

**WEALD & DOWNLAND  
OPEN AIR MUSEUM**

Autumn 2009

**Ruby Anniversary  
2010 Calendar**

**Beeding Tollhouse –  
icon of 19th century  
turnpikes**

**Steam-powered  
sawing in the  
Museum's woodlands**

**Pendean yields  
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**Events and Courses 2009–2010**

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## From the Chairman

**Next year will be the Museum's 40th anniversary**

**W**e first opened our doors to the public in September 1970, four decades ago. It was a remarkable achievement by our founders that the Museum became a reality in the first place. It has been an eventful journey, full of extraordinary individual and team contributions through to the present day, in which the Museum has consolidated a reputation for high standards of museology and service to the public, both nationally and internationally. And we are still going strong, with exciting opportunities opening up for the future.

There is a great story to tell from those 40 years as well as a birthday to celebrate. It's an opportunity to thank all our stakeholders, our paying customers, our staff, volunteers and Friends and many others who have supported our development to date, some, remarkably, throughout those 40 years.

Moreover the Trustees believe that we should use this milestone to capture the stories, the ethos and distinctiveness of the Museum's life to date, to reflect on the past and to use this as a launch-pad for our journey into the next 40 years.

So what are we planning for 2010?

Well how about a book, a DVD, a weekend party full of public events, a fund-raising dinner and a conference (or two) for starters? We are hoping that the climax for the year might be a visit from a member of the Royal family. But firstly a commemorative 2010 Calendar is about to go on sale as I write this (see opposite page).

We have set up a number of working groups to tackle these various projects



*Paul Rigg.*

and already a range of exciting ideas are formulating around the details of each. The work is supported by Sue O'Keefe and Karen Barrett, so if you'd like to know more or feel you'd like to contribute ideas or to work on the planning, please do get in touch with either of them.

Looking to the future, and building on the Museum's great strengths and specialisms, the time is right to make a wider contribution to the community at large. Examples of that might be providing a gateway to the new South Downs National Park, broadening our work experience offer to young people, and providing something special for new citizens. These are all areas now under discussion.

So 2010 looks like being (another) enjoyable and memorable year in the journey of this great Museum.

**Paul Rigg**  
Chairman of Trustees, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

## South Downs National Park announced at the Museum

*The Museum hosted the Government announcement of the decision to go ahead with a South Downs National Park earlier this year. Environment secretary Hilary Benn visited the Museum at the end of March for the statement. The Museum is situated within the national park area and hopes to be seen as a 'gateway' to the newly-protected region. The national park is expected to be formally established in April 2010 and fully operational the following year. In the photograph Museum Director Richard Harris is on the left, with Hilary Benn MP, centre, and Charles Anson, chairman of the South Downs Joint Committee.*



# Access Project – first funding secured

**T**he Museum has received the first funding for one of the elements of the proposed Access Project – £175,000 for the Interpretation Pavilions from the DCMS/Wolfson Galleries Improvement Fund.

The pavilions will enhance the interpretation of our buildings and rural life collections, with a series of small structures across the site focusing on a specific theme, for instance, the development of vernacular houses. An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a further contribution to this project is now being prepared.

The proposals for new visitor facilities are moving into the final phase of development. Following the Landscape Conservation Management Plan by Nicholas Pearson Associates and the Feasibility Study by Edward Cullinan Architects we feel confident that our basic approach to the project is the right one: new parking will be established along our northern boundary, visitors will enter the site from Gonville Drive, site orientation will be provided alongside ticketing, and further interpretation will be in the pavilions. The brief for space requirements and relationships was defined in the Feasibility Study.

## The aims of the Access Project are defined as follows:

- To create an appropriate new entrance to the Museum for all visitors
- To provide a sound basis for intellectual access to the Museum
- To enhance the visitor experience and circulation
- To establish a sound operational base for the next 40 years

However, in the spring we decided to explore some further possibilities for the organisation and siting of visitor facilities, and this has produced some exciting new ideas. A decision now has to be made, and during the autumn we will carry out an appraisal of all the options, from doing (almost) nothing at one end of the scale to carrying out a major all-in-one new development at the other, with numerous permutations in between.

I am constantly reminded of the courage and vision of my predecessors who 40 years ago took 40 acres of pasture and woodland and established it as a most beautiful open air museum. This is the most significant set of physical improvements to be proposed since then and we have an immense responsibility to ensure that they are worthy of our inheritance.

**Richard Harris**  
Museum Director

## How you can support the Museum

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. Among ways in which you can help are: joining the Friends; becoming a volunteer; leaving a gift in your Will; providing an introduction to a sponsor or grant-giving body and advertising in the Museum Magazine. For further information contact the Museum office on 01243 811363. Website: [www.wealddown.co.uk](http://www.wealddown.co.uk)

## Ruby Anniversary 2010 Calendar and Museum Christmas Card 2009 ON SALE NOW!



For the first time, and to mark the Museum's 40th anniversary next year, the Museum has for sale its special Ruby Anniversary Calendar 2010. Each month shows a picture of one of the Museum's historic buildings contrasted with them on their original sites. There is plenty of space to write, and each month features a handy gardening tip and highlights all those important Museum Event Days!

**Price: £3.95**

This year's Christmas card features a costumed lady collecting firewood outside Winkhurst Tudor kitchen and is now available from the Museum shop.

The greeting reads "With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year".

**Price: £3.25 for pack of 5 cards**

*Both are available from the Museum shop or by post*



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# Benefiting from knowledge transfer

**I**n 2005 the Museum established a link with Reading University and agreed to run two Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) projects, one in history and the other in computing, to gather information for the Access Project designed to improve the quality of our historical resources and find new ways to communicate them to the public.

KTP is a Government scheme designed to help businesses gain access to expertise in universities, colleges and research organisations by working in partnership with academics and researchers.

The first KTP associate was historian, Dr Danae Tankard. Her remit was to research the social and economic background to the Museum's main exhibits to answer visitors' most common question – what was life like for the people who lived in our houses? Her academic supervisor at Reading University was Dr Margaret Yates, whose research interests are centred on the transition from medieval to early modern society 1300-1600, especially explanations for change within local societies in a regional setting.

Danae worked through a well-

planned programme of research for the 30 months of her project, and produced research reports on 10 houses on the Museum site – including one, Tindalls Cottage, that has not yet been re-erected. Shorter articles have been published in this magazine on eight of these case studies, starting in Spring 2006, and the last two will be published next year. A book based on the history of eight of the houses will be published next year by Carnegie. She has also worked with other departments at the Museum, building up historical resources for schools and interpretation, and has now taken the lead in projects to complete the furnishing of Hangleton Cottage and other domestic building exhibits.

The other KTP associateship took longer to establish but has also proved very successful. James Schollar was appointed in 2007 and his project came to an end in September this year. His brief was more diffuse than Danae's, and much of his time at the Museum was spent investigating possible IT applications, implementing experimental versions of them, and monitoring visitor reactions – an essential process in museums, known as "formative evaluation". Inevitably much of his work

focused on the Museum's web presence, and based on his research we decided that he should develop a new website based on a new content management system. Much of the content is being transferred from our existing site which has been run successfully by Museum trustee Jeff Houlton. James also developed on-site quizzes and two computer-based information points which have now 'bedded in' and will remain available to visitors.

KTP is a scheme designed to build the skills of the associates as well as benefiting the company, and both of our associates have found that the scheme established them on solid career paths. Danae Tankard is now a Senior Lecturer in the History Department at the University of Chichester, where her teaching includes a module called *History, Heritage and Interpretation*, and she has also retained her links with the Museum, where her knowledge and experience will be of permanent benefit to us. James Schollar left us at the end of his project to take up a job working for a company based in Plymouth that creates computer-based training packages for major companies.

**Richard Harris**  
Museum Director

## Peer into the potting shed



Museum gardener Carlotta Holt has established a potting shed in the stables attached to the school from West Wittering. She is using it to dry herbs and seeds, display garden produce, and store seeds for use. Tools are neatly hung on the walls and jars of ointments and oils are on display. The shed is not only useful but also utterly delightful! Visitors can peer inside, which we hope they will be able to do every day in the season.



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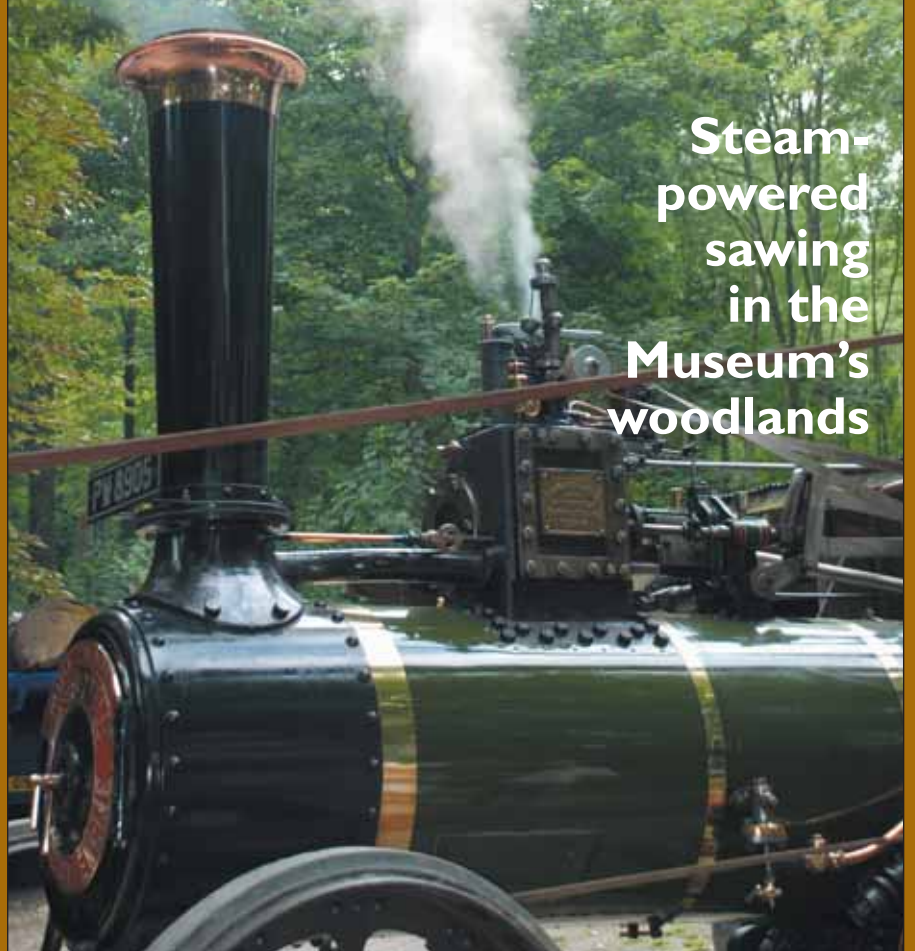
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## Steam-powered sawing in the Museum's woodlands

Visitors to the Steam Festival in August were treated to a display of steam-powered timber conversion in the Museum's working Woodyard. Stumbling on the giant engine driving the saw bench among the trees was an inspiring sight for the public over the two-day event. Better still, the job taking place was a real one. The heavy ash baulks being swung onto the saw bench belonged to the Museum which wanted to convert it into planks for use in building restoration and conservation. Using the Museum's restored hand-operated crane, manufactured c.1900, the timber was swung into position on the bench. Great care and precision is required to line up the timber and machinery before the engine's power is cranked up, the belt revolves and the giant circular saw slices effortlessly through the timber. Sawdust swirling in the air provides evidence of the dusty conditions experienced by the real-life sawyers in their daily work. The steam engine was provided by Michael Lugg and the saw bench by Peter Mellersh, with assistance by the Museum's woodsman, Jon Roberts. The team also produced oak cladding for Ockley Hay Barn and oak fencing for use at the stables. The photographs show the sequence from manoeuvring the timber onto the bench to the sawing of the ash baulk, removing the first plank and readying the timber for the next cut.





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In 1663 the first Turnpike Act was passed establishing a turnpike trust to maintain the New Great North Road between Wadesmill in Hertfordshire and Stilton in Huntingdonshire. The principle embodied in this act – that travellers should contribute towards road repair through the payment of tolls – became the basic concept underlying most road improvement over the next two centuries.

Turnpike trusts were empowered to finance road improvement by issuing mortgage debt which allowed them to raise considerable sums of money. Income from tolls was to be applied to the payment of the interest on the money borrowed and to ensure future road maintenance. Each turnpike act appointed a body of trustees to manage the trust. These were typically men of local importance, such as local landowners, justices of the peace and members of parliament.

### Turnpikes in Sussex

The first turnpike act affecting Sussex was passed in 1697, with a road connecting Reigate to Crawley; in 1710 the Sevenoaks to Tunbridge Wells road was turnpiked (part of Tunbridge Wells then lying in Sussex) followed in 1717 by the London to East Grinstead Road. It is significant that these early turnpike roads stopped just over the Sussex border: the roads of the Weald were notoriously bad and frequently impassable by wheeled transport. The first turnpike act to extend turnpike roads fully into Sussex, passed in 1749, linked Kingston-upon-Thames in Surrey, via Hindhead and Midhurst, to Chichester.

Before 1760 the turnpike roads in Sussex ran north to south, connecting London to the coastal ports or to market towns such as Horsham. In the late 1760s cross-country routes, particularly around Tunbridge Wells and Lewes, were turnpiked. The growth of Brighton as a fashionable resort led to a number of projects in 1770 to improve travelling times to and from London. In the 1770s a large number of cross-routes of local importance were begun. After 1800 a number of trans-Weald roads linking London to the resorts were added. Some of these involved the repair of existing highways or were short stretches of new road intended to shorten routes or avoid steep gradients.

### The Beeding turnpike road

The Beeding turnpike road, established by act in 1807, fell into this category, providing an alternate route through the Adur gap instead of climbing Beeding Hill and extending the Horsham road to



## The Beeding Tollhouse – an icon of 19th century turnpikes

By Danae Tankard

*Above, the toll house as currently reconstructed at the Museum, with the missing end and chimney added to the Museum's original reconstruction and moved to its present site.*

*Below, the house in situ c1950 showing the original chimney and the truncated front room. The section to the left is an addition to the original house. The photo shows the south-west corner.*



## ➡ The Beeding Tollhouse

the coast. This new road was the last part of a 17-mile route beginning in Horsham, through the parishes of Shipley, West Grinstead, Ashurst, Steyning and Bramber, established by act in 1764 and managed by the Horsham and Steyning Trust. The 1807 act appointed 105 trustees, including large local landowners such as Sir Charles Goring of Wiston. A quorum of five was to meet at the White Horse Inn in Steyning on the second Monday after the passing of the Act in order to execute its provisions. Notice of subsequent meetings was to be affixed 'at some public place in the town of Steyning' and on the 'several turnpike gates on the said new road' at least seven days in advance. The new stretch of road (now the B2135) was always referred to as the 'new turnpike road to avoid Beeding Hill' and had one gate at Beeding in the parish of Upper Beeding. A plan of the new road made by T W Huggins in 1808 shows the existing road with the route of the proposed new road and site of the new turnpike gate.

The Beeding gate tolls were being leased from at least 1815 when an advertisement for the toll auction was published in *The Sussex Weekly Advertiser*. Toll leasing or farming – by which lessees contracted to pay the trusts a fixed sum, usually in instalments, in return for the right to the proceeds from the gates – had become a widespread practice by the end of the 18th century. It guaranteed the trustees a steady income and freed them from the problems caused by dishonest toll or gate keepers withholding funds. Trusts were required to advertise the toll auction one month in advance and to include in the notice the net amount of the previous year's proceeds. The tolls were to 'be put up at the sum they were let for or produced in the previous year', and there was to be a three-minute interval after every bid. If no one placed a further bid



*The house being dismantled in 1969, showing that the chimney (and the original internal partition between front and back room) had been removed.*

the last bidder became the farmer.

The Beeding turnpike road is poorly documented, particularly for the early years of its operation. A trustees' minute book for the period 1869 to 1885 provides basic information about the trust's business and the annual toll auction.

