

SPRING 2012

WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM



**Enter our historical fiction
short story competition**



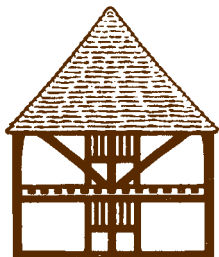
**Events,
courses
and talks
2012**



**Tenth
anniversary
of the
Downland
Gridshell**



**What life
was like
in the
Beeding toll
house**



WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

SPRING 2012

From the Director



Louise Adams/Observer Series

Despite the current economic gloom, the museum enjoyed a strong and successful finish to 2011, with visitor admissions for the season totalling almost 140,000 and representing an 8% increase over 2010.

Undoubtedly, the exceptionally mild and sunny autumn weather worked in

our favour, notably for the Autumn Countryside Weekend and the Christmas Market. The latter attracted an attendance in excess of 12,000 visitors, which is an all-time record for any museum event and double the figures for previous Christmas Market events.

The volume of visitors caused unprecedented and completely unexpected traffic jams in the immediate vicinity of the museum. I would like to apologise to those who experienced delays and frustrations whilst being stuck in a queue, and we will be addressing the problem to avoid a similar occurrence in the future. Everyone involved, especially all the car parkers who performed miracles finding spaces out of nowhere, are to be thanked for their sterling efforts.

Tindalls Cottage has often been mentioned as being the museum's next historic building project, but its re-erection has, for various reasons, never materialised. Dismantled in 1974 by the Robertsbridge & District Archaeological Society in advance of the construction of the Bewl Bridge Reservoir in East Sussex, it was donated to the museum and has been in store ever since.

At the end of last year we were delighted to receive the good news that the Headley Trust and the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)/Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund have both made substantial grants towards its re-erection. Work on repairing the timbers will be undertaken in the Jerwood Gridshell space by Carpenter, Joe Thompson, and it is planned to raise the timber frame over the weekend of 22/23 September. The Friends will be running a campaign to raise the remaining funds to complete the project by the spring of 2013.

It seems amazing that in 2012 the Downland Gridshell celebrates its 10th anniversary. During the last decade Ted Cullinan's innovative and sustainable design has received many awards and accolades. We shall be recognising this special occasion at this year's annual building conference on 21 September and by holding an historical fiction writers competition, for which the Jerwood Foundation, the University of Chichester and Sussex Life magazine are generously sponsoring the prizes.

We continue to forge strong links with the South Downs National Park Authority and an introductory



Front cover picture: Hedging underway at Pendean farmhouse. See also page 9

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Supporting the museum ...

Becoming a volunteer

Volunteer helpers are vital to the museum's operation – we couldn't manage without them. They steward the historic buildings, work with schools, help run the watermill or Tudor kitchen, assist in the gardens and at the stables, and carry out many other tasks. Apart from the help given to the museum, our volunteers enjoy the social side of their tasks, meeting others with similar interests. If you would like to become a volunteer call the volunteer coordinator on 01243 811933, email volunteers@wealddown.co.uk or visit our website, www.wealddown.co.uk

exhibition is being developed with them for display in Hambrook Barn. This year's Food Fair will also have a downland theme. We shall also be exploring other collaborative opportunities with the Park Authority on possible training and conservation projects.

2012 promises to be both an exciting and rewarding season and one I hope you will enjoy.

The Gateway Project – a sustainable future

The museum's trustees have approved the next stage of a major project aimed at enhancing visitors' experience and making a significant contribution towards the future sustainability of the museum. Of special importance is the new partnership with the South Downs National Park.

The Gateway Project includes a new visitor centre to be located on a site to the north west of and at the bottom of Gonville Drive and a new restaurant by the lake. After exhaustive consultations over many years, these are the preferred sites to meet the museum's requirements for access, new facilities, retail and parking, as well as supporting the National Park's objectives.

The project will include improved interpretation and education across the site and a new wayfinding system to help visitors better orientate themselves around the museum. The restaurant is seen as an important resource to support our educational activities and broaden our community engagement. It will also enable Sole Street, one of our historic exhibit buildings, to be released from its visitor facility use, and it is proposed to re-erect it overlooking the market square, where it will have an interpretive and educational function.

In recent months and following the award of a Sustainable Development Community grant from the South Downs National Park Authority, museum consultants Jane Weeks and Julia Holberry have been carrying out a feasibility study into the project and future collaborative ventures with the National Park. They have been assisted by architect Richard Hutchinson, who has designed the new restaurant building, which has received outline planning consent.



The museum – ensuring it remains a centre of excellence for traditional building and rural history into the future.

The research

Jane Weeks' and Julia Holberry's research identified some interesting information about our visitors –

- 56% had visited the museum before
- 77% were visiting with family or friends
- 49% had planned to spend the day at the museum
- 69% had come by car within one hour's drive
- 71% had heard about the museum by word of mouth
- 60% liked to have local produce on sale
- 50% wanted to learn about communities who lived on the South Downs
- Interest in Downland farming, crafts, and buildings featured strongly

Their findings, presented to the museum's trustees in January after consultations with museum stakeholders, and led by museum director Richard Pailthorpe, will form part of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application for funding. The first stage for this major project is a pre-application stage, which should be completed by early summer, after which it is hoped the application will proceed to stages 1 and 2 in the HLF process.

"We are at the beginning of one of the museum's most ambitious projects," said museum director, Richard Pailthorpe. "It is vitally important that we address the sustainability of the museum for the future, and that we ensure the museum retains its national reputation as a centre for excellence in the museum and heritage sector. Our partnership with the South Downs National Park, with whom there is much synergy, is an important opportunity, and we are looking forward to developing the details of the project over the coming months."

The Museum Magazine will include further information in coming issues.

Farm buildings feature in art exhibition this summer

An exhibition of the work of Jonathan Newdick, whose studio is near Petworth, West Sussex, is to be held at the museum on 30 June – 12 July.

Influenced by the Second World War Recording Britain scheme, which aimed to record buildings under threat from enemy action, Jonathan has, over the last few years, been drawing barns and other farm buildings on the Leconfield Estate.

His work resulted in an exhibition at Petworth House last year. Jonathan has now extended his work beyond the estate to include not only threatened farm buildings, but other structures threatened by the passage of time or commercial development.

His collection of superb pencil drawings and accompanying text will form the subject of the exhibition, called *Out of Time*.



Watch the Antiques Roadshow at the museum!



The BBC's Antiques Roadshow, filmed at the museum last year, is expected to be transmitted on 11 March and 6 May. Check the website in case of changes.

Downland Gridshell 10th anniversary celebrations

2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Downland Gridshell, the pioneering modern timber structure designed by Edward Cullinan and which has won numerous awards for its design and innovation.



The Gridshell was conceived as a centre for building conservation, where visitors would be able to watch timber-frames and other historic structures being restored, and a modern store for its growing rural life and traditional building collections, making them accessible to the public for the first time. It enabled the museum to move onto the site historic artefacts and conservation workshops which had been located in nearby villages.

But perhaps more importantly, it allowed the museum to demonstrate its interest in modern buildings alongside the traditional ones which form its central theme and exhibits with an innovative building of ground-breaking design and quality.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as one of its earliest projects, the building attracted grants from a number

The year 2000

– the museum is involved in its largest fundraising campaign to date, for the Downland Gridshell. Over 45 supporters are headed by the Heritage Lottery Fund

of charitable trusts and individuals, including a fund set up in the name of Museum Director Chris Zeuner, who sadly died before seeing his most ambitious project completed.

Today, visitors are awed by the curves and shapes they see

in the structure, inspired by the South Downs, and which first grew from the pen of Ted Cullinan in the late 1990s. Beneath, in the cavernous store, more than 10,000 rural artefacts are kept, accessible to touring visitors each day at 1.30pm.

Running concurrently with the anniversary celebrations will be the raising of the frame of Tindalls Cottage, the early 18th century husbandman's cottage from Ticehurst, East Sussex, in store awaiting re-erection since 1974, and which was originally intended to be the first historic structure to be repaired and restored in the Jerwood Gridshell space, the upper deck of the building from where the astonishing timber gridshell design can be best viewed. Following an examination of the timbers by Richard Harris, the museum's carpenter-in-residence, Joe Thompson, will be repairing the timbers in the Gridshell during the first half of this year, ready for its re-erection on the museum site on 22/23 September (this latter date, coincidentally, being the birthday of Chris Zeuner).

IN BRIEF

BAYLEAF TWEETS

Throughout 2012 the museum will share details of Tudor life as it might have been 470 years ago in Bayleaf Farmhouse via Twitter. The year-long 'diary' of a typical yeoman farmer and his family who would have occupied a house such as Bayleaf in the year 1542 will include information on their domestic lives and challenges and seasonal work on the farm. So, in addition to the current museum twitter feed @WealddownMuseum you can now follow @Bayleaf1542 on Twitter.

Gridshell 10th anniversary events

Tuesday 12 June – Gridshell Confidential.

One of the museum's 'Tales of the Downs and beyond' evening talks series will focus on the Gridshell. Steve Corbett, project manager during the Gridshell construction, Green Oak Carpentry employee and museum trustee, will trace the story of how the Gridshell came about, how it was built and what it has brought to the museum. Full details and how to book are on page 28.

Historical Fiction Short Story Competition & Historical Fiction Day.

The short story competition is designed to encourage all those who are inspired to write by the museum's collections and downland site (see also page 5). Deadline for entries is 5pm on **Friday 22 June**. Budding writers can draw inspiration from any aspect of the museum's collection. The competition is sponsored by the Jerwood Foundation, the University of Chichester and Sussex Life magazine. The prize winners will be announced at the **Historical Fiction Day**, a separately ticketed event on **Sunday 5 August**, taking place in the Jerwood Gridshell space, along with demonstrations relating to

books and writing in various locations across the museum site. Full details of the day will appear on the museum website in the Spring, with details of how to buy tickets: information will also be available in the museum shop.

Friday 21 September – the museum's **annual building conservation conference Raising the Roof: 1,000 Years of Timber Roofing** will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the building of the Downland Gridshell and the raising of Tindalls Cottage frame. The conference will take place in the Jerwood Gridshell space. The museum hopes conference delegates will join other visitors over the weekend of Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September at the **Raising the Frame** event.

22-23 September – Raising the Frame. The repaired and restored timber frame of Tindalls Cottage will be erected on its new site at the museum, at the woodland edge on top of the hill between Bayleaf Farmhouse and Poplar Cottage. Always an exciting occasion, the museum's timber frame raisings attract lots of visitors keen to see how this traditional building activity was accomplished.

Steaming ahead!

The museum's Festival of Steam takes place this year on 18/19 August – a two-day spectacle celebrating 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. Discover steam-powered traction engines, rollers, lorries, a fairground carousel, narrow gauge railways, agricultural machinery and timber sawing.



Raising the Frame

Tindalls Cottage, an early 18th century husbandman's home from Ticehurst, East Sussex, will take its place among the museum's historic building exhibits on 22/23 September, the first timber-frame raising for some years.

The cottage, which has been in store since 1974, will be re-erected on its new site at the woodland edge on top of the hill between Bayleaf Farmhouse and Poplar Cottage. Always exciting occasions, timber frame raisings attract many visitors, keen to see how this traditional building activity was accomplished. Funding for the project has come principally from the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)/Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund (£50,000) and the Headley Trust (£30,000).

The event will be led by the museum's Carpenter-in-Residence, Joe Thompson, who can be seen repairing and restoring the timbers in the Downland Gridshell during the first half of this year. On hand to give assistance will be Roger Champion, the museum's retired master carpenter, who has years of experience of re-erecting timber frames. The structure's repair takes place after a detailed examination of the timbers by former Museum Director Richard Harris, to determine the levels of restoration and repair work needed. This process often reveals more information about the building's structure and history.



Tindalls Cottage in situ before dismantling, from the south west.

Tindalls Cottage was dismantled by the Robertsbridge & District Archaeological Society in 1974 in advance of the construction of the Bewl Bridge Reservoir (its site now lies under the reservoir), and recorded by David Martin, who will be no doubt be an avid spectator at the frame raising.

Dated on stylistic grounds to the period 1675-1725, its name, 'Tindalls', derives from the surname of the occupants from 1748 to 1806. Tindalls is of the same general type as Poplar Cottage, and nearby is the 19th century Gonville Cottage, with which it can also be compared – three rural cottages from comparable social strata. Tindalls has a gable-end chimney with a hipped terminal at the

opposite end. In plan, it had two rooms downstairs, one with a fireplace, and two service rooms within an outshot at the back. There were two rooms on the first floor. A staircase gave access to a further room, or garret, above the first floor. Almost all the timber in the cottage had been re-used from an earlier structure.

To read a full article on the structural and social history of the cottage by Danae Tankard, the museum's social historian, see the Museum Magazine, Spring 2009 issue, also accessible via the museum's website, www.wealddown.co.uk. A report on the frame raising will be included in the Autumn 2012 magazine.

Historical Fiction Short Story Competition & Historical Fiction Day

A new type of event at the museum for 2012, the short story competition is designed to encourage all those who are inspired to write by the museum's buildings and rural life collections and glorious downland site.

The judges will be looking for high-quality stories which relate directly to an aspect of the museum, including the vernacular building exhibits, the many intriguing historical objects in the Gridshell artefact store and on display on the museum site, and the museum's countryside setting. Stories should be set between the years 1200 and 1900AD.

The first prize, the Jerwood Gridshell prize, is £1,000 with the story to be published in Sussex Life Magazine and the Museum Magazine. The second and third prizes are £250, with the stories published in a later edition of the Museum Magazine. Stories will also be published on the museum website.

The judges' task falls to Kate Mosse (best-selling author, local resident and former



museum trustee), Emma Darwin (best-selling author of novels and short-fiction), Jane Borodale (author and Leverhulme Artist-in-Residence at the museum in 2008-9), Richard Pailthorpe (Museum Director), Phil Hewitt (Arts Editor for Sussex Newspapers) and Danae Tankard (Museum Historian and History Lecturer at University of Chichester). Also on the shortlisting panel is Susie Wilde (graduate of West Dean College and creative writing teacher).

The museum is grateful to the Jerwood Foundation, the University of Chichester and Sussex Life magazine for their support of the competition.

Entry forms, including full terms and conditions are available from the museum website (under the news/latest news section) or from the museum shop. Alternatively you can email groupbookings@wealddown.co.uk for a copy. Deadline for entries is 5pm on Friday 22 June 2012.

