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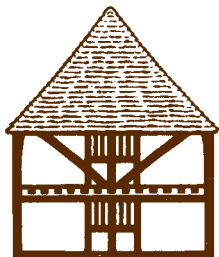
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WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

SPRING 2016

From the Director



Louise Adams

2016 is going to be a very eventful and exciting year revolving around the Gateway Project, which is now truly underway. There are inevitably going to be some disruptions and challenges during the construction process, such as the work to the millpond and re-landscaping the car parks, but the operational side of the museum will function as usual.

The medieval house from Sole Street and the Pallingham Quay wagon shed were successfully dismantled during the latter part of 2015 and the site cleared awaiting the arrival of the building contractors who start construction work at the beginning of March. Pilbeam Construction Ltd of Southwick, near Shoreham, have been appointed, and they will work towards completing the complex of buildings by the end of the year, with fitting out over the winter months of 2016/17. The museum will be closed over the winter to enable this work to take place.

The project alone demands full-time leadership from the museum, on top of 'business as usual' and the transitional changes needed for the museum to take full advantage of the opportunities that this major investment brings. Taking all factors into account we have taken the decision that I will focus on leading and managing the implementation of the Gateway Project as its Project Director. The museum's trustees are therefore recruiting a new Museum Director during the early part of this year. It had always been my intention to retire in 2017, which, with our project time-scale, coincides with the completion of the Gateway Project.

Our event programme this year will include the fascinating spectacle of 'raising the frame' of the house from Sole Street on its new site during June: the re-erection of our historic buildings always draw a crowd. We hope many people will take the opportunity of visiting the museum on a regular basis to follow not only the reconstruction of this important building, but also watch the Gateway construction in progress. A new information leaflet has been produced listing all the dates and activities for the year ahead.

Work has been gradually moving forward with the construction of the Anglo-Saxon House. The thatching, using our own home-produced wheat straw was completed in the autumn, and the wall panels are currently being wattled by volunteers, with daubing planned for the spring. The house will be another valuable exhibit building for the collection and, notably, for school visits.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the very many individuals, trusts, local authority bodies, the South Downs National Park, and the staff and volunteers whose support and commitment make this such a special museum.

Richard Pailthorpe
Museum Director



Poplar Cottage, the museum's mid-17th century labourer's cottage, with green shoots of teasels appearing in late spring

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Food & Folk Festival – 1/2 May

Enjoy the very best of the South East's produce with lots of tasty samples to try and buy at this popular spring event. Cookery classes and demonstrations will take place in the Cookery Theatre, and there will be traditional folk music, dancing and storytelling, crafts, books and plants. The Pelican-in-her-Piety Living History Group will reveal the secrets of medieval life. Visit the website www.wealddown.co.uk/events/food-and-folk for more information.



Gateway Project – construction begins this month



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



The museum has appointed Pilbeam Construction Ltd of Southwick, near Shoreham as building contractors for the visitor facility buildings which form the major element of the £5.5 million Heritage Lottery Fund-supported Gateway Project. Construction work will begin on 7 March.

The site has been prepared over the autumn and winter 2015, with Joe Thompson, the museum's Carpenter-in-residence leading the dismantling of the medieval house from Sole Street and the wagon shed from Pallingham Quay, West Sussex, which formed our catering facility. The removal of trees from the site was undertaken by Tree Medics of East Dean, which has opened up the site as you enter the museum, but this will be screened off before construction begins. The new buildings which will emerge by the end of the year will include ticketing, retail and catering facilities as well as the Interpretation Gallery.

The work provides an opportunity to carry out much-needed repair and maintenance work to the millpond and the mill. The contractors will need to drain the pond to carry out the construction work, and at first this will involve creating a temporary bund next to the Gateway site. The mill is likely to be out of operation for about six weeks during March and April, but everything will be done to minimise disruption to the

wildlife and visitor enjoyment.

Another element of the Gateway Project is the Activity Plan, and as part of this Lucy Hockley organised a most successful Careers Forum in the autumn (see also page 16).

The plan also includes traineeships to assist with the project's implementation. We welcomed George Grime and Tarun Ingvorsen in the autumn working in marketing and site management, and Richard Toogood and Claire Vidler

joined earlier this year as building conservation trainees, who will work primarily on the medieval house from Sole Street (see opposite). Further trainee appointments focusing on schools, interpretation, collections and gardening, and a Community Engagement Officer, will have taken up their posts by March.

