



WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Spring 2011

**Events
and
Courses
2011 –
including
highlights
for this
season
and the new
Vernacular
House series**



**Building History –
the story of the museum's
development – order your
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**Visiting my ancestors –
in one of the museum's
buildings**

**Forty years of collecting – discover treasures
from the museum's artefact store**

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Visit of HRH The Prince of Wales



Louise Adams/Observer series

HRH The Prince of Wales visited the museum in November – one of the final events in the 40th anniversary year – taking in a tour of the museum site and meeting staff and volunteers in the course of their everyday work. His visit ended in the Jerwood Gridshell Space, where the National Society of Master Thatchers presented a number of demonstrations including thatching with different materials, hurdle making and coppicing. The Prince was met by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex, Gordon Tregear and museum director, Richard Harris. His tour included the museum's working Tudor kitchen, the period gardens, and a schools' apothecary workshop, meeting schoolchildren visiting as part of the museum's schools services programme. In the photographs, from top: The Prince chats with volunteer Tina Litchfield in Bayleaf Farmhouse garden, meeting schoolchildren in the house from Walderton, and talking to Chris Baldwin about the museum's working cows.



Louise Adams/Observer series



Flashback to a cold winter!

Snow and icy conditions made visiting the museum treacherous in December – the coldest winter ever experienced here. But there were plenty of good opportunities for photographers. Here the market square is seen beneath a snowy blanket, with impressive icicles hanging from the upper hall from Crawley and the shop from Horsham.

Richard Pailthorpe starts work as the new museum director



Richard Pailthorpe.

Richard Pailthorpe, who took up his new post on 1 January says it is a great honour to be appointed museum director, particularly at the time of the 40th anniversary. "My first introduction to the museum was, coincidentally, as one of the 7,000 visitors who came during September 1970," he says, "and I remember as a teenager being immediately inspired by Roy Armstrong's visionary project".

Richard brings a wealth of expertise and experience in the heritage and visitor attractions sectors, including a significant previous role at the museum from 1979 to 1995.

After studying estate management at Reading University, Richard joined the Essex County Council Estates Department, carrying out recreational and land management duties. An opportunity then arose to return to his native West Sussex, as assistant land agent on the Goodwood Estate. It was through working at Goodwood that he met the then museum director, the late Chris Zeuner. "When he invited me to become his

assistant at the museum in 1979, I had no hesitation in accepting," Richard says.

Richard remembers the 1980s as an exciting time, as the museum firmly established itself as a leading heritage and tourist attraction. Building projects in that decade included two of our most notable, the dismantling and re-erection of the house from Walderton and the launch of the Bayleaf Farmstead Project. It was also a period during which special events became a feature in the museum calendar, including the Heavy Horse Event, the Rare Breeds Show, the Autumn Steam Threshing and Ploughing event and the Food Fair. Richard succeeded the Duke of Richmond as chairman of the Chichester Visitors Group and was much involved in developing local tourism. In 1986 he won the Grinstead Bursary which he used to make a study tour of North American museums, historic houses and heritage sites.

In 1995, just prior to the completion of Longport House, Richard was offered the management of Syon Park, the London home of the Duke of Northumberland. "It was a culture shock moving

from the tranquility of the Upper Lavant Valley, to living directly under the flight path into Heathrow," he says. Syon Park, was however a small rural oasis, with the last surviving tidal Thameside water meadows, still grazed by cattle. Apart from the house and gardens open to the public, it was a thriving commercial operation with a large garden centre, a butterfly house and an indoor children's activity centre as well as being a popular venue for corporate functions and weddings.

"Syon was steeped in history and I was able to pursue my own interests by researching further its building and social history. Whilst many people were drawn to the splendid Robert Adam interiors, I was intrigued to locate the site of the once great medieval abbey of Sion and the origins of the Tudor house. This resulted in the abbey church being discovered by *Time Team*, which in turn led to further findings through an ongoing annual dig by archaeological students from the University of London".

In 2006, Richard was offered the post of managing Parham Park, near Storrington. The beautiful Elizabethan house with its spectacular great hall and long gallery had been restored by Clive and Alicia Pearson during the 1920s and 30s. They opened the house to visitors in 1948, and together with its splendid walled garden and surrounding deer park, it proved a fascinating place to work.

The son of retired Chichester GP, Dr Bruce Pailthorpe (a former vice chairman of the Friends) and educated at Wellington School, Somerset, Richard is a chartered surveyor. He is currently vice-chairman of the Historic Houses Association, South East Region. He lives with his wife, Jane, close to the museum in the village of Charlton, and their two children, Nicholas and Victoria, who spent many hours of their childhood at the museum, now both live and work in London.

His interests include historic houses and vernacular architecture, local history and the Sussex countryside, rural life and photography, as well as being a keen follower of football, cricket and rugby. He is the author of a number of books, including *The Downland Shepherds* (with Gordon Beningfield); *Goodwood Country* (with Ian Serraillier); *Chichester: A Contemporary View* (with Ian McGowan) and fourth edition editor (with Diana Zeuner) of Roy Armstrong's *A History of Sussex*.

"I am very much looking forward to working again at the museum and meeting the challenges ahead in these difficult economic times," Richard says. "It is a very special place and above all it is the people at its heart – the staff, volunteers, Friends and supporters – who make this possible".



From the Chairman

The new year is underway and there is a freshness in the air and a feeling of new challenges ahead. Our new director, Richard Pailthorpe, took up his post on 1 January and there are other staff changes afoot. Our heads of schools and interpretation, Rachel Neville and Hannah Tiplady, moved away for good reasons (as reported in the last issue) and we wish them well.

While 2010 was not our best year financially, because of a combination of a downturn in visitor numbers and reduced spending by those who did visit, our finances remain sound. It does mean that we need to review our budgets and ensure that we don't drift into difficulties if economic circumstances mean this is a trend. That is the proper role of trustees.

So this is a good time for carrying out a range of operational reviews led by our new director. It is also a chance for some fresh thinking about our range of activities in pursuit of our core mission: 'to stimulate public interest in and to promote and encourage the preservation of buildings of architectural or historical interest and to stimulate public interest in ancient crafts, trades and manufactures'.

An interesting challenge lies ahead in raising the funds for, and commissioning the construction of, our proposed new lakeside café/restaurant. The planning application for this is now being submitted. Trustees approved in November an exciting new design prepared by architect Richard Hutchinson. Drawings and plans will be exhibited on site for all to see.

Changes are also afoot among our trustees. Sam Howes, recently retired deputy chief executive and formerly chief planning officer of Chichester District Council, joined us in the autumn (as described in the last issue), and Noel Osborne, former managing director and chairman of publishers, Phillimore's, has recently been appointed. We are currently advertising for a new trustee with education expertise.

We are also delighted that the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mrs Susan Pyper, has agreed to join the museum as one of our vice presidents. She has long been a keen supporter of the museum and we look forward to involving her in some of our major events.

Finally can I please publicly thank and congratulate all those who organised, contributed so generously to, and participated in what was the grandest party in West Sussex in 2010 – the museum's Ruby Anniversary ball held in the Gridshell on a freezing night at the end of November. The event raised some £22,000 for our capital funds, a brilliant way to launch our appeal to provide visitor facilities that will sustain us into the next 40 years.

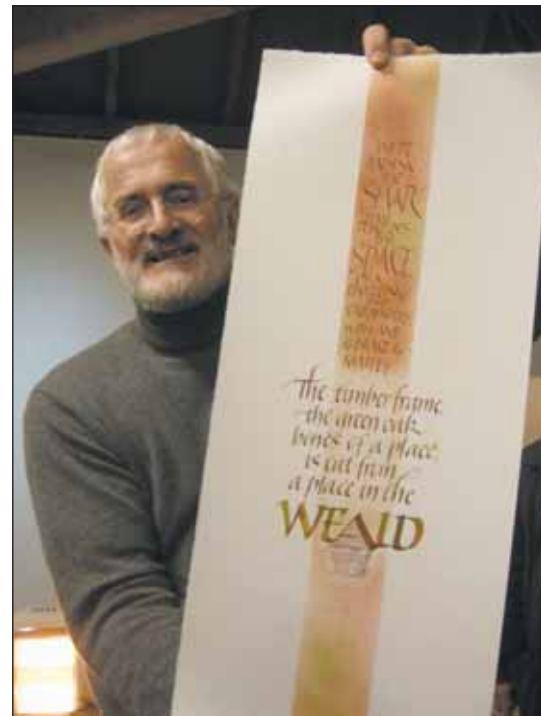
Paul Rigg, Chairman of Trustees



Richard Harris retires

More than 100 people gathered in the new Building Crafts Gallery on 7 December for a tea party to mark the retirement of Richard Harris as museum director. They included many members of the museum's community – staff, volunteers and trustees – and other distinguished friends from Richard's career in the building conservation and museum worlds.

Chairman Paul Rigg spoke about Richard's work and presented him with a scroll depicting a section from Jane Borodale's book *The Visitor* about the work of a carpenter, with an image of Titchfield Market Hall. On behalf of the museum community Diana Rowsell presented him with a hand-crafted box made from locally-sourced Holm Oak, one of his favourite trees. Steve Corbett, museum trustee, presented him with a laminated timber contour map of the Lavant Valley embellished with a gold and ruby pin brooch in the shape of the museum logo. Finally Roger Champion presented him with a 'throne' he had made for him in the style of the chair



Richard Harris with a scroll depicting a section from Jane Borodale's Book, *The Visitor*, presented to him on his retirement.

in Pendean farmhouse.

Richard responded saying what a privilege it had been to serve the museum for 35 years and as director for the last 10. He is continuing in his teaching role and will assist in other projects as needed. The afternoon was rounded off with champagne and a celebration cake.

Ruby Anniversary Ball raises £22,000

To round off our year of events celebrating the 40th anniversary, the museum held a Ruby Charity Ball in November. A wonderful evening of fine dining, auctions, dancing and entertainment was enjoyed by 200 guests. The ball was held in the Jerwood Gridshell Space, which, together with the surrounding grounds, was spectacularly lit by Chichester Festival Theatre to whom we are very grateful for donating this support. Stuarts Party Design & Fine Food provided a wonderful champagne reception and four-course dinner. Guests were entertained during the reception and dinner with music from a steel band and a close-up magician. Master of ceremonies for the evening was actor and director, Philip Franks, who kept the proceedings moving with great enthusiasm and humour. Philip introduced Mark Hewitt of Stride & Son who donated his services as auctioneer and conducted a lively and very successful auction. Prizes



included a flight in a Spitfire, a luxury hotel break, game shooting and much more. Music for dancing was provided by Mid-Life Crisis who struck just the



Left, St Margaret's Mission Church on its original site at South Wonston. Right, the Building Crafts Gallery in the market square backyard, with the Witley Joiners' Shop and the building from Lavant behind.

HRH the Duke of Gloucester to open two new exhibits in April

The museum is to be honoured by a second Royal visit within a few months when HRH the Duke of Gloucester officially opens the Building Crafts Gallery and South Wonston Church on 5 April. This will be the Duke's second visit to the museum; he last came in 1981 to open the hall from Boarhunt.

The £130,000 **Building Crafts Gallery** has already started to fulfil one of its roles, as a useful base for school workshops and shelter in bad weather. For the Christmas Market and Sussex Christmas events, it was enjoyed by visiting choirs and exhibitors.

But alongside its function as a multi-purpose space the main permanent use of this new structure, sited in the backyard behind the market square, is to house a new gallery. Displays of traditional building crafts will be mounted on the interior walls, including mock-ups of various forms of construction and building tools and materials. The exterior northern end will be used for a display of rescued historic building timbers from the museum's collections. Some of the displays will be relocated from Hambrook Barn, which can then be re-organised to help visitors understand what is on offer at the museum and plan their visit.

Funded chiefly by the DCMS/Wolfson Galleries Improvement Fund (£66,000), the Foyle Foundation (£20,000), West Sussex County Council (£18,000) and the Friends of the Museum (£10,000), work on the building has been carried out by Steve Curtis of the Greenman Carpentry Company, Hortons of Chichester, Fildes of Bognor Regis and the museum's own in-house team.

St Margaret's Mission Church from **South Wonston** is being sited to the north of Whittaker's Cottages and

adjacent to the bell frame from Stoughton. The timber frame of the church has been repaired and re-erected by Joe Thompson with assistance from curator Julian Bell, volunteer Alan Wood and other members of the in-house team. The interior will contain some of the original furnishings and fittings kindly donated by the Parish of South Wonston, which now has a new church elsewhere in the village. Carol Brinson



right balance to get guests up and dancing for the rest of the night. The ball committee is very grateful to all those who were very generous in supporting the evening through sponsorship, donations and prizes, and also to the Friends of the Museum for sourcing prizes for, and running, 'The Tree of Fortune' on the evening as well as museum staff, trustees and volunteers who

helped in many ways. The ball raised a total of £22,000 which will be invested in the museum's Building Development Fund.

To purchase *Building History*, the story of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum's development, go to page 9.

has also been investigating other sources to complete the furnishing scheme.

The project began last year with the dismantling of the 'tin tabby', which is typical of many buildings in the museum's region bought as a prefabricated kit, and enabling us to tell the story of a very different style of timber frame from the late 19th century. It has been funded through the generous legacy of Morris Heynes.



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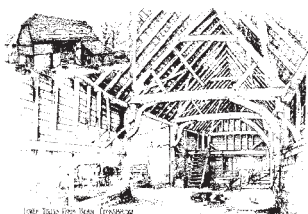
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News in brief

New schools workshops planned

The Schools Services Department continues to thrive, and the museum has just appointed as Schools Services Assistant, Kathryn Creed, an archaeologist specialising in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The New Year started busily, mopping up the school visits postponed in December as a result of the snow and ice. All but one school was able to re-book. With the help of volunteers, including a dozen new ones, the schools team are developing some new workshops, which will be launched at the annual Teachers' Preview day in February when teachers are invited to visit the museum on a Saturday with their families to explore the possibilities for school visits. We are looking forward to a very lively season! The museum has also become the venue for some new creative days for able and gifted pupils.