The prize winners will be announced at the **Historical Fiction Day on Sunday 5 August**, taking place in the Jerwood Gridshell space, along with demonstrations relating to books and writing in various locations across the museum site. A separately ticketed event, visitors will be able to experience a range of authors of historical fiction and historians discussing topics relating to their work. There will also be the chance for questions to these well-known names, finding out about their research and their sources of inspiration.

Full details of the day will appear on the museum website in the Spring, with details of how to buy tickets. Information will also be available in the museum shop.

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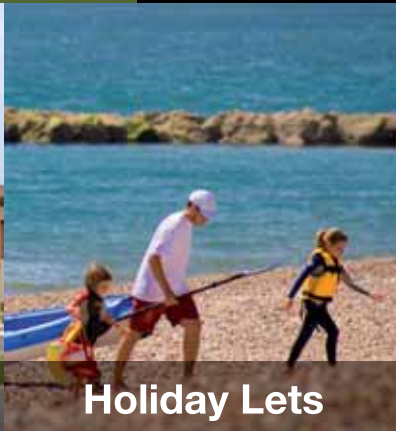
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Curator **Julian Bell** describes how the museum went about dismantling the Eastwick Park Dairy, the museum's latest acquisition, described in the autumn 2011 magazine

Dismantling the 19th century dairy

The early 19th century Eastwick Park Dairy, was dismantled from its original site at Great Bookham, Surrey during September and October last year.

The two, brick-built, octagonal buildings were in quite a derelict state, with the larger structure having part of its roof and one wall missing and the remainder of the roof timbers of both buildings in a generally poor condition. The removal of the roof timbers was a delicate business, to ensure not only the retention of the timbers for repair and replication, but to prevent any further damage to the buildings.

The museum's Carpenter-in-Residence, Joe Thompson, who will be responsible for the replication of the roof, oversaw the successful removal and recording of the roof timbers which were returned to the museum as intact as their decayed state would allow. Although sparse, there was sufficient evidence for Joe to agree with our archival records which suggested that the buildings were initially thatched, and further study also suggested the presence



Above, roofs removed from the two sections of the dairy and work well under way with the brick walls.

Above right, the double 'V' ritual mark on the underside of one of the dairy flagstones.

Below right, bones found beneath the dairy floor. Were they human?

of an original chimney.

During the dismantling of the walls it quickly became apparent that although the brickwork appeared to be of a very high standard of craftsmanship, no corner had been left uncut. The general quality of the bricks was quite poor and the inner skin in particular was largely made up of little more than rubble. Indeed the stretcher bricks – those which are laid end-on and tie the two skins together – were very often not whole at all but half bricks, and were therefore not actually tying the walls together.

One of the most interesting aspects was revealed when we lifted the stone floor flags in the larger dairy building. One displayed a double 'V' (standing for Virgin of Virgins) ritual mark on the underside. Although certainly not unusual to find ritual marks within buildings it was suggested we dig down beneath this particular mark in case any other items had been deliberately placed. We came across bones; lots of bones, and not being skilled



anthropologists, we needed to ensure that they weren't human. Nigel Randall of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit was able to identify the remains as those from horses or cows. Upon raising the floor in the scalding house nine of the 23 flags displayed similar marks beneath.

Relocating our off-site artefacts

In addition to the main artefact store in the basement of the Downland Gridshell which houses about 80% of our collection, the museum retains two other off-site stores, primarily for larger items or for items used in the various displays around the museum site.

One of our off-site stores, a new industrial building, is located in part of what used to be Singleton railway station and an old section of railway cutting; the other, less used, is in an industrial warehouse in the village of Charlton. West Dean Estate, our landlords at the railway cutting, require the site's return for their own use, and therefore over the coming year the Collections team will be busy decanting the items from this store and relocating most of them at the Charlton property.

During the winter the team has been preparing the Charlton store and some horse-drawn implements have already been transferred to their new home. Most of the artefacts remaining in the cutting are stored on heavy duty racking which will be relocated to Charlton.

IN BRIEF

HANGLETON COTTAGE EXHIBITION CONTRIBUTES TO ARCHAEOLOGY FESTIVAL

The museum's contribution to the British Festival of Archaeology in July is a repeat of our successful exhibition last year on the medieval village of Hangleton, its excavation in the 1950s and the story of the reconstructed Hangleton cottage and its interpretation. This will take place on 23-27 July and will include an exhibition in Crawley Hall with a display of original artefacts, a children's archaeological activity, and demonstrations of medieval domestic life in the cottage itself.



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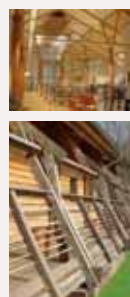
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Jon Roberts reports on an important museum landscape feature

Maintaining our hedges

Hedges have been an important man-made landscape feature of the South East throughout the period covered by the museum's buildings.

They have been used to define boundaries, keep animals in or out and to provide resources for the farm. Landlords planted quickset hedges of hawthorn to divide commons and wastes during the period of the Enclosure Acts. Squatters marked out their plots with fast-growing elder. Wealden farmers left narrow strips of woodland at the edges of their fields to provide wood, timber, food and fodder.

Hedgerows have been planted on the museum site as part of the landscape, providing barriers and settings for our historic buildings. They enclose part of Greenways field (at the centre of the museum) and the paddock in front of Pendean Farmhouse, line the track by the West Wittering school and divide the Bayleaf farmstead fields.

In the past, in order to serve their purposes, these hedges would have been actively managed to keep them stock-proof and to harvest products from them. Our hedges have been maintained by various members of staff over the years, sometimes demonstrating traditional techniques, at other times to keep them neat. In recent years sections of hedge have been laid as demonstrations at museum events and used as a teaching resource on our hedge-laying course, as well as being trimmed as part of day-to-day site management.



Jon Roberts laying the hedge outside Pendean farmhouse in the winter.

As part of the on-going management of the site we have recently undertaken an audit of our hedging and intend to make more of it as a functional, environmental and educational feature. Volunteers from the Collections team conducted a survey using a site map of all current, former and potential hedges on the site. This will be the basis of a practical scheme of hedgerow work incorporating adult education, interpretation and site maintenance. An annual programme of work will be established, which will, over time, bring all the hedges on site into active management.

This winter the hedges around Bayleaf farmstead and the Pendean paddock have been cut and brash re-used to create a dead hedge around the Bayleaf pig enclosure beneath the beech clump. The hedge around Pendean garden has been re-laid by Jon Roberts.

We aim to gather a group of interested museum volunteers to be trained in hedge-laying and maintenance and to coordinate their efforts with demonstrators, the gardening team and adult education courses to enhance our interpretation of this important feature of the Weald and Downland landscape.

IN BRIEF

IMAGES OF THE MUSEUM 29 OCTOBER – 4 NOVEMBER

An exhibition of art and craft inspired by the museum's buildings, collections and glorious downland site will be held on 29 October – 4 November in the Downland Gridshell. Bountiful in beauty, history, traditional crafts and knowledge, the museum constantly gives visitors, and people who work here regularly, moments to pause in awe, ideal inspiration for the many wonderful creations which will be gathered together for the exhibition.

Supporting the museum ...

Making a legacy

Have you ever considered including a donation to the museum in your will? As well as leaving gifts to loved ones, many people choose to support projects like the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum in this way. Every sum, no matter how small, is welcomed, and will be spent on vital elements of our work. The museum is one of the UK's leading independent museums, and as a charitable trust, receives no regular government or local authority funding. Instead it relies on visitor income, voluntary effort, sponsorship, donations and legacies. For more information contact the museum office on 01243 811363, email rpailthorpe@wealddown.co.uk or visit our website, www.wealddown.co.uk. Thank you for your support – we could not do without it.

From the Vice-Chairman



My youngest son, Tom, lives in Camberwell, in south London. On the night of Monday, 8 August last year, he was travelling home by bus along the Walworth Road. As the bus drove through Kennington, a

large gang of people with scarves tied across their faces were breaking the windows of an electrical store and carrying off flat-screen TVs, laptops and other items. The terrified staff were looking on at a distance, fearing for their lives. From an adjoining, Asian-owned newsagents, acrid smoke was billowing as the proprietor tried, unsuccessfully, to restrain a group of teenagers who had set light to his shop. Burglar alarms screamed, sirens sounded in the distance. The police were nowhere to be seen. This was the reality of life in a usually

relatively calm suburb of our capital city and, as images of what was occurring were beamed round the world, the reputation of this country as an advanced, civilised society was badly damaged.

What has all this got to do with the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum? Well, what happened last summer, not only in London, but in other major cities around the country, had many causes, but a common feature was a lack of connection felt by the people taking part in the disorder with the place in which they lived. Commentators write about the breakdown of family and community, politicians talk about the importance of 'The Big Society', but what appears to be central to the disaffection and alienation of so many young people in particular is the loss of a sense of place, of a common sense of ownership of the surroundings we share together: our shared landscapes, our shared buildings, our shared lives.

Arguably, public interest in our common history and our shared natural and built environments has never been stronger: TV programmes on history and genealogy are very popular, the number of people visiting the countryside continues to increase and membership of bodies

like the National Trust grows exponentially. But how can we develop this latent interest across the whole of our society and satisfy this yearning for a sense of place and belonging?

I suggest that (along with other organisations like the National Trust and English Heritage, and, locally, the South Downs National Park Authority, the South Downs Society, the Sussex Heritage Trust and the West Dean Estate) the museum is well-placed to play a significant role in encouraging this sense of place amongst communities in South East England. The museum trustees, at their meeting in November, agreed a new mission statement for the museum as follows: "A centre of excellence for the enjoyment, learning and understanding of the built environment, landscape, rural life and communities of South East England and the South Downs".

But how do we fulfil this mission, how do we contribute to a growing understanding of the importance of locality in rebuilding social cohesion, trust and responsibility?

Email me with your suggestions at maltraverjohn@btinternet.com. Thank you.

John Godfrey
Vice-Chairman of Trustees

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

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Countryside harvest

The Autumn Countryside Show is one of the museum's most popular events, providing an opportunity to celebrate the end of harvest and preparations for next year's crops and farming activities. Highlights include teams of working plough horses; vintage tractors slicing through the soil; threshing the crop of wheat grown in the fields during the year, providing grain and thatching straw, with the great threshing drum powered by Arthur Thompson's steam engine, and woodland crafts and rural skills on show. Clockwise from top left, Derek Hilton, the museum's former horseman, ploughing with his pair of Shires; getting to grips with grain identification – do you know your wheat from your oats?; steam threshing continued all weekend; horses and vintage tractors busy on the arable fields; the museum's working oxen preparing the field strips by Bayleaf Farmhouse; taking part in a hurdle-making competition; a 'Welcome' board provides visitors with information about the weekend's activities; re-thatching the hall from Boarhunt; and a glorious display of fresh produce in the marquee. This year's event will be on 13/14 October.



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EVENTS DIARY 2012

FEBRUARY

13-17 HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

Put on your winter woollies and wellies and warm up with a week of creative activities and countryside skills; outdoor trails, arts, crafts and ideas to inspire accompanied children of all ages. Under cover if wet.

MARCH

18 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!

APRIL

8-9 EASTER ACTIVITIES

Easter celebrations, with a bonnet competition and parade on the Monday. The school holiday period is a delightful time for a visit, with spring in the air, newborn lambs, and horses at work on seasonal tasks. **Plus Wonderful Easter Wednesdays on 4 & 11 April.** Hands-on activities, crafts and games to occupy accompanied children of all ages. All activities run 11.00am-4.00pm.

On 7-9 April discover **The Tudor Group** historical interpretation society revealing more about Tudor life.

MAY

6-7 FOOD & SOUTH DOWNS FAIR

A wonderful choice of delicious fare to sample and buy from quality producers, plus tastings, cookery classes and demonstrations. Stands will feature a stunning array of produce. Also, displays, demonstrations and activities celebrating downland farming.

26-27 HEAVY HORSE SPECTACULAR

One of the south's biggest gatherings of heavy horses: two days of displays and demonstrations, and a 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 proud owners.

28-1 June Cutting Your Cloth Exhibition on the museum's Historic Clothing Project, held in the hall from Crawley and the upper floor of Titchfield market hall.

JUNE

4-8 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.

17 FATHERS' DAY

Toys For The Boys! A chance for dad (and the rest of the family!) to try some unusual and challenging countryside activities. Drive a vintage tractor, try archery, air rifles and work with the Shire horses.

23-29 Historic Gardens Week Demonstrations in the museum's period gardens, plus an exhibition in the hall from Crawley and the upper floor of Titchfield market hall.

24 Traditional Midsummer Day celebrations, with dancing around the maypole, Morris dancing and traditional music.

30-12 July Out of Time Exhibition of the work of artist Jonathan Newdick.

JULY

2-6 Woodyard Week Demonstrations of traditional hand-powered timber work, including hewing, hurdle making, pole lathe turning, pit-sawing and charcoal burning, including the use of the museum's restored 1911 hand-powered timber crane.

16-27 Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers Exhibition in the Downland Gridshell

22 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. It's one of the biggest shows of its kind in the south east and hugely popular with visitors and exhibitors. Plus craft and trade stands with a countryside theme.



And More!

Even on non-'Event Days' there is much going on at the museum! Here are some of the activities you may discover on your visit.

March-October Seasonal domestic interpretation in Winkhurst kitchen and other houses, particularly during school holidays – eg cooking, natural dyeing, house interpretation.

During May The museum's **Maypole** is in position, sometimes with Morris dancing, maypole dancing and traditional music taking place. If your family group would like to dance around the maypole, you can!

24 June-end September Traditional toys and games can be enjoyed daily next to Whittaker's Cottages.

July-August Demonstrations of traditional building skills, including lime-slaking, wattle & daub, chestnut riving, scything, making clay drainpipes and more. At 2.30pm

April, August Two more **Woodyard Weeks**, dates to be confirmed

27 August On Bank Holiday Monday, a number of demonstrations relating to traditional building and rural life skills

23-27 Hangleton: A Cottage Exhibition about the museum's reconstructed 13th century peasant house, marking the British Festival of Archaeology, held in the hall from Crawley, with domestic medieval life demonstrations at Hangleton Cottage.

AUGUST

1-29 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.

5 Historical Fiction Day The prize winners of the museum's Historic Fiction Short Story Competition are announced, plus demonstrations relating to books and writing, as well as domestic interpretation, in the museum's buildings.

18-19 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.

28-2 September Exhibition of paintings by Gordon Rushmer in the hall from Crawley

SEPTEMBER

1-2 Hop Picking & Brewing Weekend

21 Raising the Roof: 1,000 Years of Timber Roofing. The museum's annual building conservation conference, which this year celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Downland Gridshell

22-23 RAISING THE FRAME

A special weekend when the timber frame of Tindalls' Cottage will be re-erected at the museum and the 10th anniversary of construction of the Downland Gridshell will be celebrated.

