in themselves and each other.

Dating the Museum's buildings by tree-ring analysis

Museum Carpenter Roger Champion has been obtaining dendrochronology cores from the Museum's historic buildings to enable accurate dating by tree-ring analysis. The aim is to obtain samples from every timber building in the Museum over the next few months, and a full report of the results will be published in the Autumn magazine. We do, though, already have preliminary reports from two of our buildings.

Crawley Hall

Fifteen samples were analysed and cross matched. The resulting sequence has 124 rings and matches several regional master chronologies extremely well. A few of the samples have sapwood rings, and the felling date is certain to be in the period 1494-1526. Further analysis will pinpoint the dates more accurately and we expect an eventual terminal date of about 1515 or even earlier.

What skills have you developed? We do have training but mostly it's come naturally from interacting with the public, the collections and my own experience. When I'm talking about farming I weave in my own lifestyle, what it's like living in draughty old 15th and 16th century cottages and how a sickle, a winnowing basket and a flail are still components of a combine. You explain that the ideas we are using now are ideas that have been passed down. Our lives have been made, and in many ways made easier, by the past.

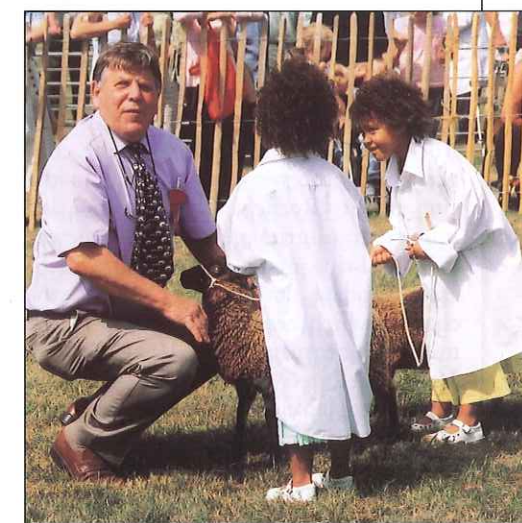
Who would you like to take round the Museum and why? The designer Wayne Hemingway, because I share his vision of the future and views on the past. When housing is built in Britain I want to see green spaces where kids can play. I'd show him Whittaker's Cottages and tell him this was probably how his grandma lived in Blackburn, Lancashire, with a large green outside.

If you could take home one museum object for a week, what would it be? The Gridshell building. It's the conservation workshop, where they repair things like shepherd's huts and gypsy caravans. Even when it's busy you always get a feeling of tranquillity in there; it's like a cathedral.

Hall house from Boarhunt

This is much more difficult than Crawley Hall, as few original timbers have survived. Eight timbers were sampled. Four have been analysed, and these have been shown to be matched pairs. In each case two timbers had been taken from a single tree: they are the two internal tie beams, and the two corner posts at the east end of the building. The tie beams yielded a sequence with only 66 rings and could not be successfully dated. However, the corner posts have 102 rings, and end at the sapwood boundary, so a full sapwood allowance has to be added. The result is that the felling date would have been in the period 1355-1390.

This accords well with the evidence of the building, and in particular the special form of saw marks known as 'see-sawing' which in our region seems to have been common in the 14th century. We have known for some time that Boarhunt is our earliest rescued building, but we will now have to start referring to it as being 'late 14th century' rather than 'about 1400' as hitherto.



Brian Weekes helping the young handlers at a recent Rare Breeds Show.

What do people in local government need to know or do about museums? Local government should realise that museums are an important part of the local economy, and should be supported at a local level as well as nationally.

Renaissance News can be seen on the MLA website at <http://www.mla.gov.uk>. Click on Programmes and follow the links to *Renaissance*.

News in brief

■ The Museum is taking part in a new initiative, the *Sharing Skills Staff Placement Scheme*. Renaissance South East, part of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Partnership, launched the scheme last year to give staff and volunteers working in the sector the opportunity to gain an insight into different roles and working practices, and to develop their skills. Placements were made available at various organisations across the region, from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to Dinosaur Isle on the Isle of Wight and the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire. Several of the Museum's staff have already taken part in the scheme, and we have welcomed staff members from other museums, who have spent time with the Schools Services Department and the Curatorial team. Rachel Neville, Schools and Interpretation Officer, is part way through her placement with The Mary Rose Trust; Jennie Peel has spent time with Hampshire County Council – Museum and Archives Service and Hannah Miller will be going to the Pitt Rivers Museum to find out more about visitor research and signage.