Change of date for Festival of Steam

The date of the Steam Festival has changed since it was first publicised last year, and it will now be held on Saturday/Sunday 13/14 August. The original date was chosen to avoid clashes with another prominent local event, but as this is now not going ahead, the museum has decided to return the festival to its usual weekend. Please make a note of it, and if you have one of the museum's 2011 calendars please amend the date on this too.

Re-thatching the Catherington treadwheel house

Visitors watch the thatcher at work repairing the roof of the treadwheel house from Catherington. Maintenance of the historic building exhibits is an ongoing need, and the museum follows a rolling programme of thatch repairs to more than 10 buildings and other structures with this roof covering.



Museum Friends' vital contribution

The Friends of the Museum makes a significant financial contribution to the museum's day-to-day operation and a variety of projects and activities. Last year's grants amounted to £198,280.

Since its establishment in 1970 the Friends has grant-aided the museum to the tune of some £1.9 million. It remains one of the largest museum Friends groups in the country, with some 5,400 members, representing more than 12,100 individuals. Independent charitable museums like the Weald & Downland receive no direct Government funding and the Friends' help is vital in supplementing revenue income from visitor admissions, the shop, catering and training courses.

The Friends' funding comes in two ways. A substantial grant is made towards the costs of essential activities at the museum. This grant, for £130,000 in 2010, was paid in four quarterly instalments to assist the museum with core activities, including exhibit improvements, historic gardens development and maintenance, marketing and publicity, horses and livestock, site maintenance, schools service, staff and volunteer training and support for curatorial and collections activities.

The second tranche supports a variety of individual projects and last year totalled £68,280. It comprises:

Ockley hay barn materials & scaffolding	£10,364
Rare Breeds Show sponsorship	£10,000
School ceiling	£1,288
Harness for horses	£3,100

Tiled roof repair programme	£4,109
Re-decking Gridshell entrance	£3,134
Hambrook barn re-wiring	£5,294
Postal franking machine	£4,084
Computers & IT equipment	£5,000
Thatch repair programme	£8,008
Contribution to Building Craft	

Gallery	£10,000
Information signs	£920
Ruby Quilt sponsorship	£1,200
Mill pump pipework	£888
Folding chairs	£474
New projector	£543

In addition to its membership income, the Friends runs fund-raising events, a programme of day trips and an annual spring tour to interesting historical sites.

As a charity the Friends can claim Gift Aid on membership subscriptions. In 2010 the tax reclaimed amounted to over £41,000. Each £ given by members attracted an extra 28p in tax returned to us. The Government has legislated to reduce this level in the future and to help reduce the impact it would help us hugely if as many Friends as possible sign up for Gift Aid. Any member who is a UK taxpayer only has to contact the Friends Office on 01243 811893 or email us at friends@wealddown.co.uk to give us this help.

Full details of grants and Friends' activities are included in the Friends' Annual Report and Accounts. To join the Friends contact the Friends office as above.

Further information about Friends' activities can be found on pages 30/31.



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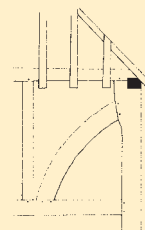
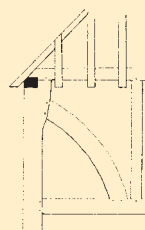
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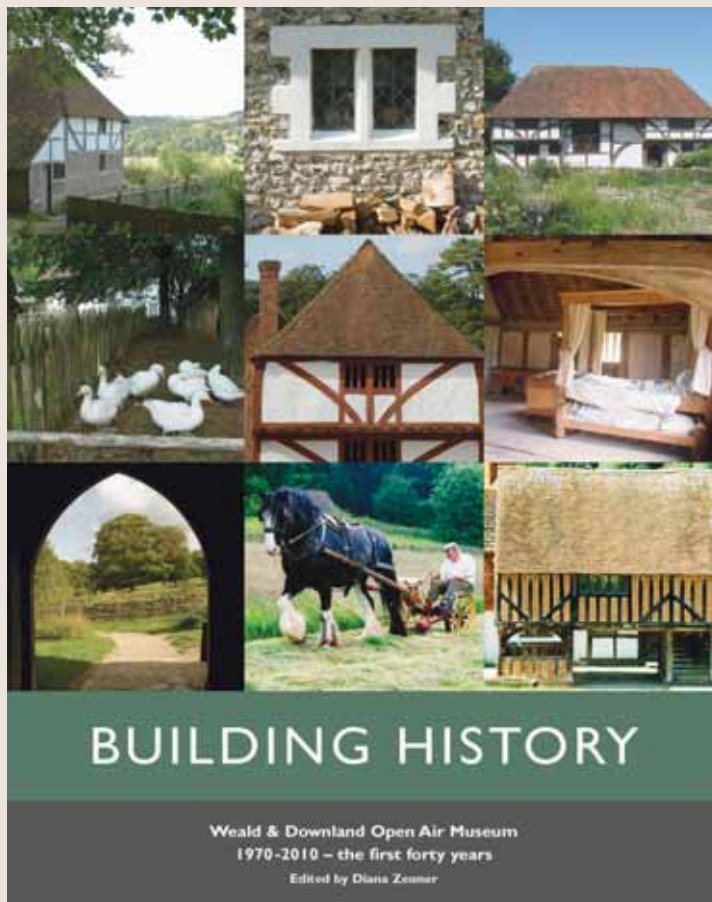
Ivon Hitchens, Flowers, 1942, Oil on canvas, Mrs Diana King Bequest presented through The Art Fund (2003), © Estate of Artist



Heavy horses put through their paces!

Heavy horses and working animals will be back on show at the museum on **4/5 June** when the annual summer event showcasing the abilities and versatility of these animals takes place.

Highlights included cross-country driving; parades of breeds, agricultural vehicles and trade vehicles; timber handling display and a riding competition. Pictured top is Graham Mustey with his Clydesdale X Cob pair taking part last year in the obstacle driving. Then on **8/9 October** the **Autumn Countryside Show** features ploughing with heavy horses, working cows and vintage tractors as well as steam threshing the museum's crop of wheat. Pictured below is Randy Hiscock with his team of Suffolk horses, and bottom, the museum's working cows with Chris Baldwin and Ben Headon.



"... a lovely, human, perceptive and very readable story about the birth and life of a great museum" Sir Neil Cossons

A new book, which tells the story of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, West Sussex has just been published.

Building History: Weald & Downland Open Air Museum 1970-2010 – the first forty years recounts the development of Britain's leading museum of historic buildings and rural life, celebrating four decades of achievement. The book chronicles the struggle to establish the museum in the 1960s, its extremely rapid growth through the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s to its current position as a major cultural attraction whose outstanding collections are designated by the government as being of national and international importance.

With 200 colour pages packed with 548 photos and illustrations this book is available at £14.95 per copy.

Building History – Order Your Copy Now!

Available from the museum shop at £14.95, or plus £2.50 per copy postage if bought by mail order or via the web-shop at www.wealddown.co.uk.

Orders can be made by credit/debit card to the shop on 01243 811020. Cheques should be made payable to 'Weald & Downland Museum' and posted to SMS Ltd, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU.

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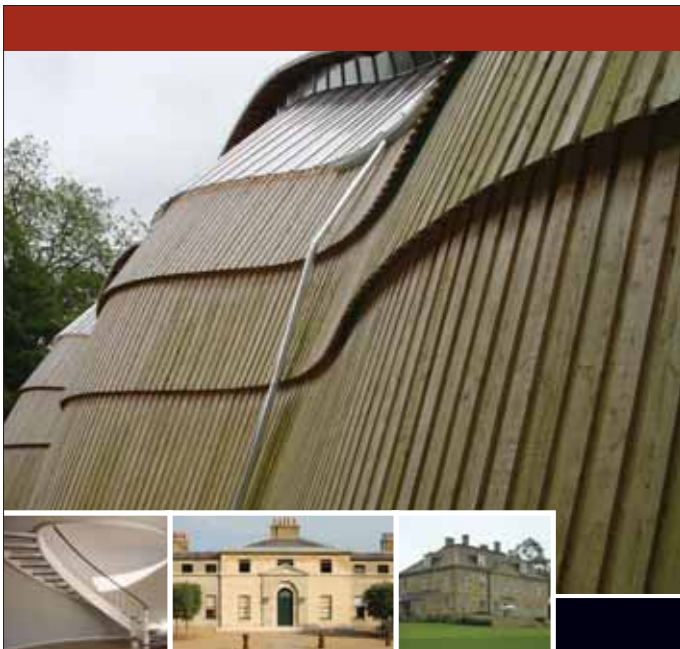
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Eddie Burch has completed five years as a trustee and executive board member, taking a special interest in the museum's educational work and in health & safety. Here he gives us his impressions . . .

Being a trustee – testing but rewarding

Being appointed as a trustee and board member was a testing but rewarding experience. It was by no means a 'fait accompli'; I was required to produce my CV for scrutiny and make a presentation concerning my motivation and qualification to take on trusteeship. It enabled me to reflect on my motives and gave the board the opportunity to satisfy themselves about my potential usefulness to the museum.

The formality of this procedure prepared me well for the serious business of trusteeship. It opened my eyes to the critical partnership between managers, staff, volunteers and Friends so vital to keeping the museum attractive, vibrant and progressive but faithful to its original objectives.

My role was clear and precise: a supporting and watching brief for education provision for children and adults and the much, but often erroneously maligned, health and safety. Over the period my contribution to education could have been much greater. The schools and adult education teams, well staffed and strong, seemed to meet their objectives successfully. However, if the museum is to maintain a pivotal and successful role as educator and trainer, financial and marketing challenges ahead will almost certainly require closer relationships with schools and colleges and with the local authority in particular, given the rebirth of its responsibilities for funding further education.

Regarding health and safety, I have always taken the view that assessment of risk should *enable* activities and projects to proceed safely, not prevent or curtail them. The nature of the museum, its events, its setting and the annual 150,000 footfall of visitors require constant vigilance in an increasingly 'blame and shame' culture. I hope I have been able to contribute a little towards maintaining and refining the vigilant approach needed in maintaining the museum as a safe place to visit and enjoy.

Five years at the museum have flown by; they have been enjoyable! Being a part of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum engenders good feelings of purposefulness and membership of a successful team, all of whom in diverse ways help to create this unique jewel in the West Sussex crown. I will miss it.



The museum's new website

The museum launched its new-look website just before Christmas. Using up-to-the-minute software which enables museum staff to make changes from their desks, the site also introduces online shopping for the first time.

The museum is indebted to trustee Jeff Houlton, who created and has professionally maintained the museum's original site for many years. Websites need constant refreshment and work started on a new site with James Scholar, who was employed by the museum under the Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme. He chose Joomla! content management system software, widely used in website production. This software will also enable us to add future elements to the site, including the facility to have a section for volunteers and the public to be able to upload content themselves.

James then chose the presentational style and structure for the site, including a series of 'tabs' which form the framework from which all information can be accessed:

- **Visit** – information on opening times, prices, directions and everything the visitor needs to know.
- **Events** – details of the year's special event programme
- **Explore** – allows users to discover information about the museum's collections
- **Courses** – full information on all courses in traditional rural trades and crafts, building conservation and courses for heritage professionals
- **Schools** – a link to the existing museum website for schools. This section will be re-written in the spring, in the new style.
- **News** – press releases, news items, job opportunities and the museum magazine online.
- **Support us** – users can find out about volunteering, joining the Friends and making donations and gifts to the museum.
- **Shop** – a new facility for on-line shopping, currently for axes and books.

The site is very much a work-in-progress, and new information is being added all the time. Please explore the site the next time you are on the internet, at www.wealddown.co.uk

Weather hits visitor numbers in 2010

In some ways 2010 was a rather difficult year for the museum, with the early part of the season suffering from prolonged cold weather and snow. Easter was very early and the schools only broke up the day before Good Friday.

The weather then improved and so did the visitor numbers, but we next suffered a very wet August. There was heavy rain on two Wonderful Wednesdays and rather wet weekends, on days when we could have expected good visitor numbers. The autumn then improved with a good Autumn Countryside Event and Christmas Market.

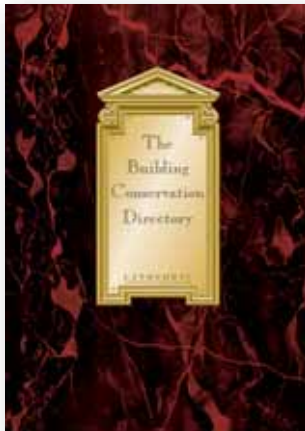
Then for the second time in the same year we suffered from heavy snow and ice in December. For several days we were

unable to open, as the whole site was covered in sheet ice. This was frustrating for museum staff and volunteers who were ready to stage our Sussex Christmas Event. We understand equally how disappointing it was for people who travelled to the museum only to discover that we were unable to open. Our efforts at attempting to inform people via the museum's website and on local radio were compounded by the fact that the website crashed on Boxing Day and was unavailable until late morning. We hope people understand why we could not open but would like to apologise for any disappointments that this may have caused.

The museum ended the year with visitor numbers at 143,692.

Henry Warner

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Obituaries

Beryl Bickmore

The museum lost one of its greatest supporters on 4 December with the death of Beryl Bickmore at the age of 72. She had suffered illness for the past two years, but died peacefully at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester with her family around her.