Work is also well underway to develop exciting and informative content for the Interpretation Gallery (see page 4). And the project also includes improved interpretation and way-finding on the museum site, a redesigned car parking with more spaces, plus safer and easier access to the museum.

**56,900 –
the number of
cleft chestnut
shingles being
made for the
Gateway
Project**

The two project launch events at the beginning of October 2015 were a great success and the museum would like to thank everyone for the fantastic support for our fundraising appeal so far (see below). The new facilities are expected to be opened to the public in spring 2017. To learn more about the project, visit www.wealddown.co.uk/gateway.

Would you like to help?

Most of the finance for the Gateway Project comes from the Heritage Lottery Fund (£4 million) for which we are most grateful. We have been fundraising for another £1.5 million, and have received most generous support from grant-making trusts, local councils, the South Downs National Park, and many private donors, to whom we say a very heart-felt thank you. We are nearly there, but still require another £200,000. Some of you have already bought shingles as a way of supporting the project (see below) and these will continue to be available in the coming season. The museum is also running a number of fundraising activities (see pages 30/31). Any support you can give would be greatly welcomed and appreciated. You can help us by contacting the Museum Director on 01243 811363, or by going online via Justgiving at www.wealddown.co.uk/gateway/

Museum wins Sussex Visitor Attraction of the Year!

The museum was named Sussex Visitor Attraction of the Year in the Sussex Life Magazine awards at the Hilton Brighton Metropole in October. Organisations and individuals are nominated by readers of the magazine. The Sussex Visitor Attraction of the Year Award – one of 17 categories

– was open to visitor attractions in Sussex that increase footfall into the county. Museum Director Richard Pailthorpe said: "We are proud and delighted to have been named Sussex Visitor Attraction of the Year. This award is a fantastic endorsement of our designated collection of rescued historic vernacular buildings from across the South East. It is also testament to our dedicated team of staff and volunteers, whose energy, passion and enthusiasm help to make a trip to the museum a fantastic day out for visitors of all ages." Richard is pictured, centre, receiving the award.



Get involved . . . and sponsor a shingle!

West Sussex woodland craftsman, Ben Law, is making chestnut shingles for some of the museum's new visitor centre buildings and you can help pay for these by sponsoring a shingle for £5 each. They can be 'bought' at the museum shop, and you can write your own message on each one and become a permanent part of the project! Pictured is Ben making the shingles at his workshop in the woods at Lodsworth.



Museum Director to take charge of Gateway Project

The Museum Director, Richard Pailthorpe, is switching to a new role to focus on delivering the Gateway Project as its Project Director. This means that, from early summer, the museum will have a new Museum Director leading the museum on a daily basis who will take the institution forward after the Gateway Project is completed. Recruitment of the new Director began in January.

Richard said: "Running a project like this is a full-time job for a director. Given that I am planning to retire after the project is completed and that I have been so involved in its development to date, it makes sense for me to take the lead in this final construction stage. I want to see a finished project that the museum can be proud of for years to come." Chairman of Trustees, Paul Rigg, said: "We are fortunate to have Richard at the helm for this final stage of the project. These projects are a major challenge and he has a detailed understanding of what we are trying to achieve with the Gateway Project and cares deeply about getting it right."

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The Gateway Interpretation Gallery

For a knowledge-based institution the work in progressing the new Interpretation Gallery is perhaps the most important part of the Gateway project. Once visitors have bought their tickets, this will be their first experience on their way out to the site, serving as an introductory gallery.

A small team of staff from the curatorial and interpretation departments is working alongside gallery designer Jonothan Potter and Gateway project manager Jason Lowe on the detailed content of the gallery, writing text and sourcing images and artefacts for the displays. The plans are exciting and promise to provide a clear and interesting introduction to the museum's collection via three areas, preparing visitors for what they will find on the site.

Gallery One focuses on landscape, and includes the geology of the Weald and the North and South Downs; the distinctive agricultural and woodland types and how they have influenced the vernacular architecture of the area, the people and their lives, homes and work.

Gallery Two focuses on buildings, and includes the different types of vernacular building, why and how they have been rescued and re-erected on the site; building techniques and the history of the museum itself.