24-28 Woodyard Week Demonstrations of traditional hand-powered timber work, including hewing, hurdle making, pole lathe turning, pit-sawing and charcoal burning, including the use of the museum's restored 1911 hand-powered timber crane.

OCTOBER

13-14 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, craft demonstrations and a chance to browse and buy for gifts with a countryside theme.

29-2 November 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.

29-5 November Images of the Museum

Exhibition of art and craft inspired by the museum in the Downland Gridshell

NOVEMBER

17-18 CHRISTMAS MARKET

Find that perfect gift or treat at a traditional Christmas market, set in and around our historic buildings. Over one hundred stalls with arts, crafts, food and unusual gifts. Admission only £3.50 including access to all museum exhibits.

DECEMBER

2 TREE DRESSING

A wonderful celebration for all the family of the life-giving properties of trees in National Tree Week. 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. From 12.30-4.00pm.

21 CAROL EVENING

in the house from North Cray: 7.00pm.

26 December-1 January 2013

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, and a variety of festive fare, music and stories.



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Interpreting the Beeding Toll House

By Danae Tankard

A brief article in the autumn 2011 magazine introduced the interpretation project taking place in the Beeding toll house. This article explains why we decided to reinterpret the toll house, the principles on which the reinterpretation is based and how we have gone about completing the project.

The toll house at the museum

The toll house was built around 1810 to house the toll collector who operated the Beeding turnpike gate. In its original form it would have looked much as it does today at the museum – a single-storey two-roomed building with a brick chimney and tiled roof, similar in appearance to others built in the first quarter of the 19th century in the triangle between Worthing, Horsham and Shoreham. However, after the closure of the turnpike trust in 1885 the toll house underwent significant modifications. The front elevation was truncated to allow the road to be widened and the house was extended to the side and the rear to provide additional accommodation.

In 1967 the toll house was badly damaged by a lorry. Facing demolition, it was dismantled and re-erected in time for the museum's opening in September 1970. Because of the damage to the building it was decided to rebuild only the parts of it that remained. It was erected beside the entrance gate and became a visitor information centre and shop. In 1980 the house was rebuilt to reconstruct the missing end and the chimney after a re-examination of the surviving timbers and comparison with photographic evidence of similar toll houses, and re-sited in its present location. The 'new' toll house was opened to the public in 1984. The inner room contained an exhibition on turnpikes and toll houses designed and written by Kim Leslie.

In 1987 the interior of the toll house changed appearance again. The exhibition panels were moved to the outer room and the inner room was furnished to a late



The freshly-painted toll house, with its new fence.

19th-century date, complete with manikins which, it was felt, would 'serve to increase visitors' appreciation of this exhibit'.

In late 2010 the Interpretation team began to discuss a revised interpretation scheme. Despite the manikins' popularity with some visitors and volunteers we felt that a fresh approach would reinvigorate this small, but significant, exhibit building. The reinterpretation was also driven by a desire to use the building for domestic demonstrations – something that was not possible as it was currently presented.

Furnishing the toll house

We decided that the house should be furnished to a date around 1815. Not only

is this closer to the building's construction date but it is also a period which is not well-represented by the museum's other exhibits. Because we do not know who was living in the house at this date the interpretation is based around the (fictional) lives of a middle-aged (55) and childless husband and wife.

The furnishing scheme is very simple. The outer room is the living room where the toll collector and his wife would have cooked, eaten and sat together in the evenings. The inner room is the bedroom. Appropriate furniture and domestic utensils were identified from the many prints and paintings of cottage interiors from the late 18th and early 19th centuries and from reference works on English vernacular furniture. Amongst the most prolific artists of the 'rustic genre' (part of the picturesque movement of the late 18th century) was George Morland (1763-1804) who was known as much for his dissolute lifestyle as for his artistic achievements. His cottage paintings inhabited by 'passive rustics' were widely reproduced as cheap prints. Another artist painting in this genre was William Redmore Bigg (1755-1828) whose output included *A Cottage Interior* of 1793 (Victoria & Albert Museum, London) featuring an 'old' woman sitting on a ladder-back chair in front of the fire.

The furniture and utensils that the museum visitor now sees upon entering the toll house are a mixture of original and reproduction pieces. The bed, made by Roger Champion, was copied from an original at The Geffrye Museum in London, thought to be of a late 18th or early 19th century date. Roger also made the dresser, copied from an original from Somerset



After George Morland, *The Cottage Fireside*, c. 1798-1820 (British Museum, London).



William Redmore Bigg's *A Cottage Interior*, 1793 (Victoria & Albert Museum, London).

► dating from the same period. We are still trying to source a late Georgian chest of drawers of the right social status and one or two rush-seated ladder-back chairs.

In Bigg's painting the old woman's table is laid for tea, with a white-glazed pottery teapot, cup and saucer, tin tea caddy and white bread and butter. We have commissioned a range of pottery, including a similar teapot, tea cups and saucers, from specialist potter, John Hudson. By the late 18th century tea was beginning to replace beer as the principal drink within the home, partly due to the high price of malt and partly because it had become more affordable in the wake of the Commutation Act of 1784 which reduced the tax on tea from 119% to 12.5%. What to us would seem a benign change was condemned by the political writer, William Cobbett, in his *Cottage Economy* of 1821 as a "destroyer of health, an enfeeblor

of the frame, an engenderer of effeminacy and laziness, a debaucher of youth, and a maker of misery for old age". Prints and paintings indicate that rural labourers ate and drank from utensils made from a range of materials, including pewter, tin and pottery (both earthenware and china). Transfer-printed china (such as 'Blue Willow' or 'Willow pattern', designed by Thomas Minton around 1780) was being factory-produced for national distribution from the late 18th century and would have been affordable even at this social level.

The toll house has been repaired and repainted externally, a new fence has been erected and the toll gate has been repaired and given a new coat of paint. Inside, the walls have been painted with pink and blue casein distemper. The curtains in the inner room – made by Lesley Parker – are of block-printed cotton reproduced by the

V&A Shop and Liberty Art Fabrics from a late 18th-century design in the V&A's collection. The bedding, which is being produced by Lesley Parker and the Needlework Group, will include a feather mattress, cotton sheets and pillow cases, wool blanket and a patchwork quilt.

Sussex in the early 19th century

Unfortunately for the ruling classes, by the early 19th century the 'rustics' were not as passive as Morland's depiction of them might suggest. The ending of the Napoleonic War in 1815 was followed by a period of agricultural depression, aggravated by returning servicemen, rapid population growth and harvest failure. In some parts of the country, the enclosure of common land deprived rural labourers of an important part of their livelihood whilst increased mechanisation of production reduced opportunities for work. At the same time traditional domestic industries, such as spinning, were disappearing with the advent of factory production. As family incomes shrank an increasing proportion of the rural population relied on poor relief, placing an uncomfortable – and deeply resented – burden on ratepayers.

William Cobbett wrote extensively about the plight of agricultural workers (particularly those in southern, south-eastern and western counties) in his *Rural Rides*, first published in 1830, and between 1828 and 1830 repeatedly warned the Government of the likelihood of a major rural revolt. As he predicted, southern rural workers rose in rebellion in 1830-1831 in what came to be known as the 'Swing' riots after the mythical Captain Swing, whose name appeared on some of the anonymous letters sent to landowners and farmers threatening the destruction of property and demanding increased wages.

One consequence of the Swing riots was the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 which ended the practice of outdoor relief and forced those unable to maintain themselves into workhouses whose punitive regimes were intended to deter all but the truly desperate. By 1835 supporters of the new legislation were able to report that it had already had the desired effect of

Domestic Life Interpreter, Lesley Parker, describes what it was like to work in the newly-furnished toll house during Christmas week

"I could live here". The words that mean we have done our job properly. And a sentence I heard frequently over the Christmas week when I was in the toll house for the first time, in replica Georgian clothing, and with a meal on the table and chestnuts roasting on the fire. Christmas tea treats in 1815 – muffins with butter and home-made jam (made with the cherry plums from Bayleaf orchard), wiggs (spiced and egg-enriched dough buns) and seed cake flavoured with caraway.

Furnishing projects enhance our visitors' appreciation of an exhibit building – not 'just' a house but now a recognisable home. Something very simple can evoke all sorts of memories, comparisons and comments – toasting a muffin on a toasting fork, making tea in a pot with loose leaf tea or spotting tea cups without handles. These are activities we hope more stewards will get involved with as they participate in our training sessions over the coming year.



The toll house table laid for tea.

fostering a sense of industry and improved moral habits amongst the rural working class, whilst reducing their 'disposition to riot and turbulence'. It also – as intended – led to a substantial reduction in public spending on the poor.

How would this social and economic foment have affected the occupants of the toll house who were themselves members of the rural working class? Of course, we have no way of knowing. To some extent the household's income was protected by gate keeper's earnings (probably about 7s or 8s a week in 1815) but it is almost certain that he would have supplemented his income by working as an agricultural labourer and so, like his friends and neighbours, he would have faced the same entrenched problems of under-employment and low pay.

Toll collectors needed to be literate so that they could issue travellers with tickets

and keep their accounts which meant that the Beeding gate keeper could have read local newspapers such as the *Sussex Weekly Advertiser* or, indeed, political pamphlets such as Cobbett's broadsheet edition of the *Political Register* which urged workers to lobby for universal suffrage so that their interests would be represented in Parliament. The nature of toll collectors' work meant that they were well-placed to hear and disseminate news of recent events, both local and national.

Why toll 'house' and not toll 'cottage'?

The change in terminology is pedantic but important. The turnpike legislation (including the 1807 Act which established the Beeding turnpike road) refers to these buildings as toll 'houses' and not toll 'cottages'; so too does the minute book of the Beeding Turnpike Trust: 'house' is therefore more historically accurate.

IN BRIEF

BUILDING HISTORY – ORDER YOUR COPY NOW

Building History, the story of the museum's development over its first 40 years, published to mark the anniversary, has sold over 1,000 copies. The book, edited by Diana Zeuner, chronicles the struggle to establish the museum and its rapid growth to its current position as a major cultural attraction whose collections are designated by the Government as of national and international importance. Sir Neil Cossons, president of the Association of Independent Museums, called it: "...a lovely, human, perceptive and very readable story about the birth and life of a great museum". With 200 colour pages, packed with over 500 photographs, the book is available at £9.95 from the museum shop (tel 01243 811020), or £14.95 plus £2.50 per copy postage if bought by mail order (see address on the back page) or via the museum's online shop at www.wealddown.co.uk

FILMING SHAKESPEARE AT THE MUSEUM

In January the museum welcomed Shakespeare Productions Ltd for a week of filming for a production of *Henry IV*, parts 1 and 2, which will be broadcast by BBC2 during July/August this year as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Bayleaf Farmhouse looked very different 'dressed' for the film, and sometimes with special effect frost sprinkled on the surrounding grass, hedges and trees. The production's director is Sir Richard Eyre (*Notes on a Scandal* and *Iris*) and the producer is Rupert Ryle-Hodges (co-producer of *Cranford*). The production will include a number of well-known actors, as well as the museum's working cows and the geese, all of whom behaved impeccably. The museum is regularly featured on television, and last year Ruth Goodman was seen on BBC's *The One Show* making use of various historic resources on the museum site, and Lucy Worsley, curator of Historic Royal Palaces, filmed here for the BBC series *If Only Walls Could Talk*, in which she explored the development of rooms down the centuries.

The Interpretation Department would like to acknowledge the generous contribution made by the Friends of the Museum to this and other furnishing projects.

Repairs to West Dean's lych gate

Joe Thompson, the Museum's Carpenter-in-Residence, has recently worked on two interesting small projects. The first involved the dismantling of a late 18th century timber-framed shed in Ockley, Surrey. Located to the rear of a cottage overlooking the Green, it was probably a shelter shed, but its purpose is unknown. The building was brought to our attention by Jeremy Clayden of Banbridge Surveyors, Horley and kindly donated by the owners James & Katherine Dampier. It has been put into store until a decision is made over its future. Joe also carried out in-situ repairs to the lych gate of West Dean cemetery, which is in the care of West Dean Parish Council. Dedicated to the memory of Evelyn James, mother of Edward James, the structure dates to the 1930s. The museum, and Joe himself, donated the oak used in the repair work, which will hopefully ensure the gate's survival for many more years. Pictured is the lych gate after repair.



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Curator, Julian Bell.

Recent Acquisitions

125

– the number of
new acquisitions
last year to
the museum's
collections



PIPE EXTRUDING MACHINE

Donated by a long-time associate of the museum, Kevin Stubbs, this incredibly heavy cast-iron machine came from Paulton's Park Brickworks, near Romsey, Hampshire. Manufactured by J Whitfield, Agricultural Implement Makers of Preston in the 1860s, the machine has been much repaired over the years with additional strapping bolted on here and there to compensate for cracks in the original castings, but it still operates as it should. It works by forcing clay, held in the main hopper, through a set of dies at one end to produce two halves of a drainage pipe. There are a number of different dies to produce pipes of varying diameter along with a long, roller table onto which the pipes are extruded. The table includes a cutting mechanism formed of tensioned wires to slice the soft clay pipes into smaller sections if needed. The museum hopes to actually use the machine as part of the clay-related demonstrations at the Petersfield Brick Drying Shed.



MILK BOTTLES

Once very common items, it may seem strange to consider them in the context of a noteworthy addition to a museum artefact collection. These examples, donated by Mrs Knibbs of Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex not only remind us of how this everyday foodstuff was stored and delivered, but also provides a wider view of the 1950s when these bottles were produced. The images of Mickey Mouse printed on the bottles helped us estimate their date fairly accurately, since Mickey has experienced various transformations during his career. Each bottle is stamped with the local dairy or farm from which it came, telling us that milk production was much more fragmented than it is now and that producers supplied their local areas, rather than today's centralised distribution system.



FIRE FURNITURE

A number of pieces of wrought-iron fire furniture were donated by Sarah Spicer of West Harting, Hampshire. Collected over the years by her late father from a range of local sources, despite their lack of provenance many were of very high quality and complete. Of particular interest was a fully working spit jack together with its spit and fire dogs. The museum already has a similar spit jack in the collection but it does not have the other parts; with this new addition it will be possible to demonstrate to visitors how this ingenious contraption operated.