Beryl's involvement with the museum began when her husband, Keith, was appointed as senior warden and shop manager in 1983. It was the beginning of 27 years' joint association with many aspects of the museum's work. A retired police inspector when he came to the museum, Keith had met Beryl, a WPC, at West End Central Police Station, then the busiest police station in the western world. When Keith joined the museum staff, it was not long before Beryl was also involved. Their arrival coincided with a period when the museum was attracting very large numbers of visitors, some 180,000 a year.

The museum was to become a focus for their lives (along with their great love of gardening). Beryl's activities included "most of the jobs there at one time or another". She helped with car parking and ticket sales, with the working horses and the harvest, happily climbing to the top of the corn ricks to fork sheaves to the threshing box. She volunteered in the mill, assisted Keith with the opening of the exhibit buildings, and gave guided tours, especially those for blind and partially-sighted groups.

She served on the committee of the Friends of the Museum, and after Keith's retirement from his post in 1998 helped him man the museum's publicity stands at shows and distribute



Beryl Bickmore on duty at the old ticket office at the entrance to the car parks.

leaflets to hotels and tourist attractions. She became a Saturday shop supervisor and, through her love of floristry and growing became the museum's 'in-house' florist for weddings and special occasions, as well as preparing daffodils into 800 bunches each year for Mothering Sunday.

After their marriage, Keith and Beryl's police life took them to Linchmere, West Sussex and on to Shoreham where children Wendy and Paul were born, finally moving to Chichester in 1970. Beryl joined the committee of the Chichester Gala, serving for 16 years and taking charge of the Cathedral service and the street procession. She was also a member of the Red Cross, performing first aid, nursing and ambulance duties: she was a quartermaster and earned a life membership and badge of honour.

Beryl sustained a deep love of the natural world, and had a talent for

growing plants, a passion inherited from her parents' background as keen gardeners; Keith and Beryl's Chichester garden and allotments won many prizes in successive years. The couple also managed to fit in a life-time's travel around the world, to places as far apart as Egypt, Singapore and the Caribbean as well as museum trips to visit other museums overseas including Canada and parts of Europe.

In his eulogy at Beryl's funeral at St George's Church, Whyke, Chichester close to the Bickmores' home, her son Paul summed up Beryl's attitude to life so well when he said: "My mum wrote the book on how to pack as much as is humanly possible into 72 years of life. She taught me the value of working hard for your community, and for what you believe in, and the friendships and love that that brings you in return". Beryl's cheerfulness and warm personality will be greatly missed by all at the museum.

Diana Zeuner
With thanks to Keith and Paul Bickmore

Jill Dickins

Jill Dickins was the first of a dedicated band of garden volunteers, joining the museum in Spring 1992. When asked where she would like to carry out her voluntary work she said: "The gardens, they look a bit weedy". So began a friendship that lasted until her death in December 2010.

Jill was born in 1930 and brought up in London before taking up a home economics course in Edinburgh. After pursuing her career in catering for a number of years she joined the family firm of art dealers based in London.

From childhood she had a passion for gardening and her natural flair for propagation and interest in herbs, both

culinary and medicinal, found a natural outlet at the museum. She was never happier than when harvesting seeds or talking to the many visitors at her favourite garden, Bayleaf.

Jill was also a volunteer at the Museum of Garden History in London, her links there proving very useful for verifying dates for the introduction of plants. Winter was a favourite time for Jill; she particularly enjoyed wattle fencing and, of course, a good bonfire. Monday morning would see her on the way to Bayleaf, fork in one hand, a trug in the other, and a bag of rock cakes for the team at coffee time.

Bob Holman
Former museum gardener

News in brief

Society of Folk Life Studies visits museum

In September delegates from nine European countries attended the international conference of the Society for Folk Life Studies at West Dean, making two visits to the museum over a weekend, one for a tour with Richard Harris of the buildings and one for a walk looking at the folklore of the flora present on the museum's chalk-land site. The society last visited as a group more than 20 years ago.

1968 Cooper's Heading Knife



The very first item we ever accessioned (formally added to the collection) is numbered 1968.001. Used by a cooper from Tamplins Brewery in Brighton to finish off the shape of the barrel 'heads' or ends which would have been roughed out first using an axe.

1969 Walking Stick Former



From Lintotts factory in Chiddingfold which operated from 1876 until 1968, producing walking sticks, shepherd's crooks, scout poles, umbrella handles, hockey sticks and army officer's sticks which were exported all over the world. This former was used to straighten sticks which had first been made pliable in hot sand. More information about the Lintotts factory is available in the Gridshell artefact store.

1971 Horse Boots



A very robust and beautifully made set of leather horse boots which had a dual function. Firstly, they would protect a vulnerable surface, such as grass, from the heavy, iron shoes attached to the horses hooves; secondly they would also protect the hooves from sharp objects in the road surface, such as flints which are common in the chalk downlands.

1972 Winnower

Winnowers are pieces of barn machinery which would have been powered by a small engine or horse gin (such as that located outside Watersfield stable). They were used to separate the seed from the chaff of harvested cereal crops, nowadays one of the many jobs achieved by a combine harvester. This particular winnower was manufactured by Robert Bobby of Bury St. Edmunds and used in Lower Stoke, Kent.



Forty years of collecting

During last year the museum celebrated the 40th anniversary of opening to the public, but in fact historic artefacts began to be collected in 1968. That would make 43 years of collecting, but in 1970, when the museum was perhaps too busy preparing the museum for opening, there are no object entries, so in fact it is really 42!

The museum marked the 40-year milestone in 2010 in many different ways. In the curatorial department we put together an exhibition of objects from across the decades staged at various locations around the site. One item from each of the 42 years was chosen to demonstrate the variety and quality of material which has been donated. We did not aim to cover the whole range of material within the collections, which now number over

15,000 objects, but a sample from each collecting year.

An accompanying guide showed visitors what to look for and where objects were located: with each item was a label giving more information about it and the reason for its inclusion. Over the next two issues of the magazine we are featuring these objects, now safely back in their places in the Gridshell artefact store.

You can discover more about the museum's collections by visiting the artefact store housed in the lower Gridshell; a tour takes place at 1.30pm each day beginning with the award-winning structure of the upper Gridshell and culminating in a visit to the store. Visits at other times can be arranged through the curator or other members of the collections team.

Julian Bell

1973 Timber 'Bob' or 'Neb'

These vehicles were used to drag felled trees from the woodland to a more accessible area where they could be loaded onto wagons. One end of the tree was chained under the arch, leaving the other end to drag. This particular example has 8ft diameter wheels and would have required upwards of four horses to operate. It was originally used at the Knole Estate in Sevenoaks, Kent.



1974 Sheep Bells

Sheep bells were extremely useful as they were fitted as a warning system to aid the shepherd. By listening to the bells the shepherd could tell in what direction and at what distance the sheep

were moving. Also, by the tone of the bells he could tell the state of mind of his flock. When sheep were grazing the bells emitted a gentle, clunking sound. A rhythmic clunk-clunk-clunk meant that they were moving in an orderly manner and an agitated jangling meant that the sheep were running, probably in panic, perhaps fleeing a dog. The shepherd could react according to the situation. This 'cluckett' bell was cheap and simple to make and also easy to repair.

1975 Frame Saw



A wonderfully constructed framed pit-saw. Pitsaws are usually thought of as a 6-8ft long blade with a handle at each end, but they were also produced in this format which allows for a much narrower blade, supported by the frame, which was able to cut gentle curves into the timber, rather than just straight boards which the long, unframed saws were designed to do. This example was given to the museum by the Goodwood Estate.

1976 Jetty Bracket



A wonderfully carved piece of structural timberwork from the Old Punch House in East Street, Chichester. A jetty bracket supports the overhanging upper floor of a building (known as jettying) and in this instance the ageless symbol of the green man has been added. A wonderful and enigmatic piece of work.

1977 Planes

When choosing these two planes, we could have picked any number from our collection of similar quality. We have not chosen them for the particular task they performed, but because of the very high degree of craftsmanship and aesthetic detail which has gone into what



is essentially, just another carpenter's tool. Compare these tools to the mass produced, plastic items seen in hardware stores today. 1977.075k Plough Plane : 1977.122c Sash Fillister Plane.

1978 Bevel



At first glance this appears to be just another bevel – a carpenter's tool used to mark out a specific angle – however, if the brass 'blade' is inspected carefully, it shows a whole series of marks and labels. The 'blade' has been recycled from a measure – similar to an apothecary's gauge – which was placed inside a glass container and used to measure quantities of the goods listed.

1979 Stitching Horse

In the endless pursuit of the craftsman's need for a 'third hand', the saddler at



least came up with a practical solution. The clamp is a tool used by saddlers to grip two pieces of leather whilst leaving both his hands free to stitch and were most commonly held between the knees. This example is slightly more sophisticated in that the clamp has been incorporated into a seat with foot-operated lever to provide the grip. An associate of the museum still uses this item in her saddlery teaching.

1980 Shears



A very unusual looking tool which was most likely used for topiary. Why we should have this example (and indeed another in store) is not all that obvious, but it may well have come from our neighbours on the West Dean Estate. Having had doubts whether this was an actual working tool or simply some sort of novelty item, we have tested it on some of the museum foliage and found it to be a thoroughly practical implement.

1981 Boxing Engine



If an object was to accurately reflect what is suggested by the name, then this item should by rights, be a large, complicated iron thing, full of clanking gears and wheels. The reality is perhaps a little disappointing visually, but the job it does is nevertheless, very impressive considering it's slim construction. It drives the initial hole through a block of elm which will eventually become the nave (or hub) of a wagon wheel.

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Forty years of collecting

1982 Plough



A swing plough manufactured by the local firm of Cannings from Finchdean in Hampshire. This wooden plough has no guide wheels or foot to aid direction or help gauge depth; that is left entirely to the skill of the ploughman, who, in essence had to 'fly' the plough through the ground, dictating both direction and pitch from the single point of balance.

1983 Hydraulic Ram



This is so typical of many of the objects we have in the museum collection; large, iron and insanely heavy! It's quite brutal exterior does however mask quite an ingenious and extremely useful purpose. This is a pressure vessel from an hydraulic ram, a tool common to many farms and isolated settlements which was used to pump water to a point higher than where the water originally started, using no external source of power, only the energy of the water itself.

1984 Mathematical Tiles

An unusual name and nothing whatever to do with early calculators. These oddly-shaped tiles were used, particularly in south east England, to provide a brickwork facade to a timber-framed building. Nailed to the underlying timbers, the overlapped tiles would be



pointed with mortar in the same way as regular brickwork providing a wall surface extremely difficult to tell apart.

1985 Breast Plough



For small areas of land which needed to be cultivated, where it would have been impractical to use horse-drawn equipment, this implement could well have been used. It very accurately demonstrates just how much physical labour was required of those working the land as the plough, as the name suggests, had to be pushed through the earth with the handle placed against the operator's chest.

1986 Shepherd's Crook

This is an example of a shepherd's crook found widely throughout East & West Sussex which takes its name from the forge where the particular design was developed. The 'Pycombe Crook' is a leg crook with a distinctive whorl closed entirely in on itself, made to the individual requirement of the shepherd and often recycled from old gun barrels.



1987 Flail

Very simply, two sticks joined together! The flail was used for centuries primarily to separate the grain from cut cereal crops, but also doubled as a handy weapon in times of strife. The joint or

swivel, between the two pieces of wood has to withstand severe wear and tear, and as a result, a great deal of craftsmanship goes into its manufacture. One method has a piece of timber (often ash), split and bent double to form a loop which sits atop the longer staff; the shorter staff is then joined to this with a piece of leather.



1988 Measuring Chain



A tool for land measurement, this chain is commonly named after the 17th century mathematician who invented it, Edmund Gunter. It was invaluable as it enabled plots of land to be accurately surveyed and plotted, for legal and commercial purposes. The chain is divided into 100 links, marked off into groups of 10 by brass rings for ease of calculation; 10 chains made a furlong and 10 square chains an acre.

1989 Froe

The froe is an odd-looking tool which can easily be mistaken for a type of axe. It is indeed a cutting tool, but the blade is on the long edge, facing away from the handle and is not used in a chopping manner. It is for splitting wood along the grain and is knocked into the end of a cut piece of timber with a wooden maul, forming a split which is then widened and continued by using the handle of the tool as a lever. Split timber is very strong as the continuous grain is retained.



Next issue: discover the final set of chosen historic artefacts in the Autumn Museum Magazine



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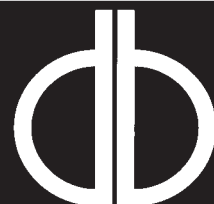
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EVENTS DIARY 2011

APRIL

- 3 **OPEN HOUSE ON MOTHERING SUNDAY** A special spring day to welcome visitors old and new at the start of the season. £2 entry for everyone, plus our traditional bunch of daffodils for mothers and grandmothers!
- 13/20 **WONDERFUL EASTER WEDNESDAYS CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** Hands-on activities, crafts and games to occupy accompanied children of all ages. All activities run 11am-4pm.
- 24-25 **EASTER ACTIVITIES** Two days of 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.

MAY

- 1-2 **FOOD AND FARMING FAIR** A wonderful choice of delicious fare to sample and buy from quality producers, plus tastings, cookery classes and the 'Downland Cookery Challenge' competition finals. Stands will feature a stunning array of produce located in and among the historic buildings on the museum site. Also, displays, demonstrations and activities celebrating downland farming, and new for 2011, a chance to enjoy period music as you wander around the site.