Between Galleries Two and Three is a small transitional area dedicated to the South Downs National Park: the museum is a gateway to the National Park and this section will reflect the work of the SDNPA and our connection with it.

Gallery Three prepares visitors for 'What's on today', and includes images of life and activities which take place all year round at the museum, divided into the four seasons. Seasonal changes dictated the rhythm of the lives of the occupants of our houses – and still inform the work carried out on a daily basis on the site: the core of our live interpretation. There will be a daily list of what is happening, information leaflets, trails and details of future events – everything the visitor will need to get the best out of their day's visit. From here they will step out on to the museum site, and be well equipped to enjoy, learn and understand our collections.

Karen Searle Barrett

IN BRIEF

SOUTHDOWN SHEEP SOCIETY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The Southdown Sheep Society is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, and on 6/7 August members will gather at the museum to attend a service of recognition and thanksgiving in the church from South Wonston, led by Steve and Paul Humphreys, Southdown sheep farmers from East Dean, close to the museum. There will be a special focus on our sheep and shepherding exhibits along with a self-guided tour of appropriate buildings and artefacts. It is testament to the society's work that the Southdown sheep is no longer on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's at-risk register.

New future for medieval house – ‘Raising the Frame’ event – 18/19 June

In preparation for the Gateway Project visitor facility we have dismantled the medieval hall house from Sole Street, Kent, and the wagon shed from Pallingham Quay, West Sussex, which have been used since their re-erection on the museum site as our catering facility. The new site for the wagon shed is being considered, but the site for the medieval house has been chosen.

It will be rebuilt in summer on the edge of the clump of trees close to the current site of the sheepfold between the market square and Bayleaf farmhouse, with the frame re-erected at a ‘Raising the Frame’ event over the weekend of 18/19 June.

Once the building is complete it will house an exhibition exploring the history and development of medieval houses, focusing on those in the museum’s collection. Themes that will be covered include the origins and evolution of the medieval house plan; the decline of the open hall and new house types; room use and household furnishings; houses and social status, and how medieval houses were built.

The medieval house from Sole Street

By Danae Tankard

The medieval house known as ‘Sole Street’ was originally located in the hamlet of Sole Street in the parish of Crundale in Kent about 10 miles south west of Canterbury.

Sole Street, thought to date from the 15th century, is an example of an aisled house. The use of aisles was a practical solution where the ground plan of a timber-framed building was too wide to be spanned by a single tie beam. The space was divided into a central nave and side aisles, with the collared rafters supported on the arcade plates, with short aisle rafters resting on the wall plates. However, in the case of Sole Street, a relatively small timber-framed house, the use of aisles probably reflects local carpentry traditions. Aisled or ‘quasi-aisled’ (having an aisle on one side only) houses were relatively common in Kent in the 14th century and continued to be built in the 15th century. Sole Street is one of a number of similar single-bay aisled halls in the North Downs near Canterbury. By the late 14th century new house types were emerging in Kent, in particular the ‘Wealden’ house with its jettied upper chambers and unitary roof.

In plan, Sole Street follows the standard late medieval convention with an open hall separating an upper or high end and a service or low end, with a cross-passage entry between the hall and the service end. In the 16th century the original service end was replaced with a two-bay cross wing, giving a pair of service rooms on the ground floor and a two-bay chamber on the first floor. The wing was jettied at the end of the building.

The early history of Sole Street

The early history of Crundale is not well documented. In 1798 the parish was described as ‘containing . . . not more than 24 houses’ and as being in an ‘out of the way situation, having little or no traffic through it’. The earliest map of the hamlet of Sole Street is the Crundale Tithe Map of 1839 which shows a number of properties spread out in a linear development along the main road (Sole Street). Our building is numbered 237. By that



The medieval house from Sole Street, Kent on its original site, and just before dismantling took place in the autumn on its site at the museum. Its new site will be on the edge of the clump of trees close to the current site of the sheepfold between the market square and Bayleaf farmhouse.