HEAD STOCKS

The old wooden bell frame from Stoughton Church was acquired some three years ago, and is now displayed beneath the shingled spire next to St Margaret's Church. The frame is a web of interlocking timbers, but its purpose and function are not easy to understand. To help visitors appreciate how the frame operates, the museum has kindly been given three sets of head stocks and wheels from St. Mary & Gabriel Church in South Harting, which are of a similar size to those which the Stoughton frame would have held. The head stocks are the substantial baulks of timber to which the church bells were attached and the wheels, or more accurately half-wheels, fitted to one end of the stock and were the mechanism by which the bell rope operated.



IN BRIEF

TRAINING OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Ensuring the museum provides high quality information for its visitors is of paramount importance, and each year a training schedule is developed for volunteers, staff and trustees. It covers many different subjects and periods of history. For instance there is refresher training offered for Winkhurst Tudor Kitchen, and site safety and organisation; interpretation and stewarding information given for buildings such as Hangleton Cottage, Pendean Farmhouse, the hall from Boarhunt, Poplar Cottage, Bayleaf Farmhouse and the Beeding toll house; and sessions on Tudor baking and brewing, advanced dairying, the Historic Clothing Project, using a drop spindle and scything. There's an insight into the curation of the collections, information on how timber-framed buildings are created and erected, and an understanding about the working farm buildings re-erected at the museum; plus training on working with school children and the delivery of various school workshops and instructive tours of the museum's gardens. Held throughout the year, the aim is to widen everyone's knowledge and understanding of the museum's many themes.

61

– the number of
training sessions
run for volunteers,
staff and trustees
last year



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

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

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MILES GRAYE BELL

As part of our aim to provide better interpretation for the Stoughton bell frame we have acquired a suitable bell of an age appropriate to that of the frame, which will be hung in place during the coming months. The Miles Graye Bell was sourced for the museum by our associate Betty Killick, who uncovered this particular example in St Helens Church, Ipswich where it had lain undisturbed at the foot of the bell tower steps since 1904. Dated 1621 and cast with the inscription 'Miles Graye Made Me', the cast bronze bell weighs over 4cwt and was an interesting challenge to collect and transport back to the museum. We have been kindly allowed to borrow the bell on a repeating three-year agreement from the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich.

BUSHEL WEIGHT

Weights and measures are displayed in the museum and held in the artefact collection, but there is nothing quite like the example donated to us by Mr Hedgecock of Tangmere, West Sussex. At first glance its bar-bell appearance could be mistaken for a dog's toy, but on closer inspection and through any attempt to pick it up, that misapprehension is very quickly banished. Used as part of a balance, this 80lb farm weight was used to measure a bushel of produce.



HORSE BELLS

We are fortunate at the museum to already have a significant collection of horse or dray bells. Such bells were mounted on top of a horse's collar and provided a form of early warning when pulling a cart or wagon along narrow lanes, allowing other traffic to get out of the way well in advance. They were usually a set of between two and six mounted on a frame which was slotted into fixings either side of the collar. We have a number of these individual frames, used for single draught animals. More unusual are sets of matching frames, used for a team of horses

pulling larger vehicles and again we are fortunate to already have a set of four frames in our collection. Late in 2011 we received a donation of another set of four matching frames by Mr Knight of Westergate, originally belonging to his grandfather, Mr Uridge, who farmed at Bolney, West Sussex. Imagine my surprise when the very next phone call I took was the offer of yet another set of these rare sets of four frames (pictured), this time from Mrs Poole of Emsworth, Hampshire, whose bells belonged to her parents who farmed in the area.

Julian Bell, Curator

Summer show focuses on the South's traditional farm animals

One of the South's biggest gatherings of farm animals, the Rare Breeds Show on 22 July is one of the museum's most popular events, giving visitors the chance to get close to hundreds of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry. This delightful agricultural show for rare and traditional breeds of farm animals, includes a wide range of classes culminating in a grand parade, and is accompanied by crafts and trade stands on countryside themes. The show is supported by the Friends of the Museum.



Supporting the museum ...

Introducing the museum to a sponsor or donor

Major rescue and restoration work on the museum's buildings or the development of visitor facilities can only be financed by sponsorship, donations or grants. If you can help put us in touch with a potential donor please contact the museum director on 01243 811363 or email rpaithorpoe@wealddown.co.uk

Advertising in the museum magazine

If you provide a service or products appropriate for the conservation and restoration of historic buildings you may be interested in advertising your business in this twice-yearly magazine, which is mailed to more than 11,000 supporters. For further information contact Julie Aalen on 01243 811010, email admin@wealddown.co.uk

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

What to buy that special person who has everything as a treat? Why not sponsor a class at our Rare & Traditional Breeds Show which takes place on Sunday 22nd July?



The Museum has supported stockmen across the south east since the show started 26 years ago, they secure the future of the rarest of farm animals, and we are proud to showcase them 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 will mean that we can reclaim the tax paid and save 25p in the £. – *Thank you so much!*



Rare & Traditional Breeds Show – Sunday 22nd July

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

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
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Class sponsored in the name of

Name of sponsor Signature

Address

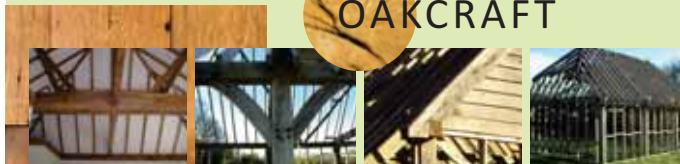
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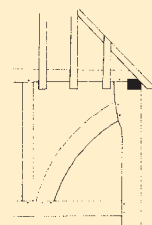
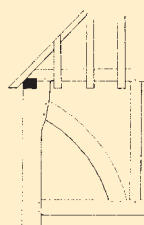
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Museum's award-winning course programme for 2012

Historic building conservation courses

The museum's building conservation programme continues to develop, with new tutors and organisations. Among new courses is *Architectural terracotta* on 1 October, a theoretical and practical course for conservation professionals and home owners on the processes and traditional techniques involved in the manufacture and repair of historic terracotta. It will be led by Amy Smith whose Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship enabled her to study new and traditional applications of architectural terracotta in the USA and the UK.

The risk of fire is a concern for anyone who lives in or looks after old buildings. The museum will run a course on *Fire and historic buildings* on 23 May, focusing on legislation, insurance issues, fire and thatched buildings, fire resistance of traditional materials and sympathetic solutions. The day will be led by Steve Emery, English Heritage's fire safety advisor, Richard Playle, managing director of Playle Russell (Special Risks) Ltd, and Marjorie Sanders and Roger Angold of Pyxis CSB Limited.



Jeff Orton, left, tutors the museum's lime plastering courses.

Two half-day sessions on 8 March will look at parts L and M of the Building Regulations, and consider their application when dealing with historic buildings. Part L, led by John Penton, an architect with 40 years' experience of housing, care projects, environments and facilities for disabled and older people, looks at access to, and use of, buildings, notably St Paul's Cathedral. And Part M, led by Phil Ogley of Oxley Conservation, relates to the conservation of fuel and power. There is a discount if both morning and afternoon sessions are booked together.

In May the museum is holding a series of three day schools in collaboration with the Georgian Group, which exists to protect and preserve Georgian buildings, monuments and landscapes. The courses cover *The Georgian makeover: doors, floors & panelling before and after 1715*, led by Stephen Bull and Joe Thompson on 2 May; *Sash windows: history, repair and maintenance* on 8 May with leaders Stephen Bull and Charles Brooking; and *The Georgian house* on 15 May led by Neil Burton and James Ayres (this day will be held at the Georgian Group's premises in Fitzroy Square, London). The days will comprise a mixture of lectures and demonstrations. If all three are booked together the discounted cost is £240.

1997
– the innovative
Timber-framing from scratch course begins,
becoming the
museum's signature
training course

A different way of setting out and cutting roof timbers will be explained in a new course on 30 April entitled *Schiften day school – an introduction to German roof carpentry*. The day focuses on the German carpenters' craft of lining out full-size and scale drawings showing the plan and section of a regular symmetrical hipped roof. These drawings are then used to obtain every length and bevel required to cut the roof, before you have even touched a rafter! Course leader is Christian ap Iago who trained and worked in Germany and is a qualified zimmermeister (master carpenter): he is now based in Wales.

Traditional rural trades and crafts courses

To complement the museum's Historical Fiction Day this summer, the programme contains lots of new opportunities following a 'bookish' theme, including *Make a traditional handsewn book* with Gaynor Williams on 2 June, and on the same day, *Botanical illustration* with Leigh Ann Gale. Local author and poet James Simpson will be leading three separate writing days using the museum's landscape, flora and fauna as inspiration to write prose and poetry, in June, July and September.

For those people wanting a taste of life in the past, several new courses are on offer. *Yeoman family fare* on 3 June will be dedicated to the type of meals taken by the yeoman family who lived in Bayleaf farmhouse, while on 21 May there will be the opportunity to prepare 17th century recipes at the *Stuart farmhouse day in Pendean*.

The beauty closet in the 18th century on 14 July explores the beauty secrets of ladies who followed the perennial quest to be the most admired at social gatherings, and will cover cosmetics, hair styles and costume.

People who work with children or youth groups will be interested in a new course entitled *Introducing plants to young people* on 25 August, when Christina Stapley will gather samples of herbs, explore their stories and focus on how to share this knowledge with young people.

On 12 May the museum's woodsman, Jonathan Roberts, will lead a half-day course on traditional charcoal burning, using an earth clamp. Participants will be invited back the next morning to watch the opening of the clamp and see the fruits of their labours!

Raising the Roof: 1,000 Years of Timber Roofing Museum Conference for 2012

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the building of the Downland Gridshell, and in September we will also raise the frame of Tindalls Cottage. The aim of this year's conference is to bring these two events together, and make connections between the multitude of historic roofs on the museum's exhibit buildings and the Gridshell's structure.

The development and understanding of the structural behaviour of timber roofs and the introduction of new techniques have enabled roofs to change dramatically over the centuries. The conference will examine timber roofs from Saxon times to the present day, predominantly in the South East of England, and also look at innovations for the future.

Delegates to the conference, which will take place on Friday 21 September in the Jerwood Gridshell space, will receive a complimentary ticket to return to the museum during the weekend of our **Raising the Frame** event to see the erection of the frame of Tindalls Cottage on 22/23 September. Full details of the conference, including a programme for the day, will appear on the museum's website during the summer, www.wealddown.co.uk

Bursary Schemes 2012

The museum has two bursary schemes available this year to enable people who would not normally be able to attend courses to do so. The Historic Houses Association is funding four places on our *Timber framing from scratch* series of courses, and another bursary has been made possible with funds from the late Mary Cowin, which will enable people to apply for up to £100 to attend a course from our programme which relates to timber or woodworking. Full details can be found on the museum's website on the courses news page – www.wealddown.co.uk

COURSE ENQUIRIES

All course enquiries should be made to the Lifelong Learning Department. Tel: 01243 811464/811931/811021. Email: headoflearning@wealddown.co.uk. Website: www.wealddown.co.uk. Leaflets can be posted or emailed on request and bookings can be made over the phone by credit or debit card.

Historic building conservation & the use of traditional materials & processes

Historic building conservation

HISTORIC BUILDINGS & REGULATION: PART M (ACCESS TO AND USE OF BUILDINGS)

Wednesday 8 March 9.30am-12.45pm £60
Leader: John Penton

HISTORIC BUILDINGS & REGULATION: PART L (CONSERVATION OF FUEL AND POWER)

Wednesday 8 March 1.45pm-5pm £60 (book both Part L and Part M for £99)

ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE: PLANNING POLICY & CONSERVATION PLANS

Monday 19 March £99
Leader: Eddie Booth

ENERGY CONSERVATION IN TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

Tuesday 17 April £99
Leaders: Richard Oxley & Phil Ogley

Recording vernacular buildings for conservation (three linked day schools – see below)

RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS DAY 1: OBSERVING & SKETCHING

MONDAY 16 APRIL £99
Leader: Richard Harris

RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS DAY 2: IMPOSING A GRID

Tuesday 24 April £99
Leader: Richard Harris

RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS DAY 3: STUDIO TECHNIQUES

Tuesday 1 May £99
Leader: Richard Harris
(book all three days in the series for £285)

FIRE AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Wednesday 23 May £99
Leaders: Steve Emery, Richard Playle, Marjorie Sanders & Roger Angold

HOMEOWNERS' DAY

Friday 19 October £75
Leader: Kevin Stubbs

Timber framed buildings: history, construction & repair

AN INTRODUCTION TO TIMBER REPAIRS

Monday-Wednesday 5-7 March £299
Leader: Joe Thompson

PRACTICAL SCARF REPAIRS

Thursday-Friday 8-9 March £199
Leader: Joe Thompson

TRADITIONAL TIMBER FRAME CONSTRUCTION

Tuesday 20 March £99
Leader: Richard Harris



The museum's Carpenter-in-Residence, Joe Thompson, tutoring the Oak timber framing: rafters course in January.

AN INTRODUCTION TO DATING TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

Wednesday 21 March £99
Leader: Joe Thompson

UNDERSTANDING HISTORIC TIMBER FRAME DESIGN

Thursday 22 March £99
Leaders: Joe Thompson & Jim Blackburn

HISTORIC TIMBER FRAMING, MODERN ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS

Friday 23 March £99
Leaders: David Yeomans & Jim Blackburn

WATTLE & DAUB

Monday 26 March £99
Leader: Joe Thompson

REPAIR OF TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

Thursday 29 March £99
Leaders: Richard Harris & Roger Champion

AS GOOD AS NEW: IN-SITU REPAIRS TO HISTORIC TIMBER STRUCTURES

Friday 30 March £99
Leader: Peter Ross

WALTER ROSE & THE VILLAGE CARPENTER

Friday 27 April £99
Leader: Joe Thompson

SCHIFTEN DAY SCHOOL – AN INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN ROOF CARPENTRY

Monday 30 April £99
Leader: Christian ap Iago

TOOL SHARPENING: THE CUTTING EDGE

Wednesday-Thursday 9-10 May £175
Leader: Bruce Luckhurst

THE ROOFING SQUARE

Monday 11 June £99
Leader: Joe Thompson

FURTHER ADVENTURES WITH THE ROOFING SQUARE

Tuesday 12 June £99
Leader: Joe Thompson

Timber Framing From Scratch

OAK TIMBER FRAMING: JOWL POSTS

Monday-Friday 16-20 April £495
Monday-Friday 10-14 September £495

Leader: Joe Thompson

OAK TIMBER FRAMING: BRACES & STUDS

Monday-Friday 21-25 May £495
Monday-Friday 22-26 October £495

Leader: Joe Thompson

OAK TIMBER FRAMING: RAFTERS

Monday-Friday 18-22 June £495
Leader: Joe Thompson

SQUARE RULE TIMBER FRAMING

Monday-Friday 19-23 November £495
Leader: Joe Thompson

Vernacular Architecture

FARM BUILDINGS

Thursday 10 May £99
Leader: Jeremy Lake

MILLS AS INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

Tuesday 22 May £99
Leader: Martin Watts

GUILDHALLS, MARKET HALLS AND ALMSHOUSES

Wednesday 13 June £99
Leader: Kate Giles

SHOPS AND INNS

Tuesday 19 June £99
Leader: David Clark

NON-CONFORMIST CHAPELS & CHURCHES

Wednesday 4 July £99
Leader: Jenny Freeman

All five days £250

Brick, flint, lime & terracotta

INTRODUCTION TO GAUGED BRICKWORK

Monday-Wednesday 26-28 March £350
Leader: Gerard Lynch

ADVANCED GAUGED BRICKWORK

Monday-Wednesday 14-16 May £350
Leader: Gerard Lynch

REPAIR OF TRADITIONALLY CONSTRUCTED BRICKWORK

Monday-Wednesday 11-13 June £350
Leader: Gerard Lynch

LIME MORTARS FOR TRADITIONAL BRICKWORK

Thursday 14 June £110
Leader: Gerard Lynch



Dr Gerard Lynch, the museum's long-standing tutor on historic brickwork.