30 May-3 June

- SOUTH DOWNS SPRINGTIME – HALF TERM ACTIVITIES** Come and enjoy springtime in the countryside. Learn about the natural world, and enjoy arts, crafts, games and much more. For accompanied children of all ages, under cover if wet. 11 am-4pm

JUNE

- 4-5 **HEAVY HORSE AND WORKING ANIMALS SHOW** One of the south's biggest gatherings of heavy horses: two unforgettable days of displays and demonstrations of horses at work on traditional tasks, and a wide variety of other working animals in action. Ringside commentary and a parade of horses at the end of each day, plus a chance to meet the animals and their owners.
- 19 **FATHERS' DAY** Toys For The Boys! A chance for dad (and the rest of the family!) to try some unusual and challenging countryside activities. Drive a vintage tractor, try archery, air rifles and work with the Shire horses.



JULY

- 17 **RARE BREEDS SHOW** Four legs, furry legs, feathered legs ... come and see cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry in this delightful agricultural show for rare and traditional breeds of farm animals. With prizes at stake, and classes for young handlers, 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.

27 July -31 August

- WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** Hands-on activities to occupy children of all ages! Have a go at all kinds of interesting and unusual countryside skills, traditional crafts, activities and games. Under cover if wet. 11am-4pm

AUGUST

- 13-14 **FESTIVAL OF STEAM** 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.



OCTOBER

- 8-9 **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, craft demonstrations and a chance to browse and buy for gifts with a countryside theme at the many craft and trade stands.
- 24-28 **AUTUMN ADVENTURES – HALF TERM ACTIVITIES** Wickedly wonderful seasonal activities, fun and farming for accompanied children of all ages! Carve a scary pumpkin, play conkers, and enjoy arts, crafts and much more. Under cover if wet. 11am-4pm.

NOVEMBER

- 12-13 **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, unusual gifts and much more. Avoid the parking charges in town and shop in our lovely downland setting! Admission only £2.50, including access to all museum exhibits.

DECEMBER

- 4 **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. 12.30pm-4pm.
- 12 **CAROL EVENING** In the house from North Cray: 7.00pm.
- 26 December-1 January 2012
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 traditionally decorated houses with their crackling log fires, with many decorated for Christmas in the style of the period when they were originally built. Also enjoy a variety of festive fare, music and stories. Come and enjoy a truly merry Sussex Christmas in our beautiful downland setting.





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Busy lifelong learning programme for museum in 2011



The museum's courses in historic building conservation and traditional rural trades and crafts are part of a much-respected lifelong learning service in these two fields, mirroring the themes of the museum's main areas of work. Find out about new courses and plans here and turn the pages for the full course schedules as well as the museum's *Tales of the Downs and Beyond ...* talks programme.

Traditional rural trades and crafts

Would you like a relaxing, hands-on, week's holiday and go home with your own rustic chair? A new six-day *Greenwood chair making* workshop in May will enable participants to learn about and use many different woodwork skills, working towards the final aim of making a chair in the beautiful environment of the museum site. Skills include wood turning on a traditional pole lathe, selecting and cleaving timber, using an adze, steam-bending timber and using traditional chair maker's hand tools for the seat.

Smallholders' workshops are an important feature of the programme, linked to the traditional breed farm animals kept at the museum. Several are running in April. On 9/10 April *Keeping sheep* is on the Saturday and *Keeping pigs* is on Sunday. The tutors are practical experts with many years' experience in caring for their own animals; they will bring their own livestock providing a practical element alongside lecture and discussion sessions. On 16 April *Beekeeping for Beginners* provides an introduction to types of bees and how they live, identification of bee-friendly flowers, different types of beehives and information about where you can (and can't) keep bees. Honey bee management and the beekeeping year, including issues relating to swarming, pests, disease as well as the honey crop and other hive products will all be included.

On 21/22 May join us for a weekend with a musical theme. On the Saturday there is another chance to enjoy *Singing Sussex songs* and learning about the social history behind songs with *Emily and the Hares*. On the Sunday *An introduction to traditional music* focuses on the lives of minstrels and listening to demonstrations: bring a simple instrument of your own to take part. The days can be booked separately.

The new day school on the *History of draft animals* on 12 May will begin with

the history of draft animals and the different technologies developed to facilitate their use.

Demonstrations of working cows, heavy horses and donkeys will take place on the museum site, followed by discussion sessions. Tutor **Paul Starkey** has worked worldwide in developing countries focusing on improved transport systems including animal power. His research has been published widely in more than 150 publications and websites, lectures and photographic exhibitions.

Renowned historic food consultant **Peter Brears** will be back on 6-7 July with *The country house kitchen*, a chance to explore how households were run below stairs in the 16th to 19th centuries in our country houses, including the changing roles of men and women and the ways in which new technologies and services changed the dynamics of the domestic scene. The course includes visits to two local historic houses.

All course enquiries to Diana Rowsell, Head of Learning, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU. Tel 01243 811464/911931. Full details are on the museum's website, www.weald-down.co.uk. Detailed leaflets can be posted or emailed on request, and bookings can be made over the phone by credit or debit card.

Following the success of our evening talk on *Scything* last year, **Simon Fairlie** is returning for a whole day to teach this environmentally friendly skill. Students will learn a brief history of the scythe, how to select the right blade and snath for the job and set them up, peening, sharpening, the mowing technique, how to avoid damaging the blade and how to care for the scythe. There will be hands-on sessions with the chance to use the scythe in different environments. Some staff and volunteers will join the class so that they will be able to demonstrate their new-found skill on the museum site. Simon is an experienced scythesman who has been teaching the subject for several years. He is passionate about the re-introduction of the art of scything in the British Isles and has an extensive knowledge of the subject.

David Parsons, a former reader in Church Archaeology at the University of

Hip roof timber framing.

Leicester now living in Petworth, returns to lead *Churches and chapels and how to study them* on 14 July. With the aid of colour illustrations and diagrams, the morning sessions will focus on how to look analytically at the structure of a church or chapel, understanding its development as a building. Period features will be examined to suggest dates of alterations, alongside changes to the furnishings and fittings. In the afternoon two local Anglican churches, Singleton and Stoughton, will be visited, where the theory of the morning sessions will be put into practice. David's book, *Churches and chapels: investigating places of worship*, Council for British Archaeology Practical Handbook no.8 (2nd edition, 1998), will serve as the course textbook. Copies will be available for purchase on the day. In retirement he is completing a major book on the results of 35 years' research at the Anglo-Saxon Church of All Saints in Brixworth, Northamptonshire.

Historic building conservation and MSc courses

Bookings are coming in steadily for our programme of day schools and longer courses in historic building conservation. Architects, surveyors and craftspeople alike are appreciating the fact that we have kept the course prices as low as possible to aid accessibility (they are VAT exempt). Many courses across the programme – including new ones – fill up very quickly so don't hesitate to book promptly if you want or need to learn something new.

The museum is delighted that the Anstruther family is to support two bursary students to attend five day schools and one three-day practical repair course covering the philosophy, practice and knowledge involved in the repair of timber frame buildings. For further details please see the museum's website.

The new student cohorts studying for the MSc programmes in Building Conservation and Timber Building Conservation are currently engaged in the taught units, while 13 students from past cohorts have had their personal research projects marked; these have now been presented to the University Examination Board for final degree consideration.



Medieval



Tudor & Jacobean



Georgian



Victorian

Vernacular architecture is at the heart of our work at the museum and can be thought of as the common speech of buildings. This new series of five linked day schools explores the chronological development of houses drawing on the latest research. Each day will be led by eminent experts who are all published authors on their specialist themes. Three of the course tutors are former presidents of the Vernacular Architecture Group and one is currently secretary.

The Vernacular House 1350-2000 – new courses launched for 2011

This series is unique in that it concentrates on the vernacular, that is, in architectural terms the local, the native, the endemic, and in that it covers both rural and urban housing. The days are booking up fast and are appealing to professionals and interested amateurs alike.

The courses cost £99 per day, but

attract a discount of £50 per course if all five days are booked together.

The first day focuses on *Medieval houses in town & country* and takes place on **Tuesday 10 May**. This will provide an introduction to rural and urban dwellings from a wide social range, commencing in the 12th century, but mainly of the 14th and 15th. The gradual evolution of the classic open-hall house will be explored as will the regionality in construction methods and materials used. Town houses were markedly different from rural dwellings, and the occupations and status of the inhabitants affected the lay-out for both rural and urban as people often lived and worked in the same place. Traditional dating methods will be contrasted with dendrochronology and its growing potential to provide a new understanding of the origins, development and duration of early methods of roof construction.

Leaders are **Sarah Pearson** and **Bob Meeson**. Sarah was an investigator with the RCHME for whom she wrote *The Medieval Houses of Kent: an Historical Analysis* (RCHME/HMSO 1994) on rural houses. Subsequently she has worked on urban buildings and has, with others, recently published *Sandwich: a study of the town and port from its origins to 1600* (Oxbow 2010). County archaeologist Bob Meeson co-authored *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings* (1997). Lately, he has interpreted numerous historic buildings. He illustrated *Recording Timber-framed Buildings* (CBA 1999), and he and Sarah Pearson co-edited *Vernacular Buildings in a Changing World* (CBA 2001).

The focus of the second day is *The Tudor & Jacobean house, 16th-17th century* on **Wednesday 18 May**. This is known as the transition period. The day will show how people adapted from medieval to the 'modern' way of life and how they used new materials such as glazing, and features like fireplaces, to indicate their status to their neighbours.

Leaders are **David Martin** and **Linda Hall**. David Martin is the senior historic buildings officer at Archaeology South-East, University College London, a post he has held since 1992. He has been researching vernacular buildings in East Sussex (originally within the Rape of Hastings) since 1967 and (with his wife, Barbara) has written a number of papers and books on the subject, including *Farm Buildings of the Weald, 1450-1750* (2006) and the series *Historic Buildings in Eastern Sussex* (1997-1991). Volume 5 of the latter series was published in 1989 and concentrated on the techniques of wall construction used in houses between 1300 and 1750. Linda Hall BA, MIFA, studied archaeology and history at Southampton University, and as a result of her studies published *Rural Houses of North Avon and South Gloucestershire 1400-1720* (Bristol City Museum, 1983). She served for some



20th century

years on the Historic Buildings Committee of the Council for British Archaeology, and along with Dr Nat Alcock produced *Fixtures & Fittings in Dated Houses 1567-1763* (CBA, 1994). She lectures for NADFAS, local history groups and other organisations.

Third in the series is *The Georgian house*, on **Monday 6 June**. The 18th century saw the submerging of many regional traditions in an orthodoxy based on classical models. For London and other large towns it was the heyday of the terraced house. In the country, new farmhouses and cottages were built with an eye to classical forms, while many older buildings were re-faced and refurbished internally to conform to new fashions. This day will set out the architectural style and the main developments in the technologies and services during the Georgian period.

Leader is **Neil Burton**, formerly secretary of The Georgian Group and now a historic buildings consultant. He has regularly contributed lectures to architecture day schools at the museum, and has co-authored *Life in the Georgian City* with Dan Cruickshank.

The Victorian house on **Tuesday 28 June** will explore the social and architectural history behind the variety of ways in which the Victorians were housed according to their needs, status, aspiration and wealth in both urban and rural environments. The morning will concentrate on the variety of Victorian housing and houses that reflect the realities and aspirations of the Victorian family living in the city or suburb in 19th century England. The burgeoning professional Victorian middle classes enjoyed their terraced or semi-detached house or villa of brick and stone, with a semblance of architectural style, decoratively detailed, well-lit and well-heated, often looking out on to their own gardens. Working class dwellings – tiny flats – had barrack-like, grim exteriors; baths, toilets and laundries were communal, and the interior walls were covered with distemper to discourage fleas and vermin. At the upper end of the social scale, some could afford an architect-designed house furnished with William Morris wallpapers, tiles, carpets and well-made, durable furniture.

The afternoon will be devoted to rural housing. In numerical terms, and in terms of visible problems, the worst overcrowding and unsanitary conditions were to be found in the cities but sanitary reformers also drew attention to the poor quality of housing in rural areas. Parliamentary reports on the 'condition' of the agricultural labourer were accompanied by a raft of public health legislation aimed at improving working-class living conditions. Many 'improving' landlords took matters into their own hands, building model cottages for their labourers to live in. The afternoon session will include a visit to an example of a model cottage, Gonville Cottage, which lies within the museum site.

Leaders are **Susie Barson** and **Danae Tankard**. Susie is a senior architectural investigator with English Heritage. She is co-author of English Heritage publications *London Suburbs*, (1999) and *Scene/Unseen: London's West End Theatres* (2003). Danae combines her role as a social historian at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum with a part-time position as a senior lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Chichester. She has researched and written the social and economic history of 10 of the museum's houses, including Gonville Cottage.

This inspirational series will end with *The 20th century house* on **Wednesday 13 July**. The 20th century saw the death and rebirth of the vernacular. While increasing industrialisation and mass-media removed most genuine local character from house design and construction, nostalgia and sensitivity to place caused a desire to recreate past vernaculars in new forms. Modernism was, paradoxically, modelled on the idea of a non-stylistic 'natural' way of building and embraced the concept of vernacular, while the word itself was redefined by architects acting as historians and researchers.

Leaders are **Richard Hayward** and **Alan Powers**. Richard is Emeritus Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, University of Greenwich, where he was previously head of the School of Architecture and Construction. He is founder of the Urban Renaissance Institute and founding co-editor of the quarterly

refereed journal *Urban Design International* (1995-2008) published by Macmillan/Palgrave. His primary practice and research interests are in urban regeneration and design and housing. Alan Powers is Professor of Architecture and Cultural History at the University of Greenwich. He is well known as a writer on 20th century British architecture and has a long-standing interest in houses and their relationship to vernacular sources and models. His books include *Twentieth Century Houses in Britain* (2004), *Britain: Modern Architectures in History* (2007) and *Aldington, Craig and Collinge* (2009).