■ The St Roche's Day open air service on The Trundle Hill, close to the Museum, is in its 13th year in 2007. This year, Father Peter Newsam, from the Sacred Heart Church, Petworth, will give the address. The annual ecumenical service takes place on 16 August, St Roche's Day, at 6.30pm, with the congregation processing up the hill to the site of St Roche's Chapel, once an important pilgrimage stop on the way to the shrine of St Richard at Chichester. Today nothing is left of the chapel, which ceased being used in the mid 18th century, but in 1994 the then Museum Director Chris Zeuner and Revd Paul Jenkins, the then incumbent of the parish of Singleton, began a pilgrimage and open air service on the site as a new spiritual activity for the local community. St Roche is patron saint of healing, and the specially made St Roche Cross, kept in Singleton Church, is carried up the hill for the service each year. The service, attended by some 150 people, features a choir and band, and the laying-on of hands. Previous addresses have been given by the Bishops of Chichester, and Arundel and Brighton, and successive Deans of Chichester. All are welcome for this very unusual local service. Further information: organiser Diana Zeuner on 01730 812419 or the Museum office on 01243 811363.

Frustrating time for Museum gardeners!

Spring and Summer 2006 were among the most challenging seasons we have experienced in the Museum's period gardens.

The year started well enough with early seeds such as parsnips, peas and beans in the ground in early to mid-March, and on 20 March we planted potatoes in Toll and Whittakers' Cottages, around the normal time of year for us. But in early April pheasants and field mice took virtually all our broad and tic beans from Bayleaf garden despite our best efforts to protect them. Parsnips didn't germinate, so both had to be re-sown. The beans were fine second time around, but the parsnips proved a flop.

Gates left open to the Toll Cottage garden resulted in early carrots and



Spring cleaning in the Museum's period gardens.

French beans being decimated by rabbits, and this was a regular occurrence all season. We despaired.

Kale and collards germinated well: we allow edible weeds to grow with them as a cover crop for protection from pigeons and this is very successful. Kale was transplanted at the end of May – and replanted on 14 June –

Betty Rush

Together with her late husband, Bernard, Betty was a dedicated volunteer at the Museum for over 20 years. They worked hard at a variety of tasks, particularly visitor reception and the sale of horse-shoes, but were known especially for manning the overflow ticket office on special event days which they did with determined resolve.



Warden pear blossom.

the first plants having been eaten by pheasants and pigeons.

Then it began to get hot. Our team of volunteer gardeners were terrific, working in temperatures of over 33 degrees, and Pearl O'Leary put in extra visits to water the kale and leeks.

We dug the first potatoes on 19 June, a variety called fourmost, grown in the Toll Cottage garden, and the yield was good. Leeks were transplanted in Bayleaf and Pendean gardens on the same day and were watered as often as we could. Landcress, lambs lettuce and endive all went to seed early, but the old varieties of radish stood up to the heat very well, as did the leaf beet and old varieties of lettuce.



Onion strings in the lamb pens.

In my diary for 26 June I wrote: "Pigeons playing hell with peas and kale – oh, for some crow starvers!" Crow starvers were children who would keep birds from eating the crops. We have lots of school children attending the Museum – perhaps there's an idea there . . . !

Bob Holman
Museum Gardener

Bernard, who was treasurer of the Friends of the Museum for six years, was still a volunteer at the age of 91, passing away seven years ago. Betty died in January at her Chichester home at the age of 92.

A retiring collection at Betty's funeral was in aid of the Weald & Downland Museum.

Keeping evil at bay

One of the most evocative moments in the dismantling or restoration of a historic building is the discovery of shoes or other items deliberately concealed in fireplaces or voids in the structure.

The Museum has discovered a number of these items – often shoes – in the dismantling of buildings later re-erected on site. Our collection of concealed items was recently visited by Dinah Eastop and Charlotte Dew of the AHRB (Arts and Humanities Research Board Research Centre for Textile Conservation and Textile Studies, University of Southampton at Winchester.