BASIC BRICKWORK FOR HOMEOWNERS

Monday 25 June £99
Leaders: Kevin Stubbs & Ray Moseley

HISTORIC LIME PLASTERS & RENDERS

Tuesday-Wednesday 3-4 July £220
Leaders: Geoff Orton & Ian Constantinides

PRACTICAL LIME PLASTERING

Thursday 5 July £99
Leader: George Terry

JOINTING, POINTING & RE-POINTING HISTORIC BRICKWORK

Monday-Tuesday 17-18 September £220
Leader: Gerard Lynch

ENGLISH BRICKWORK: TUDOR TO EDWARDIAN

Wednesday 19 September £99
Leader: Gerard Lynch

ARCHITECTURAL TERRACOTTA

Monday 1 October £99
Leader: Amy Smith

PRACTICAL FLINT WALLING

Wednesday-Thursday 7-8 November £260
Leaders: Mark Middleton, Chris Rosier & Brian Dawson

Timber science

TIMBER: IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES

Wednesday 28 March £99
Leader: David Woodbridge

TIMBER DECAY & ITS TREATMENT

Wednesday 10 October £99
Leader: Brian Ridout

SOFTWOOD GRADING

Tuesday-Thursday 16-18 October £450
Leader: David Woodbridge

Roofing & leadwork

CLAY PLAIN TILING

Thursday 5 April £99
Leaders: Yusof Abdullah & Pete Cullingham

HISTORIC ROOF COVERINGS

Thursday 19 April £99
Leader: Kevin Stubbs

INTRODUCTION TO LEADWORK FOR SPECIFIERS AND INSTALLERS

Wednesday 25 April £110
Leader: Nigel Johnston

PRACTICAL LEADWORK

Thursday 26 April £110
Leader: Nigel Johnston

NATURAL SLATING

Thursday 26 April £99
Leader: Yusof Abdullah & Pete Cullingham

PRACTICAL THATCHING

Thursday 3 May £150
Leader: Chris Tomkins

Paint

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

Thursday 15 May £99
Leader: Sibylle Heil

A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO SIGN WRITING

Monday 25 June £99
Leader: Wayne Osborne



The museum is running a course on architectural terracotta for the first time this year, tutored by Amy Smith.

COTTAGERS & SUBURBANITES: COLOUR & DÉCOR FOR THE LESS-THAN-GRAND

Monday 15 October £99
Leaders: Ian Bristow & Kathryn Davies

The Georgian House

THE GEORGIAN MAKEOVER: DOORS, FLOORS & PANELLING BEFORE AND AFTER 1715

Tuesday 2 May £99
Leaders: Stephen Bull & Joe Thompson

SASH WINDOWS: HISTORY, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Tuesday 8 May £99
Leaders: Charles Brooking & Stephen Bull

THE GEORGIAN HOUSE

Tuesday 15 May £99
Leaders: Neil Burton & James Ayres

ALL COURSES ARE SUITABLE FOR CPD. IHBC MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT - PLEASE QUOTE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER ON BOOKING. BESPOKE COURSES ARRANGED ON REQUEST.

Traditional rural trades & crafts

Countryside crafts

LIVING WILLOW WORKSHOP

Saturday 10 March 2012. £80
Sunday 11 March 2012. £80
Leader: Ganesh Bruce/Elaine Kings

CORACLE MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday-Sunday 24-25 March. £200 FULL
Saturday-Sunday 29-30 September. £200
Leaders: Kevin & Ellen Grimley

WILLOW WORKSHOP: WEAVE AND WALE A BASKET

Saturday 17 March 2012. £60
Saturday 28 July 2012. £60
Saturday 20 October 2012. £60
Leader: Deborah Albon

LEADED-LIGHT STAINED GLASS

Friday 30 March. £90 FULL
Leader: David Lilly

ROPEWORK ANIMALS

Saturday 31 March. £50
Leader: Charlie Tyrrell

BARK BASKETRY

Saturday 31 March. £60
Leader: John Rhyder

SUSSEX TRUG MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday-Sunday 21-22 April. £130
Leader: Robin Tuppen

MEDIEVAL TILE MAKING WORKSHOP

Sunday 15 April. £95
Leader: Karen Slade

WILLOW GARDEN SUPPORTS

Saturday 28 April 2012. £70
Sunday 29 April 2012. £70
Leader: Ganesh Bruce/Elaine Kings

INTRODUCTION TO POLE LATHE TURNING

Saturday 28 April. £55 FULL
Sunday 29 April. £55
Sunday 2 September. £55
Leader: Mark Allery

POLE LATHE TURNING WORKSHOP: IMPROVE YOUR GREEN WOODWORKING SKILLS

Saturday 1 September. £60
Leader: Mark Allery

NETMAKING WORKSHOP

Sunday 29 April. £45
Leader: Jon Hutcheon

CANE SEATING WORKSHOP

Friday 18 May. £55
Leader: Wendy Manser

GREENWOOD CHAIR MAKING WEEK

Sunday-Friday 20-25 May. £300
Leader: Paul Hayden

SKEP MAKING

Saturday-Sunday 9-10 June. £90
Leader: Derek Slee

SIMPLE PAPIER MACHE BOWLS

Friday 22 June & Friday 29 June (9.30-12.30; two linked sessions). £50
Leader: Linda Chivers

CORN DOLLY WORKSHOP

Saturday 14 July. £50
Friday 27 July. £50
Saturday 20 October. £50
Leader: Verna Bailey



A scything course gets under way: course participants pass Poplar Cottage.

Traditional rural trades & crafts



An atmospheric scene in Winkhurst Tudor kitchen, ready for the Tudor brewing and baking day.

WEAVE A RUSH HAT

Thursday 9 August. £60
Leader: Rachel Frost

WEAVE A RUSH BAG

Friday 10 August. £60
Leader: Rachel Frost

STRAW PLAIT HAT

Thursday 6 September. £50
Leader: Ruth Goodman

CARVE A WOODEN SPOON

Thursday 6 September. £50
Leader: Dave Jackson

ADVANCED WILLOW BASKET DAY

Friday 7 September 2012. £65
Leader: Ganesh Bruce/Elaine Kings

MAKE A HAZEL STOOL WITH A WOVEN WILLOW SEAT

Friday 7 September. £65
Leader: Dave Jackson

MAKE A BENTWOOD CHAIR

Saturday-Sunday 8-9 September.
£200
Leader: Dave Jackson

INTRODUCTION TO CHAIR MAKING

Saturday 27 October. £85
Leader: Mervyn Mewis

Traditional skills

WOOD CUT WORKSHOP

Saturday 24 March. £65
Leader: Will Dyke

IRONS IN THE FIRE

Saturday 14 April. £80 FULL
Friday 1 June. £80 FULL
Saturday 2 June. £80 FULL
Saturday 22 September. £80 FULL
Friday 5 October. £80
Saturday 6 October. £80 FULL
Leader: Martin Fox

DOWSING WORKSHOP

Friday 4 May. £50
Leader: Rosemary Hudson

TRADITIONAL EARTH BURN

Saturday 12 May. £50
Leader: Jonathan Roberts

SCYTHING DAY

Friday 18 May. £60
Leader: Simon Fairlie/Mark Allery

STONE CARVING

Saturday 19 May. £70
Leader: Will Spankie

LETTER CUTTING IN STONE

Sunday 20 May. £70 FULL
Leader: Will Spankie

FOOD FOR FREE

Sunday 20 May. £65
Leader: Ian Humphrey

MAKE A TRADITIONAL HAND-SEWN BOOK

Saturday 2 June. £50
Leader: Gaynor Williams

LEATHER BELT WORKSHOP

Saturday 23 June. £60
Leader: Emma O'Driscoll

A PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO SIGNWRITING

Monday 25 June. £99
Leader: Wayne Osborne

WHO DO YOU THINK THEY WERE? HISTORICAL SIGNATURES.

Saturday 7 July. £45
Leader: Rosemary Hudson

BIRDS OF PREY EXPERIENCE

Thursday 2 August. £60 FULL
Thursday 16 August. £60 FULL
Leader: Ray Prior

ANIMAL TRACKING

Sunday 5 August. £65
Leader: Ian Humphrey

STONE CARVING: CELTIC KNOTWORK DESIGN

Saturday-Sunday 1-2 September.
£140
Leader: Will Spankie

FIELD BUTCHERY

Sunday 30 September. £65
Leader: Ian Humphrey

WOVEN HURDLE MAKING WEEKEND

Saturday-Sunday 27-28 October.
£165
Leader: John Lindfield

INTRODUCTION TO COPPICE MANAGEMENT

Saturday 3 November. £50
Leaders: Jonathan Roberts & John Lindfield

LEATHER CARVING WORKSHOP

Saturday 3 November. £55
Leader: Emma O'Driscoll

Early technology workshops

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH LONGBOW

Monday-Wednesday 12-14
November. £260
Leader: John Rhyder

PREHISTORIC JEWELLERY WORKSHOP

Friday 3 August. £50
Leaders: John & Val Lord

PREHISTORIC TOOLMAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday-Sunday 4-5 August. £100
Leaders: John & Val Lord

SHOOTING THE TRADITIONAL LONGBOW

Saturday 8 September. £45
Sunday 9 September. £45
Leader: Jonathan Davies

Heavy horse experience days

CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF HEAVY HORSES

Sunday 4 March. £85
Leader: Mark Buxton

HORSE LOGGING

Sunday 25 March. £85 FULL
Leaders: Robert Sampson & Mark Buxton

DRIVING HEAVY HORSES

Sunday 13 May. £85 FULL
Thursday 17 May. £85
Sunday 10 June. £85
Thursday 14 June. £85
Leader: Mark Buxton

PLOUGHING WITH HEAVY HORSES

Sunday 4 November. £85 FULL
Sunday 9 December. £85 FULL
Sunday 13 January 2013. £85
Leaders: John McDermott, Robert Sampson & Mark Buxton

Historic home life

TUDOR FYSHE COOKERY

Saturday 31 March. £60 FULL
Leader: Catherine Flower-Bond

INTRODUCTION TO HISTORIC AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Sunday 15 April. £45
Leader: Trevor James

DAIRYING DAY

Wednesday 8 May. £60 FULL
Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond

VICTORIAN CLEANING

Wednesday 16 May. £60 FULL
Leader: Ruth Goodman

ADVANCED DAIRYING DAY

Thursday 17 May. £60
Leader: Ruth Goodman

STUART FARMHOUSE DAY IN PENDEAN

Monday 21 May 2012. £60
Leader: Lesley Parker

HERBS FOR A COTTAGE GARDEN

Friday 25 May. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

YEOMAN FAMILY FARE

Sunday 3 June. £60
Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond

15TH CENTURY HERBS IN DAILY LIFE

Friday 15 June. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

SECRETS OF THE STILLROOM

Saturday 16 June. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

A TASTE OF HONEY

Monday 18 June. £60
Leader: Lesley Parker

HERBS FOR HEALTH

Saturday 30 June. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

THE BEAUTY CLOSET IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Saturday 14 July. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

THE COUNTRY HOUSE KITCHEN

Wednesday-Thursday 11-12 July.
£150
Leader: Peter Brears



Tutor Mark Allery works his pole lathe.

Traditional rural trades & crafts

HERB WALK AROUND THE MUSEUM

Sunday 15 July. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

MEDIEVAL EXPERIENCE DAY

Thursday 23 August. £60
Leader: Lesley Parker

INTRODUCING PLANTS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Saturday 25 August. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

TUDOR AND VICTORIAN HAIR AND MAKEUP

Wednesday 5 September. £60
Leader: Ruth Goodman

LET FOOD BE YOUR MEDICINE

Friday 14 September. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

AN A-Z OF MEDICINAL TREES

Saturday 15 September. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

TUDOR BREWING AND BAKING

Saturday 29 September. £60
Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond

HEDGEROW PRESERVES

Sunday 30 September. £60
Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond

THE TUDOR BAKEHOUSE: PIES AND PASTRIES

Wednesday 10 October. £60 FULL
Thursday 11 October. £60 FULL
Leader: Ruth Goodman

BANQUETING SWEETMEATS

Saturday 3 November. £60
Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond

MEAT AND MORE MEAT

Wednesday 7 November. £60
Leader: Ruth Goodman

WARMING WINTER REMEDIES

Saturday 15 December. £50
Leader: Christina Stapley

Historic buildings

WATTLE AND DAUB

Monday 26 March. £99
Leader: Joe Thompson

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, AND HOW TO STUDY THEM

Friday 13 July. £60
Leader: David Parsons

HOME OWNERS DAY

Friday 19 October. £75
Leader: Kevin Stubbs

Painting & writing workshops

BEGINNERS' WATERCOLOURS

Friday-Sunday 11-13 May. £180
Leader: Gordon Rushmer

WRITING AND THE LANDSCAPE: CREATIVE WRITING PROSE AND POETRY

Saturday 2 June. £50
Leader: James Simpson

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION: MEDICINAL PLANTS

Saturday 2 June. £60
Leader: Leigh Ann Gale

COSTUME FIGURE DRAWING WORKSHOP

Friday 13 June. £60
Leader: Gordon Rushmer

DRAWING WEEKEND

Friday 29 June – Sunday 1 July. £180
Leader: Gordon Rushmer

WATERCOLOUR SKETCHING

Friday-Sunday 6-8 July. £180
Leader: Gordon Rushmer

A PIECE OF TURF: WRITING POETRY AND PROSE INSPIRED BY THE LOCAL FLORA

Sunday 29 July. £50
Leader: James Simpson

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION: THE COTTAGE GARDEN

Friday-Saturday 24-25 August. £120
Leader: Leigh Ann Gale

BIRDS AND BEASTS: WRITING ANIMAL PROSE AND POETRY

Sunday 16 September. £50
Leader: James Simpson

WATERCOLOUR MASTERCLASS

Monday-Friday 24-28 September. £250
Leader: Gordon Rushmer

THE DOWNLAND SKETCHBOOK

Monday-Friday 8-12 October. £250
Leader: Gordon Rushmer

Smallholder days

BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

Saturday 31 March. £50
Leaders: Christine Stevens & Emma O'Driscoll

KEEPING SHEEP

Saturday 14 April. £65
Leaders: David & Helen Burden

KEEPING PIGS

Sunday 15 April 2012. £50
Leader: Suzi Westron

POULTRY HUSBANDRY

Saturday 5 May. £50
Saturday 20 October. £50
Leader: David Bland

PRACTICAL POULTRY SESSION

Saturday 16 June. £25
Leaders: David Bland & Ken Rowsell



Ropework animals – a snail and a tortoise.