Also following the vernacular theme, historic paintwork experts Ian Bristow and Kathryn Davies make a return to the museum on **Monday 9th May** with a day school, *Cottagers & suburbanites: colour and décor for the less than grand*. In this course, Ian and Kathryn will explore the way the houses of the middle and humbler classes were decorated from Tudor times to the 19th century. This subject is much less researched and understood than the way in which aristocratic houses were treated, and knowledge is far from comprehensive.

Following a resume of basic painting methods, the decorative paintings of the aspiring classes in the decades around 1600 will be discussed, and examples at the museum visited. Attention will then be turned to exterior colour, and the day will conclude with an examination of décor in everyday Georgian and Victorian interiors. This course is aimed at all those with a curiosity for the tastes and aspirations of the past, both professional and amateur.

Leaders are **Ian Bristow DPhil FSA ARIBA** and **Dr Kathryn Davies**. Ian is an architect who has specialised in work on historic buildings. His particular expertise is in historic architectural colour, and in 1996 he published through Yale University Press two major works on the topic: *Architectural Colour in British Interiors 1615-1840*; and *Interior House-painting Colours and Technology 1615-1840*. He lectures regularly on various university and other courses. **Dr Kathryn Davies** has recently completed her doctoral thesis on Tudor and Jacobean domestic wallpainting.

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



Courses Programme 2011 – Building conservation and the use of traditional materials and processes

Timber Framed Buildings

An introduction to timber repairs

Monday-Wednesday 7-9 March 2011. £299

Leader: Joe Thompson

Historic timber-framing: modern engineering solutions

Thursday 10 March 2011. £99

Leader: David Yeomans & Jim Blackburn

An introduction to dating timber-framed buildings

Thursday 24 March 2011. £99

Leader: Joe Thompson

Repair of timber-framed buildings

Thursday 31 March 2011. £99

Leaders: Richard Harris & Roger Champion

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

Friday 1 April 2011. £99

Leader: Peter Ross

Timber decay and its treatment

Wednesday 19 October 2011. £99

Leader: Brian Ridout

Issues in Building Conservation

Energy conservation in traditional buildings

Tuesday 1 March 2011. £99

Leaders: Richard Oxley & Phil Ogley

Housing and domestic life in a low energy future

Friday 11 March 2011. £99

Leader: Bruce Induni

Home owners day

Monday 14 March 2011. £99

Leader: Kevin Stubbs

Assessing significance in the context of PPS5 and conservation plans

Friday 18 March 2011. £99

Leader: Eddie Booth

Understanding and caring for the fabric of your parish church

Wednesday 23 March 2011. £99

Leader: Kevin Stubbs

Recording vernacular buildings for conservation

Three linked day schools. (All three days £285)

Leader: Richard Harris

Day one: Observing and sketching

Thursday 7 April 2011. £99

Day two: Imposing a grid

Thursday 28 April 2011. £99

Day three: Studio techniques

Thursday 5 May 2011. £99

Brick and Lime

Introduction to gauged brickwork

Tuesday-Thursday 26-28 April 2011. £350

Leader: Gerard Lynch

Repair of traditionally constructed brickwork

Monday-Wednesday 13-15 June 2011. £350

Leader: Gerard Lynch

Brickwork for home owners.

Lime mortars for traditional brickwork

Thursday 16 June 2011. £110

Leaders: Gerard Lynch

Basic brickwork for homeowners

Monday 27 June 2011. £99

Leaders: Kevin Stubbs & Ray Moseley

Historic lime plasters and renders

Tuesday-Wednesday 28-29 June 2011. £220

Leaders: Ian Constantinides & Jeff Orton

Practical lime plastering

Thursday 30 June 2011. £99

Leader: George Terry

Advanced gauged brickwork

Monday-Wednesday 11-13 July 2011. £350

Leader: Gerard Lynch

Jointing, pointing and re-pointing of historic brickwork

Monday-Tuesday 19-20 September 2011. £220

Leader: Gerard Lynch

English brickwork: Tudor to Edwardian

Wednesday 21 September 2011. £99

Leader: Gerard Lynch

Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Project

Involving people with the unique heritage in one of England's finest landscapes.

The Weald Forest Ridge Landscape Partnership Project enables people to reconnect with their local landscape; more easily access and enjoy it; understand its unique natural, cultural and built heritage; take part in caring for it; and leave a legacy for future generations. For the third year, The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum is delivering buildings heritage training within the Weald Forest Ridge Scheme. The courses are open to all, and a number of places have been reserved for participants living or working in the Weald Forest Ridge area of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. For those living in this area, a discounted rate of £40 for day-schools and £80 for two-day courses applies. To check whether you qualify for this discount please contact the Museum office on 01243 811931.

An introduction to timber-framed buildings and their conservation

Monday 5 September 2011. £99

Leaders: Richard Harris & Roger Champion

Repairs to historic brickwork

Tuesday-Wednesday 6-7 September 2011. £199

Leader: Gerard Lynch

Conservation of ironwork

Wednesday 28 September 2011. £99

Leader: Geoff Wallis

Practical scarf repairs

Thursday-Friday 29-30 September 2011. £199

Leader: Joe Thompson

An introduction to the conservation of weather-boarded and tile-hung buildings

Tuesday 4 October 2011. £99

Leaders: David Martin & Joe Thompson

Timber Framing From Scratch

A superb opportunity to gain hands-on experience of timber-framing. A series of practical courses introducing students to the historic use of structural oak and softwood framing, tools and techniques. Together these courses give a thorough grounding in traditional timber-framing, but students are welcome to take courses in any order, or simply choose just one course which most fits their needs. This is a unique series of courses, covering the four major timber-framing techniques.

Leader: Joe Thompson

Oak timber-framing: jowl posts

Monday-Friday 4-8 April 2011. £495

Monday-Friday 22-26 August 2011. £495

Monday-Friday 10-14 October 2011. £495

Oak timber-framing: braces & studs

Monday-Friday 23-27 May 2011. £495

Monday-Friday 21-25 November 2011. £495

Oak timber-framing: rafters

Monday-Friday 13-17 June 2011. £495

Square rule timber-framing

Monday-Friday 12-16 September 2011. £495

The roofing square

Thursday 9 June 2011. £99



Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Spring 2011

Paint

Cottagers and suburbanites: colour and décor for the less-than-grand

Monday 9 May 2011. £99

Leaders: Ian Bristow & Kathryn Davies

Limewash, distemper and linseed-based paints: a practical workshop

Tuesday 10 May 2011. £99

Leader: Sibylle Heil

A practical introduction to sign writing

Monday 4 July 2011. £99

Leader: Wayne Osborne

Traditional Building Materials

Wattle and daub

Monday 21 March 2011. £99

Leader: Joe Thompson

Timber: Identification of species

Friday 25 March 2011. £99

Leader: David Woodbridge

Natural stone: its use in conservation and in new build

Wednesday 30 March 2011. £99

Leader: Adam Stone, Cathedral Works Organisation

Identification and use of stone in historic buildings in the Weald and Downland region

Friday 8 April 2011. £99

Leader: David Bone

Everything you want to know about oak

Friday 29 April 2011. £99

Leader: Joe Thompson

Cob walling – history, theory and practice

Wednesday 4 May 2011. £99

Leader: Kevin Stubbs

Practical stone wall repairs

Tuesday-Wednesday 21-22 June 2011. £199

Leader: Kevin Hughes

Strength grading of oak

Monday-Wednesday 14-16 November 2011. £450

Leader: David Woodbridge

Practical flint walling

Tuesday-Wednesday 29-30 November 2011. £250

Leaders: Mark Middleton, Chris Rosier & Brian Dawson

Leadwork and Roofing

An introduction to leadwork for specifiers and installers

Tuesday 5 April 2011. £110

Leader: Nigel Johnston



Square rule timber framing.

Practical leadwork

Wednesday 6 April 2011. £110

Leader: Nigel Johnston

Practical thatching

Wednesday 4 May 2011. £150

Leader: Chris Tomkins

Oak shingles: history, manufacture and use

Thursday 5 May 2011. £99

Leaders: Peter Harknett & John Deal

The Vernacular House 1350-2000

Vernacular architecture can be thought of as the common speech of buildings. This new series of five linked day-schools explores the chronological development of houses drawing on the latest research. *Students booking on all five days will receive a discounted rate of £250.*

Medieval houses in town and country

Tuesday 10 May 2011. £99

Leaders: Sarah Pearson & Bob Meeson

The Tudor and Jacobean house, 16th-17th century

Wednesday 18 May 2011. £99

Leader: David Martin

The Georgian house

Monday 6 June 2011. £99

Leader: Neil Burton

The Victorian house

Tuesday 28 June 2011. £99

Leaders: Susie Barson & Danae Tankard

The 20th century house

Wednesday 13 July 2011. £99

Leaders: Richard Hayward & Alan Powers

Courses Programme 2011 – Traditional rural trades and crafts

Countryside crafts

Carve a wooden spoon

Friday 11 March 2011. £50

Leader: Dave Jackson

Make a bentwood chair

Saturday-Sunday 12-13 March 2011. £200

Saturday-Sunday 24-25 September 2011. £200

Leader: Dave Jackson

Living willow workshop

Saturday 12 March 2011. £80

Sunday 13 March 2011. £80

Leader: Deborah Albon

Sussex trug making workshop

Saturday-Sunday 19-20 March 2011. £130

Leader: Robin Tuppen

Willow workshop: weave and wale a basket

Saturday 19 March 2011. £60

Saturday 6 August 2011. £60

Sunday 16 October 2011. £60

Leader: Deborah Albon

Coracle making workshop

Saturday-Sunday 26-27 March 2011. £200

Saturday-Sunday 1-2 October 2011. £200

Leader: Kevin Grimley

Leaded-light stained glass workshop

Friday 1 April 2011. £90

Leader: David Lilly

Medieval tile making workshop

Sunday 10 April 2011. £90

Leader: Karen Elkins

Net making workshop

Sunday 8 May 2011. £45

Leader: Jon Hutcheon

Introduction to pole lathe turning

Saturday 14 May 2011. £55

Saturday 16 July 2011. £55

Leader: Mark Allery

Willow garden supports

Saturday 14 May 2011. £70

Sunday 15 May 2011. £70

Leader: Deborah Albon



Greenwood chair-making workshop.

➔ Courses Programme 2011 – Traditional rural trades and crafts

Cane seating workshop

Friday 20 May 2011. £55
Leader: Wendy Manser

Greenwood chair making

Monday-Saturday 23-28 May 2011. £300
Leader: Paul Hayden

Stone carving workshop

Saturday 28 May 2011. £70
Leader: Will Spankie

Letter cutting in stone

Sunday 29 May 2011. £70
Leader: Will Spankie

Skep making

Saturday-Sunday 11-12 June 2011. £90
Leader: Derek Slee

Leather belt workshop

Saturday 2 July 2011. £60
Leader: Emma O'Driscoll

Corn dolly workshop

Saturday 16 July 2011. £50
Friday 5 August 2011. £50
Saturday 22 October 2011. £50
Leader: Verna Bailey

Weave a rush hat

Friday 12 August 2011. £55
Leader: Rachel Frost

Pole lathe turning workshop: improve your green woodworking skills

Saturday 27 August 2011. £60
Leader: Mark Allery

Straw plait hat

Friday 2 September 2011. £50
Leader: Ruth Goodman

Stone carving: carve a Tudor rose

Saturday-Sunday 3-4 September 2011. £140
Leader: Will Spankie

Hazel stool with woven willow seat

Friday 23 September 2011. £65
Leader: Dave Jackson

Leather carving workshop

Saturday 19 November 2011. £55
Leader: Emma O'Driscoll

Traditional skills

Dowsing workshop

Tuesday 3 May 2011. £40
Friday 7 October 2011. £40

Scything day

Friday 13 May 2011. £60
Leader: Simon Fairlie

Introduction to charcoal burning

Saturday 14 May 2011. £55
Leaders: Mark Odin & Jon Roberts

Food for free

Sunday 22 May 2011. £65
Leader: Ian Humphrey

Design and print a woodcut

Friday-Sunday 1-3 July 2011. £180
Leader: Will Dyke

A practical introduction to signwriting

Monday 4 July 2011. £99
Leader: Wayne Osborne

Irons in the fire

Saturday 9 July 2011. £80
Saturday 10 September 2011. £80
Leader: Martin Fox

Birds of prey experience

Friday 15 July 2011. £50
Friday 5 August 2011. £50
Leader: Sally Buckland

Animal tracking

Sunday 7 August 2011. £65
Leader: Ian Humphrey

Field butchery

Sunday 25 September 2011. £65
Leader: Ian Humphrey

Introduction to coppice management

Saturday 5 November 2011. £50
Leaders: John Lindfield & Jon Roberts

Christmas workshops

Tudor Christmas food

Tuesday 6 December 2011. £60
Leader: Ruth Goodman

Willow wreath for Christmas

Saturday 10 December 2011. £50
Sunday 11 December 2011. £50
Leader: Deborah Albon

Christmas herbal gifts and decorations

Sunday 11 December 2011. £55
Thursday 15 December 2011. £55
Leader: Christina Stapley

Christmas stained glass workshop

Friday 16 December 2011. £85
Leader: David Lilly



Felting for fun.