### The Beeding tollhouse

The Beeding tollhouse was probably built between 1808 and 1810. Tollhouses are typically of one storey with two or three rooms but their architectural style varies enormously. The Houghton and Clay Lane, Parham tollhouses (1813 and 1821) have walls of faced flint with brick quoins and slated

roofs; the Northchapel tollhouse (1801) is brick-built with a red tiled roof. The most elaborate of the surviving Sussex tollhouses is Long Furlong on what is now the A280, built around 1800 in a gothic revival style with a crenellated façade and a pair of flanking towers, but its flamboyance is due to its original function as a lodge gate house to the Michelgrove Estate. The Beeding tollhouse is similar in appearance to others built in the first quarter of the 19th century in the triangle between Worthing, Horsham and Shoreham, including Teville, Dial Post and Findon, owned by the Worthing Branch Turnpike, and Bramber owned by the

*Left, the toll house as originally reconstructed at the Museum, just inside the front entrance. The sign advertises the Museum's first season of open weekends in 1970, when adult entry was 4s. (20p, equivalent to a little over £2 today).*

*Right, another view of the house in 1970. The Museum had decided that the reconstruction would show the house in its truncated form and with its internal partition and chimney removed, as it was when dismantled, but with a hipped end instead of the gable. The resulting single room was not an accurate representation of the original house, hence the changes made when it was moved to its current site.*



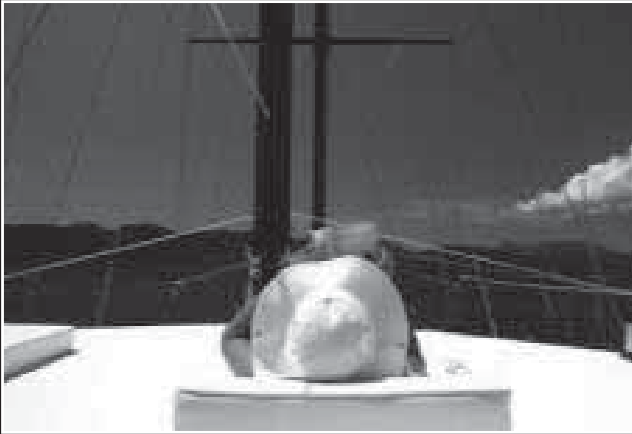
Toll gates were required to have the tolls displayed on a board fixed to the front of the tollhouse, as can be seen in the photograph of the Bramber tollhouse. The toll board for Beeding does not survive; that displayed at the Museum is from Northchapel. In

Toll collectors were responsible at any time of the day or night for operating the gates and for issuing tickets, imposing fines, measuring wheels, weighing wagons and determining who was eligible for exemptions. There is no wage data available for the Beeding toll collector but in 1814 the toll collectors at the Heberden (Madehurst) and Houghton tollhouses were paid 7s and 8s a week respectively. In comparison, at the same date an agricultural labourer in Sussex could expect to earn about 10s to 11s a week, plus extra for piece work



and harvest work. However, unlike agricultural work, which in summer required outdoor labour for periods of up to 12 hours, toll collecting was not physically strenuous, despite the anti-social hours. Toll collectors also lived rent free and were exempt from parish rates. This explains why many of them were relatively elderly – men like Henry Sayers, aged 65 and Jeremiah Cooper, aged 72, Beeding toll collectors in 1861

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## ➔ The Beeding Tollhouse

and 1873. Other Beeding toll collectors were younger and combined their duties with other types of employment: John Hunton, aged 30 in 1841, and Albert Woolgar, 39 in 1881, were agricultural labourers, and Thomas Howell, 31 in 1871, was a bricklayer. At least three of the toll collectors were also the toll farmers: Thomas Howell, Jeremiah Cooper and Albert Woolgar. Woolgar was the winning bidder on seven occasions between 1876 and 1882. Toll farming provided an erratic income and was thus a precarious way to make a living since the toll income from the Beeding gate varied from a low of £118 in 1873 to a high of £150 in 1882. However, in the case of Thomas Howell and Albert Woolgar it did have the potential to secure them a small annual bonus of £2 to £3 in addition to their earnings from other work. Since both men were married it is probable that during the day when they were out at work their wives operated the toll gates.

In 1841 John Hunton was living in the two-roomed tollhouse with his wife, two young sons, and a lodger, Henry Charman, also an agricultural labourer. Not all the toll keepers had such large households: in 1851 John Linberry aged 46 was sharing the house with a lodger, Mary Suden, aged 74; Thomas Howell had a wife and young son; Albert and Caroline Woolgar had no children.

### The demise of the Beeding turnpike trust

Railways came relatively late to Sussex. A branch line between Brighton and Shoreham opened in 1840 and the first main line, linking Brighton to London, opened in 1841. The railway along the south coast was extended from Shoreham to Worthing in 1845, to Chichester in 1846, and to Portsmouth in 1847. A single track branch line from Shoreham

to Steyning and Horsham, with a station at Bramber, opened in 1861. The railway immediately transformed the transport network of Sussex and caused the revenue of turnpike trusts to drop sharply.

At a meeting of the trustees in August 1881 a letter was read from the Local Government Board advising them that in accordance with the provisions of The Annual Turnpike Acts Continuance Act of 1881 'the local act for this trust will continue in force until 1 November 1882 and no longer unless Parliament in the meantime provides'. The trustees were to give notice to their creditors of the trust's position and whether or not they were going to apply for a continuance of their powers. The trustees resolved that 'the clerk do forthwith give notice thereof to the creditors with a view to obtaining a continuance of the trust'.

The trust continued to operate until 1885. It is evident from the minutes that after the closure of the turnpike it was originally intended that the tollhouse be pulled down and four feet of its site incorporated into the road, which was to be taken over by the parish. The remainder of the site, with its garden, was offered for sale to John Drewitt junior, the adjoining owner, for £71 10s. He declined the offer and the minutes record that the trustees had resolved to offer it to him at the lower price of £60 or, if he refused, submit the site to public auction. In the event, the tollhouse was retained and the minutes of the final meeting of the trustees on 20 December 1885 record that it had been sold, although the name of the purchaser is not given. The vestry minutes for 20 March 1886 record that 'the new house at Beeding Gate be assessed', for parish rates. At some point between 1885 and 1891 the tollhouse was extended to provide a third room; by 1901 it had been extended again to provide a fourth room.

In *The Sussex County Magazine* for 1936 C A W Steyning described the closing of

the Bramber and Beeding toll gates:

*Some time ago there was an enquiry to the Sussex County Magazine as to the last toll gate to be closed in Sussex. One of the last must have been that at Bramber. It was closed in the spring of 1885. Within 2 days that at Beeding on the Shoreham road shared the same fate. I remember well the occurrence, for a large hole left in the road wasn't immediately filled up. A traction engine came along and was stuck in it. Horses were lent by Mr Elliott of Beeding Court farm, and my father supplied the planks for the 'jacking up' from his yard in the village.*

After the closure of the turnpikes Beeding and Bramber tollhouses became tearooms, catering for day trippers arriving by train. From at least 1891 to 1901 the Beeding tollhouse was occupied by Frederick Calver Mills, his wife Alice and daughter, Florence. Alice ran the tearoom whilst Frederick worked as a market gardener.

### The tollhouse at the Museum

In 1967 the Beeding tollhouse was badly damaged by a lorry and faced demolition. The following year it was dismantled by the Museum's first volunteer group and moved to the railway cutting store at West Dean. Because of the damage to the building it was decided to rebuild only the parts of it that remained. It was erected beside the entrance gate and became a visitor information centre and shop. In 1980 it was decided to rebuild the house to reconstruct the missing end and the chimney after a re-examination of the surviving timbers and comparison with photographic evidence of similar tollhouses, and to re-site it to its present location. The 'new' tollhouse was opened to the public in 1984.

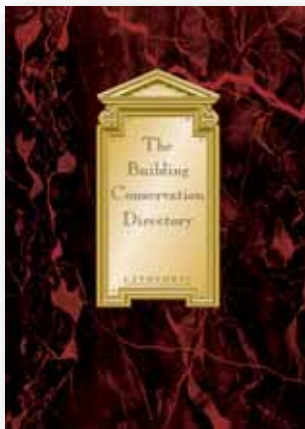
**Kim Leslie, who undertook much of the early research on the tollhouse, has provided invaluable help with the text and maps for this article.**

### Working cattle training as a team

The Museum now has two pairs of Sussex X cows being trained as working cattle. Gwynne and Graceful are the older pair, and Rose and Ruby are the youngsters – four- and three-years-old respectively. Chris Baldwin, the Museum's Farm Manager, has been training them since they were calves, and both pairs have now started to learn the considerable skill of ploughing. The photograph shows them in September when for the first time both pairs (worked by Ben Headon and Chris Baldwin) separately pulled sledges, the first part of their training to work as a team.



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# Obituaries

## Martin (Tim) Heymann

Tim Heymann, an ardent supporter of the Museum who served as a trustee and chaired the Friends for six years, has died aged 83. His contribution to landscape matters at the museum was considerable, nourished by his love and knowledge of trees.

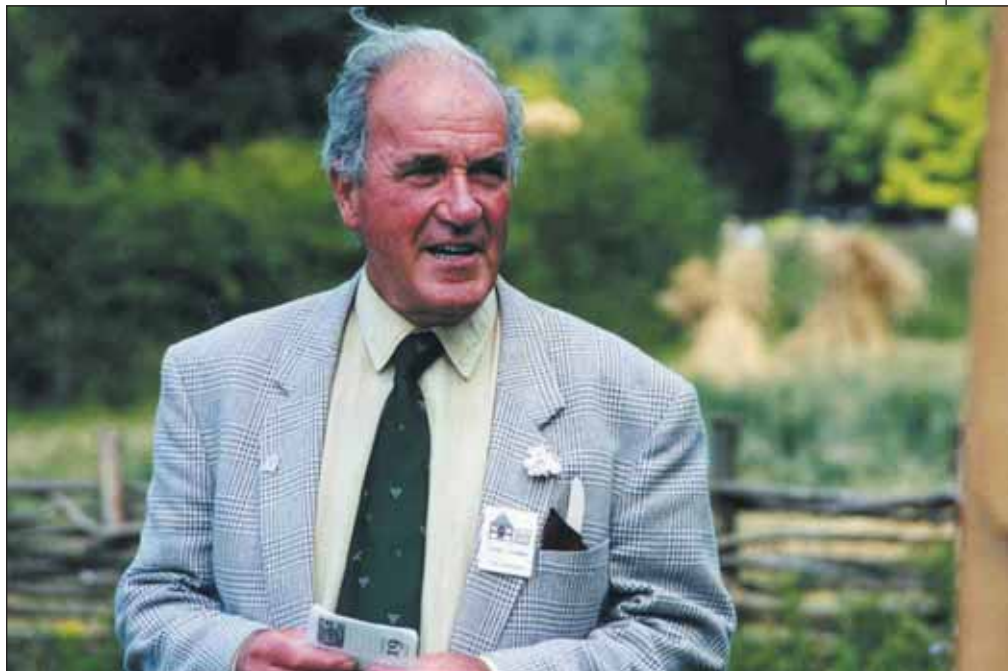
Soon after the Museum was founded on the West Dean Estate Tim Heymann became Agent for the Edward James Foundation which owned the estate and its agricultural and craft college businesses. It was 1969, he was 41, and he was to remain at the estate for the rest of his working life, retiring in 1991.

Edward James, inspired by Roy Armstrong's vision for a museum of traditional buildings, had persuaded his trustees to give the Museum its 40-acre site on a peppercorn rent. Consequently Tim saw the Museum develop from scratch and was in constant contact with the Museum director, Chris Zeuner, on all matters concerning land, forestry and tenancy.

Tim took over the chairmanship of the Friends of the Museum from Virginia Lyon in 1997, retiring in 2003. During that time the already vibrant Friends group was consolidated and enlarged, until it reached its position today as one of the largest museum Friends groups in the country, with 4,950 members. During its life it has raised £1.6 million for the museum. Tim was then appointed a Museum trustee and served until 2008.

Tim Heymann began life in a Hampshire village, attending school at West Meon and Charterhouse. He joined the Royal Navy, seeing service in the Mediterranean on a mine sweeper, in Malta, and participated in the unpleasant task of preventing the Jews from landing in Palestine.

After demob he joined a firm of land agents in Petersfield as an articled pupil, work which suited his love of the land, farming and forestry. In 1952 he flew to Uganda on a three-year contract for a firm of surveyors. He remained, living there for 16 years in a country he grew to love and where he made many lasting friendships. Angela was in the same country on a year's contract for Uganda Shell and they married in Namirembe Cathedral and stayed on for 10 years. Sarah entered their lives, followed by Steven, and later Helen after their return to England in 1968 in view of the unsettled political situation in Uganda.



*Tim Heymann: 1926-2009.*

Tim's task as Agent for Edward James and the Edward James Foundation was challenging as he was responsible not only for the maintenance and finances of the Foundation and West Dean Estate but also for the financial care of Edward James himself, the latter being undoubtedly the most demanding aspect.

Tim was a founder member of the Land Trusts Association, an executive committee member of the Charities' Property Association and a long-term supporter of the Royal Forestry Society. He spent many years as a Justice of the Peace, serving on local benches, and was associated with the Murray Downland Trust, the West Sussex Deer Management Committee (of which he was chairman for several years) and served on West Dean Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council.

As all who met him will testify, Tim had a kind, open and generous personality. His interests were wide and varied, including cricket, jazz, reading, walking, history, gardening, travelling – and

also people. Coming from a generation who were capable of managing without computers, he relied on his people-orientated style of management which he called MBWA (Management by Walking About), chiming exactly with that of Chris Zeuner at the Museum, who also spent considerable and beneficial time 'walking the job' and who shared Tim's love of the countryside.

In 2004 the Museum trustees decided to take a fresh look at the Museum's landscape and Tim led this review, with tree specialist Rod Stern. His conclusion was that the activities of the previous 30 years had resulted in a well-wooded and managed site which required no radical alteration. The Museum continues to carry out an annual tree survey with the Edward James Foundation's forestry manager and to undertake careful landscape management and development to ensure the continuation of the beautiful downland site.

**Diana Zeuner**  
(with thanks to Angela Heymann  
and Simon Ward)

## John Veltom

**John Veltom, a West Sussex farmer who was a trustee of the Museum from 1986-1993, has died aged 82.**

Bringing his knowledge and experience of farming and farming history to Museum Trust meetings, John was farm manager for Walter Langmead in Stoughton, marrying Sue in 1950. He moved to Sindles Farm, Aldsworth, which he owned, in 1955, and lived and worked there until his death in April.

He always took a keen interest in the conservation and historic aspects of farming. An active member of FWAG

(Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group) and Sussex Wildlife Trust, he became a trustee of both the Museum and Butser Ancient Farm.

After retiring from farming, when his son took over the business, he formed a local history group and wrote two books on Sindles Farm and the environment. He was a school governor, and a keen photographer and gardener, forming a group called the 'Crumblies' to whom he taught hedge-laying.

## ➡ Obituaries

### John Herniman

**John Herniman, one of the Museum's long-standing and most prominent volunteers, died in May aged 75, after a short illness. He is estimated to have given eight years' worth of voluntary service to the institution.**

For many years he led the Tuesday Gang, a group of volunteers who undertake a wide range of practical tasks around the Museum site. He was also a member of the Friends committee and a leading volunteer in the Lurgashall Mill team, where he was latterly involved in training new recruits. He undertook guided tours and ticket sales, and was involved in the care of artefacts in the Museum's collection.

In 1993 he ran 83 miles of the South Downs Way in 20 hours, raising £468 for the Museum as his chosen charity. But perhaps his greatest achievement was the preparation of old horseshoes for sale to visitors. By 2003 he had polished 30,000 horseshoes, raising some £24,000 for Museum funds.

John Herniman's commitment to local charities and community activities in the Chichester area is well known. Brought up in Westhamnett, John attended Tonbridge School and went to Christ's College, Cambridge where he completed a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. There he met his future Swedish wife, Barbro, who he married in 1957. National Service saw him serving in the Royal West African Frontier Force on the Gold Coast where he was a second lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, before joining the colonial services and a posting in Rhodesia.