Textile workshops

TAPESTRY WORKSHOP: WEAVE A LANDSCAPE

Saturday 3 March. £45 FULL
Sunday 2 September. £45
Leader: Hillary Charlesworth

RAG-RUGGING WORKSHOP

Friday 9 March. £45
Friday 13 July. £45
Leader: Linda Chivers
Also see Christmas section

LEARN TO KNIT

Saturday 10 March. £45
Leader: Caroline Pede

LEARN TO CROCHET

Saturday 24 March. £45
Leader: Kay Hamilton

'MAD HATTERS': HOW TO MAKE A FELT HAT

Saturday 14 April. £45 FULL
Leader: Hilary Charlesworth

TATTING WORKSHOP

Tatting is the art of creating lace edgings and inserts using a shuttle and thread. Learn the basics of this skill; how to create basic pattern rings and how to join the rings into attractive lace edging.
10am–4pm
Sunday 22 April. £45
Leader: Angela Kiel

RAG-RUGGING: IMPROVERS

Saturday 28 April. £45
Leader: Linda Chivers

SPINNING: PREPARATION AND THE DROP SPINDLE

Wednesday 9 May. £45
Saturday 8 September. £45
Leader: Steve Kennett

SPINNING: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WHEEL

Wednesday 16 May. £45
Sunday 9 September. £45
Leader: Steve Kennett

INSECTS IN METALLIC BLACKWORK

Saturday 19 May. £45
Leader: Caroline Vincent

FELTING FOR FUN

Saturday 9 June. £45
Leader: Hillary Charlesworth

KNIT A CUPCAKE (IMPROVERS)

Sunday 24 June. £45
Leader: Caroline Pede

BOBBIN LACE MAKING FOR BEGINNERS

Sunday 15 July 2012. £45
Leaders: Eva Falconer & Gay McCart

NATURAL DYEING

Saturday 28 July. £45
Leader: Hilary Charlesworth

CROCHET: IMPROVERS

Saturday 8 September. £45
Leader: Rose Savage

BOBBIN LACE MAKING: IMPROVERS

Sunday 16 September. £45
Leaders: Eva Falconer & Gay McCart

SPINNING: IMPROVERS

Saturday 29 September. £45
Leader: Steve Kennett

INKLE LOOM WEAVING

Saturday-Sunday 27-28 October. £95
Leader: Steve Kennett

Walks

DAWN WALK WITH BREAKFAST

Saturday 5 May. £20 FULL
Leader: Richard Williamson

TREE WALK

Wednesday 23 May. £15
Leader: Jonathan Roberts

DUSK WALK

Wednesday 13 June. £15
Leader: Richard Williamson

NATURAL NAVIGATION

Saturday 16 June, 2pm. £20
Leader: Tristan Gooley

PERIOD GARDENS WALK

Thursday 21 June. £15
Leader: Carlotta Holt

BAT WALK

Friday 31 August, 7.15pm. £15
Leader: Sue Harris

CANDLELIT WALK

Thursday 6 December. £15
Leader: Jonathan Roberts

Christmas workshops

CHRISTMAS PAPIER MACHE

Friday 30 November, Friday 7 December (9.30-12.30; two linked sessions) £50
Leader: Linda Chivers

TUDOR CHRISTMAS FOOD

Tuesday 4 December. £60
Leader: Ruth Goodman

WILLOW WREATH FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday 8 December. £50
Sunday 9 December. £50
Leader: Ganesh Bruce/Elaine Kings

CHRISTMAS STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP

Friday 14 December. £85
Leader: David Lilly

CHRISTMAS RAG-RUGGING

Saturday 15 December. £45
Leader: Linda Chivers

CHRISTMAS HERBAL GIFTS AND DECORATIONS

Sunday 16 December. £55
Leader: Christina Stapley



Museum horseman Mark Buxton (right) tutoring the museum's horse logging course using one of the museum's own working Shire horses.

Evening talks – *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 6.00pm. The ticket allows entrance to the museum site from 4.00pm on the day of the talk. All talks cost £12 per person, £10 for Friends of the Museum. £5 for volunteers. Pre-booking is required.

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

"The delight of all persons of reputation and taste" – an introduction to Vauxhall Gardens 1661-1859

Thursday 12 April

Vauxhall Gardens became one of the great fashionable pleasure resorts of Georgian London, famous for the great social mix of its visitors. The gardens provided a thrilling evening's entertainment for Londoners from its birth in the Restoration right through to its final destruction in Victorian times.

David Coke is a writer, lecturer and art historian. He was Director of Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, Suffolk and later of Pallant House, Chichester, West Sussex.

Agriculture on the South Downs 1750-1950

Tuesday 17 April

Land ownership and farming on the West Sussex downs between 1750 and 1950 will be explored in the company of three outstanding individuals who, in their different ways, made significant contributions to the agricultural scene during this period: George, 3rd Earl of Egremont (1751-1837); Henry, 15th Duke of Norfolk (1847-1917); and WD Passmore (1890-1967). It is a measure of the success of these three men that their descendants are still actively and successfully involved in farming.

Dr John Godfrey is a landscape historian and geographer. His DPhil was in historical geography, focusing on the South Downs. His publications include The New Shell Guide to Sussex and A Guide to the South Downs Way. He is a trustee of the South Downs Society and the Sussex Heritage Trust, and a member of the National Trust's Regional Advisory Board for London & the South East. John is Vice Chairman of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum trustees.

A taste of English wines

Thursday 19 April

The talk will be about the history of wine growing and making in England,

especially in the South East. You will taste three different wines, including a good sparkling wine made with Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir.

Angela Muir is now in her 41st year in the wine trade. In 1993 she set up Cellarworld International Ltd as a vehicle for consultancy activities, buying, selecting, blending and winemaking project management. This talk costs an extra £5.

The Work of the Landmark Trust

Wednesday 25 April 2012

A talk from buildings preservation charity The Landmark Trust about its vital work rescuing and restoring historic buildings at risk to give them a new future by offering them for holidays.

Caroline Stanford BA Hons (Oxon), MA (London), MSc (Oxford Brookes) has been the historian at The Landmark Trust since January 2001. She is responsible for the assessment and evaluation of potential Landmarks and for researching them.

Eastwick Park Dairy

Thursday 3 May

In 2010 the museum was offered a small ornamental dairy from the Eastwick Park Estate in the village of Great Bookham, near Leatherhead, Surrey. The talk covers the entire process of recording, researching, dismantling and transporting the dairy back to the museum.

Following a post-graduate degree from Leicester University, Museum Curator Julian Bell has worked in a variety of museums for the last 17 years managing a wide range of different collections. He has been curator at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum since 2002.

Uncovering the mystery and meaning of a medieval tithe barn

Thursday 10 May

In this illustrated lecture, historian and carpenter David Leviatin will recount his

discovery of a remarkable method of medieval building design unknown for centuries. Using his workshop, the 15th century Lordship Barn, as his primary source, Leviatin draws on theory and practice, to uncover the connection between a single line, a great building and a long tradition.

David Leviatin has a PhD from Harvard University, and owns and operates Boxed Heart, a UK-based company that specialises in the conservation and construction of historic English timber frames. Leviatin is the scholar/craftsman in residence at Writtle College in Essex where he runs the interdisciplinary Timber Frame Workshop from The Lordship Barn.

The Concorde Experience

Thursday 24 May 2012

Find out what it was like to fly as the Flight Engineer, third man on the flight deck, from speaker Roger Bricknell who spent 25 years working on Concorde and will also share some of the history of the aircraft.

Roger Bricknell served an apprenticeship at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. He was directed to Concorde in 1975, trained by Brian Trubshaw and the flight test teams, and then assisted in its introduction in 1976. He flew it for 25 years.

Gridshell Confidential

Tuesday 12 June

2012 is the 10th anniversary of the opening of the award-winning Downland Gridshell building, one of the museum's most valued assets. This presents an ideal opportunity to trace the story of how it came about, how it was built, and what it has brought to the museum. Steve Corbett will give an insider's view, with some previously unseen images, and perhaps a few secrets from behind the scenes.

Steve Corbett has been closely associated with the museum for many years and in many roles, as an MSc student, as a tutor, as a lifelong friend, and as a trustee. He was the project manager of the Gridshell building.

Goodwood – England's Greatest Sporting Estate

Tuesday 19 June

James Peill, Curator of the Goodwood Collection, will explore the history and art collection at Goodwood House in West Sussex, the ancestral seat of the Dukes of Richmond & Gordon. Among the treasures of the Goodwood Collection are celebrated paintings by George Stubbs and Canaletto and fabulous Sevres porcelain bought by the 3rd Duke of Richmond when he was British Ambassador to the Court of Louis XV in France in 1765.

James Peill, formerly a specialist in the Furniture Department and a director of Christie's, is the co-author with the late Knight of Glin of Irish Furniture and The Irish Country House.

The Arundel Potter

Tuesday 3 July

Josse Davis will discuss his pottery and the inspiration for his work. He was born into a world of colour and form, with a father who was a full-time studio potter. He will bring some pictures of his work and actual examples.

Born in 1959, Josse Davis is son of ceramist and painter Derek Davis and painter Ruth Davis. Since graduating in 1981 from Bath Academy of Art with a BA Honours in Ceramics, Josse has worked in his home town of Arundel.

Out of Our Woods – The Music of Trees

Thursday 5 July

Local woodland conservation management provides a varied palette of native timbers, and also the inspiration for much of Mervyn Mewis' individually designed pieces of furniture. *Out of Our Woods – The Music of Trees* combines the historic use of local woodlands with a modern approach to musical creation. A visual presentation combined with traditional music from Mervyn and his partner Kathryn on hand-made instruments.

Mervyn Mewis studied habitat management and is involved in voluntary conservation work which has led to the availability of native broadleaf timber. He also has a keen interest in woodwork and the production of simple furniture.

Man, Tree Archaeology and the Dense Forest Myth

Wednesday 10 July

From using flints to the present day man has cut and used trees for a multitude of purposes. The evidence is still to be seen all around us in many forms especially as pollards (working trees) and coppice. They are all part of our cultural heritage; our concept of the dense continuous forest is merely a myth.

Ted Green MBE has campaigned for many years for greater awareness and protection of ancient trees. He worked as a nature conservation consultant to the Crown Estates at Windsor Great Park and is a founding member and trustee of the Ancient Tree Forum.

Japanese Open Air Museums

Tuesday 17 July

The lecture will introduce the open air museums of Japan. After setting the historical context and identifying the range and scope of these museums, the presentation will focus on particular case studies.

Dr Michael Harrison has taught for many years at Birmingham City University. His particular research interests are the history of architecture, housing and town planning. In the last decade he has begun to study Japanese vernacular architecture and the open-air museums of Japan.



Detail of the timber roof of the Downland Gridshell, celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Discover more about the building's secrets at the talk on Tuesday, 12 June.

The Landmark Trust, another safe haven for historic buildings at risk

If the Weald & Downland Museum represents the very last chance of survival for historic buildings at risk, the Landmark Trust is the penultimate bulwark against their loss. Like the museum, Landmark was founded in the 1960s, to prevent the irretrievable loss of Britain's historic buildings. However, the buildings Landmark takes on are given a new start not as exhibits but as living, breathing buildings, rescued, painstakingly restored and given new life and purpose as self-catering holiday lets, available to all.

Today, there are almost 200 Landmarks across England, Scotland and Wales, four in Italy and a few in France. Each year, some 40,000 people choose to spend their holidays in a Landmark, experiencing what it is like to live in a historic building as if it were their own, at all times of the day, all year round. The collection includes buildings of all types, and periods, both vernacular and polite: castles and follies, mansions and cottages, towers and a palace, a pigsty and a pineapple. Each Landmark has its own collection of books and a history album telling the story of the building, its inhabitants and its restoration.

Most of Landmark's buildings we own or have on long leases, a few we let on behalf of their owners. Each year we complete the restoration of two or three more buildings, after fundraising to pay for these works. Once restored, the holiday letting income pays for future maintenance and ensures that the buildings never again fall into dereliction.

Some of Landmark's oldest, timber-framed



Purton Green, Suffolk, left, before the Landmark Trust acquired the buildings, and above, after restoration.

buildings might well have found their way to an open air museum of buildings had we not stepped in. Purton Green is the oldest building in Landmark's care, dating back to 1250. It is all that survives of a lost medieval village, deep in the Suffolk countryside. Originally a hall house, it is aisled on both sides with scissor-braced trusses and a decorative arcade at its low end. The later ceiling of the hall and insertion of a central chimney stack had become so ruinous that we felt justified in re-opening the hall to its full double height, creating the main living areas in the jettied extension added to the high end around 1600.

Purton Green is one of several Landmarks whose setting is so sensitive that we ask our visitors to leave their cars and trundle their bags and provisions in a wheelbarrow some 400 yards across the fields – which they seem to do cheerfully, understanding that the experience of staying in such a place outweighs the inconvenience of this request!

Plas Uchaf, near Corwen in Denbighshire, is another ancient hall house that came perilously close to extinction. Here, the double

height hall had a large hearth added in the 16th century, and also retains several rare survivals, including a spere truss and traces of a louvre on the ridge, through which the smoke from the central fire would have found its way. For many years, Plas Uchaf seemed irredeemably chilly to most modern sensibilities, but we have now brought it right up to date by installing underfloor heating in the hall, using renewable energy harvested from an air source heat pump.