Early technology workshops

Shooting the traditional longbow

Saturday 2 April 2011. £45
Saturday 17 September 2011. £45
Leader: Jonathan Davies

A taste of the treewrights craft:

Anglo-Saxon and Norman woodworking
Thursday 5 May 2011. £55
Leader: Damien Goodburn

Prehistoric jewellery workshop

Friday 5 August 2011. £50
Leader: John Lord

Prehistoric tool making workshop

Saturday-Sunday 6-7 August 2011. £100
Leader: John & Val Lord

Traditional English longbow

Wednesday-Friday 2-4 November 2011. £260
Leader: John Rhyder

Heavy horse experience days

Care and management of heavy horses

Sunday 6 March 2011. £80
Leader: Mark Buxton

Horse logging

Sunday 20 March 2011. £80
Leader: Robert Sampson

Driving heavy horses

Sunday 15 May 2011. £80
Thursday 19 May 2011. £80
Thursday 9 June 2011. £80
Sunday 3 July 2011. £80
Leader: Mark Buxton

Ploughing with heavy horses

Sunday 6 November 2011. £80
Sunday 20 November 2011. £80
Sunday 11 December 2011. £80
Leaders: John McDermott, Robert Sampson & Mark Buxton

Historic home life

Historic soap making

Friday 6 May 2011. £60
Leader: Lesley Parker

Victorian cleaning

Tuesday 10 May 2011. £60
Leader: Ruth Goodman

Dairying day

Friday 13 May 2011. £60
Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond

Herbs for a cottage garden

Friday 20 May 2011. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

Sing Sussex songs

Saturday 21 May 2011. £45
Leader: Chris Hare

An introduction to traditional music

Sunday 22 May 2011. £45
Leader: Trevor James

Make a herbarium – a personal plant record

Saturday 28 May 2011. £55
Leader: Christina Stapley

15th century herbs in the medieval manor

Friday 17 June 2011. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

A taste of honey

Saturday 18 June 2011. £60
Leader: Lesley Parker

Secrets of the Tudor stillroom

Saturday 18 June 2011. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

Herbs for health

Friday 1 July 2011. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

The country house kitchen

Wednesday-Thursday 6-7 July 2011. £150
Leader: Peter Brears

Herb walk around the Museum

Saturday 9 July 2011. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

Churches and chapels: how to study them

Thursday 14 July 2011. £60
Leader: David Parsons

Medieval experience day

Friday 26 August 2011. £60
Leader: Lesley Parker

'Re-writing history': making historical inks

Saturday 27 August 2011. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

Tudor and Victorian hair and makeup

Thursday 1 September 2011. £60
Leader: Ruth Goodman

An A to Z of medicinal trees

Friday 16 September 2011. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

Tudor brewing and baking

Friday 30 September 2011. £60
Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond



Victorian preserves

Saturday 1 October 2011. £60

Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond

The Tudor bakehouse – pies and pastries

Wednesday 5 October 2011. £60

Leader: Ruth Goodman

To tell a tale

Saturday 22 October 2011. £60

Leader: Kay Rouse

Banqueting sweetmeats

Saturday 5 November 2011. £60

Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond

Painting and drawing workshops

Week-long courses

Oil painting workshop

Monday-Friday 20-22 July 2011. £250

Leader: Gordon Rushmer

Improvers' watercolour workshop

Monday-Friday 19-23 September 2011. £250

Leader: Gordon Rushmer

The Downland sketchbook

Monday-Friday 10-14 October 2011. £250

Leader: Gordon Rushmer

Weekend courses

Beginners' watercolour workshop

Friday-Sunday 20-22 May 2011. £180

Leader: Gordon Rushmer

Drawing weekend

Saturday-Sunday 25-26 June 2011. £120

Leader: Gordon Rushmer

Improvers' watercolour weekend

Friday-Sunday 8-10 July 2011. £180

Leader: Gordon Rushmer

Watercolour sketching

Friday 29 July-Sunday 31 July 2011. £180

Leader: Gordon Rushmer

Day workshop

Costumed figure drawing workshop

Wednesday 22 June 2011. £60

Leader: Gordon Rushmer

Smallholder days

Keeping sheep

Saturday 9 April 2011. £65

Leaders: David & Helen Burden

Keeping pigs

Sunday 10 April 2011. £50

Leader: Suzi Westron

Beekeeping for beginners

Saturday 16 April 2011. £50

Leaders: Christine Stevens & Emma O'Driscoll

Learning to plough with horses is a popular course in the Heavy Horses programme: here John McDermott, one of our tutors, and champion Great All England ploughman for the second year running, is taking part in the Autumn Countryside Show. This year's date for that event is 8/9 October.

Poultry husbandry

Saturday 7 May 2011. £50

Saturday 15 October 2011. £50

Leader: David Bland

The history of draft animals

Thursday 12 May 2011. £65

Leader: Paul Starkey

Poultry practical session

Saturday 25 June 2011. 10.30am-12.30pm. £25

Saturday 25 June 2011. 2pm-4pm. £25

Leader: David Bland

Textiles

Knitting workshop

Wednesday 16 March 2011. £45

Leader: Sue Mills

Learn to crochet

Saturday 19 March 2011. £45

Leader: Kay Hamilton

'Mad hatters': how to make a felt hat

Saturday 9 April 2011. £45

Leader: Hilary Charlesworth

Rag-rugging – a traditional textile form

Saturday 30 April 2011. £45

Friday 15 July 2011. £45

Friday 9 December 2011. £45

Leader: Linda Chivers

Victorian cleaning.



Spinning: preparation and the drop spindle

Monday 9 May 2011. £45

Saturday 17 September 2011. £45

Leader: Steve Kennett

Introduction to sampler techniques

Thursday 12 May 2011. £45

Leader: Caroline Vincent

Spinning: an introduction to the wheel

Monday 16 May 2011. £45

Saturday 24 September 2011. £45

Leader: Steve Kennett

Tatting workshop

Sunday 29 May 2011. £45

Leader: Angela Kiel

Felting for fun

Tuesday 7 June 2011. £45

Leader: Hilary Charlesworth

Knitting: improvers

Wednesday 29 June 2011. £45

Leader: TBC

Spinning: improvers

Friday 1 July 2011. £45

Leader: Steve Kennett

Natural dyeing

Thursday 28 July 2011. £45

Leader: Hilary Charlesworth

Bobbin lace making for beginners

Saturday 30 July 2011. £45

Leader: Eva Falconer

Inkle loom weaving

Saturday-Sunday 5-6 November 2011. £90

Leader: Steve Kennett

Guided walks

Dawn walk with breakfast

Saturday 7 May 2011. £20

Leader: Richard Williamson

Tree walk

Wednesday 25 May 2011. £15

Leader: Jon Roberts

Dusk walk

Wednesday 15 June 2011. £15

Leader: Richard Williamson

Natural navigation

Saturday 18 June 2011. £20

Leader: Tristan Gooley

Period gardens walk

Thursday 23 June 2011. £15

Leader: Carlotta Holt

Bat walk

Friday 2 September 2011. £15

Leader: Sue Harris

Candlelit walk

Thursday 8 December 2011. £15

Leader: Jon Roberts

Tales of the Downs and Beyond

All the speakers are experts in their fields, who will share their knowledge on these evenings in a relaxed talk, with illustrations. Questions are welcome. The talks will start at 6.30pm, with tea/coffee and cake served from 6pm. The ticket allows entrance to the museum site from 4pm on the day of the talk. All talks cost £10 per person including refreshments.

Further information: 01243 811021 email courses@wealddown.co.uk

Wednesday 6 April

THE STORY OF THE SUSSEX PUB

This illustrated talk will reveal how Sussex inns, taverns and alehouses metamorphosed into some of our well-known pubs. They were a vital support to the road and river network in the notoriously difficult travelling conditions in the county, their colourful signs indicating status, patronage and land ownership.

Janet Pennington was the archivist at Lancing College for many years and also taught local history and palaeography for CCE at the University of Sussex. Her research on the history of the Chequer Inn at Steyning in the 1980s eventually led to a PhD on the architecture and social history of early-modern Sussex inns and taverns. She has visited more pubs than most people!

Wednesday 13 April

SPINNING A YARN

What started Steve Kennett's love for spinning? And where did this lead to? Steve has been spinning for many years. During this talk he will describe how spinning works, the fun present day spinners have, and he will touch on the social and economic role that spinning played in earlier times.

Steve Kennett learned to spin some 30 years ago, taught by Dorothy Wilmshurst who had studied with Ethel Mairet at Ditchling in the 1930's. Steve is a member of the General Purposes Committee of the Association of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, and tutor at the Association's Summer School. He is a member of the Online and Wealden Guilds. Some will know him for his work as a volunteer at the museum, where he fills a number of roles from working with school groups on Tudor clothing, running workshops for adults who wish to learn to spin to researching and spinning yarn for the knitting circle to create Tudor hose.

Wednesday 4 May

THE LITTLE-KNOWN TRADITION OF BARGE BUILDING IN WEST SUSSEX AND EAST HAMPSHIRE: THE UNIQUE CRAFT OF CHICHESTER AND LANGSTONE HARBOUR

Though many will have heard of canal narrow boats and Thames sailing barges, few people are familiar with the small very distinctive barges of the Chichester and Langstone harbour region. These craft acted as amphibious wagons in the sheltered waters of the harbour channels and the eastern Solent where they were propelled by wind and tide. Latterly they carried shingle and their flat-bottomed hulls were well adapted to shallow waters, where they took the ground frequently. The construction of the later barges was unique amongst British sailing barges. In the 1980s Damien Goodburn examined and recorded the remains of several of these vessels, the nearest of which lay less than 10 miles away from the museum.

Dr Damian Goodburn is an archaeologist specialising in the investigation and analysis of many aspects of early and historic woodworking including the construction of buildings and boats and the reconstruction of the woodland, tools and techniques used at different periods in our past up to the industrial age. He works as a part time specialist for the Museum of London Archaeology Department and also carries out practical experiments in early woodworking, some of which have appeared on TV.

Thursday 19 May

THE WILDLIFE OF CHICHESTER HARBOUR

Chichester Harbour is a wetland of international importance for its habitats and birdlife, but it is also home to a wide range of other fascinating wildlife from rare flowers to harbour seals. Ed Rowsell explores the diversity of Chichester harbour and shows some of the work involved in conserving this area of outstanding natural beauty.

Ed Rowsell was born, bred and lives within a mile of the South Downs and is currently the conservation officer for Chichester Harbour Conservancy. He graduated from Sussex University in 1997 with a degree in Ecology and has worked in a variety of roles relating to wildlife conservation ever since.



Roger Champion making a replica 'ladder' bed for the reconstructed 14th Century Hangleton cottage. He will talk about furniture making on 21 July.

Wednesday 25 May

COTTAGES AND COTTAGERS IN 17TH CENTURY SUSSEX

By the early 17th century an increasing proportion of the rural population was landless or land-impoorished, living in tiny cottages and eking out a living through a mixture of paid labour, small-scale craft or trade activities and the exploitation of common land. Drawing on an extensive range of documentary sources, this talk will explore the lives of the men, women and children who collectively comprised 'the labouring poor'.

Dr Danae Tankard combines her role as a social historian at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum with a part-time position as a senior lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Chichester. She has an MA and PhD in history from the University of London.

Tuesday 7 June

THE BUILDING OF GEORGIAN CHICHESTER

Chichester is widely regarded as the archetypal Georgian town, and this architectural lecture takes a

detailed look at how and why the city developed between 1690 and 1830, resulting in fine town houses, new civic buildings and the new developments of Newtown and Somerstown. It also looks at architectural styles and the building materials used.

Alan Green BSc CEng MICE was born and educated in Chichester, and writes and lectures widely on his long-held interests in local history and the art and architecture of Georgian Britain. He is chairman of the Chichester Conservation Area Advisory Committee, on which he represents the Georgian Group, and serves on the committees of both the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society and Chichester Local History Society. Published works include four books on the history of Chichester.

Thursday 16 June

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Discover the secrets found in the signatures of the famous and infamous. Signatures are the essence of our being, and shout 'This is me!' Rosemary Hudson will also discuss logos as corporate signatures, issues around forgery and autograph collecting, and what is collectable today.

Rosemary Hudson is a graphologist specialising in signatures and their analysis. She was one of five UK businesses to be awarded national exhibitor space at the recent Grand Palais Lille International Congress. She also tutors the dowsing workshop at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, and writes on both subjects for local and national press.

Wednesday 22 June

EAST DEAN DEER PARK AND THE CHARLTON HUNT

The Upper Lavant Valley has had a long association with hunting. Long before Charlton became synonymous with fox-hunting there were medieval deer parks at East Dean and Downley, just to the west of Singleton. Museum director Richard Pailthorpe will explore the history, landscape and buildings, including Fox Hall, associated with the sport of kings and nobility.

Richard Pailthorpe is the director of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum. Previously he managed Syon House and Parham Park after working for several years at the museum. He is a long-standing local resident and his published works include a number of books on local history.

Tuesday 28 June

THE WILDLIFE OF WEST SUSSEX

An illustrated talk on the diverse wildlife of West Sussex, from the harbours to the Downs, and the river valleys to the Wealden woodlands, which will consider flora and fauna ranging from orchids, wading birds and bluebells to nightjars and even the peregrines of Chichester Cathedral.

Richard Williamson has spent 40 years studying the wildlife of West Sussex and beyond and regularly shares his knowledge through nature columns in local papers. He is much sought after as a leader of nature walks and talks.

Tuesday 5 July

ARE WE LIVING IN THE PRESENT?

During his last visit to the museum, Ajahn Tim was living the humble and austere life of a Buddhist monk. In this talk he will reflect on our modern stressful lifestyle, bound up in technology, business and distraction and asks us to reflect how a more disciplined and apparently harsh existence might actually bring us more peace of mind.

Tim Price first visited the museum as an art student about 35 years ago. He followed a career in the building design business. Then he stepped out of a competitive world, living and travelling widely in Asia and in the West as a Buddhist monk for 16 years. He has recently written the book Blistered feet – Blissful mind.