While bringing up his young family he retrained in law, becoming the youngest person in the country to work as senior clerk to the justices. He was appointed clerk to Chichester, Petworth and Midhurst Magistrates' Courts and later became clerk to Arundel Magistrates' Court.

From 1993-1997 he represented Chichester North ward on West Sussex County Council and he was a governor at Chichester High School for Girls and Fordwater School.

After retirement he concentrated on his passion for local history and following a conversation with Keith Bickmore, then senior warden at the museum, he began many years of regular voluntary work at the Museum. He was also a member of Chichester Canal Trust and a staunch supporter of the Brandyhole Copse Conservation Group, being instrumental in its designation as Chichester's first local nature reserve.

### Dr J Geraint Jenkins

**Dr John Geraint Jenkins, who died in August, was a champion of Welsh history, whose work on rural culture, and farm waggons in particular resonated with Roy Armstrong's vision for a museum of buildings for the Weald & Downland. Roy was to cite him regularly as the museum's development began in the 1970s.**

Born to a Welsh-speaking seafaring family in Ceredigion, Geraint Jenkins graduated from Aberystwyth with an MA. His work at the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading included the research that led to his first major publication *The English Farm Wagon* (1961). He returned to Wales to join Iorwerth Peate as an assistant keeper at the Welsh Folk Museum at St Fagans, where he embarked on a study of the Welsh woollen industry culminating in

*The Welsh Woollen Industry* (1969) and the acquisition of what is now Wales's National Wool Museum at Dre-fach Felindre in 1976.

In 1978 he was appointed curator of the new Welsh Industrial & Maritime Museum in Cardiff's dockland. In 1987 he returned to St Fagans as a curator for five years before retiring back to his native West Wales where he was High Sheriff of Dyfed in 1994-5.

He played a major role in establishing the Society for Folk Life Studies and developed links with open-air museums throughout Europe. A Fellow of the Museums Association, he was a member of the council of the International Congress of Maritime Museums and wrote extensively on Welsh maritime history. He was awarded a D.Sc. (Econ) by the University of Wales in 1981.

### J Kenneth Major

**John Kenneth Major, who studied and wrote extensively on wind and watermills and animal-powered machines, has died aged 80. He was another senior figure in the building preservation sector who featured prominently in the early days of the Museum.**

An architect by profession, Major was a key influence in the revival of interest in working windmills and watermills in the 1960s. He was appointed to the Ministry of Public Works' wind and watermill committee, carrying out surveys of industrial monuments and mills throughout the country.

Major designed some of the best working mill restorations, such as Stainsby watermill in Derbyshire for the National Trust and the 35ft cast-iron water wheel and pumphouse at Painshill, Cobham, Surrey.

After working as assistant city architect for Westminster City Council he set up a private practice concentrating solely on the restoration of mills and historic buildings. He was frequently called on for advice by bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. He served as chairman of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' mills committee, and was a founding member of the International Molinological Society.

He books include *Watermills and Windmills*; *Victorian and Edwardian Windmills*; *Fieldwork in Industrial Archaeology* and *Animal-Powered Machines*.

Major was a founding trustee of the Mills Archive and his impressive collection of photographs and documents relating to mills has been donated to the archive at Watlington House, Reading, where his wife, Helen, now works.

### Ray Finucane

**Ray Finucane and his wife Dickie were two of the longest-serving volunteers at the Museum, having joined in the late 1970s and only recently retired due to ill health.**

Ray, a World War 2 Spitfire pilot, and his wife were also keen bee-keepers and were volunteers at their local

Cheshire Home. At the Museum Ray will be remembered as a very popular, kind, gentleman, says **Keith Bickmore**. Ray worked in the Mill, in the *Getting to Grips* exhibition, on guided tours and ticket sales. He also occasionally worked as a volunteer relief warden.

## News in brief

### Gordon Rushmer's rural landscapes

The Museum is pleased once again to be the venue for an exhibition of works by local painter and war artist, Gordon Rushmer. Gordon will exhibit paintings of rural landscapes and other scenes in

Crawley Hall on 11-16 May 2010. The works will be available for sale, and Gordon will be on hand throughout the week to talk to visitors. Gordon's paintings reside in some very prestigious collections, including those of Her Majesty the Queen, Nelson Mandela, the House of Lords and the Royal Marines, and he has exhibited at the Imperial War Museum. Gordon also teaches all the Museum's painting and drawing courses.

# New evidence of Pendean's history uncovered

**T**he Museum's social historian, Danae Tankard, has recently uncovered new information about the inhabitants of Pendean Farmhouse.

She discovered that Pendean and the adjoining farm of Hurstlands, both held by members of the Clare family, are depicted on a map of Cocking, Midhurst and Woolavington made in 1632 or 1633.

Pendean – shown as a house and barn – is described as 'Richard Clare's house and land'. Hurstlands is described as 'Henry Clare's house and land called Hurstland'. Henry was Richard's younger brother. Richard Clare, it will be recalled, bought the lease to Pendean in 1609 and was probably responsible for building the house that we have at the Museum.

The map was made in response to a dispute that had arisen between William Humphrey and the inhabitants of Cocking about the use of a piece of former common land called Ashdean Bottom at the northern end of Cocking common. As well as depicting both farms, the map records the testimony of local residents, including Joan Clare, Richard and Henry's mother, about their past use of the common, which offers some additional biographical information about the Clares.

In her evidence Joan Clare describes herself as 'Joan Clare of Graffham, widow, aged about 95 years'. She says (amongst other things) that 'she lived all her time at Henry Clare's house till now of late years, being a woman of good repute and account'. So after her husband's death in 1615 she continued to live at Hurstlands with her youngest son, Henry, but by 1632 or 1633 she was living in Graffham. If she was right about her age she would have been about 100 when she died in 1637. In his testimony, Daniel Prior of Midhurst records that 'Richard Clare and the said Daniel made (archery) butts & shot in Ashdean Bottom' – presumably in their youth – and that in 1632 or 1633 both men were aged 'about 60'. So Richard was born in about 1570, something we did not know previously because the parish register is incomplete. The map also depicts an area of meadow on the western side of Cocking and records that 'this meadow joins to the west end of Ashdean Bottom and did belong to Pendean being in Woolavington' adding, 'Pendean is Richard Clare's



Map of Cocking, Midhurst & Woolavington, 1623/3, showing Pendean and Hurstland farms, and above, detail showing Richard Clare's barn and house.

land'. Since Clare was not a tenant of the manor of Cocking it is likely that this was a stray parcel of land held of the manor of Woolavington.

The fact that there is a large hole obliterating half of Pendean house is unfortunate. However, pre-modern maps seldom depict buildings with any degree of accuracy and so we are not losing vital clues about the building's original appearance. Both Pendean and Hurstlands are shown as lobby-entry type houses with central chimney stacks, but window details are schematic and there is no attempt to record other

architectural details such as timber-framing or brick-work. The barn is depicted as a threshing barn with a central porch, like Court Barn and Hambrook Barn. We know that Pendean had one barn in the first half of the 17th century and that by the time Nicholas Austen died in 1697 there were two barns, recorded in his probate inventory as the 'old' and the 'new' barn.

Additional documentary research has confirmed that Nicholas Austen was resident in Pendean from 1677 until his death in 1697.

## Crowds flock to Museum's Rare Breeds Show

Highland cattle (pictured right) took part for the first time in the annual Rare Breeds Show in July, one of the Museum's most popular and long-standing events, which also showcases traditional breeds. The show is one of the largest in the south east for rare breed sheep, cattle, goats and pigs. Judged in a series of rings throughout the day, other highlights are classes for young handlers and practical demonstrations of rural crafts, especially those concerned with wool – spinning, weaving and dying.



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## Collections update

### Recent Acquisitions

The opening of the Museum's artefact collections in the Downland Gridshell has given visitors greater confidence to offer their historic treasures. Many have to be refused because they would duplicate items we already have. But we will often accept items, not only because of their easily recognisable historic value, but sometimes also because of the story attached to them.

### Grave markers

A call from the Reverend Pat Sinton at Shipley Church alerted us to a set of wooden grave markers in an early 19th century section of the churchyard. These markers usually consisted of four or six posts about 3ft high, one at each corner and sometimes one in the middle of each side, with rails on which inscriptions were painted. They were used instead of a headstone. Up to two centuries of weather have taken their toll, in that the rails and their inscriptions have gone, so we collected the remaining five posts.



We already have in our collection a set of grave marker posts and a rail from Wisborough Green, but the interesting feature of the Shipley posts is that their lower sections – the part which was buried in the ground and usually has decayed away – are intact. In contrast to the neatly squared posts, the lower sections are rough-hewn and misshapen, as is also often the case with gate and fence posts. The rationale for this seems to be that a larger mass of irregular timber beneath the ground provides a stronger support for the post, lengthens the time it takes to decay, and saves the time and effort of squaring it up.

Tony Roberts, one of our Collections Team volunteers, produced a replica marker for Shipley Church in order that the grave be properly marked again.

### Mystery object

We are trying to discover more about a Brass Measuring Gauge we have been shown. Clearly it is a gauge to test the size of a manufactured product – but what? The picture has been circulated to members of the Rural Museums Network but no-one was able to offer a definitive answer. Can any reader of this magazine enlighten us?



The inscriptions from left to right are as follows:

- Above larger circular hole – “2-in. diam.”

## Butcher's Basket

This recent donation from Les and Doris Brown of Birdham has an unassuming appearance, but links to some fascinating family history. The basket is about 90-years-old and was for carrying produce to customers. It was made by Mr Poundsbury



of Hurstpierpoint and was originally owned by Doris's grandfather, Alfred James Baker, a butcher whose shop was located in the High Street at Hurstpierpoint (top photograph). He ran the family business together with Doris's father William, brother Cecil and sister Kitty; Les also worked there as a delivery boy and actually used the basket on his bicycle (pictured above) when doing his rounds.

We were also given some early photographs of Mr Baker's shop, and letters which poignantly tell of the closure of the business in 1917 due to William and all the staff being called up to the Army. A later newspaper cutting from 1918 sadly records the auction of the shop and domestic contents "By order of Mr W. A. Baker, serving overseas". However, another photograph shows the "Baker Bros." butchers shop in Hurstpierpoint in 1957, so a reversal in fortunes must eventually have taken place.

- Above smaller circular hole – "1½-in. diam."
- Beneath two holes – "An average sample not less than 100lbs. fairly representing consignment, to be selected from bulk"
- Above square cut in centre – "2½-in. length"
- Along top of handle – "All to pass one way through 2-in. ring"
- Lower text on handle – "2-in. 15% Max to pass through 1½ in. ring in every direction  
65% Min over 1½ in. and not over 2½ in. length  
20% Max over 2½ in. length"

## Smock



Smocks are attractive items in themselves, but this is a donation that we accepted largely for the interesting and detailed history attached to it.

Smocks were the agricultural workwear of their day, but this one is both superbly detailed and in excellent condition. Kindly donated by George and Anne Roberts of Icklesham, it originally belonged to Mr Roberts' father, Albert Richard, who was born in 1869 and lived most of his life in the Northiam area of East Sussex. In 1927 the smock was last worn by Albert at the ceremonial 'Chaining of the Oak' in Northiam – and we have a photograph

(above) showing the ceremony, and chains around the tree.

A plaque that is now attached to the ancient oak in Northiam reads: *Queen Elizabeth I, as she journeyed to Rye on the 11th August 1573, sat under this tree and ate a meal served to her from the house nearby. She changed her shoes of green damask silk with a heel 2½" high and a sharp toe, at this spot, and left them behind as a memento of her visit. They are still in existence and are shown on special occasions.*

Was the 'chaining' simply intended to hold the ancient tree together or did it have other associations or meanings?

## Collections outreach

### Wheelwrights' tools

Following an enquiry from Kate Johnson at Mount Edgcumbe House near Plymouth, we have lent a substantial number of artefacts from our collection of wheelwrights' tools to be part of the redisplay of a historic workshop in their grounds. We have agreed a loan period of three years, after which the loan will be continued or the items returned.

### Pulborough Harvest Festival

Since 2007 we have loaned a wide range of items to the town of Pulborough to help local people celebrate their Harvest Festival. About 80 artefacts are loaned each year and are displayed around the town in related shop windows – a shoe repair shop will contain some of our cobbler's tools, the butcher will have a pole-axe, the hairdresser will have sheep shears (!) and so on.

There is also a quiz trail, in which participants try to identify each item in the displays – and we try to provide a slightly different range of items each year so that those with a good memory don't have an unfair advantage!

### West Dean School & Boxgrove School

We always try to support local schools in their requests for loans and this year we have supported two schools with small but much appreciated loans. We lent our Penny Farthing bicycle and child's tricycle to West Dean School for a few weeks earlier in the year – two items that always seem to stick together and be loaned as a pair! An old school seat and desk with lid and inkwell holder was lent to Boxgrove School at the end of April, together with a working oil lamp.

### Emsworth Baptist Church

People are sometimes surprised that we lend things to venues other than museums! Jan Guest called us in early July to ask if we ever let items from the collections out of our clutches. Jan was organising an event called *On the Farm* at Emsworth Baptist Church for older members of the community whose mobility is limited and she was looking for suitable items which would jog their memories and support the photos and documents she had acquired. We eventually sent about 20 artefacts to Emsworth, which both helped in the event and publicised our collections.



**The Spread Eagle Hotel & Spa, Midhurst**, dates in parts to 1430AD and has been welcoming guests ever since. Still in evidence are traditional bread ovens, antique stained-glass windows, inglenook fireplaces and a restored panel of wattle and daub.

The hotel has 38 individually-decorated bedrooms, some with antiques, as well as offering lunch and dinner in the hotel's restaurant or wood-panelled private dining rooms or a lighter menu served in the historic Lounge Bar. The Jacobean Hall, dating from 1650, is a perfect venue for weddings and larger parties.

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# EVENTS DIARY 2009-2010

## NOVEMBER

- 14-15 **CHRISTMAS MARKET** Find that perfect gift or treat at a traditional Christmas market, set in and around our historic buildings. Dozens of stalls with arts, crafts, food and unusual gifts! Broadcaster and novelist Kate Mosse will be signing copies of her latest bestseller 11 am-1 pm. Admission: only £2.50, including access to all Museum exhibits.
- 17-22 ***The Museum's Got Talent* exhibition of volunteers' hobbies and activities.**

## DECEMBER

- 6 **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, music, dance and seasonal tasty treats.
- 26 December-1 January 2010  
**A SUSSEX CHRISTMAS** Experience the traditions of Christmas past and discover how our ancestors enjoyed the Festive Season. Walk off the Christmas pud as you enjoy our historic houses with their crackling log fires, festive fare, music and stories from Tudor to Victorian times.

## FEBRUARY 2010

- 15-19 **WINTER WEEK HALF TERM ACTIVITIES** Put on your winter woollies and wellies and warm up with a week of creative activities and countryside skills: outdoor trails, arts, crafts and ideas to inspire accompanied children of all ages. From 11am-3pm, under cover if wet.

## MARCH

- 14 **OPEN HOUSE ON MOTHERING SUNDAY** A special spring day to welcome visitors at the start of the season. £2 entry for everyone, plus our traditional bunch of daffodils for mothers and grandmothers!

## APRIL

- 4-5 **EASTER AT THE MUSEUM** Activities and Easter celebrations, with a bonnet competition and parade on the Monday. The school holiday period is a delightful time for a visit, with spring in the air, newborn lambs and horses at work on seasonal tasks.

**PLUS Wonderful Easter Wednesdays on 7 & 14 April.** Hands-on activities to occupy children of all ages! All kinds of interesting and unusual country skills, crafts, activities and games.

22-27 **Friends 2010 Spring Tour to Worcester & the West Midlands**

## MAY

- 2-3 **FOOD AND FARMING FAIR**  
A wonderful choice of quality fare to sample and buy from the local producers of the south east, plus tastings, cookery classes, demonstrations. Around 80 stands will feature a stunning array of produce, from wines, sauces, ciders and beers to meat, cheese, ice cream, cakes and confectionery.
- 31 May-4 June  
**SPRING INTO ACTION! HALF TERM ACTIVITIES** Come and enjoy springtime in the countryside! Learn about the natural world with trails, scavenger hunts, arts and crafts using natural materials, and a host of outdoor games. For accompanied children of all ages. From 11am-4pm, under cover if wet.