Landmark's work is entirely complementary to that of the museum. At Singleton, visitors can study a unique collection of vernacular buildings; with Landmark, everyone can, for a time, actually live in such buildings.

To find out more about the Landmark Trust or book a holiday visit www.landmarktrust.org.uk

**Caroline Stanford
Historian, The Landmark Trust**

Wednesday 25 April – Caroline Stanford will be giving a talk at the museum (see page 28).

Fox Hall, Charlton

As part of a public opening weekend on 16/17 June The Landmark Trust has additionally generously offered the Friends the opportunity of a private evening viewing of their property, Fox Hall, Charlton from 5.00pm-8.00pm on Saturday 16 June. Charlton lies one mile to the east of Singleton and during the first half of the 18th century was the home of the country's premier fox hunt. Many of the buildings associated with the hunt still survive and Fox Hall was built in 1731 by the 2nd Duke of Richmond as his hunting lodge. There is no charge or ticketing in advance.



Unique holidays in extraordinary places

The Landmark Trust 01628 825925
www.landmarktrust.org.uk
 Charity registered in England & Wales 243312 and Scotland SC039205

Dr Peter Brandon 1927-2011

Peter Brandon, the distinguished landscape historian and geographer, and a great supporter of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, has died, aged 84.

Sussex-born and bred, Peter lived in the Shoreham area for most of his life, with a period in Twickenham as a young man. He wrote extensively on the landscapes of Sussex, Surrey and Kent and his publications included *The Making of the Sussex Landscape* (in W.G.Hoskins' *Making of the English Landscape* series) and, with Dr Brian Short, the magisterial *The South East from AD 1000* (in the *Regional History of England* series edited by Barry Cunliffe and David Hey).

Following his retirement from his post of Head of the Geography Department at the University of North London, Peter became a founding member of the Sussex Downs Conservation Board (the forerunner of the South Downs National Park Authority), Vice-President of the Sussex branch of both the CPRE and the Sussex Archaeological Society, and President of the South Downs Society. He loved the landscapes of the Weald and Downland and was a frequent visitor to the museum.

Peter inspired generations of landscape geographers and historians, residents and visitors with his natural and infectious enthusiasm and deep passion for the landscapes of South East England. He will be sadly missed.

John Godfrey

Victor Chinnery 1944-2011

We were sad to hear in December 2011 of the death aged 67 of Victor Chinnery, who for more than 20 years has been a friend, supporter and expert consultant for the museum.

Victor was the country's leading expert on oak furniture. He started his career at Bert Crowther's of Syon Lodge, a business that dealt in old furniture and building reclamation. In 1979 he published his magisterial and definitive work, *Oak furniture: the British tradition*, which was produced with his equally committed wife and research colleague, Janet. Elegantly written and presented, and packed not

only with details of furniture but also the social and historic context, it became the standard reference work on the subject. Victor and Janet continued their research and shortly before Victor's death they had completed a draft of another major work, a glossary of furnishing terms.

In 1980 Victor started, with Janet, Quercus Consultants, and he acted as a consultant for numerous organisations including Sotheby's, Christie's, Hampton Court, and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. He was a council member of the Regional Furniture Society from its foundation in 1985, becoming its Vice President in 1999 and President in 2003. He was one of the four founder trustees of the Merchant's House in Marlborough.

His relationship with the museum started in Spring 1988. The museum was working on the 'Bayleaf Project', to furnish and equip Bayleaf farmstead using replicas, and Victor was the obvious choice to provide advice on oak furniture. He joined the project enthusiastically and over the next 12 months worked with us in finding prototypes and discussing details. It was a ground-breaking project and it was wonderful to work with Victor, as he was not only generous with his knowledge but always anxious to learn and find new examples. He was pleased with the results and in 1990 showed them to members of the Regional Furniture Society.

Subsequently Victor advised the museum on furnishing other buildings, including Poplar Cottage and Pendean Farmhouse, and in 2004 he agreed to contribute to our adult learning programme, teaching courses such as *An appreciation of early oak furniture*, *English furniture making trades*, and *Early Oak Furniture: An in-depth exploration*, all of which drew appreciative audiences. He will be greatly missed.

Richard Harris

Jan Elliott

Jan Elliott, a great stalwart of the museum's volunteer team, has died, aged 67.

Jan, who lived in the nearby village of Charlton with her husband, John, also a volunteer, began her involvement with the museum in the early 1990s and became one of the shop assistants working with



Jan Elliott.

senior warden, Keith Bickmore, when the shop was located in the building from Lavant, continuing when it relocated to Longport farmhouse. For many years Jan assisted the education officer at the Junior Friends group, and she was also a regular helper with the Children's Activities days. Jan was a very talented needlewoman and won much praise for her work at various exhibitions held at the museum. Jan and John were both involved in stewarding at the Rare Breeds Show. A plaque awarded to the winner of one of the sheep classes is named after them both.

Away from the museum, Jan was the president of Singleton Women's Institute, a post she held for 11 years, and she was very involved with the village hall, the East Dean & Singleton Horticultural Society and Singleton School. One of her most noteworthy achievements was her responsibility for the creation of the Singleton Parish Map in 2002, part of a West Sussex project to celebrate the Millennium. This ambitious community project was only made possible through Jan's drive and determination.

Her cheerful contribution to so many of the museum's activities will be sadly missed.

Grateful thanks

We are sad to report the death of a number of our dedicated volunteers and supporters over the last few months.

Colonel John Hill OBE TD FRICS, 93, had been a volunteer since 1986. His principal contribution was as a member of the Tuesday Gang, which carries out maintenance and construction tasks across the museum site, as well as much hard work cleaning old horseshoes for resale. John, who was a distinguished war hero, kindly donated his tools to the remaining members of the team.

John Lanham, aged 94, was a volunteer for very many years, working in ticket sales from the old ticket kiosks and then in the Longport entrance and shop building. He also assisted the museum's financial officer.

IN BRIEF

NEWS FROM THE ARMSTRONG LIBRARY

The Library team has been busy incorporating the rest of the Frank Gregory Collection into the library catalogue, reports *Jo Minns*. The job is now nearly complete and has

produced more offerings for the next Book Sale as well as for the library shelves. The sale will take place at the Food & South Downs Fair on 6/7 May. Meanwhile, the volunteers' loan library is growing, requiring the addition of a whole new bookcase! Staff and volunteers can borrow these to help increase their knowledge about the many subjects and themes with which

the museum is concerned. The team has sadly said goodbye to Bernadine Saunders, who has retired after more than 16 years as a library volunteer. "Everything the rest of us know is what she has taught us," says Jo. "However, we do have a wonderful addition to our team in Carol Brinson, who is a tremendous help and will be a huge asset".

We're looking forward to meeting our members at the museum during the year! And thank you all for your support

Day trips

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire – Tuesday 15 May

Blenheim Palace is a World Heritage Site and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. The palace was given to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough by Queen Anne following his famous victory at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704. Blenheim Palace is situated in Woodstock, eight miles from Oxford and surrounded by 2,000 acres of 'Capability' Brown landscaped parkland, the great lake and formal gardens. You will be free to wander at your leisure or join one of the many free tours run throughout the day. You may bring a picnic lunch or purchase your refreshments there.

Ticket price £24.50. Depart museum by coach 8.30am. Return 7.00pm approx.

Vann Garden, near Godalming, Surrey – Tuesday 3 July

Vann is an internationally renowned garden covering five acres and divided into a series of 'rooms'. The gardens surround a 16th century family home. The Pergola, made of Bargate stone, is by WD Caroe, the Arts & Craft architect and grandfather of the present owners, and the Water Garden was laid out and planted by Gertrude Jekyll in 1911. The garden has featured in many television programmes and magazine articles. We will be the only visitors on the day; we will have a talk from the owner, and the visit will end with tea and cakes. Vann Garden is situated off the A283 on Vann Lane between Hambledon and Chiddingfold, so we will travel in our own cars. If you require a lift from the museum, please mention this on the application form.

We will meet there at 2.00pm. Ticket price £11, including tea and cakes.

Wiston House, Steyning, West Sussex – Tuesday 7 August

Wiston House was first mentioned in the Domesday Book, with parts of the present house dating back to 1576. Since 1951 it has been the home of the Wiston Park Conference Centre hosting important events on international policy challenges, but it has a most interesting history, coming under the ownership of the Goring family in 1740: it is still in the family's ownership. We are most fortunate to have been given the opportunity of a fully guided tour followed by a delicious cream tea. Our guide will be Janet Pennington, a regional historian whose MA dissertation was about Wiston House. In 1978 she joined the Wiston Estate Study Group led by the museum's founder, Roy Armstrong. Wiston House is near Steyning so again we will meet there having travelled in our own cars. If you require a lift from the museum please mention this on the application form. Directions will be available from Sarah Casdagli on 01243 811726.

The tour commences at 2.00pm sharp, so please arrive by 1.45pm. Numbers are limited. Ticket price £15, including the cream tea.

Highclere Castle, Newbury, Berkshire – Tuesday 14 August

This day is a must for all Downton Abbey fans! Highclere Castle has been the home of the Carnarvon family since 1679. The present day building was designed in 1842 by Sir Charles Barry who was also responsible for the Houses of Parliament. The fifth Earl, with archaeologist Howard Carter, discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun: there is an Egyptian exhibition at the castle. Our tickets include entry to the exhibition, castle, gardens and grounds. You may bring a picnic lunch or purchase lunch there.

Ticket price £23.50. Depart museum by coach 9.45am. Return 5.30pm approx.



Among museum activities supported by the Friends is the Historic Clothing Project: £32,000 has been donated. Pictured is volunteer Vic Constable outside Bayleaf Farmhouse wearing Tudor clothing made for the project.

Clandon Park & Hatchlands, near Guildford, Surrey – Tuesday 25 September

These two National Trust properties are minutes away from each other, so we will visit one in the morning and the other after lunch. The Venetian architect, Giacomo Leoni, built Clandon Park in the early 1730s for the 2nd Lord Onslow. The National Trust has restored and redecorated the mansion, which contains a two-storied marble hall considered to be one of the best in Europe. The gardens include a parterre on the south side, a grotto and a 'Maori House'. Lunch can be taken in the restaurant or you may bring a picnic. In the afternoon we move on to Hatchlands Park. This is an 18th century mansion with Adam interiors, a collection of historic keyboard instruments and stunning Repton parkland.

Ticket price – National Trust members £10, non-members £21. Depart museum by coach 9.45am. Return 5.30pm approx.

How the Friends help the museum

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 12,500 individual members. Since its inception it has raised a total of £2.3 million for the museum, making a major contribution to the museum's work.

Fund raising events

Barn dance – Saturday 23 June at 6.30pm in the Downland Gridshell

By popular demand we are holding another barn dance this year with the same venue, same band and same ticket prices! Bring your picnic supper, which can be enjoyed during the allotted supper break, either indoors, or outside on top of the hill gazing at the spectacular museum site. We will have a fundraising raffle. So gather your friends and family, all ages welcome, and enjoy a fun evening.

Tickets available from the museum shop, tel 01243 811210. Adults £10, Children £5, Family ticket (2 adults and two children) £25.

Michaelmas Supper – Saturday 29th September

Again by popular demand we are holding a Michaelmas supper in the medieval hall from Sole Street. Arriving at 7.00pm, you will be greeted with a glass of wine and canapés followed by a two-course meal. Numbers are limited due to space. We will have a fundraising raffle. Tickets are available from Sarah Casdagli on 01243 811726.

Application is on the enclosed booking form, following 'Day Trips'. Ticket price £20.

How to book

A BOOKING FORM for the trips and events is included with this magazine. **Closing date is 31 March. In the event of a cancellation, no refund will be made unless the ticket can be re-sold. Gratuity to coach drivers is included in the price. Booking forms should be sent to: Mrs Sarah Casdagli, Little Yarne, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0HA, not to the museum. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your tickets.**

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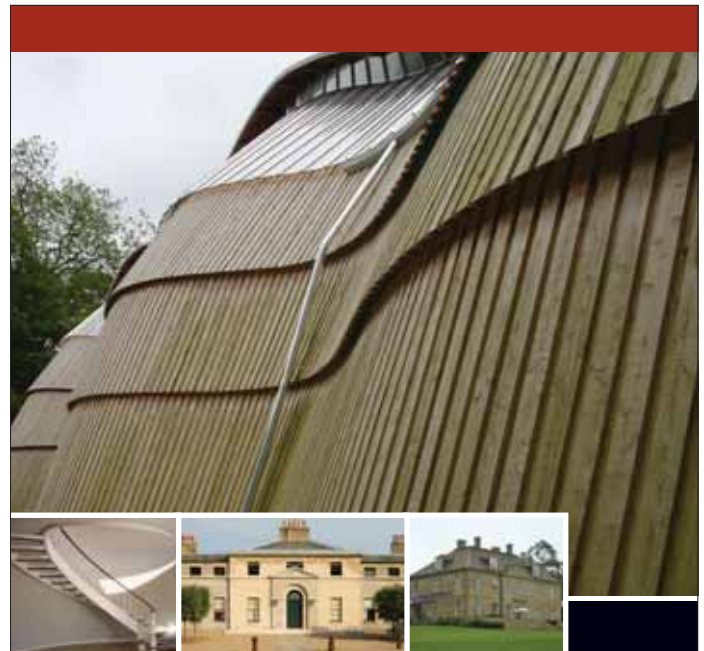
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Farming operations 2012

The museum will again be growing arable crops in the fields to the west of the museum site, below the Pendean Farmhouse paddock.

In partnership with master thatcher, Chris Tomkins, three acres of triticale (a tall hybrid of wheat and rye) will be grown. The variety was first bred in the late 19th century and is now used extensively for thatching straw throughout the country; as much as 75% of the cereal grown for thatching is thought now to be triticale.

Because of the excellent growing conditions last autumn, this year's crop is already well established, in contrast to the previous autumn when a larger acreage had to be resown, due to wildlife damage, mainly by pheasants. The museum has also been experiencing an increasing amount of deer damage around the site, particularly in the gardens.

On this area of ground, which is ploughed at the Autumn Countryside Show, the museum also hopes to grow a small area of potatoes, while the remaining acreage will be put down to grass for haymaking. We also continue to grow a small amount of the local variety, Chidham wheat, on the field strips next to Bayleaf Farmhouse.

£27,000

– the cost of keeping the museum's working Shire horses for the year. If you would like to sponsor these magnificent animals, please contact the museum director



The museum's working Shires can be seen around the site carrying out a range of tasks, here drawing the tip cart out of the market square, driven by volunteer Ros Hart, assisted by Brian Sylvester.