They are currently leading a project to locate, document and research garments and associated objects found concealed in buildings. The aim is to increase the number of finds reported by raising awareness of the practice. Finds can represent significant items of historic dress, such as the 16th century doublet found in Reigate, Surrey. The garments and practice of concealment is important to those interested in dress and textile history, folklore, building history and archaeology.

The practice of concealing garments and other objects seems to have been widespread across Europe, North America and Australia. It still continues today, though this is not widely realised. Many reasons are given for concealments: one motive seems to have been for protection against perceived malevolent forces such as witchcraft, especially during the 17th century.

Concealed garments are often found in caches, and may include, in addition to shoes and other garments, bottles, metal tools, fabric and leather scraps, toys, printed paper, coins, seeds and other organic matter, animal bones and pipes. Caches are commonly located at entry or exit points to a building, such as fireplaces, or in voids, such as a sealed cupboard.

A website has been developed to provide information about the project. It includes an online database of garments and associated finds, a guided tour of garment caches across the UK, interviews from the oral history programme and case studies.

The project has been funded by the LJ Skaggs and Mary C Skaggs Foundation and the Arts and Humanities Board of Southampton University.

Dinah Eastop and Charlotte Dew are keen to hear about concealed objects



The Museum's shoe hoard from 'The Barracks', Nutley, East Sussex



Top, four of 80 concealed objects from The Barracks, Nutley (above), photographed in 1890, where the Museum's huge hoard of shoes dating from 1880-1910 was found.

The Museum has in its collections one cache which is unusual due to its enormous size: 11 pairs and 44 individual shoes and boots were saved for the Museum from a larger collection of around 80 items in total.

They were found in The Barracks, Nutley. Virtually all date from the period 1880-1910, with the majority being completely worn out, and some worn through to the bare foot; others have been repaired with thread or twine. Most are adult work boots or shoes designed for heavy labour. Some are probably ex-military, and the collection includes several children's shoes.

that have been found. If you know of an object or a cache please let them know using the 'Report a Find' form on the website, www.concealedgarments.org. Alternatively contact them by email at mail@concealedgarments.org, or at AHRB Research Centre for Textile Conservation and Textile Studies,

The footwear was presumably cached by the occupants of the building. The shoes must have belonged to relatively poor, probably agricultural labourers, but there is some doubt as to whether the occupants owned them all: their date range is too narrow and their number too great to have been owned by a single poor family. So it seems possible that the shoes were deliberately collected for concealment.

The cache was discovered in a void next to the chimney on the ground floor, the only access being from the attic area where the footwear must have been dropped in.


Winchester School of Art, Winchester Campus, Park Avenue, Winchester SO23 8DL (Tel 023 8059 7100). For further information about The Textile Conservation Centre and AHRB Research Centre for Textile Conservation and Textile Studies visit www.textileconservationcentre.soton.ac.uk.

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For further information please contact **Peter Collings** on 01483 203221 or see our display stand at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

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Petworth House & Park

An interesting and varied event programme has been organised for you to enjoy this spring.

12 March	Lecture - Fred Streeter the 'Radio Gardener'
13 March	Lecture - Petworth Park - New Discoveries
14 March	Lecture - '12 Ways To A Better Garden'
18 March	Mothering Sunday Lunches
20 March	Lecture - Wedding Celebrations
7-9 April	Alice in Wonderland Easter Trail
15 April	A Medieval Murder Mystery
19 & 20 May	Spring Fair
29 & 30 May	Hobbyhorse Cross Country Trail
16 June	'A Midsummer Nights Dream' Open Air Theatre

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth
Further information: 01798 342207 or 01798 343929

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Walking West Sussex Festival comes to Singleton

The Museum will host the fifth Walking West Sussex Festival, run by West Sussex County Council, on 10-14 October. Set in unspoilt countryside in the glorious South Downs, the Museum, with its traditional rural buildings, is surrounded by some of the best walking in the British Isles, say organisers, Festival Walks.