## JUNE

- 5-6 **HEAVY HORSE AND WORKING ANIMALS SHOW** One of the south's biggest gatherings of heavy horses and working animals: two unforgettable days of displays, demonstrations of horses at work on traditional tasks, and a parade at the end of each day, all with continuous ringside commentary.
- 20 **FATHERS' DAY** Toys For The Boys! A chance for dad (and the rest of the family!) to try some unusual and challenging countryside activities.

## JULY

- TBC **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!



- 18 **RARE BREEDS SHOW** Four legs, furry legs, feathered legs . . . come and get up close to over 500 cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry in this delightful agricultural show for rare and traditional breeds of farm animals. It's one of the biggest shows of its kind in the south east and hugely popular with visitors and exhibitors alike. Plus craft and trade stands with a countryside theme.

28 July-25 August  
**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS!**  
Hands-on activities to occupy children of all ages! Have a go at all kinds of interesting and unusual country skills, crafts, activities and games. From 11am to 4pm, under cover if wet.

## AUGUST

- 14-15 **STEAM FESTIVAL** All the bustle and excitement of a Steam Festival, with steam engines on display and demonstrating the kind of work around the Museum's site for which they were originally designed. With steam rollers, steam lorries, model boats, miniature railways and engines, and the ever-popular steam-powered carousel gallopers.

## SEPTEMBER

- 4-5 **RUBY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**  
A weekend of family activities celebrating the Museum's 40th anniversary. Community carnival, arena events, music and entertainment. Evening lantern parade, bonfire party and traditional games.

## OCTOBER

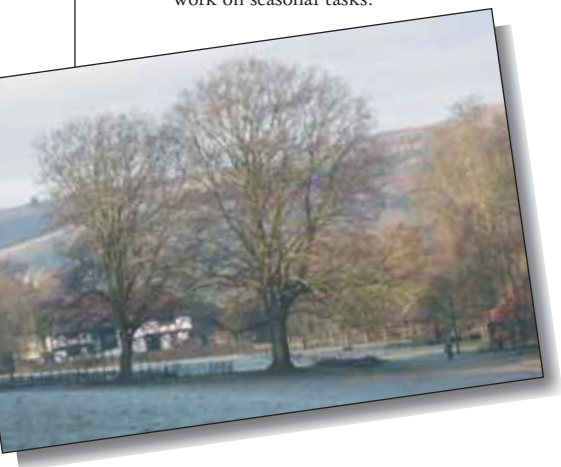
- 9-10 **AUTUMN COUNTRYSIDE SHOW**  
Experience the sights, sounds and smells of the countryside at harvest time. Enjoy heavy horses and vintage tractors ploughing, steam-powered threshing, falconry, and dog displays, woodcraft demonstrations and countryside crafts.
- 25-29 **AUTUMN ADVENTURES! HALF 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 really scary pumpkin; and enjoy arts, crafts and much more. From 11am-3pm, under cover if wet.

## NOVEMBER

13-14 **CHRISTMAS MARKET**

## DECEMBER

- 5 **TREE DRESSING**
- 26 December-1 January 2011  
**A SUSSEX CHRISTMAS**



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# If you have never attended one of the Museum's professionally-tutored and absorbing courses before, now could be the time to book . . .

**T**he Museum offers one of the most expansive programmes of lifelong learning courses of any museum or gallery in the country.

Running since 1991, the programme has developed to offer 3,000 student days annually, benefiting both professionals in their continuing work development and those who simply have an interest in the course subjects. Included in the programme are two MSc courses, in timber building conservation and building conservation. The 2009-2010 programme contains 151 courses, of which 30 are new. They will be led by 92 tutors, all specialists in their own field.

## Historic Building Conservation

The historic building conservation course programme continues to grow. Even in a recessionary year when the building industry is suffering, the take-up of courses has been very encouraging and shows that quality vocational training is valued by companies and individuals. In the 2009-2010 programme there are eight new courses, all drawing on the expertise of specialists who support the work of the Museum.

Historic building consultant Kevin Stubbs is leading two of the new day schools. *Looking after your historic home* is aimed at owners and guardians of historic homes from Medieval to Edwardian and is an advice-packed day which includes information on everything from materials, legislation and regulations and maintenance, through to the role of conservation and planning officers. Kevin is also leading *Understanding and caring for the fabric of your parish church*, a day school for church wardens, PCC members and volunteers who care for their local churches and churchyards. The day will include a visit to Singleton Parish Church.

The Museum will also be helping students *Put building conservation philosophy into practice* in a day school led by building surveyor Richard Oxley.

Timothy Easton is returning to the Museum to lead a day exploring the marks found on historic buildings. There will also be a *Graffiti* day looking at historical examples at Chichester Cathedral and Parham House, some made by builders, some by pilgrims. This course builds on the Museum's partnership with Parham Estate, which this year saw students learning stonework while they rebuilt a section of the estate wall.

Brian Ridout's *Timber decay* course is back in the programme, and in addition a complementary day will be devoted to *The management of vertebrate pests in historic buildings*, looking at all the issues involved in coping with the larger pests.

David Woodbridge has taught *Strength Grading of Oak* at the Museum for a number of years, and new this autumn will be a *Softwood Strength Grading* course. Both of these are certificated by CATG (Certification and Timber Grading) and successful participants will receive a Certificate of Proficiency to visually strength-grade timbers.

MSc Building Conservation student Sybille Heil will lead her own day school at the Museum next spring in the use of lime-wash, distemper and linseed-based paints. Participants will gain practical experience working on one of the Museum's exhibit buildings. This day school is in addition to the three-day *Historic Painting* course which includes a visit to the medieval wall paintings in Hardham Church.

## Gift vouchers

**For a present with a difference the Museum now offers gift vouchers which can be used as full or part payment towards any course in our programme. Contact Diana Rowsell on 01243 811464 for further information.**

The current cohort of students undertaking the MSc courses in Building Conservation and Timber Building Conservation at the Museum are now over half-way through their studies. Visits made as part of the course in the last year have included tours of Lambs Brickworks at Pitsham; Uppark House; the Brooking Collection in Surrey and the laboratories of the School of Conservation at Bournemouth University.

Three day schools have now taken place as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund-aided Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Project. Participants from the Weald Forest Ridge Region were joined by others from the wider local area to learn about the conservation of ironwork, timber-framed buildings, and weather-boarded and tile-hung buildings in September. Students attending from the region are entitled to a substantial discount. Following the success of these days, the courses will be repeated in 2010, with longer, practical courses to follow.

## Traditional rural trades and crafts courses

Our programme of traditional rural trades and crafts courses has expanded again to include many new and exciting courses, particularly in the countryside skills and historic home life sections. Alongside existing favourites of *Coracle making*, *Poultry husbandry* and *Rope work* we now offer *Leather carving*, *Tile making*, *Cane seating* and

## Building Limes Forum



The Museum co-hosted a Building Limes Forum with West Dean College this summer. Tours of the site, demonstrations in the Gridshell, including a plastering demonstration by master plasterer Jeff Orton, and a Friday evening lime burn and hog roast were included. In the photograph, Museum historic brickwork tutor, Gerard Lynch, and Tim Ratcliffe, demonstrate slaking quicklime created in the kiln to produce lime mortar and putty.

*Rush-bat weaving* days. Our practical historic herb days now include a day making *Historical inks* and *How to make your own herbarium* (a personal plant record). Attitudes to diet and lifestyles now and in the past will be compared in the *Ageing through the Ages* day. The *Tapestry workshop* has expanded to offer participants the opportunity to create a landscape in yarn.

Following a popular evening talk this year, we can now offer a day learning *Traditional Sussex songs* and discover the history behind them. By popular request there will be a *Herb walk* around the Museum and a guided walk by Museum gardener Carlotta Holt. Writer in Residence Jane Borodale, who has recently published her first novel and whose next work based on the Museum will be available in early 2010, will discuss on a guided walk how the Museum has inspired both works.

**All course enquiries to Diana Rowsell, Head of Learning, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex. Tel 01243 811464/811931. Email [courses@wealddown.co.uk](mailto:courses@wealddown.co.uk). Website [www.wealddown.co.uk](http://www.wealddown.co.uk).**

# Course programme 2009-2010 – Building conservation

## SOFTWOOD STRENGTH GRADING

This three-day course covers the visual assessment of sawn square edged softwood for structural use to the BS 4978 grades, General Structural (GS) and Special Structural (SS). Successful completion of the course will result in a Certificate of Softwood Visual Strength Grading to BS 4978:2007.

Leader: David Woodbridge **Tuesday-Thursday 10-12 November 2009 £450**

## OAK TIMBER FRAMING: RAFTERS AND LINE TRANSFER SCRIBING

The scribing technique used in this workshop is suitable for both new build and repair. Students will fabricate both a gable and a hip roof, lining out, cutting and fitting the common, hip and jack rafters of a traditional Sussex timber-framed building. Leader: Joe Thompson

**Monday-Friday 23-27 November 2009, Monday-Friday 21-25 June 2010 £475**

## OAK TIMBER FRAMING: BRACES, STUDS AND PLUMB-BOB SCRIBING

The emphasis of this workshop is on modern workshop practice. During the five days, students will line out, cut and fit the braces, studs and rails of a traditional Sussex timber-framed building. Leader: Joe Thompson

**Monday-Friday 18-22 January, Monday-Friday 17-21 May 2010 £475**

## PRACTICAL FLINT WALLING

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 and Brian Dawson

**Wednesday-Thursday 3-4 February, Tuesday-Wednesday 9-10 February 2010 £220**

## RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS FOR CONSERVATION

### • 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

**Thursday 4 February 2010 £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

**Thursday 25 February 2010 £95**

## STUDIO TECHNIQUES

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

Leader: Richard Harris

**Thursday 4 March 2010 £95**

## THE MANAGEMENT OF VERTEBRATE PESTS IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS

A course for anyone involved in looking after historic buildings, from homeowners to property managers, to surveyors and specifiers. The day will include sessions on rodents, birds, rabbits, moles and larger mammals, and will cover control, legislation and the challenges presented by protected species.

Leader: Ed Allan

**Friday 12 February 2010 £95**

## OAK TIMBER FRAMING: JOWL POSTS AND DOUBLE-CUT SCRIBING

This course will provide students with the opportunity to frame up the principal timbers of a traditional Sussex timber-framed building: the posts, plates, beams and cills will be lined-out, cut and fitted. This course focuses on historic workshop practice, tools and techniques. Leader: Joe Thompson

**Monday-Friday 22-26 February, Monday-Friday 19-23 April,**

**Monday-Friday 23-27 August, Monday-Friday 18-22 October 2010 £475**

## 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 carrying out an air pressure test in one of the Museum's exhibit buildings. Leaders: Richard Oxley and Phil Ogle

**Wednesday 24 February 2010 £95**

## ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

An introduction to the discipline of architectural photography, covering composition, exposure methods including the zone system, digital and film recording media and equipment. Includes practical exercises in composition and recording of architectural details using the Museum buildings, followed by basic digital transfer and an explanation of file types.

Leader: Adam Wilson

**Monday 1 March 2010 £95**

## LOOKING AFTER YOUR HISTORIC HOME

A day aimed at the owners and guardians of historic homes, from Medieval to Edwardian. The course will cover how to interpret the historic development of a house, and will look



*Timber-framing from scratch.*



*Practical stone wall repairs.*

at materials, structure, fixtures and fittings, rules, regulations and advice, listed buildings and the role of Conservation and Planning Officers, every day maintenance, sources of advice and training, and how to source the right materials. The afternoon will include a tour of historic houses at the Museum, to illustrate the morning sessions.

Leader: Kevin Stubbs

**Friday 5 March 2010 £95**

## AN INTRODUCTION TO TIMBER REPAIRS

A three-day practical workshop focussing on in-situ timber repairs. It will include the approach to timber frame conservation, the use of hand and power tools, scarfing new oak onto old and smaller patch repairs. Practical exercises focus on inserting and repairing timbers of standing frames. Suitable for conservation professionals, craftsmen, home-owners and others caring for old timber buildings.

Leader: Joe Thompson

**Monday-Wednesday 8-10 March 2010 £285**

## TRADITIONAL TIMBER-FRAME CONSTRUCTION

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

Leader: Richard Harris

**Thursday 11 March 2010 £95**

## UNDERSTANDING & CARING FOR THE FABRIC OF YOUR PARISH CHURCH

This course is aimed at Churchwardens, PCC members and volunteers who care for churches and churchyards, including those who help redundant churches and abandoned churchyards. The day includes a look at the historic development of a church and its fittings, materials and how the structure works, rules and regulations including the role of the DAC and the Archdeacon, the Church Architect and the Quinquennial Report, maintenance, including warning signs and do's and don'ts, training and advice, and sourcing materials. The afternoon will include a site visit to a local parish church, putting these issues into a practical context.

Leader: Kevin Stubbs

**Friday 12 March 2010 £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 client's final report.

Leader: Eddie Booth

**Monday 15 March 2010 £95**

## PUTTING BUILDING CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY INTO PRACTICE

A day examining what needs to be taken into consideration when putting the principles of building conservation into practice, in particular when repairing and improving timber-framed buildings. The day will include an introduction to building conservation philosophy, issues that need to be taken into account including conservation, structural issues, weather protection, finance, personal taste, etc, and case studies illustrating repairs and improvements that have been carried out.

Leader: Richard Oxley

**Monday 22 March 2010 £95**

## WATTLE AND DAUB

Insights into the historic use of wattle and daub, and its repair and conservation today.

Students will look at wattle and daub in the Museum's artefact store and in the Museum's exhibit buildings, and this will be followed by a practical session and a lecture on the appraisal and techniques of repair.

Leader: Joe Thompson

**Monday 22 March 2010 £100**

## 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 with a wide range of samples.

Leader: David Woodbridge

**Wednesday 24 March 2010 £95**

## AN INTRODUCTION TO DATING TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

The number, position and arrangement of timbers provides the evidence for the analysis and dating of timber framed buildings based on stylistic evidence. We will use the Museum's exhibits to look at buildings dating from the late 1300s to the 1900s.

A wonderful opportunity to observe and be guided around so many varieties of timber-framed buildings, all within easy walking distance of each other.

Leader: Joe Thompson

**Wednesday 24 March 2010 £95**

## HISTORIC TIMBER FRAMING: MODERN ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS

A course for architects and carpenters. The growing popularity of green oak and large softwood framing is encouraging a wider exploration of their possibilities. But the image of the medieval frame is inappropriate for today's buildings and some rethinking is needed. This course will consider lessons from early structures and will suggest new

# and the use of traditional materials and processes

techniques that can be used, and discuss the contractual arrangements for their design and construction.

Leaders: David Yeomans and Jim Blackburn

**Thursday 25 March 2010 £95**

## THE GEORGIAN TRADITION

There were many developments in architectural style and technology during the Georgian period from 1700 to 1830. A series of lectures on some of the key features of the period, followed by a guided walking tour of Chichester.

Leaders: Neil Burton, James Ayres, Alan Green

**Friday 26 March 2010 £95**

## A HISTORY OF BRICKS AND BRICKMAKING

The day will include the background, geology and regionality of brickmaking, historic techniques of brickmaking, a hands-on opportunity to make a brick and visit to a local handmade brickworks.

Leader: Kevin Stubbs

**Monday 29 March 2010 £95**

## VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN BUILDING TYPES

Victorian Britain saw a huge increase in the number and variety of new buildings. This study day will explore the main aspects of these developments, including housing for the masses and some civic and industrial buildings.

Leader: Susie Barson and associate lecturers

**Tuesday 30 March 2010 £95**

## INTRODUCTION TO GAUGED BRICKWORK

This course, consisting of lectures and practical experience, is designed to help the student gain a deeper and more contextual understanding of the art of gauged brickwork; the highest expression of the bricklayer's craft. It includes historical development of gauged work, an examination of tools and materials, and plenty of practical techniques.