Last autumn, hops grown in front of the Wealden farmhouse were successfully brewed into a 'Harvest Ale' called 'On the Hop' by Ballards Brewery at Rogate (right). We plan a similar project again this autumn.

The museum's working horses, under the management of horseman Mark Buxton, continue to undertake a range of tasks around the site, including harrowing and rolling the grassland to keep it in good shape, preparing the arable fields for crops including ploughing and drilling, and carting activities such as clearing ditches of autumn leaves.

The flock of Southdown ewes were soon to lamb as the magazine went to press, in time for the museum's Easter celebrations, and the Tamworth pigs (left) continue to attract much interest from visitors, as they enjoy rooting in their paddock near Bayleaf farmhouse.



► friends' news

Annual General Meeting

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Friends takes place on Saturday 28 April at 2.00pm in the Downland Gridshell. After a brief business meeting, the Museum Director, Richard Pailthorpe, will update us on the past year and plans for the coming year. Our guest speaker is to be Dr Sharon Kusunoki who is Head of Gallery, Archives, House & Collection at West Dean College. She will give an illustrated talk entitled The Surrealist Life of Edward James. Following this we will have tea and homemade cakes. Please do join us.

Tindalls Cottage

AS YOU will have read elsewhere in the magazine, 2012 will be an exciting year for the museum with the proposed re-erection of Tindalls Cottage in September. The Friends are aiming to be very much involved with this project and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant has been submitted by the Friends to help toward the substantial costs. We will also be aiming to organise other fundraising events to help with this exciting project.

Contacting the Friends

IF YOU have any queries about your membership, the office contact details are as follows: Friends of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU. Tel: 01243 811893. Email: friends@wealddown.co.uk. The office is manned part-time, normally on a Monday and Thursday morning, though this can vary. If your call is not answered please leave a message and we will contact you as soon as possible. In the case of an urgent problem, call Sarah Casdagli on 01243 811726.

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Gardening with the Lazy Housewife!

The museum has created six period gardens to show the flowers, fruits, herbs and vegetables that would have been grown to meet the needs of ordinary country people through the centuries. Our visitors greatly enjoy them, and they look wonderful at the height of the summer season.

But the gardening team has no time to put their feet up during the winter! We've been kept busy carrying out a number of winter tasks including renovation pruning of the fruit trees in the orchard and gardens; replacing continuous hurdle fencing and traditional hedgelaying to provide stock-proof barriers. We've also been working on the Museum Herbarium, a collection of plants from around the museum site that have been dried, mounted, labelled and classified systematically to provide a historic plant record.

Planning and preparation work has also been carried out, such as updating the period gardens plans and seed lists for this year. Where possible we grow varieties suitable for the period, i.e.



Bayleaf farmhouse, with marigolds looking their best at the height of summer last year.

'Black Spanish Round' radishes circa 1500s, 'Martock' broad beans circa 1200s and 'Crimson Flowered' broad beans circa 1700s. Some varieties have interesting names, such as 'Lazy Housewife' French beans circa 1700s, and 'Fat Lazy Blonde' and 'Drunken Woman' lettuce circa 1800s – there seems to be a pattern emerging, perhaps named by men!

I have also been working closely with the Interpretation team preparing talks, walks, displays and demonstrations for the coming year. We are planning a **Historic Gardens Week**, from **Saturday 23 – Friday 29 June**. There will be an exhibition, which will include the Museum Herbarium, demonstrations, displays, guided tours and talks.

Before we know it, spring will have well and truly sprung and we will be very busy preparing the gardens for sowing. Spring is always an exciting time of year, full of anticipation and great optimism. There are so many wonderful plants to look forward to – sweet violets and primroses, sweet rocket and sweet cicely, heavenly scented roses and vibrant coloured marigolds – what a wonderful thought. So with the help and support from a dedicated team of volunteers, I'm looking forward to a challenging, productive and successful year in the period gardens. Here's hoping for some decent weather and that the pigeons, mice, voles, rabbits and deer don't decimate our crops!

Carlotta Holt
Museum Gardener



Look out for new textiles on your next visit

The museum's busy Needlework Group continues to meet monthly to carry out a variety of projects. Several are recently, or about to be, completed and worth looking out for on your next visit to the museum.

- A set of Tudor napkins (a yard square) for the Bayleaf Farmhouse table. Sit down and try out your Tudor table manners.

- A new Tudor outfit so that, holidays and illnesses permitting, there should be at least one costumed interpreter in Winkhurst Tudor kitchen every day.
- A new quilt for the cot in Whittaker's Cottages, of a suitable late Victorian design ('Tumbling Blocks') and materials.
- A thick cotton mattress stuffed with feathers for the Beeding toll house.
- Linen hand-stitched to size and prepared for the window fittings made by Roger Champion for Poplar Cottage.
- The first set of bedding completed for

Poplar Cottage (flock filled mattress, pillows, bolster and their covers, sheets and hand-dyed blanket).

- Two new schoolmistresses' blouses for schools workshop leaders to wear.

Other ongoing work includes sets of Medieval clothing, hand-spun and knitted Tudor hose, more bedding for Poplar Cottage, the house from Walderton and the Beeding toll house, Victorian underpinnings, a patchwork quilt for Whittaker's Cottages, linen cloths, and repairs and maintenance of existing textiles.

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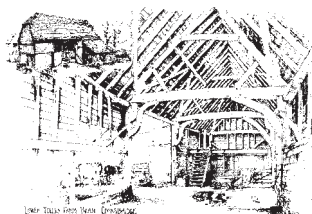
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A timeless scene, as stewards wearing clothing from the period make the bed in Bayleaf farmhouse.

The Interpretation department's presentation on the Historic Clothing Project for the Medieval Dress & Textile Society (MEDATS) at the British Museum last October and our article in its newsletter continues to produce feedback. At the time of writing we are looking forward to a presentation on our Victorian clothing to the Horsham Embroiderers Guild, and an appearance at Who Do You Think You Are? at Olympia, helping publicise the museum on its stand at the event.

In March Barbara Painter (our professional mentor for the project) will be referencing the museum's work in her talk on Stuart Clothing for the Costume Society in Bath – and I will again be showing my wanton streak and taking my clothes off in front of a large audience! It's all good publicity for our future plans, and to help obtain funding to put the documentary evidence amassed so far into a publishable format.

Lesley Parker
Museum Interpreter

Nurturing children's interest outside the classroom

Structured visits to the museum from schools provide children with an interesting focus on many subjects and a chance to get out of the classroom and explore things in a different way: they are an important element of our educational offer, delivered by Schools Services Officer Laura Dyke and her team.

Among new elements are a Key Stage 2 archaeology workshop, developed by Schools Services assistant, Nancy Wright, and a Victorian country walk through the museum designed around the seasons and activities on that day, which gives children an idea of things their forebears would have encountered on their walk to and from school.

The museum took part in the National Farmhouse Breakfast Week in January. All the schools visiting that week heard a short talk on period breakfasts with appropriate tasters served by staff in period clothing. Rough wholemeal bread with small (non-alcoholic) ale for the Tudors, or bread and dripping with black tea for the Victorians, was served. The 200 or so



Bread and dripping served at the museum during National Farmhouse Breakfast Week for children from North Mundham Primary School experiencing a Victorian breakfast: with them is interpreter Cathy Flower Bond.

children involved all went home with sticker badges and booklets on healthy breakfasts.

Following the success of previous years, our Teachers' Preview Day gave teachers the opportunity to visit the museum with their families, while we showcased the range of services the museum can offer right across the curriculum and the different Key Stages. Teachers were also able to watch some workshops and talk to staff about their own special requirements.

1,439
– the number
of school
workshops
delivered in
2011

There was an excellent turnout to the Sussex Environmental Education Forum (SEEF) when the theme was 'Trees'. Some 30 participants toured the timber buildings and the woods, visiting the coppice area to discover the use of coppice products, guided by the museum's woodsman, and supplemented by contributions from educators from across the county. All offer educational experiences outside the classroom: the next gathering will be held at RSPB Pulborough Brooks.

The museum was the venue for a Pancake Race on Shrove Tuesday for all the children of Singleton and West Dean Schools. Races in age groups were very competitive! It was great fun, bringing the children of the neighbouring villages together.

The museum has been awarded a place on a Renaissance-funded Sustainable Learning Partnership together with several other local museums including Amberley Working Museum and Fishbourne Roman Palace. The project is based on marketing learning for a sustainable future and we are working with a consultant on attracting more secondary schools to visit the museum.

Diana Rowsell
Head of Learning

Weavers, spinners and dyers gather at the museum for their biennial exhibition

The museum is to host the biennial exhibition of the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers on 16-27 July, coinciding with the popular Rare Breeds Show.

The association is made up of over 100 guilds from across the UK, as well as an online guild, which includes members from all over the world. "By bringing the association's national exhibition to the museum at the same time as the show we are creating a wonderful opportunity to see the rare breed sheep and the wonderful work that can be produced in the hands of highly skilled weavers, spinners and dyers," says the association's Angela Colbridge.

The UK has the largest number of different breeds of sheep in the world. In recent years there has been a resurgence in the popularity of knitting, together with an increasing awareness of and interest in using different wools. For spinners, weavers and dyers the fleece produced by each breed presents many interesting challenges, as each breed produces very different wool, which is used in many different ways. For example,



sheep such as Rough Fell from the hills of Cumbria produce wool ideally suited for making rugs, while Shetland wool can be used for work as fine as lace.

The exhibition is in two parts. The first consists of selected items and showcases the finest work from all the guilds. Each member is allowed to submit up to two pieces of original work, with the final decision made by a panel of three expert judges.

The second part is the open section, which enables all guild members to display their work. This year's theme is 'Rings' to coincide with the London Olympics, with the only criteria that the completed work has to fit within a 6in ring.

Guild members will be on hand during the exhibition to answer visitors' questions, and many will be demonstrating spinning and weaving. Further information on the association can be found at <http://www.wsd.org.uk>

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Stonemasons create a new font for South Wonston Church

To complete the furnishing of St Margaret's Church from South Wonston, opened last year, the museum commissioned stonemasons Will Davies and Tom Brown to make a replica of the original font which stood in the church (the original having been retained by the parish of South Wonston for their new church).



Stonemasons Will Davies and Tom Brown with the font and Dr Roger Buxton who funded the replica font project. Dr Buxton, the husband of volunteer and Friends' committee member, the late Diana Buxton, made a donation in her memory.

After the 'roughing out' work carried out in Will's London studio, the semi-finished font was brought to the stonemasons' demonstration area in Court Barn at the museum in the summer, where visitors were able to see the work in progress. The font was installed in the church in the autumn, where it stands in exactly the same place as the original font.

The museum was delighted to re-establish contact with Will and Tom, who first came to the museum while studying at the London City & Guilds College of Art. They learned to interact with



St Margaret's Church from South Wonston, re-erected at the museum.

visitors and introduced the work of the stonemason to a wide audience. Now, they are both award-winning stonemasons and stonecarvers in their own right, with The Royal Household, the Palaces of Westminster and the Victoria & Albert Museum among their clients.

Innovative in their approach, Will and Tom will be demonstrating in Court Barn again during the 2012 season. They are the very people to enthuse a younger audience, who may wonder what direction their careers might take and will have their eyes opened to the possibility of a career in stonemasonry, a traditional crafts that is still alive and thriving. This is very much in keeping with the museum's aims.



Will Davies and Tom Brown working on the font in Court Barn.

The stone used for the new font is Mocca Crème Limestone, quarried in Portugal, and much like Portland Limestone in colour and texture, reacts to the chisel in a similar way. Supplied by Cathedral Works Organisation, Chichester, the stone received a polished finish, revealing the matrix of fossil life within.

Photographs of the original font were taken to give the best representation of each moulding, along with detailed measurements. The geometry of each piece was set out: a section of the bowl, the mouldings on the collar and base and the panels on the shaft. Each separate piece was cut into an octagonal shape.

The underside of the bowl was shaped. Then, on each face of the octagon a curved surface was worked through a series of chamfers, flat surfaces at different angles that just touch on the surface of the desired curved surface. The flat surfaces get smaller and smaller until just a smoothing off is required. The inside of the bowl was worked using a wooden 'reverse template'. This is largely worked by eye: cutting the stone and marking the high points where the template touches, taking off the high points and trying the template again, until the desired surface is reached.

The geometry of the shaft panels was worked from detailed measurements and photos. The panels were carved in stages –

- Stage 1 Cut each panel to its deepest depth (ensuring a square edge is important)
- Stage 2 The 5mm fillet around the outside was cut in
- Stage 3 A chamfer is cut from the top edge of the 'cavetto' to the bottom edge
- Stage 4 The 'cavetto' is shaped using a chisel called a gouge
- Stage 5 Finishing, working around the entire panel ensuring each line is straight and surface square. Usually just a scraping of stone is to be removed, but this stage makes the difference to the final work.

The collar and base were worked in the same way, chamfers used to remove the large amounts of material to start with, then the mouldings worked from the geometry.



Carving the design.



The shaft geometry is worked out from photographs and measurements.



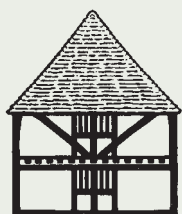
Checking the final work, by eye.

Spring is sprung!



The 2012 season begins with **Open House on Mothering Sunday** on **18 March** when entry is at the special price of £2 for everyone and mothers and grandmothers receive our traditional complimentary bunch of daffodils. **Easter Sunday and Monday** are on **8/9 April**, a delightful time to visit, with Easter celebra-

tions, newborn lambs, and our working horses carrying out seasonal activities around the site. There are children's activities on Wednesdays during the Easter school holidays. On **7-9 April** you can discover how the Tudors lived when the museum hosts a visit from **The Tudor Group** historical interpretation society. Then on **6/7 May** the museum's popular **Food & South Downs Fair** will take place, with more than 80 stands offering a wonderful choice of produce – local vegetables and fruit, meats, cheeses, wines, sauces, ciders and beers, ice cream, cakes and confectionery. The event will be attended by the South Downs National Park Authority and include ideas for recreational activity on the Downs. **Traditional Midsummer Day celebrations** take place on **24 May**, with dancing around the maypole, Morris Dancing and traditional music, and the month ends with the annual **Heavy Horse Spectacular** on **26/27 May**, 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 in the main ring, as well as other working animals in action. Pictured are, left, daffodils and cowslips in the garden of Poplar Cottage, and above, a busy trade stand at the Food & South Downs Fair.



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