Tuesday 12 July

WHY THE DOWNS WERE PERMANENTLY CHANGED BY THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

Between 1793 and 1815 Britain was at war with France. It was a long and bitter struggle. Only the short Peace of Amiens afforded a respite. The effect of this conflict was to increase agricultural prices over a long period, especially for wheat, cattle and wool, for

uniforms. It was a good time for farmers and landlords in Sussex and they maximised the agricultural use of the Downs. The unprecedented demand for wool and wheat was to change the landscape forever.

Roger Knight spent most of his career in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, leaving as Deputy Director in 2000. Recently he co-authored a study of the victualling of the Royal Navy in the Napoleonic Wars: *Sustaining the Fleet, 1793-1815: War, the British Navy and the Contractor State* (Boydell, Press, 2010). He is now writing a book for Penguin, with a working title of 'Britain against Napoleon', to be published in 2013.

Thursday 21 July

ROGER CHAMPION: THE MUSEUM'S FURNITURE MAKER

This illustrated talk will explore how Roger Champion carefully researched and replicated authentic pieces of medieval and Tudor furniture to enhance the interiors of the museum's houses and increase the visitors' appreciation and understanding of the social status of those who lived in them.

Roger Champion came to the museum in 1968 and over the next 30 years or so re-erected almost all the timber-framed buildings on the site. When the decision was taken to furnish some of the buildings he responded by researching the craft of the contemporary carpenters and joiners and produced everything from simple tables and stools to delicately carved chairs each appropriate to the status of the building in which they sit.

Thursday 28 July

GOthic TRACERY

A consideration of the history of Gothic tracery; from plate tracery to the delicate lines of perpendicular; the setting out of the interweaving geometry; curves of cusps and mouldings, the daring construction and the delight of church windows.

Dr James Strike worked at English Heritage providing specialist architectural advice for the regional inspectors. He has contributed to courses at the museum for over 15 years, and is currently course leader for the museum's MSc in Building Conservation.

Tuesday 13 September

HISTORICAL FICTION: THE PAST AND THE IMAGINATION

Jane Borodale will talk about her motivations for writing fiction set in the past, and how she tackles the challenge of invoking aspects of history through the eyes of her characters. From real-life events to detail and atmosphere.

Jane Borodale was Leverhulme writer in residence at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum in 2009, where she wrote *The Visitor*, short stories drawn from four of the museum's houses. Her first novel *The Book of Fires*, about 18th-century fireworks set in Sussex and London, was shortlisted for the 2010 Orange Award for New Writers.

Tuesday 27 September

ROUNDWOOD TIMBER FRAMING – ARCHITECTURE FROM THE WOODS OF WEST SUSSEX

This talk will explore the new architectural vernacular – roundwood timber framing, and how the timber and jointing techniques have evolved from the management of Sussex woods. The talk will look at a range of different roundwood timber frame buildings and their role as ecological buildings of the future.

Ben Law lives and works at Prickly Nut Woods in West Sussex, where apart from making a living from coppicing he trains apprentices and runs courses on sustainable woodland management, ecobuilding and permaculture design. He is author of *The Woodland Way*, a permaculture approach to sustainable woodland management and *The Woodland House*, which charts the building of his unique cruck framed home in the woods. The building of his house was filmed for Channel 4's *Grand Designs* programme and proved to be the most popular programme of the series. Ben now runs occasional open days in response to the popular demand. Ben's third book *The Woodland Year*, was published in 2008.

Getting up steam!

A steam engine takes part in the arena parade during the two-day **Festival of Steam** last August – this year's event is on **13/14 August** (a change from the original published dates). The two-day spectacle is a chance to celebrate the significance of steam power in our past. Steam engines demonstrate the kind of work for which they were



originally designed, in an event packed with exhibits, demonstrations and displays. From working traction engines, showman's engines and steam rollers, to steam lorries, a steam fairground carousel and narrow gauge railways, plus demonstrations of steam-powered agricultural machinery and steam-powered timber sawing in the museum's working woodyard, there is much to see.

News in brief

Seeing is believing . . . 2011 conference

Inspired by the success of the building conservation conference in celebration of the museum's 40th anniversary last year the museum is hosting another conference on 5 October with a work-

ing title of *Seeing is believing: falsehoods in architecture*. This diverse day will include expert contributions exploring surface and superficiality and concluding that buildings and their features are not always what they seem! Topics are likely to include mathematical tiles, tuck pointing, mock Ashlar, painted timbers, Coade stone and trompe l'oeil. Further information will be published on the website shortly.

To purchase

Building

History,

the story

of the

Weald &

Downland

Open

Air

Museum's

development,

go to

page 9.

**CHICHESTER
FESTIVAL 2011
THEATRE**

FESTIVAL 2011 HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED

Call 01243 781312 for a brochure
or go to www.cft.org.uk for details

9 May - 5 November



FRIENDS' NEWS

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 5,400 memberships representing about 12,100 individual members. Since its inception it has raised a total of £1.9 million for the museum, making a major contribution to the museum's work.

Friends' day trips 2011

Polesden Lacey – Thursday 5 May

This beautiful Regency house sits on a 1,400-acre estate. There has been a house here in different forms since 1336. The property has had many owners, who each made alterations and additions. The most famous was the poet and playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Sheridan adored Polesden regarding it as an escape from his hurly-burly London life. After two further owners Mrs Greville purchased the house. She was a legendary Edwardian hostess and received many famous guests.

The house was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1942. The gardens are renowned and a tulip festival will be underway when we visit. We will have an introductory talk after which you may wander at leisure. There is a restaurant providing morning coffee, lunch and tea or you may bring a picnic.

Ticket price – £9.10 NT members/£19.25 non-members

Depart museum 9.30am. Return approx. 17.30pm

Russell-Coates Art Gallery & Museum, Bournemouth – Tuesday 7 June

East Cliff House was once the home of Sir Merton Russell-Coates and Lady Russell-Coates. Building commenced in 1897 and was completed in its original form in 1901: the architect was John Frederick Fogerty. Sir Merton presented the house to his wife on her birthday in 1901. The couple travelled extensively and created several large and interesting collections using the house as a showcase for these. The house and collections were donated to the people of Bournemouth by Sir Merton and Lady Russell-Coates in 1907; they continued to live in the house until their deaths. On arrival there will be an opportunity to purchase refreshments before a guided tour.

After the tour you may further explore the galleries and visit the exhibitions on show. Lunch may be purchased in the restaurant or outside the property. The house is right near the sea front and within walking distance of the town.

Ticket price – £14.20

Depart museum at 8.15am. Return approx. 18.30pm

Friends raises funds during the museum's 40th anniversary year

As reported in the autumn magazine, the Friends Grand Draw for the Ruby Anniversary celebrations made around £5,000. In addition to this the Friends raised a further £1,900 by running the Tree of Fortune at the Ruby Anniversary Ball held in November. In the ball's Grand Auction a life membership of the Friends raised a further £300.

Famous Mothers, including a visit to Clarence House – Tuesday 9 August.

We start our day meeting with our Blue-badge guide and purchasing morning coffee. During the morning coach tour, we will hear stories of motherhood from Roman times to the present day. Our guide will tell us tales of mothers famous in their own right as well as the mothers of the famous and infamous. Lunch will be taken on the South Bank; you may bring a packed lunch or visit one of the many restaurants or cafés found there. In the afternoon we visit Clarence House, for 50 years the home of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Visitors are guided around five ground-floor rooms where HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall undertake official engagements. We will make a comfort stop after leaving the house with time for tea before heading home.

Ticket price – £29

Depart museum 8.00am. Return approx. 19.00pm

Contacting the Friends

If you have a query with your membership please telephone Lisa Neville on 01243 811893. If Lisa is unavailable, please leave a message on her voicemail and she will contact you as soon as possible. For all other enquiries please telephone the chairman of the Friends, Sarah Casdagli on 01243 811726.

Lacock Abbey, Talbot Museum & Village – Thursday 22 September

Set in rural Wiltshire, Lacock village is famous for its picturesque streets and historic buildings. *Cranford* fans will recognise the location. The abbey is set in the heart of the village and is built upon the foundations of a nunnery. Visitors can experience the atmosphere of medieval rooms and cloister court, giving a sense of the abbey's monastic past. The museum celebrates the achievements of William Fox Talbot, famous for his contribution to the invention of photography. We will be free to wander at our leisure and refreshments can easily be purchased or you may bring a packed lunch.

Ticket price – £11.15 NT members/£22.75 non-members

Depart museum at 8.00am. Return approx. 19.00pm

Annual General Meeting

2 April in the Downland Gridshell, 2.30pm

The Friends annual meeting will take place on Saturday 2 April in the Downland Gridshell building at 2.30pm. All members are warmly invited to attend. Our guest speaker will be Richard Pailthorpe, the new museum director. Members of the Friends will find, included with the magazine, the AGM

News in brief

Brian Dempster retires from museum café

Brian Dempster who has run the catering at the museum for many

years, has decided on a career change, and we wish him well in his new post as bursar at Ditcham Park School. The catering at the museum will now be managed by the existing staff and we will endeavour to maintain his high

standards. For the future we hope to dramatically improve our catering facilities; initial plans have been drawn up for a new lakeside cafe and we will be applying for planning permission shortly.

agenda and the Annual Report and Accounts. If further copies or the fuller version are required please contact the honorary secretary, Friends of the Weald & Downland Museum, at the museum address.

Fundraising events

Barn Dance – Saturday 4 June at 6.30pm in the Downland Gridshell

This promises to be a fun evening for all ages. We have a new band and caller this year, *The Odd Bods*, who come highly recommended! There will be a supper break during the evening when you can take a picnic out onto the hill and enjoy the beautiful view, or if wet you can stay indoors. So bring your picnic, a rug and drinks and enjoy a great evening.

Tickets available from the museum shop. Further information: 01243 811726. Adult – £10.00, Child – £6.00, Family – £25

Gardener's Questions – Saturday 23 July at 2.30pm in the Downland Gridshell

The Friends are delighted to welcome Pippa Greenwood as one of our panellists for this event. Pippa is well known to many for her television appearances on gardening programmes and as a regular expert on Radio 4's *Gardeners Question Time*. Jane Allen, Sussex County Organiser for the National Garden Scheme, will also be on the panel along with John Humphris, chairman of the Easebourne Gardening & Allotment Society and Tom Brown, head gardener at Parham Park. The chairman for the afternoon will be Bob Holman who was the museum's gardener for many years. We will start the proceedings with afternoon tea and the opportunity to submit your questions in writing. This promises to be a wonderful afternoon full of good gardening advice and amusement!

Tickets – £12 in advance only. Available from the museum shop.

Michaelmas Supper – Saturday 24 September at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the medieval house from Sole Street

By popular demand we are re-introducing the Michaelmas Supper to be held in the museum's medieval house from Sole Street. After a glass of wine with canapés, we will serve a two-course supper followed by coffee. There will be a raffle. Numbers are limited owing to the size of the building.

Tickets – £18 in advance only. Booking through application form enclosed with the magazine.

How to book

A booking form for the trips and events is included with this mailing. Please read the instructions carefully. Closing date for applications will be 31 March. If any trips are over-subscribed, tickets will be allocated by lot. In the event of anyone being unable to attend a booked trip, no refund will be made unless the ticket can be re-sold. Gratuity to the driver is included in the price. Booking forms should be sent to: Mrs Sarah Casdagli, Little Yarne, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0HA and **not** to the museum office. Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your tickets.

Museum tutor exhibits at Tate Britain

Gordon Rushmer, tutor for all the art courses at the museum, is exhibiting one of his paintings, *The burning of Gornji Vacouf, Bosnia*, at Watercolour, showing at Tate Britain until 21 August as part of an exhibition exploring people's perception of watercolours.

A 'Rare' Opportunity To Support Our Biggest Show Of The Year!

Sponsor a class at our Rare & Traditional Breeds Show on Sunday 17th July



The Museum has supported stockmen across the south east since the show started 25 years ago. They secure the future of the rarest of farm animals, showcased every year at our delightful agricultural show. Whatever your farmyard favourites, why not help us continue our support by sponsoring an animal class for judging this year?

Sponsorship costs £30 per class (£65 for cattle)

You will be providing valuable support for the event, and will receive **two free tickets to the Show**, (a family ticket for a cow class) and a credit in the Show Programme! And, by declaring your support by Gift Aid, we can reclaim the tax paid and gain 25p in the £!



Rare & Traditional Breeds Show – Sunday 17th July

I wish to support the event by donating the sum of £ to sponsor a sheep / pig / goat / cattle class (delete as appropriate).

Cheques should be made payable to Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

If you have a favourite breed you would like to sponsor, please indicate below and we will try to match your request to a class.

.....Breed requested

Please treat this sponsorship as a Gift Aid donation (delete if not appropriate)

Class sponsored in the name of.....

Name of sponsor Signature

Address

.....

Post code..... Date

Please return to Julie Aalen, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0EU

Volunteer Janice Broadbridge of Clanfield, Hampshire uncovers a surprise family link to one of the museum's buildings

Visiting my ancestors ... by chance



Above, Poplar Cottage on its original site at Washington, West Sussex. It was dismantled by the museum in 1982 and re-erected in 1999 as a memorial to the museum's founder, Dr Roy Armstrong. Its historical significance lies in the evidence of a 'smoke bay', an early form of chimney, a bay about four feet long at one end. Below, Chris Tomkins is thatching the building after re-erection while wattle and daub is applied to the timber-framed walls below.



In this photograph taken around 1920 great-grandfather Henry Broadbridge, who was living in Poplar Cottage in 1871, aged 11, is seated on the right with his wife Elizabeth next to him. The photo was taken at the wedding of their second son, Charles, who is sitting next to Elizabeth. The boy at the bottom left is Janice's father, Harry.

I knew from an early age that my father's Broadbridge family name came from Washington, West Sussex and that my great-grandfather, Henry Broadbridge, was a cowman. As a child growing up in the urban surroundings of Richmond and Twickenham, this did not mean much to me.