Leader: Gerard Lynch

**Monday-Wednesday 19-21 April 2010 £330**

## NATURAL STONE: ITS USE IN CONSERVATION AND IN NEW BUILD

This course will provide an interesting and balanced outline of the use of stone in both building conservation and restoration, and new build. The day will include a look at the processes involved in masonry production, along with issues of consultation and design. Case studies involving the use of stone in building restoration and conservation will be included, and contracts involving new build stonework will also be discussed. The morning will be spent at the workshop of Cathedral Works Organisation (CWO) in Chichester, and lectures will follow at the Museum during the afternoon.

Leaders: CWO Team

**Tuesday 20 April 2010 £95**

## 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 working with chalk.

Leader: Kevin Stubbs

**Wednesday 21 April 2010 £95**

## AN INTRODUCTION TO LEADWORK FOR SPECIFIERS AND INSTALLERS

A foundation course for those with little or no experience of working with lead. Theoretically based, the course concentrates on design and specification. Case studies of repair and renewal projects.

Leader: Nigel Johnston

**Thursday 22 April 2010 £110**

## PRACTICAL LEADWORK

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

Leader: Nigel Johnston

**Friday 23 April 2010 £110**

## REPAIR OF TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

A 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

**Monday 26 April 2010 £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 will cover an introduction to structural analysis, the criteria for repair: strength/durability/appearance, repair forms, the ways in which steel can extend the use of remedial techniques to the specifier, and case studies.

Leader: Peter Ross

**Tuesday 27 April 2010 £95**

## GRAFFITI

Examples of Graffiti stretch back across the centuries, and those who made their marks did so from a wide variety of backgrounds and for numerous reasons. This day will investigate the history of graffiti, beginning with a lecture and then visiting Chichester Cathedral and Parham House to see some fascinating examples, from marks made by pilgrims, to names inscribed by builders.

**Wednesday 28 April 2010 £75**

## PRACTICAL THATCHING

An opportunity to learn how to thatch. A hands-on day thatching with straw on a model roof using traditional tools and techniques, whilst learning about this historic craft and the wide variety of materials used.

Leader: Chris Tomkins

**Thursday 29 April 2010 £150**

## MARKING THE BUILDING

A technical day comparing marks on historic buildings, ranging from purely practical marks, to secret signs intended to ward off witchcraft. It is the latter, whether scribed or painted by craftsmen or by conjurers, which are less well understood.

Leader: Timothy Easton

**Friday 30 April 2010 £95**

## HISTORIC PAINTING METHODS

A detailed course with a mix of lectures, tours and demonstrations covering the historic use of colour and decoration on interiors and exteriors. Includes a guided visit to a local church with outstanding wall paintings.

Leaders: Ian Bristow, James Ayres, Kathryn Davies, Chris Britten

**Monday-Wednesday 10-12 May 2010 £330**



*Lime mortars.*

## OAK SHINGLES: HISTORY, MANUFACTURE AND USE

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

Leaders: Peter Harknett & John Deal

**Thursday 13 May 2010 £95**

## ADVANCED GAUGED BRICKWORK

A theoretical and practical course designed for those with some experience of gauged brickwork. Working on both flat and cambered arches, students will look at terminology, geometry, setting-out, selection, preparation and cutting of bricks, preparing mortar, turning and finishing the arch.

Leader: Gerard Lynch

**Wednesday-Friday 19-21 May 2010 £330**

## STRENGTH GRADING OF OAK

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 5756:2007.

Leader: David Woodbridge

**Monday-Wednesday 24-26 May 2010 £450**

## VICTORIAN CARPENTRY & 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 and early 20th centuries. The Museum's Whittaker's Cottages dating from 1865 will be used as a case study.

Leader: Joe Thompson

**Friday 28 May 2010 £95**

## LIMEWASH, DISTEMPER & LINSEED-BASED PAINTS: A PRACTICAL WORKSHOP

Spend a day learning how these traditional finishes were mixed and applied, with expert demonstrations and hands-on opportunities using the Museum's exhibit buildings.

Leader: Sibylle Heil

**Friday 28 May 2010 £95**

## THE ROOFING SQUARE

The use of the roofing square is a fundamental skill of carpentry. Students will first use the square to carry out a number of simple practical exercises, then to line out rafter pitch boards and rafter patterns. These will then be used to cut the rafters for lean-to, gable and hip roofs. This day will help demystify this essential carpentry skill. A practical course for conservation professionals, craftspeople and keen DIYers.

Leader: Joe Thompson

**Thursday 10 June 2010 £95**

## REPAIR OF TRADITIONALLY CONSTRUCTED BRICKWORK

A look at the principles of repair, causes of failure and decay, inappropriate materials and practices, techniques for selecting methods of repair, cutting out bricks and taking out defective joints, stitch repairs and reinforcements, patch pointing using lime mortar, reversing bricks and use of slips, plastic repairs and cleaning of brickwork.

Leader: Gerard Lynch

**Monday-Wednesday 14-16 June 2010 £330**

## 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.

Leader: Gerard Lynch

**Thursday 17 June 2010 £110**

## STONE: DIVERSITY & DISTINCTIVENESS

A two-day course looking at local geology and the variety of building stone that it has produced in the Weald & Downland region. Sessions will include the place of stone in local distinctiveness, a tour of the Museum's exhibit buildings looking at the range of local stone, a visit to Parham House to explore the quarry from which stones were produced for use in its buildings, and a practical demonstration of stone repairs.

Leaders: David Bone & Kevin Hughes **Tuesday-Wednesday 22-23 June 2010 £190**

## ADVANCED LEADWORK

For those who wish to progress their leadworking skills. This course is three days of learning through practical work. Students will make patterns for a planter or hopper-head to their own design including decorative embellishments.

Leader: Nigel Johnston

**Wednesday-Friday 23-25 June 2010 £350**

## BASIC BRICKWORK FOR HOMEOWNERS

A day of lectures and practical sessions for homeowners who need to understand more about bricks and bricklaying. The morning session will cover the characteristics of



## ➔ Building conservation

bricks, the historical background, conservation, care and repair of historic brickwork including an introduction to lime mortars. During the afternoon there will be practical sessions on basic bricklaying including techniques, setting out and bonding arrangements, profiles and corners, and plumbing points, gauges, lines and levels. Leaders: Kevin Stubbs and Ray Moseley **Monday 28 June 2010 £95**

### HISTORIC LIME PLASTERS & RENDERS

A two-day course covering the fundamentals of lime plastering from the simplest renders to the finest ornamental work. Lectures, demonstrations and discussion, with opportunities to handle tools and samples of the trade. Leaders: Ian Constantinides & Jeff Orton

**Tuesday-Wednesday 29-30 June 2010 £190**

### PRACTICAL LIME PLASTERING

A purely practical day learning the basics of lime plastering, to include historic in-situ run moulds, casting and benchwork re-creating Victorian designs. The course will take place at Highbury College, Cosham. **Thursday 1 July 2010 £95**

### PARGETING

The history and development of pargeting styles, from late Tudor to the Arts and Crafts Movement. Demonstrations and hands-on work with carved wooden stamps and freehand work depicting flora, birds and mammals in the Jacobean style. Leader: Bill Sargent

**Friday 2 July 2010 £95**

### PRACTICAL STONE WALL REPAIRS

Two practical days working on the Parham Estate carrying out conservation and repair work using traditional lime mortars and the original stone.

Leader: Kevin Hughes

**Monday-Tuesday 5-6 July 2010 £190**

### SQUARE RULE TIMBER FRAMING

This system evolved in North America in the nineteenth century, from the 'melting pot' of European carpentry cultures combined with the straight timbers available from virgin forests. Using a range of local timbers such as sweet chestnut, larch and Douglas fir, this system embodies standardisation and interchangeable parts as an integral feature. Students will line out, cut and erect the timbers of a simple frame.

Leader: Joe Thompson

**Monday-Friday 13-17 September 2010 £475**

### JOINTING, POINTING & RE-POINTING OF HISTORIC BRICKWORK

An exploration of the historical and technical development of jointing and pointing from the Tudor period to the early 20th century. The course will cover tools, materials, mortars and practice. It will also examine the considerations for successful re-pointing.

Leader: Gerard Lynch

**Monday-Tuesday 13-14 September 2010 £200**

### ENGLISH BRICKWORK: TUDOR TO EDWARDIAN

An overview of the historical development of the bricks, mortars and manner of manipulating them that stamped its character on Tudor, Jacobean, Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian brickwork. The course also examines the causes of failure and conservative repairs relevant to each period.

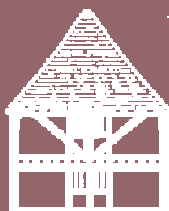
Leader: Gerard Lynch

**Wednesday 15 September 2010 £95**

## Oak frames for sale



Products of the Museum's Timber Framing From Scratch courses. Sold as basic frame or with braces and studs, or roof timbers, or as pictured. Please enquire for prices and availability. Contact: Diana Rowsell, 01243 811464, [headoflearning@wealddown.co.uk](mailto:headoflearning@wealddown.co.uk)



## Course Programme 2009-20

### COUNTRYSIDE SKILLS

#### DOWSING WORKSHOP

An introduction to the fascinating ancient craft of dowsing, with a practical dowsing session and guidance on interpreting the findings. 10am-4pm

**Friday 7 May 2010 £40**

#### CORACLE MAKING WORKSHOP

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-4.30pm

**Saturday-Sunday 27-28 March 2010 £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. (See also Christmas section)

**Sunday 28 March, Saturday 7 August 2010 £55**

#### 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 21 August 2010 £50**

#### POULTRY HUSBANDRY

This course covers the basic principles of keeping chickens, including correct feeding, an explanation of the digestive and reproductive system, general hygiene and common ailments. 10.30am-4pm

**Saturday 7 November 2009, Saturday 8 May 2010 £45**

#### LEATHER BELT WORKSHOP

Learn hand stitching and dyeing techniques to make a beautiful belt, which can be plain, laced or stamped with a choice of buckles. 9.30am-4.30pm

**Saturday 21 November 2009 £55**

#### WOVEN HURDLE MAKING

An introductory two-day course for novices to learn the basic skills and make a traditional woven hazel sheep hurdle. 9.30am-4.30pm.

**Saturday-Sunday 28-29 November 2009 £165**

#### HEDGELAYING

You will learn how to cut and lay a stock proof hedge, including thinning out and selecting materials. 9.30am-4.30pm

**Saturday-Sunday 30-31 January 2010 £130**

#### CONTINUOUS HURDLE FENCING

Learn the practicalities of making a continuous wattle fence using mature hazel rods woven between upright supports. Advice on sources of material, tools needed.

9.30am-4.30pm

**Wednesday 3 February 2010 £50**

#### 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 20-21 February, Saturday-Sunday 11-12 September 2010 £200**

#### TRADITIONAL ROPE WORK

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 27 February 2010 £45**

#### STICKMAKING WORKSHOP

A market stick is a traditional type of stick for country walking, and is also used by farmers to take to market. It is a good basic stick, suitable for beginners to make. 10am-4.30pm

**Saturday-Sunday 27-28 February 2010 £120**

#### LIVING WILLOW WORKSHOP

Come along to this one-day workshop and make a living willow chair which you can plant in your own garden. 9.30am-5pm

**Saturday 6 March & Sunday 7 March 2010 £75**

#### LEATHER BAG WORKSHOP NEW

The chance to make your own unique leather bag, in either a classic tote or messenger bag style. Bags can be personalised with hand sewing, lacing and embossed decoration. 9.30am-4.30pm

**Saturday-Sunday 6-7 March 2010 £110**

#### IRONS IN THE FIRE

A practical 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. 9am-5pm

**Saturday 10 April, Saturday 10 July, Saturday 18 September 2010 £80**

#### LEATHER CARVING WORKSHOP NEW

In this introductory day learn the techniques used for carving and embossing into leather.

Items made during the day to include purses, bookmarks or key fobs. 9.30am-4.30pm

**Saturday 17 April 2010 £50**

*Leather bag workshop.*



# 10 – Traditional rural trades and crafts

## TILE MAKING WORKSHOP NEW

A practical day with the opportunity to design your own tiles, or use pre-made patterns, with information on historical aspects of the craft. Each participant can choose four tiles to be fired and sent to them after the course. 9.30am-5pm  
**Sunday 18 April 2010 £85**

## KEEPING SHEEP

A day school to explore the feasibility and management of a smallholding with sheep. Feeding, housing, breeding and regulations. 9.30am-5pm  
**Sunday 18 April 2010 £65**

## SUSSEX TRUG MAKING WORKSHOP

A unique chance to learn from skilled trug makers how to cleave and shave chestnut for the handle; steam and bend chestnut and willow for the boards and assemble a trug to take home and cherish. 9.30am-4.30pm  
**Saturday-Sunday 24-25 April 2010 £125**

## NET MAKING WORKSHOP

A hands-on day covering the basics of net making, which will include making a diamond meshed net in hammock or 'purse' net form, net repairs, knitting nets and traditional uses of nets. 9.30am-4.30pm  
**Saturday 24 April 2010 £45**

## CANE SEATING WORKSHOP

Learn how to prepare a chair, the basic six-way pattern for re-caning and how to do couching around the edge of the chair. 9.30am-5pm  
**Friday 30 April 2010 £55**

## LEADED-LIGHT STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP

Make a small leaded stained glass panel and learn many skills including how to cut glass to a precise pattern and join pieces. 9am-5pm (Also see Christmas section)  
**Friday 14 May 2010 £90**

## 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. 9am-4.30pm  
**Saturday 15 May 2010 £50**

## WILLOW GARDEN SUPPORTS

Make interesting contemporary plant supports to enhance your garden using English willow and traditional methods. 9.30-5pm  
**Saturday 15 May & Sunday 16 May 2010 £65**

## KNOT CRAFT DAY

Choose a different morning and afternoon session from a range of knot craft related workshops including splicing three-strand rope, leather braiding, netmaking, making side fenders and decorative ropework for narrowboaters. 9.30am-4.30pm  
**Saturday 22 May 2010 £50**

## KEEPING PIGS NEW

An introductory day on all aspects of keeping pigs, including guidance on regulations, feed, shelter and ailments. 9.30am-4.30pm  
**Saturday 22 May 2010 £50**



Weave a rush hat.

## FOOD FOR FREE

Learn how to identify seasonal wild foods, distinguish similar species and gain an understanding of the history and folk lore attached to the plants. Then take a guided walk around the Museum to find plants and learn how to prepare a meal from them and other staples. 9.30am-4.30pm  
**Sunday 23 May 2010 £65**

## 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 June, Saturday 11 September 2010 £55**

## STONE CARVING WORKSHOP

This workshop is for people who wish to develop skills in stone carving. You will work on leaf design in Bath stone. 9.30am-5pm  
**Saturday 19 June 2010 £70**

## 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 of a cottage garden. 10am-4pm  
**Saturday-Sunday 26-27 June 2010 £90**

## LETTER CUTTING IN SLATE

Learn how to carve your own monogram or house number in slate using hand tools, following your own design. 9.30am-5pm  
**Saturday 3 July 2010 £70**

## BIRDS OF PREY EXPERIENCE

A unique opportunity to learn about the husbandry and training of birds of prey, handle and fly the birds in the Museum's parkland and learn about the history of hunting with birds. 10am-4pm  
**Friday 9 July, Friday 6 August 2010 £50**

## WEAVE A RUSH HAT NEW

An opportunity to make your own woven rush hat using the indigenous common bulrush. 9.30am-5pm  
**Friday 30 July 2010 £55**

## ANIMAL TRACKING

Learn about animal signs and track recognition, fundamental tracking techniques and about how plants, trees and shrubs relate to animal behaviour. 9.30am-4.30pm  
**Sunday 1 August 2010 £65**

## HAZEL STOOL WITH WOVEN WILLOW SEAT NEW

Make a beautiful stool from natural materials and learn weaving and simple carpentry techniques. 9.30am-4.30pm  
**Friday 10 September 2010 £65**

## FIELD BUTCHERY NEW

Learn how to prepare a variety of game and accompanying dishes with an emphasis on seasonality and practical skills. 9.30am-4.30pm  
**Sunday 26 September 2010 £65**



Hedgelaying.

## CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS

### TUDOR CHRISTMAS FOOD

Ditch the turkey, and have a go with something really traditional! A Tudor Christmas was a time of food, food and more food, when all the best things came out of the store cupboard to fuel twelve days of eating, drinking and making merry. We shall be cooking up a storm with shred pies, Twelfth Night cake, brawn and roast beef. 10am-4pm  
**Tuesday 1 December 2009 £60**

### CHRISTMAS RAG-RUGGING

Make seasonal decorations and gifts in a Christmassy atmosphere! Traditional rag-rugging plus some glue and glitter. 9.30am-4pm  
**Friday 4 December 2009 £45**

### CHRISTMAS HERBAL GIFTS & DECORATIONS

Make up to five different festive herbal compositions such as wreaths, fragrant baskets and candle decorations. 9.30am-5pm  
**Saturday 5 December, Wednesday 16 December 2009 £40**

### WILLOW WREATH FOR CHRISTMAS

Make up to three willow wreaths to take home and decorate for Christmas. Choose from traditional round, star or heart shapes, using buff or brown willow (or a mixture of both). These re-usable wreaths are a beautiful addition to your Christmas decorations, and are also great to give as presents to your friends and family. 10am-4pm  
**Saturday 5 December 2009 £45**

### CHRISTMAS STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP

Make small copper foiled stained glass light catchers, and learn many skills including how to cut glass to a precise pattern, grind glass edges and join pieces using copper foil. Suitable for beginners and those with some experience. 9.00am-4.30pm  
**Friday 18 December 2009 £80**

## EARLY TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

### SHOOTING THE TRADITIONAL LONGBOW NEW

An introduction to the art and craft of longbow archery. The day focuses on the history and traditions of this remarkable weapon, including intensive tuition in the practice of longbow archery using a range of different bows. Suitable for the beginner and more experienced archer alike. 10am-5pm  
**Saturday 17 April 2010 £45**

### PREHISTORIC JEWELLERY WORKSHOP NEW

Using stone and natural cordage you will learn how to make your own jewellery. 10am-4.30pm  
**Friday 6 August 2010 £50**

### 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 7-8 August 2010 £100**

### TRADITIONAL ENGLISH LONGBOW

Learn to make a working bow, based on the great bow of the hundred years war. Starting from a single stave of laminated timber, you will make your bow and then learn to fire it. 9.30-5pm  
**Friday-Sunday 24-26 September 2010 £260**

## HEAVY HORSE EXPERIENCE DAYS

### PLOUGHING WITH HEAVY HORSES

Covering the basics of ploughing including preparing the harness and the plough for work in the field. Beginners and improvers equally welcome. 10am-4pm  
**Sunday 1 November, Sunday 22 November, Sunday 13 December 200 £80**

## ➡ Rural Trades and Crafts Courses

### CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF HEAVY HORSES

A mix of theory and practice using the Museum's team of heavy horses. An introduction to stable care, feeding, harness and safe handling of draft horses, with the opportunity for some driving. 10am-4pm **Sunday 7 March 2010 £80**

### 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. 10am-4pm **Sunday 21 March 2010 £80**

### 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. 10am-4pm **Sunday 25 April, Sunday 9 May, Sunday 23 May, Sunday 13 June 2010 £80**

## HISTORIC HOME LIFE

### MEAT AND MORE MEAT!

If you want to eat the best, freshest and tastiest meat around it helps to be able to prepare it yourself. The day will focus on the practical skills of skinning, drawing, plucking and boning a range of birds and other game, and some interesting ways of cooking it. 10am-4pm **Wednesday 4 November 2009 £60**

### WHAT'S IN A NAME? NEW

Secrets in signatures and what your signature says about you. Also learn about autograph collecting, forgery, provenance and personality. During the day some signatures on documents associated with the Museum will be examined. 10am-4pm **Wednesday 27 January 2010 £40**

### AGEING THROUGH THE AGES NEW

Are we truly in better health than past generations as we age? A day to examine attitudes, diets, lifestyles and medicines over the past five centuries, and compare with our circumstances today. 9.30am-4.30pm **Saturday 13 March 2010 £50**

### VICTORIAN CLEANING

Clean and neat. The Victorian way of keeping your home and family presentable and hygienic. We shall be looking through and trying out a huge range of methods from the days before marketed products. Learn more about these traditional recipes and time honoured techniques. 10am-4pm **Wednesday 5 May 2010 £60**

### HISTORIC CHEESE MAKING NEW

A hands-on day focussing upon historical cheese making techniques, tasks and ingredients. We shall be making a number of different styles of cheese from skim milk cheese, to cheddaring, cottage cheese to 'green cheese', looking in detail at a number of recipes from the 16th to 19th centuries. 10am-4pm **Thursday 6 May 2010 £60**

### COTTAGE HERB GARDEN: PERENNIALS FOR PRESERVES, POTIONS AND PIGMENTS

When is a flower not a flower? When it is also a herb. Discover the hidden uses of familiar garden flowers from the herbaceous border. Samples of wines, dyed materials, remedies and skincare products will inspire a choice of designing your own ideal border or plot for personal needs or making recipes. 9.30am-4.30pm **Friday 21 May 2010 £50**

### HISTORIC CLOTHING DAY

Examine clothing worn by individuals of a low status who lived in dwellings similar to those at the Museum. There will also be an opportunity to handle original garments and fabrics, to examine stock replica clothing and discuss techniques involved. 10am-4.30pm **Tuesday 8 June 2010 £60**

### MAKE A HERBARIUM – A PERSONAL PLANT RECORD NEW

Learn how to make your own herbarium: identify plants, effectively press them and record all important details to create a wealth of knowledge. 9.30am-4.30pm **Saturday 12 June 2010 £50**

### SING SUSSEX SONGS NEW

A day for anyone interested in traditional, unaccompanied singing and an interest in English social history. No prior knowledge or experience will be assumed. 9.30am-4.30pm **Sunday 13 June 2010 £50**

### 15TH CENTURY HERBS IN THE MEDIEVAL MANOR

From household accounts, cookery recipes and leechbooks come a wealth of information and recipes using herbs as flavourings, colourings, preservatives,

*Secrets of the Tudor stillroom.*



fragrances, medicines and pest repellents. Sage, parsley, garlic, tansy, pot marigolds and rosemary are some of the herbs used on the day. 9.30am-4.30pm

**Friday 18 June 2010 £50**

### SECRETS OF THE TUDOR STILLROOM

The stillroom was the source of a variety of potions, salves, pest repellents, cleansers, cosmetics, fragrant mixes and the all-important distilled aromatic waters. 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

**Saturday 19 June 2010 £50**

### VICTORIAN AND TUDOR HAIR AND MAKEUP

The body beautiful. Learn about cosmetics and hairdressing in the Tudor and Victorian periods. We shall be making a variety of beauty products from perfumed hair rinses to lipsalves and Tudor hair gel. We shall be flicking through the fashion images of the day and have a go at recreating the period look. 10am-4pm

**Wednesday 7 July 2010 £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 centred 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 includes an impressive number of different edible plants, some familiar and some less so. 10am-4pm **Thursday 8 July 2010 £60**

### HERB WALK AROUND THE MUSEUM NEW

By popular request, a day to learn secrets of herbal folklore, uses for plants growing wild around the site and details of medical applications for herbs. Whether your interest is in botany, beauty, fragrance, flavours of cookery, times of gathering, safe use, recognising dangerous plants or country lore, there will be fascinating discoveries for all. 9.30am-4.30pm **Saturday 10 July 2010 £50**

### BELOW STAIRS

An outstanding opportunity to learn about how households were managed over a period of 400 years, with fascinating site visits to parts of Cowdray ruins and Petworth House not normally open to the public. 9.30am-5pm **July 2010 – date to be confirmed early 2010**

### 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 **Tuesday 20 July 2010 £50**

### "RE-WRITING HISTORY": MAKING HISTORICAL INKS NEW

Recipes for inks have been many and various over centuries: from adding wormwood to stop mice eating documents, adding brandy to stop inks freezing in winter, to an inkstand that turns water into ink. Spend a day learning to make fascinating natural inks, including the chance to try them out! 9.30am-4.30pm **Saturday 21 August 2010 £50**

### 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 8 September 2010 £60**

### THE TUDOR BAKEHOUSE – PIES & 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 9 September 2010 £60**

### 18TH-CENTURY STILLROOM SECRETS

Despite the growing interest in chemical medicines, for most of the century the stillroom continued to be the scene of distilling aromatic waters for medicine and cosmetics. Period recipes made on the day will range from snuff and hair tonic, through gargles, medicinal cooling and warming drinks to potted cheese and confections. 9.30am-4.30pm **Friday 24 September 2010 £50**

## DRAWING AND PAINTING WORKSHOPS

All of our workshops are run by practising professional painter and experienced tutor Gordon Rushmer. You will be given in-depth tuition in all watercolour techniques and introduced to the full range of materials in idyllic and tranquil surroundings. We have courses to accommodate both complete beginners and experienced artists, and our small groups enable one-to-one tuition.

### Week-long courses

#### 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. 9.30am-5pm **Monday-Friday 14-18 June 2010 £250**



*Victorian cleaning.*

### IMPROVERS' WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

Five consecutive days of advanced watercolour tuition, for those who have already given watercolour a try and want to take it further. You will be working out of doors in the Museum environment. 9.30am-5pm

**Monday-Friday 6-10 September 2010 £250**

### THE DOWNLAND SKETCHBOOK

This very popular course is both fun and instructive. You will walk a different route every day with plenty of opportunities to stop, admire the scenery and fill your sketchbook. Wear your walking boots! 9.30am-5pm

**Monday-Friday 11-15 October 2010 £250**

## Weekend courses

### BEGINNERS' WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

Overcome your fears and try your hand at watercolour. A comprehensive beginners' course, covering choice of materials and explaining various techniques, including wash, stipple and drybrush. 9.30am-5pm

**Friday-Sunday 21-23 May 2010 £180**

### DRAWING WEEKEND

Practice your drawing technique in a variety of media using the Museum's wonderful buildings and exhibits as your subjects. 9.30am-5pm

**Saturday-Sunday 26-27 June 2010 £120**

### IMPROVERS' WATERCOLOUR WEEKEND NEW

For those with some watercolour experience who want to take it further, this is a shortened version of our five-day course. You will be working out of doors in the Museum environment. 9.30am-5pm

**Friday-Sunday 9-11 July 2010 £180**

### WATERCOLOUR SKETCHING

Learn how to paint fast and loose in watercolour, working out of doors in the Museum environment – buildings, trees, animals . . . you paint it! 9.30am-5pm

**Friday 30 July - Sunday 1 August 2010 £180**

## Day workshops

### COSTUMED FIGURE DRAWING WORKSHOP

The opportunity to receive expert tuition on how to draw figures, using one of the Museum's interpreters in historical costume as your model. 9.30am-5pm

**Friday 11 June 2010 £60**

### DAY WALK WITH A SKETCHBOOK – BOSHAM

A day of boats and quiet creeks, flat walking with broad horizons. 9.30am-5pm

**Saturday 17 July 2010 £60**

## TEXTILES

### SPINNING: PREPARATION AND THE DROP SPINDLE

Learn about fleeces and carding wool ready for spinning, before trying your hand spinning with the drop spindle. 10.30am-4.30pm

**Saturday 31 October 2009, Tuesday 27 April 2010 £45**

### SPINNING: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WHEEL

Following on from the first day, this day concentrates on working with the wheel, whilst giving some background to this traditional craft. 10.30am-4.30pm

**Saturday 7 November 2009, Tuesday 4 May 2010 £45**

### TAPESTRY WORKSHOP: WEAVE A LANDSCAPE NEW

Tapestry weaving can be used to produce wall hangings, using a simple frame loom and a variety of yarns. Learn how to put a warp on to a frame loom, and produce a sampler to take home using both traditional techniques, and knotting and wrapping to create special three-dimensional effects. 10am-4pm

**Saturday 13 February 2010 £45**

### LEARN TO CROCHET

Produce your own unique work of art! During the day you will learn the basics of crocheting and how to read a pattern. 10am-5pm

**Saturday 27 February 2010 £45**

### FELT BAGS

Design and make a seamless bag from hand-made felt using updated traditional techniques. Dyed and natural wool will be provided. 10am-4pm

**Saturday 13 March 2010 £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. (Also see Christmas section)

**Friday 23 April 2010, Friday 2 July 2010 £45**

### KNITTING WORKSHOP

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

**Friday 23 April 2010 £45**

### TATTING WORKSHOP

Tatting is the art of creating lace edgings and inserts using a shuttle and thread. Learn the basics of this skill; how to create basic pattern rings and how to join the rings into attractive lace edging. 10am-4.30pm

**Thursday 27 May 2010 £45**

### FELTING FOR FUN

An introduction to felt making – produce a colourful piece of handmade felt using dyed wools. Includes preparation of the fleece. 10am-4pm

**Saturday 12 June 2010 £45**

### SPINNING: IMPROVERS NEW

An opportunity for those with some experience of spinning to take their skills further in a small group and ask questions. 10am-4pm

**Friday 2 July 2010 £45**

### BOBBIN LACE MAKING FOR BEGINNERS

An introduction to torchon lace, which is the basis of most other laces. Learn how to prepare a pattern, lacemaking terms and how to work the main stitches. 10am-4pm

**Thursday 5 August 2010 £45**



*Visit to Lamb's Brickworks, Pitsham, Midhurst for the History of Bricks & Brickmaking course.*

### 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. 10am-4pm

**Friday 6 August 2010 £45**

## GUIDED WALKS

### CANDLELIT WALK

Explore the Museum by candlelight and learn about the lives of our rural ancestors. A guided walk starting at 5pm, finishing with mulled wine and mince pies.

**Tuesday 15 December 2009 £10**

### FICTION WALK NEW

Join Jane Borodale, Leverhulme Writer in Residence at the Museum, as she talks about the inspiration for her short stories, set in Museum dwellings at different points of history. Starts at 5pm and finishes with tea and cake.

**Thursday 6 May 2010 £10**

### DAWN WALK WITH BREAKFAST

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

**Saturday 8 May 2010 £15**

### 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.

**Wednesday 26 May 2010 £10**

### DUSK WALK NEW

Guided walk through local woods to find nightjars, deer and maybe even glow worms. Starts at 9pm and finishes with hot drinks at the Museum.

**Friday 18 June 2010 £10**

### PERIOD GARDENS WALK NEW

Spend an afternoon with the Museum gardener. See the transition of gardens from the early 16th century through to the late 19th century and learn about the herbs, vegetables and plants that met the needs of rural households over the centuries. Starts at 2pm

**Thursday 24 June 2010 £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 fascinating creatures. Starts at 7.15pm, finishes with hot drinks.

**Friday 20 August 2010 £10**

## OPEN COURSES – SUSSEX UNIVERSITY

*These continuing education courses are validated by Sussex University and carry higher education credits to recognise student learning. For their full programme visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/cce](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cce)*

### RURAL LIVES 1300-1900

Explore the public and private lives of 'ordinary' people in rural communities across southeast England over a 600 year period. Themes will include rural housing, consumer behaviour, household structure, poverty, social protest, education, demography and the rural economy. 2pm-4pm

**Tuesdays from 22 September 2009 (20 weeks) £180**

### DEVising CHURCH TRAILS IN WEST SUSSEX NEW

Building on the knowledge and interest of participants, we will devise trails and test them. Each trail will have academic rationale require the study of the relevant literature. 9.30am-5pm

**Saturdays 8 & 22 May, 5 & 19 June, 3 July 2010 £90**

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 4,950 memberships representing about 11,600 individual members. Since its inception it has raised a total of £1.4 million for the Museum, making a major contribution to the Museum's work.

### Friends 2010 Spring Tour to Worcester & the West Midlands – 22-27 April

Next year's tour will be based in Worcester staying at the Fownes Hotel, just a few minutes walk from the city centre by the Worcester-Birmingham canal. On the way we will break our journey for lunch at Snowhill Manor, a Cotswold house set in hillside gardens housing Charles Wade's collection of 'colour, craftsmanship and design.'

During our trip we will visit the 'Birmingham Back to Backs', for a tour of the carefully restored, atmospheric 19th century courtyard of working people's houses, spending the rest of the day experiencing a chocoholic paradise at Cadbury World.

We will have the chance to learn a little about the city of Worcester on a guided tour, with free time to visit attractions such as the Cathedral, the Commandery and the Porcelain Museum.