For the second year the festival hopes to be joined by 'Poems and Puddings' which explores the arts and cultural lives of people in rural West Sussex through heritage, landscape, literature and food. The Museum itself provides



opportunities to explore the surrounding countryside and find out how our rural ancestors lived, with the historic houses and period gardens adding to the enjoyment of the festival.

The festival will include a selection of over 20 guided walks to choose from, covering distances of between two and 12 miles, with varying terrain from flat and easy to steep hills and longer climbs. "Our guides will bring the experience to life with their local specialist knowledge and enthusiasm," says organiser Vivien Lyth. "Whether it's a full day's walk or something more akin to an entertaining stroll followed by a picnic or lunch at the Museum's lake-side café, there will be something for all ages and abilities."

Further information: 01903 812727.

Lanterns and a dragon fire up the Autumn



The week leading up to the Fire Event last year was the October half term so we took advantage of all the child labour on the site to make paper lanterns for the Fire Event parade, watched over by a spectacular paper dragon!

Local artist Rosie Morgan led workshops all week and had a tremendous response - around 100 lanterns were made every day. Not all returned for the Fire Event, but those that did were their owner's passport to the event, as every lantern entitled an adult and child to free entry for the day.

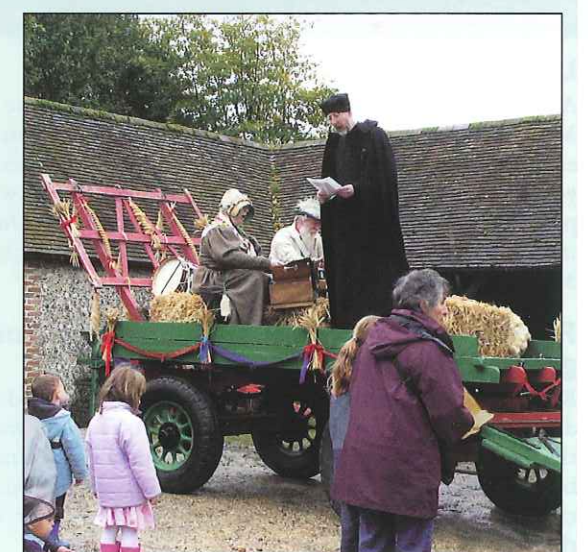
In the week before, Rosie and her team of volunteer helpers had created a wonderful dragon made entirely of

tissue paper glued over a framework of sticks. As well as inspiring the lantern makers, the dragon led the parade across the site as dusk fell at the Fire Event, and then was ceremoniously burnt on the huge bonfire, which was lit by flaming arrows fired by a team of archers.

The more serious side of the event was a great success too, with a 'forge-in' contributed by the British Artist Blacksmiths' Association, a display of vintage and modern fire engines (including the horse-drawn steam engine owned by John and Rowena McDermott), and lime and charcoal burning in the Woodland Craft Centre. With a big crowd of visitors, and glorious weather, it was a day to remember!

Celebrating the harvest

The Harvest Procession took place in October, during the Autumn Action half term week. Visitors were invited to join the procession around the Museum site, following a horse and waggon. Gifts were collected from many of our historic houses and the procession was led by Revd Richard Woods, Rector of the parish of Singleton. The procession was accompanied by music and each visitor enjoyed some bread and cheese at the end as part of the celebration.



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 £178,135 in 2006. 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.

It's July, so it must be the Rare Breeds Show!



Still our biggest event of the year, the ever-popular Rare Breeds Show (22 July) is a wonderful opportunity to get up close to a huge variety of farm animals. More than 500 cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry take part in this agricultural show for rare and traditional breeds of farm animals. In the photograph, Museum Chairman David Tomlinson presents the winning cattle trophy.

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.



WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Singleton, Chichester, W Sussex PO18 0EU
Telephone 01243 811348 www.wealddown.co.uk

Directions

By car: Just off A286
Chichester to Midhurst
road at Singleton village.

By bus: No 60 from
Chichester or Midhurst.
Discounted combined
travel/entry tickets on
Stagecoach Coastline
buses, just ask the driver.

By rail: Chichester 7
miles, Haslemere 15 miles.



The Museum is
open throughout the year

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term **19-23 Feb** 10.30am-4pm. From **1 Mar** daily 10.30am-4pm.
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Weald & Downland Open Air Museum
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