When I retired in 2004 I began researching the family. By then I had moved to the Hampshire/West Sussex border which made it easier to visit West Sussex Record Office and the Washington area.

I discovered that my great-great-great-grandfather William Broadbridge, was born in July 1785 in Oving, West Sussex. In 1841 he was living in Hole Street, Wiston, with his wife, Ann, and seven children. At that time the third son, George Broadbridge, my great-great-grandfather, was 15-years-old. As the village of Wiston was part of the Wiston Estate, owned by the Goring family, it is likely that George and his older brothers, James and William, and their father, were employed as agricultural workers by the estate.

By 1851 George Broadbridge, now married to Maria Botting from nearby Ashington, was living in Water Lane, Wiston, with his wife and two sons, William (2) and George (3 months). By 1861 George and his growing family (two daughters and four sons) had moved to Steyning Road, Washington. George is described in the 1861 census as a farm labourer and the two oldest boys, now aged 12 and 10, are shown as shepherd's boy and plough boy respectively. The youngest son, Henry Broadbridge, my great-grandfather, was born in 1860 and only one more child, Sally, born in 1864, was added to the family.

The 1871 census describes George, aged 44, as a widower. At that time, his address was given as Poplars, Washington, and he was living there with his three daughters, Mary Ann (16), Harriet (13) and Sally (7) and son, Henry, then aged 11.

The significance of the address 'Poplars, Washington' became much clearer to me when I started working as a volunteer at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum. Reading about the various houses on the site, I discovered that one of the buildings, Poplar Cottage, originally occupied a small plot of land on the southern edge of the common at Washington. The cottage dates from the mid-17th century and was one of three cottages on the site. It was thought to be the home of a landless labourer or husbandman.

It seemed too much of a coincidence that this could be the cottage in which my Broadbridge ancestors were living in 1871. However, by comparing the 1871 census returns with the 1891 census information provided by Dr Danae Tankard who has undertaken detailed research on the history of buildings at the museum, it became clear that this was indeed the case.

The museum's Poplar Cottage was the middle of three cottages on the site at Washington and was the one in which my great-great-grandfather was living in 1871, with four of his children, including Henry, my great-grandfather. This really was an amazing discovery.

After 1871 the paths of George and his son Henry diverged sharply. In 1881, George Broadbridge, now 55, was living as a lodger in the Franklands Arms, a coaching inn in Washington. His youngest brother, Allen, was also a lodger there and both were described as general (not agricultural) labourers. It may be that George was no longer working on the Wiston Estate and had therefore lost the tenancy of an estate cottage. I have no further information on George's fate, but Allen is recorded as dying in Thakeham Union Workhouse on 23 December 1890 at the age of 54.

In contrast Henry, my great-grandfather, is shown in 1881 as lodging with a grocer and his wife in Chelsea, London. By 1891, aged 31, he had established his own household in Mortlake, Surrey and is described as a milk carrier. It appears that George's younger brother, Henry Broadbridge, born 1830, had already moved to the London area and prospered. In 1893 he is described as head of a 'Collegiate School for the Sons of Gentlemen' in North Sheen. As yet, I have no information on how he managed to do so well after leaving Washington. However it may be that Uncle Henry was instrumental in helping my great-grandfather move away from West Sussex to find employment in the London area. By 1901, both my great-grandfather, Henry Broadbridge, and his younger brother, Charles, were living in neighbouring houses in the North Sheen area, and the Broadbridge family continued to live in that area until my grandfather died in 1959.

Now, every time I come to the museum, I call into Poplar Cottage and pay my respects to the ghosts of great-great-grandfather George and great-grandfather Henry, and feel very lucky to have found them.

This article first appeared in **Sussex Family Historian, Vol 19 No 3 – September 2010.*

Supporting the museum's work

As an independent museum and charity, we receive no external government funding and rely solely on visitor income, grants, sponsorship, legacies and our supportive Friends group. Here are just two examples from 2010 ...

Bursary scheme to safeguard heritage skills

The loss of heritage skills and practitioners has received much national publicity recently, and the museum has been aware of the problem for many years, creating opportunities through training on our own site here in West Sussex. Last year, funding from the Newby Trust allowed us to offer students attending courses on our Historic Buildings Conservation Programme a bursary to cover their fees. The disciplines chosen were vernacular architecture, stone, woodland crafts, building conservation, church conservation, and timber and brickwork. From 80 applicants, seven places were offered, and the scheme has been very successful. All have told us that they have taken away new skills, knowledge and confidence to further their careers.

Thomas Hayes is a student studying surveying at Kingston University and helps the Diocesan architect at Chichester Cathedral on a voluntary basis. The bursary allowed him to attend a series of six courses, one of which was *Understanding and caring for the fabric of your parish church*. He says: "The availability of the bursary scheme has enabled me to explore the field of church conservation while enlightening me to the fact that it is but a small part of the complex world of wider conservation". He said he felt "highly fortunate" to have been given this opportunity.

We are now actively seeking funding to continue this scheme.

A donation – Win Boucher's story

Win was a volunteer for five years at the museum. While she had not specified a legacy in favour of the museum in her will, she had discussed a donation with her daughter, Cathy Clark, the museum's marketing manager. Cathy was able to



arrange this when Win died suddenly during April 2010. Win was adamant that the museum should receive something in return for the new lease of life it had given her after she was widowed. Despite her initial misgivings whether she would be of any 'use', she eventually came to the museum four days a week, and would frequently say that she owed the museum so much for keeping her happy and active. She believed passionately in the museum's work and 'spread the word' whenever she could. She would be delighted to know that her wishes had been carried out, and that she had indeed been of even more 'use' to the museum.

Legacies and their importance – can you help?

Visitor income alone cannot sustain the work of the museum. We have benefited greatly from generous legacies in the past; very often they come out of the blue. It is very touching to open the post and find that someone has thought of us and is keen to help the institution in the future. The museum has an ongoing legacy campaign and if you require information on this thoughtful way of supporting us please contact Julie Aalen, fundraising co-ordinator, on her direct line, 01243 811010.

News in brief

Museum staff contribute to courses and conferences

The museum has contributed to several training courses for museum professionals and volunteer staff. Rebecca Osborne and Diana Rowsell

delivered a session on attracting diverse adult learners to museums at Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, while Danae Tankard delivered a paper on the late medieval rural house as part of a conference in Denmark, *Houses – shaping dwellings, identities & homes: European housing culture from the Viking Age to the Renaissance*.

Collections Update

Recent Acquisitions

Ox horn knobs



These four small brass knobs were given to the museum by one of our volunteers, Ken Smith. Although we are not certain of their exact purpose, through consulting museum staff and volunteers, we have concluded that they were designed to fit onto the end of ox horns when the animals were being trained for use in the field. They are quite rare, perhaps due to their tendency to become detached and lost during use. Each knob has two small grooves, one on each side which we assume were used to locate a tool for attaching the knob onto the horn; our next task is to find such a tool which will prove to be very difficult as we don't know what it looks like.

Water pump

Although we have other examples of lead water pumps in the collection, often of the same configuration with the box-shaped hopper at the top, we have never been able to date any of the others quite as accurately as this one donated by Gillian Murton: it has '1813' moulded into the front face of the hopper.



Ramming home rare breeds!

The museum's Rare Breeds Show is one of its most popular events and this year's, on 17 July, will see another huge gathering of farm animals from all over the south east. Rare and traditional breeds of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry compete in a wide range of classes, with other attractions including young handlers' classes and demonstrations of rural crafts, especially those concerned with wool. Encouraging an interest in farm livestock is an element of the museum's mission, as part of its focus on rural life and crafts.



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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.

The Aquila Spa, comprising indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room, hot tub and fully-equipped gym, is available to all hotel residents as well as offering an annual membership.



South Street Midhurst
West Sussex GU29 9NH
01730 816911
spreadeagle@hshotels.co.uk
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THE SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL & SPA

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Trugs

A few years ago the museum was fortunate to be given the contents of a trug-making workshop, and although we acquired numerous formers, benches and tools, we didn't collect any finished examples of the trugs themselves.

Mr Gander was an independent trug producer, based near Herstmonceux which was the traditional focal point of Sussex trug making, and he kindly donated a small collection of quite unusual trugs to us during summer, 2010. These included a very heavy duty example originally designed as a coal scuttle or basket and a much smaller, berry basket trug with a walking stick attached vertically through its centre. The walking stick enabled the trug to be stuck into the ground to allow both hands free whilst picking fruit.



Corke carpentry tools

The museum is offered, and indeed acquires, a great many carpentry items, more than any other sort of historic artefact. When Philip Corke offered his late father's collection of tools we hoped there would be interesting history attached which would set the collection apart from the other carpentry items in the collection. We were not disappointed, as he not only donated a wonderfully diverse and extremely well looked-after collection, but also furnished us with a detailed history of his father's life and work.

Reginald George Corke was born in 1900 and apprenticed aged 15; a brief interruption occurred at age 18 when he

was conscripted into the Army Flying Corp to repair aircraft, following which he resumed and completed his apprenticeship aged 22. In the mid 1920s he joined the firm of Milton's of Witley where he stayed until 1948, working from 7.30am until 6.00pm each day with a half hour for lunch, all for the sum of 1 shilling and 2 pence per hour.

During his time at the firm, he acted as a journeyman, travelling from job to job on his bicycle and visiting some interesting and wonderful buildings. He repaired some of the ballroom fixtures and installed laundry fittings at Witley Park, and at Hascombe Court he installed in the loft, fittings for a train set for the son of the owner. Other work he undertook resulted from the outbreak of World War II; he was involved in the building of Dunsfold aerodrome and worked extensively in the East End of London repairing bomb damage. The most important house he visited was Osterley Park, where he replaced the pineapple on the apex of the left hand cupola which had been removed by a V1 flying bomb.

Following Milton's he worked for Munser's at Farncombe and then at Gorrings's of the same town. He died in August 1984 but we are fortunate to be able to keep his story alive.

Bee skep

Skeps are most commonly shaped like an inverted basket with a rounded bottom, constructed from plaited straw with no handle and are used to transfer swarms of bees to new locations. The skep donated by Sunniva Harte looks very different indeed. It has two parts, both made from very thinly cleft woven wood with a spiral, plaited straw divider. The lid is conical and can be removed from the lower section. It is a variation on the usual examples we have in the collection and provides an interesting comparison.



Agricultural machinery from Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-on-Avon

Many museums around the country are rationalising their collections, often due to financial pressures, but also as a result of considered professional collections management. In autumn, 2010 the museum was contacted by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust about some items they wished to dispose of.

The trust seemed an unusual steward of a group of high quality working farm machines, but that is exactly what they were offering. At the museum we use a number of mostly horse-drawn machines, some acquired specifically for agricultural operations. The trust offered the opportunity to acquire fully restored and working examples to replace those which are now in quite poor repair.

We therefore took delivery of a Bamford mower, a Massey Harris binder, a Hornsby trusser, a turnip drill, a Smythe seed drill and an unusual tyre bender which we will use in the wood-yard instead of the accessioned example which will return to the safety of the Gridshell store.

Bell frame donated from Stoughton church

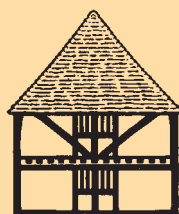


Master carpenters Roger Champion, left, and Joe Thompson erecting a bell frame donated by the 11th century church of St Mary, Stoughton, West Sussex. The bell tower, raised over the south transept in the 14th century, now supports a ring of six bells, following a refurbishment and the installation of a new bell frame to replace the one donated to the museum. The frame can be seen on site beneath the shingled spire near the plumbers' shop from Newick. The work, completed in September, was supported by the Worshipful Company of Carpenters. Interpretation will be prepared shortly with the help of St Mary's Church and the Society of Bell Change Ringers.

Celebrating spring at the museum!



The 2011 season begins with **Open House on Mothering Sunday on 3 April** when entry is at the special price of £2 for everyone and all mothers and grandmothers receive our traditional complimentary bunch of daffodils. **Easter Sunday and Monday are on 24/25 April** when the museum will be offering a range of activities and Easter celebrations for all the family, including a bonnet competition and parade on Monday. This is a delightful time for a visit to the museum, with spring in the air, newborn lambs and horses at work on seasonal tasks, and for children during the Easter holidays there are special activities on the Wednesdays. Then on **1/2 May** the museum's popular **Food & Farming Fair** will take place, with more than 80 stands offering a wonderful choice of produce, including local vegetables and fruit, meats, cheeses, wines, sauces, ciders and beers, ice cream, cakes and confectionery. Working with The Southern Co-operative, who first supported this event last year, and the Chichester Observer as media partner, this year's show includes a new competition, 'The Downland Cookery Challenge', for amateur cooks across the region with a final 'cook-off' taking place live on the Sunday. In the photographs, top, picnicing in front of the medieval house from North Cray, and bottom, visitors enjoying the Food & Farming Fair.



WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

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

Directions

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

By bus: No 60 from
Chichester or Midhurst.
20% entry discount on
presentation of Stagecoach
Coastline bus ticket, valid
on day of purchase only.

By rail: Chichester 7
miles, Haslemere 15 miles.



The Museum is open throughout the year

Opening times: Daily until 23 December. Daily for A Sussex
Christmas December 26 – 1 January 2012. Opening times
10.30am – 6pm BST, 10.30am – 4pm rest of the year.

Admission

2011 prices: Adults £9.50, over 60s £8.50, children £5.00, family
£26.00 (2+3), under 4s 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

Website: www.wealddown.co.uk

Friends membership Tel: 01243 811893

Museum Director: Richard Pailthorpe

Magazine Editor: Diana Zeuner

Advertising: Julie Aalen Tel: 01243 811010

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