We shall also enjoy an exclusive tour and lunch in a private dining room at Ragley Hall, the delightful Palladian home of the Marquess & Marchioness of Hertford.

Another day will be spent at the Black Country Living Museum which tells the story of a fascinating period of our manufacturing and domestic history in the heart of Britain. Interpretive exhibitions and an extensive open air site with re-erected historic buildings and features have been brought together to vividly recreate the past way of life in the region.

On our return journey, we shall stop at Bowood, the home of the Marquis of Lansdown, for lunch and time to look around the house and beautiful grounds.

The cost will not exceed £400 per person to include coach travel, bed, breakfast and evening meal, entrances and tours, lunch on Sunday and Tuesday and coach driver's gratuity. It does not cover insurance (you are strongly advised to take out your own) lunches (apart from Sunday and Tuesday), drinks and incidental expenses at the hotel (e.g. papers, phone calls, bar bills etc).

For an application form please ring Michael Piggott on 01730 813126 (please leave your name and address if you get the ansaphone) and one will be sent by return. There are a limited number of single rooms available.

**Michael Piggott**

*Friends on this year's Spring Tour to North Wales discuss their purchases at Portmeirion.*



### Friends' social events 2009

Each year the Friends' committee organises a programme of day trips to places of historic interest in our region. These have always been very well supported and offer a great opportunity for members to get together socially, travel in the comfort of a coach, and enjoy a day out.

In June the Friends visited Parham House, near Pulborough, West Sussex for an afternoon kindly arranged for us by Richard Pailthorpe. We were there on a day when the house is not open to the public so were able to have a really special time which was enjoyed by all. July saw us off to Knole House, the National Trust property in Kent. The weather was kind and everyone had a good day taking in the extensive house and grounds.

At the time of writing we still have two trips to go. In late September the British Museum was our target, and on December 8th we will visit Milestones Museum in Basingstoke to see the museum decorated for Christmas with decorations appropriate for the different eras reflected in the museum's collections. In the morning we visit Guildford Cathedral with its Nativity Scene, where we will have coffee, followed by a tour discovering Christmas past in the villages of Surrey and Hampshire stopping for lunch in Odiham. There are still a few places available for this trip: tickets cost £21 excluding refreshments. For further details telephone Sarah Casdagli on 01243 811726.

**Sarah Casdagli**

### Honorary membership

At the Friends AGM in May honorary membership was conferred on Bob Easson, who recently retired as the Museum's Visitor Services Manager. Bob spent 11 years at the Museum, with responsibility for its opening on a daily basis and managing the volunteers. He recruited, interviewed and rostered their daily tasks at a time when the number of volunteers at the Museum rose to over 500, clocking up more than 35,000 hours of work each year. Bob is currently back at the Museum on a part-time basis helping organise children's activities at half-terms and on Wednesdays in the summer holidays with Karen Searle Barrett.

### Are you able to Gift Aid your membership subscription?

Any taxpayer can help the Friends enormously by signing up for Gift Aid. A good percentage of you have already made Gift Aid declarations and in 2008 this enabled us to claim back nearly £36,000.

In the light of the Government's need to claw back its lost revenues since the credit crunch, we are very likely to suffer the threatened reduction in the rate at which we can claim, so every Gift Aided subscription helps.

If you have not already made the declaration for Gift Aid, please consider it now. It costs you nothing and is very valuable indeed to the Friends. Please contact the Friends office at the Museum by post, telephone 01243 811893 or by email at [friends@wealddown.co.uk](mailto:friends@wealddown.co.uk).



Down the slate mine! Friends prepare to take a trip into Llechwedd Slate Caverns.

## Contacting the Friends

For all membership queries please contact the Friends office at Friends of the Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU. Tel 01243 811893. Email: friends@wealddown.co.uk. The office is staffed part-time so please leave a message if necessary and you will be contacted as soon as possible. For information about Friends' events (except the Spring Tour 2010, for which the contact is Michael Piggott on 01730 813126) contact Sarah Casdagli, Honorary Secretary, Little Yarne, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0HA. Tel 01243 811726.

## Young people get a taste of traditional crafts



The Museum again hosted the English Heritage-inspired Springline project run in partnership with the Sustainability Centre at East Meon. Ten youngsters aged between 13 and 15 spent a very busy hands-on day getting a taste of local building crafts. The aim is to encourage them to consider careers in the traditional crafts that have been an important element in their own local villages for centuries. In the photograph, thatcher Chris Tomkins supervises a thatching session using a small-scale frame.

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Just complete the application form and return it to us at the address below by 4th December. We will send the membership card to the address on the form. If you would like a card enclosed, let us know the greeting to put inside. If you want it sent to another address, enclose a note with the details.

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Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU  
Phone: 01243 811893 Email: friends@wealddown.co.uk  
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### Friends of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Application for Gift Membership

Title.....Initials.....Surname.....

Second name (for joint members at the same address)

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#### MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED (please tick a box)

- Family (a household of two adults and their dependent children or grandchildren under 18 or full time students) ☐ £57
- Adult ☐ £21
- Adults (joint) ☐ £42
- Senior citizen (60 plus) ☐ £18
- Senior citizens (joint) ☐ £36
- Child/Student (under 18 or full time student) ☐ £11

#### METHOD OF PAYMENT

- ☐ Cheque (payable to Friends of the Weald & Downland Museum)
- ☐ Credit or Debit card (Visa, Mastercard or Switch/Maestro only)

Card number.....

Expiry date.....Start date..... Issue number.....Security Code.....

Signature.....Date.....

OFFICE USE	Number	Cheque/CC Category	Total £ Change

## People



### Charlie Thwaites recalls a challenging season

**As I sat at my interview for the post of Head Warden & Visitor & Volunteer Services Manager at the Museum I was aware that there was a gauntlet on the table. The challenge of the season ahead was off the starting blocks and racing away, even prior to my accepting the role.**

In my first few weeks I discovered that it was the volunteers who were crucial to each day's success. Who are all these people and how am I ever going to learn their names? What are 'Event Days'? And why do people talk about 'Going to overflow' with such terror?

Six months later the picture of a normal day is clearer. The morning begins with a sleeping museum about to be coaxed to life. The warden walks past the doors of Hambrook Barn to the pathway cutting across the grass and waits quietly, looking down into the valley. Slowly a trickle of volunteers flows along each little path heading west to their day's destination. The warden goes unnoticed until a hand in the distance shoots up in joyful greeting and news that you are on the hill drifts across to all. The Museum family has gathered and is awake for another day.

As Volunteer Services Manager my job is to keep an overview of volunteering at the Museum, including welcoming new recruits, but I have also been set the challenge of forming new teams, and with new friendships we have been able to achieve projects large and small. We have a new picnic area under the trees near Poplar Cottage, and a new lime kiln and teaching area for lime slaking and brickwork. We have a restored clay pit and the bell-frame enclosure moves closer to completion. A Wednesday team has

joined the famous Tuesday Gang, and a hands-on Friday team has joined forces with volunteer Alan Wood to continue projects in the demonstration area. The Museum can also boast the formation of a wattle-and-daub team whose first project is starting shortly – and having spent a weekend scythe training I hope a scything team will soon follow.

In the extreme heat of June a group of students from Basingstoke College of Technology achieved much needed maintenance throughout the museum, and we are keen to encourage other young people to join us from schools, colleges and universities. Similarly I have begun to approach businesses to volunteer for a day – a group will be joining us from The Body Shop for three days in October to tackle outdoor projects and deep cleaning.

Volunteering has always been central to the Museum's operation and none of these developments takes away the importance of the continuing roles held by our many long-standing volunteers. In recognition of this the Museum is finding ways to enrich their experience and develop a greater sharing of knowledge and training for them.

**“Slowly a trickle of volunteers flows along each little path heading west to their day's destination. The warden goes unnoticed until a hand in the distance shoots up in joyful greeting and news that you are on the hill drifts across to all. The Museum family has gathered and is awake for another day.”**

During the season the challenge of getting to know all the volunteers by name – an endless but happy task! – revealed hidden arts and crafts abilities. With this in mind I have organised *The Museum's Got Talent* exhibition from 17-22 November this year. Over 50 volunteers and staff have entered exhibits!

A warden's day is a patchwork of beautiful images, forward planning, friendly discussions, crises (averted) and lots of oversized keys and strange locks. As the shadows begin to creep across the fields, the visitors disappear and the volunteers trundle back east, homeward bound. And when the Museum empties of people, the wildlife creeps out from the hidden edges and watches me lock up the buildings for the night. My job is done but the challenge continues.

And I can tell you that a volunteer who can park cars in tight rows or divert traffic with great efficiency will greatly reduce my stress levels on 'Event Days' when we 'Go to Overflow'!

### Lesley Parker joins Interpretation team

**Lesley Parker joined the Museum as our Domestic Interpretation Demonstrator and Co-ordinator in April this year.**

Lesley comes to us from Fishbourne Roman Palace where she worked for 14 years with the education department. She will now be working at the Museum on Sundays to Thursdays interpreting our domestic buildings and training and supporting volunteers.

Lesley claims to have been on a steep learning curve since she arrived, having had to leap from Roman to Medieval and beyond in a remarkably short space of time.

"Everyone has been so friendly and helpful and my introduction to the Winkhurst Tudor Kitchen has been made so much easier by the knowledge and experience of the volunteer cooks working in there".



### Thatching straw trials

*The aim of the Museum's long-straw trials, which have just completed their second year, was to produce a thatching straw that could be harvested and put straight onto a roof without the process of threshing which can damage and waste a high proportion of the straw. Five trial plots were used, each with a different procedure: on some the crop*

*was cut early, other plots were sprayed and then cut early or in other cases the crop was left to establish its "standing quality". We discovered that it is possible but very difficult to grow straw that satisfies our requirements. The weather plays a large part, and there is only about a five-day window in the growth stages of the crop in which*



## News in brief

### Museum outreach

The Museum has been represented this year at several events in our region including Covers Builders' Merchants open day, Wests Wood Show at East Dean, the Smallholders Show at Ardingly, the Weed and Wildflower Festival at Bignor and an open day at the Building Crafts College in the midst of new buildings being constructed for the 2012 Olympic Games. The Museum's publicity activities always attract interest. Keith and Beryl Bickmore regularly man the stand at Alton Agricultural Show (pictured) where they have often won prizes in the 'best stand' competition. A highlight this year was the event celebrating the Lottery-funded restoration of Hotham Park, Bognor Regis, one of the most successful the Bickmores can remember attending.



chemical sprays can be used. A lot more work needs to be done to establish the quality of the straw for thatching. No further trials are planned at the Museum in the immediate future, but it is an area that we may well return to. The photograph shows Chris Baldwin and Chris Tomkins building the rick of thatching straw.

## Leverhulme Writer in Residence

For much of this year, the Museum has been hosting a writer-in-residence – based in the library at the heart of the Museum site. Funded by a Leverhulme Trust award, Jane Borodale has been working on a group of fictional stories called *The Visitor*, to be published next year.

Intertwining historical evidence with imagination and conjecture, each story follows the thread of the life of an individual house from the Museum collection. Jane describes the work as 'tangles of voice, describing a series of glimpses – little fistfuls of dug-up moments or incidents progressing through time.'

Jane has drawn inspiration for *The Visitor* from a variety of research and fieldwork, and explains that she was as intrigued by the difficulty of history – the muddle and incompleteness of it – as she was by the precision and scholarship of historical knowledge and analysis that she encountered during the residency.

She read across a range of aspects of social history, including medieval domestic life, the Black Death, breadmaking, flint-knappers, tree-ring dating, local flora and fauna, sheep farming and shepherds, timber-framing, hops, festivals and customs, Victorian wallpaper, flax, shoemaking, Sussex folklore, life in the villages during WW2, and agricultural commentators such as Thomas Tusser and Arthur Young.

She mined the extensive records in the Museum archive for details about the dismantling and reconstruction of the buildings, as well as photographs, maps and historical reports, went to the County Records Office to look at relevant primary documents, and made several visits to the original sites of the houses in Kent, Sussex and Hampshire, to get a sense of how the surrounding landscape might have had a bearing on its occupants. "I wanted to isolate particular flavours and tones for the individual houses," she says, "to keep their character distinct in my mind as I was working – a kind of DNA of place."

Jane also spent time making observational notes inside the buildings throughout the seasons; sitting by fire-sides and open windows, listening to visitors on the stairs, talking to key members of staff about their work and areas of expertise. She says: "Studying these buildings closely has made a real difference to the scale of the way that I see history – its human intimacy – and I



Jane Borodale.

have learnt a lot about using texture and atmosphere while writing here. I'm hugely grateful to the staff at the Museum for being so generous and welcoming, and it's been a privilege to have had unlimited access to such a distinguished collection."

Jane will be reading from her Museum stories when *The Visitor* is printed in the new year – tickets to be available shortly.

***The Book of Fires* published by Harper Press at £12.99: 382-page hard-back, available from the Museum shop.**

Jane's interest in the Museum started in 2000 when she was one of 20 artists who expressed interest in a project called *The House of Memory*. The aim of the project was to create a series of artworks – sculpture, sound, text, moving images – to bring the history of Poplar cottage to life at an emotional level – a new form of interpretation. Unfortunately the project ran into funding difficulties and was abandoned, but unbeknownst to us it had started an idea growing in Jane's mind which led her to write *The Book of Fires*.

It's a novel set in the mid 18th century. The central character, Agnes Trussel, is a member of a family living in Poplar cottage, and although the scene soon changes to London, memories of the Sussex countryside form a constant refrain in the narrative. The twists and turns of the plot involve a lot of fireworks! I found it beautifully written and extremely engaging – a highly recommended read, and the Museum can take pride in our association with it.

**Richard Harris**





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Textile Design: Figures and Symbols, 1943, The Ascher Collection  
Photograph: Michael Phipps, Reproduced by permission of the Henry Moore Foundation

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# Your gift will make a difference

**O**ur towns, villages and countryside are our legacy, and provide a fascinating insight into the lives and skills of our ancestors. It is part of the work of The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum to rescue important buildings from demolition, destruction and neglect and re-erect and restore them on the Museum site.

But it is not just a question of rescuing a building and sitting back and enjoying it. Life isn't that simple. Our buildings are made of wood, reeds, mud and stone . . . materials that need regular maintenance and sensitive care. This too is our work. It is ongoing and expensive and there is still much to be done. This crucial work continues without any direct government funding. We are a registered charity and our income is mainly through our admission charges, lifelong learning programmes and our supportive Friends of the Museum.

Could you pledge a legacy that will allow us to plan ahead, to protect and develop this unique Museum, to nurture talent and to lead the way in education and conservation? If or when the time is right for you to include a gift in your Will please remember us. In doing so, you would make an important contribution to the legacy we leave to future generations.

Legacies, grants, gifts and donations, large or small, do make a difference. They are used to initiate or support projects that could not be funded from our day to day income or, where appropriate, they are invested to underpin the Museum's longer term financial position.

Arthur Cox chose to make a generous lifetime gift to the Museum. Arthur was an agricultural engineer who was passionate about the need to conserve and display farm machinery and vehicles, and the Museum

shared his passion. We had a number of wheeled vehicles and associated implements which were previously inaccessible to visitors at our off-site store. Arthur's gift, together with a grant from the DCMS/Wolfson Galleries Improvement fund, made a major contribution to the building of our Vehicle & Implement

Gallery. We are now able to display about 12 large vehicles, many of which can be used by our team of Shire horses, and are often put to work on our agricultural operations. Sadly Arthur died before the gallery was completed but now his legacy can be shared by our thousands of visitors for many years to come.

## Why make a Will?

- A correctly prepared Will gives you peace of mind.
- If you die without a Will, the law will decide "who gets what" and your spouse, your children, a relative or your favourite good cause may miss out.
- Your Will can provide protection for your family, making sure of financial support for their needs.
- Inheritance tax is charged on your estate above a certain level (40% over £325,000, or £650,000 for a married couple, in 2009-2010); by careful planning you can reduce this burden.
- You can use your Will to benefit your favourite charities. All charitable gifts are free of inheritance tax.

## Next steps

It can be quick and easy to make a Will, but it always pays to consult a solicitor. If you wish to make a gift to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum in your Will, or to add the Museum to an existing Will by means of a codicil, the following suggested wording may be useful:

**"I give to Weald & Downland Open Air Museum (Registered Charity Number 306338) for its charitable purposes**

(insert here your legacy – for example):

**a) the sum of**

**or**

**b) all the residue of my estate (or a percentage thereof)**

**and I direct that the receipt of the treasurer or other officer of the said Museum shall be a good discharge to my Executors"**

## Heavy horses and working animals display their skills

*Heavy horses always draw the crowds, and the Museum's annual summer show in June was no exception. Heavy horses gather at the Museum to display their skills. Highlights this year included cross-country driving; parades of breeds, agricultural vehicles and trade vehicles; timber handling display and a riding competition. In October the Autumn Countryside Show is another popular occasion, with heavy horses and vintage tractors ploughing, steam threshing, falconry, dogs and displays of traditional rural crafts and skills. In the picture Steve Jones flies Welsh flags behind his cross-country driving vehicle pulled by a pair of Suffolk horses.*



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Continuing our series in which Museum course tutors write about their subject and involvement with the Museum

## LEADing the way forward

**M**y name is Nigel Johnston: I am the Training Centre Manager for the Lead Sheet Association (LSA) responsible for delivery, development and assessment of leadwork and plumbing courses, which are organised and delivered from our technical and training facility in East Peckham, Kent. The LSA is the ultimate technical authority on the use of lead sheet applications in the UK construction industry including the extensive historic property heritage, with the value of work done in this sector estimated at £2 billion per annum.

Courses in leadwork extend beyond the development of hands-on skills training. The nature of the product, its malleability and reaction to temperature changes in exposed conditions demands awareness of design theory.

This is where my relationship with the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum began. A meeting in June 1998 with Christopher Zeuner OBE, then the Museum Director, to discuss the possibility of running two, one-day seminars took place at the LSA offices. The first seminars were planned and programmed for 11/12 February 1999. They were designed for architects, surveyors and building professionals involved with the design and specifica-

tion of lead sheet in building.

It was important that all delegates should have the opportunity to participate in the two disciplines of forming and shaping leadwork. The first of these is bossing, a technical term used in the Middle Ages to describe the beating out of metals into shapes. Leadworkers now



Nigel Johnston, the Museum's tutor in leadwork.

use this term to describe the shaping of lead sheet with hand tools. The second is lead welding, traditionally known as lead burning. The morning part of the programme is based on the theoretical design, writing specifications and the implications a lack of understanding can have on the longevity of the product

and the afternoon sessions are based on practical appreciation.

I remember the day of the first seminar very well. I arrived at 1.00pm the day before with my trailer full of tools and equipment: it usually takes about three hours to unload and set up ready for the day. The theoretical morning session was delivered in Crawley Hall. Lunch was taken in the wonderful surroundings of the Museum and delegates had the opportunity to purchase reference books from the Museum shop at a discounted price. Court Barn was the setting for the afternoon's practical session, where delegates had the opportunity to practice bossing and welding exercises including the basic principles of lead casting.

Today the format of the seminars remains the same, delivered to the standards Chris Zeuner originally intended. The demand for additional courses has led to the introduction of *Practical Leadwork* for the hands-on practitioner culminating in the Advanced Course, which is based on a three-day practical. Delegates make patterns to their own design before casting the components, and then fabricate the various parts to make a lead planter or hopper head.

I always look forward to my visit to the Museum and meeting new delegates. I believe I am very privileged to be associated with the Museum, and the working partnership, which has developed over the years through the organisational skills of Diana Rowsell (Head of Learning), Rebecca Osborne and Lucy Hockley, has ensured the smooth delivery of the seminars and courses.

## Museum Renaissance

**A**lthough the Museum is operated by an independent charitable trust, it has close contact with the wider national museum and heritage world, and takes advantage of opportunities this offers to further its work.

In recent years many of these opportunities have been embodied in the *Renaissance in the Regions* programme, which aims to enhance museum provision and standards in the English regions, away from the national museum scene in London, which is separately funded and attracts huge international audiences.

*Renaissance*, as it is known, has drawn a mixed reaction from museums. Some have found it highly effective – the few larger museum services that are in 'hubs' which have been able to draw down special funding for example. Museums like the Weald & Downland have found

it less useful, although there have been some minor funding opportunities.

Now a review of *Renaissance*, which has been highly critical of its operation, has come up with some changes for the future. A very few 'core' museums would replace hubs and be expected to cascade down good practice and funding to smaller museums. There would be a new national network for Museum Development Officers, who are vital to the very small museums. And there would be opportunities for challenge funding, open to all museums, but no doubt with some strings attached!

Our Museum is fully Accredited in a quality standards scheme with the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council (MLA), and of course is also Designated, as one of only some 60 museums country-wide with collections of national and international importance. It is the

latter scheme which has been of most help to the Museum, funding as it does projects concerned with improvements to the care and display of collections. At the Museum Pendean Farmhouse, Winkhurst Tudor Kitchen and the new wheeled-vehicle gallery have all been possible as a result of Designation.

Designation has been identified as "safe" within the many changes currently being made by the MLA, and it remains to be seen how the proposals in the *Renaissance Review* will affect the Museum in future. Fortunately the Museum can make its own way as a result of its independence and ability as a charitable trust to draw funding from a wide variety of sources. It is this flexibility and capability for quick decision-making and business approach which has led to its position as one of the country's top independent museums.

# News from the Schools Service

## Transformational Learning Conference

After the successful Creativity Conference last year, the Schools Services Department was delighted to host another teachers' conference in June –



Transformational Learning, delivered by Primary Matters. The conference was aimed at school leaders, teachers, governors and others who were interested in developing a first-class curriculum that provides the best learning opportunities for all children and young people. The day consisted of inspirational speakers, interactive workshops and a tremendous drumming workshop by students from Thomas A' Becket and Buckingham Park Schools. Delegates couldn't help but be on their feet dancing to the beat! Once again our site proved to be an ideal setting for the event, successfully highlighting to teachers the broad scope of learning on offer.

## 40 years of Museum school visits!

As an integral part of the Museum's Ruby Anniversary celebrations the Schools Services Department will be creating a display featuring memories of school visits over the last 40 years. Please ask your friends and family for any memories of a school visit that could be used in the display (if possible

with an indication of the date). Written memories, anecdotes and pictures from visits would all be welcome. Please contact the Department on 01243 811028 or email [education@wealddown.co.uk](mailto:education@wealddown.co.uk). The display will be opening in January 2010, so contributions need to be submitted by the end of November 2009.

**B**edales School near Petersfield and the Weald & Downland Museum have had a long association. We share similar philosophies, each approaching outdoor education with the emphasis on experiencing history in a practical and visual way.

One of the many parallels between the Museum and Bedales is that, within 10 years of the Museum leading the way, Bedales was itself dismantling, re-locating and re-erecting an historic building. The Earl of Selborne offered the school a barn, then located at Sotherington, which was dismantled and re-built by Bedalians, under the guidance of John Rogers. The Sotherington Barn was re-opened in 1983 and has remained the hub of Bedales Outdoor Work to this day. The value of such a project cannot be over-estimated. One pupil wrote: "Towards the end, as A-levels loomed, my education in the barn . . . was nearly stopped by the inevitable competition for pieces of paper . . . but I'll always think of the barn as, in many ways, a more solid bit of education".

That more solid education continues to the present day and Bedalians have not only removed and re-built another 18th century barn, but have recently created from scratch two oak-framed buildings of their own. In common with the Museum, Bedales students can learn traditional building and maintenance


skills, such as the use of lime mortar, flint-walling and brick-laying. Traditional wood-working skills have been applied to building chicken-houses, country gates, stables and the restoration of a gypsy caravan.

Bedales has had a school farm since its foundation in 1899 and today it is stocked with Jacob's sheep, ducks and chickens. Students can learn about traditional country crafts such as hedge

## Bedales School and The Weald & Downland Museum

laying, coppicing, blacksmithing, spinning and weaving. The late Museum Director Chris Zeuner encouraged Bedales in its quest for a working horse, loaning us a Shire and helping us to find our Percheron, Spartan, the pride and joy of the Outdoor Work Department.

Within one of our barns we have built a wood-fired bread oven and students rise early, once a week, to bake about 150 loaves. A few years ago, a television programme followed the complete bread-making process, from growing the wheat, grinding the flour at Singleton, kneading and cooking at Bedales,



**Museum's Schools Service awarded a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge!**

The Museum was one of the first in the country to be awarded this new Quality Badge. The Badge is part of a Government initiative to promote practical education outside the classroom and is awarded only to places that deliver high-quality teaching and pay great attention to risk management to ensure a safe learning environment for young people. Teachers can be reassured that when bringing their students to visit our Museum they are visiting an establishment that is providing a quality, safe educational experience. We have known this for a long time of course – but it's a real achievement to have this new 'official' seal of approval!

to selling and eating the finished product, again at the Museum. Students also gather fruit and cook many varieties of jams, preserves, pickles and chutneys. Our old orchards are nearing the end of their useful lives, which means that a new generation of Bedalians will clear, plant and care for the next batch of fruit trees, perhaps for their own children to reap the benefits.

More recent associations have arisen through the development of the Bedales Assessed Courses for years 10 and 11, in the subject which we loosely call Outdoor Work. Each student is taught basic practical skills to enable them to undertake a particular project. These have included renovating a 1957 Ferguson tractor, rebuilding a gypsy caravan, building a hexagonal chicken house, bee keeping, designing and creating a herb and water garden and building an oak framed field shelter. The final qualification is equivalent to a GCSE and to establish its integrity Diana Rowsell, the Museum's Head of Learning, has taken on the role of adjudicator.

I believe that the Bedales aim to educate "head, hand and heart" is one which is shared by the Weald & Downland Museum and I hope that the links between us will continue to grow, long into the future.

**Peter Coates**  
Head of Outdoor Work,  
Bedales School

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**D**espite the ominous title this summer's theatre trail took place at the Museum to great acclaim from new and regular visitors.

Funding from *Awards for All* and West Sussex County Council's rural arts programme *Poems and Puddings* enabled the Museum to commission The Company – a Sussex-based theatre company – to write and direct a piece of site-specific theatre suitable for all ages. The Company last visited the Museum in 2007 with another specially devised piece *Centuries Apart* which was originally commissioned by *Poems and Puddings*. This time we wanted to attract a wider audience including our general visitors and young people who may have fewer opportunities to participate in Museum or theatre activities.

Once Suzi Hopkins, the writer, had written the piece, casting and rehearsals began. The actors arrived at the Museum at the end of July to rehearse for a few days on site prior to the performances and workshops. On a beautiful, sunny evening on the last weekend in July the first performance took place. As the play progressed across the Museum, in and out of some of our historic buildings and through the woods, the audience were equally enthralled by the performance and the experience of being at the Museum 'out of hours'. The story ended in the Market Square with a song and a last drink before the audience made their way home.

Over the following week The Company performed at the Museum during the day and evening for general visitors and pre-booked audiences. In addition, the Museum had invited four different groups of young people to attend specially devised drama workshops and performances over four days. One of these groups was *Families for Children*, a Sussex-based organisation working with foster children and their families. Others taking part were West Sussex Youth Services in Littlehampton, Bognor Regis and Chichester, with children aged 8-15yrs. Chailey Heritage School, a charitable school for young



Performers from The Company with the audience. Clockwise from top left, outside Poplar Cottage; inside Winkhurst Tudor Kitchen; with the audience from Fernleigh Centre, Chichester, and in the Market Square.

## “And that will never be”

people with physical disabilities, participated in our final day of workshops. The workshops were led by the actors in the morning and then two of the children were selected to take part in the afternoon performance for the group.

For the actors the challenges of performing in an open air museum varied day-to-day – from performing in the pouring rain to literally acting their way through the crowds on a busy ‘Wonderful Wednesday’. We also discovered that despite our recommendation that the show was not suitable

for children under seven, because of the amount of walking and concentration required, they were in fact some of the most enthusiastic audience members!

Comments from audience members over the week included:

*“Stunning performance – really got into the mood of the play walking around, beautiful evening”; “Historical stories were very good – authentic social history”; “Great, witty on adult and child levels – bring back more open air theatre!”*

**Hannah Tiplady**  
Head of Interpretation

## 2009 – success in a difficult season

**T**he 2009 season began in a period of unprecedented economic gloom with major institutions collapsing around the world and the British public feeling uncertain and nervous about the future. The Museum made the decision to postpone some proposed projects, and looked very carefully at all our costs.

Very few of our visitors are pre-booked

so we had no indication as to how visitor numbers would be affected by the situation. However as the season unfolded we were able to maintain numbers and by the end of August we were 3% up on 2008. We were also achieving the budget that we had set before the collapse of the financial institutions around the world.

There is no doubt that the dramatic devaluation of the Pound against the

Euro has encouraged people to holiday in the UK and there have also been more visitors from Europe to the Museum. Our event programme has proved very popular and the weather has been kind. So at the end of the year the Museum's finances will remain in a sound condition and be ready for the undoubted challenges of 2010.

**Henry Warner**  
Head of Operations



## Christmas is coming . . .

. . . and these geese will happily survive the season in their paddock by Bayleaf Farmhouse.

Winter days in the Museum's lovely downland setting are special, with crackling fires providing a welcome in some of the 45 historic homes and workplaces which form the Museum's main exhibits.

Don't miss out on the **Christmas Market** on **14/15 November**, where you can find that perfect gift or treat shopping in a traditional Christmas market setting, in and around the Museum's historic buildings. Dozens of stalls with arts, crafts, food, and unusual gifts will be displaying their wares, and broadcaster and novelist Kate Mosse will be signing copies of her latest bestseller *The Winter Ghosts* from 11am – 1 pm.

With the festive season just round the corner the annual **Tree Dressing** event takes place on **6 December** from 12.30pm offering visitors the chance to celebrate the life-giving properties of trees in a festival whose origins go back to ancient times. People of all ages can take part in the lantern-making workshop (bring a jam jar and night light), watch morris dancing, enjoy plays and songs and finally join in with the lantern procession and dance around the tree as it is dressed. Mulled cider, mince pies and roasted chestnuts will be served.

In Christmas week all are invited to enjoy **A Sussex Christmas** from **26 December – 1 January 2010** when decorations in some of the historic houses reflect the spirit of Christmas through the ages. Fifteenth century Bayleaf Farmhouse will be decorated with holly and ivy gathered from the Museum's woodlands; Whittaker's Cottages dating from the 1860s will be ready for a typical Victorian Christmas, complete with tree, and Pendean Farmhouse (1609) will reflect Christmas in Stuart England. Cooks in the award-winning working Tudor kitchen will prepare a mouth-watering choice of festive fare for visitors to sample, while elsewhere festive period music, carol singing, a Museum trail, children's activities and storytelling will be taking place.

The **Museum shop** is open every day until 23 December offering a wide range of products from stocking fillers, to local crafts, books and hand-made axes. All profits from the shop are used to support the work of the Museum.

*Christmas Market crowds in the Museum's market square.*



## WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Singleton, Chichester, W Sussex PO18 0EU  
Telephone 01243 811348 [www.wealddown.co.uk](http://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

**Opening times:** Museum open every day until 23 December; daily for 'A Sussex Christmas' 26 December – 1 January 2010; 2 January – 28 February Wed, Sat and Sun only, plus daily for Half Term activities 15-19 February. From 1 March open daily, opening times 10.30 – 4pm, 10.30 – 6pm during British Summer Time.

### Admission

Adults £8.95, over 60s £7.95, children £4.70, family £24.25 (2+3), under 5s free. Call 01243 811363 for details of group rates and disabled access. Free car and coach parking, dogs on leads welcome, lakeside café, picnic areas, gift and bookshop.



**Weald & Downland Open Air Museum**  
Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU

**Museum office Tel:** 01243 811363

**Fax:** 01243 811475

**Information line:** 01243 811348

**E-mail:** [office@wealddown.co.uk](mailto:office@wealddown.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.wealddown.co.uk](http://www.wealddown.co.uk)

**Friends membership Tel:** 01243 811893

**Museum Director:** Richard Harris MA AADip

**Magazine Editor:** Diana Zeuner

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