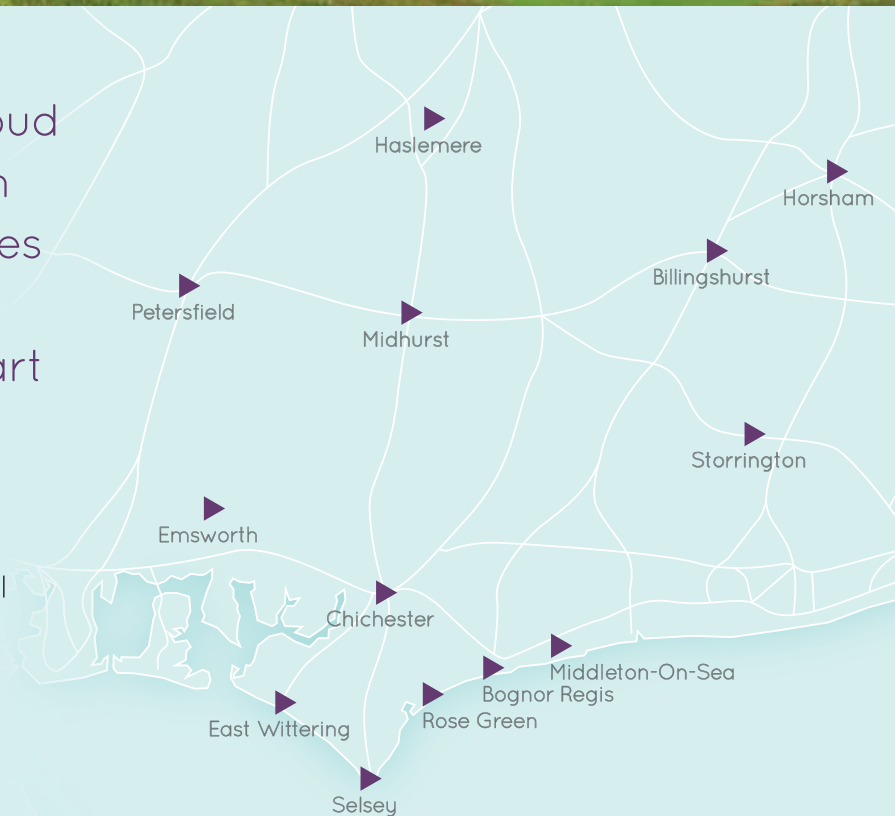
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► date it had been divided into two cottages occupied by John Chambers and Henry Hoare.

Sole Street lay within the manor of Wye which until the Dissolution was held by Battle Abbey. Research undertaken by Rex Lancefield in the 1970s identified a number of tenants of a tenement known as 'Marchallis', which he presumed to be the museum's building. In 1430 the tenement was held by Richard Marshall and is described as a messuage and 1½ acres (the house and garden) with 16 acres adjoining in 'Marchaldane' and a mixture of arable, pasture and woodland, in all amounting to 51 acres, probably scattered about the hamlet. Marshall also held a second property described as a messuage and 3 acres of land.

In 1530 the tenement was held by John Chapman and is described as a messuage and 1½ acres of land formerly belonging to Wilfred Carter. We know from Chapman's will of 1531 that he also held land in the adjoining parish of Chilham. In his will he bequeathed two bushels of barley to his grandchildren and all his 'household stuff, corn and cattle' to his wife, Julian, except for a young cow which he bequeathed to his son, Lawrence. In his will of 1559 Lawrence Chapman bequeathed to his son, John, his 'tenements called Marchallis . . . with all manner of lands and woods belonging to the same'. At that time John was living in 'Marchallis'; Lawrence was living in another property called 'Hunts' which he bequeathed to his wife, Alice.

There is no socio-economic or occupational information for any of the early tenants or inhabitants of Sole Street but it is reasonable to assume that they were yeomen.

The acquisition and re-erection of Sole Street

Sole Street was first offered to the museum in 1967 at which time it was described as 'derelict'. It had been divided into two cottages some time before 1839 and each cottage was in separate ownership. One half had been empty for years and the other had been occupied until the early 1960s. Permission had been given to pull the building down and build a new house in the site. At a meeting of the museum's Sites and Buildings Committee in May 1968 it was agreed that Sole Street 'was a sufficiently rare and important building for every effort to be made to secure the frame, however much it might need replacement or reconstruction'. When the building was dismantled in 1970 it was discovered that the medieval timbers were in a poor state of preservation and many were missing altogether. The elm timbers of the hall had been so badly infested with beetles that the main posts broke up and could not be rescued.

The surviving timbers remained in store until 1988 when Richard Harris, then Research Director, began a detailed examination of them. Despite their fragmentary state it was considered that the building's frame could be reconstructed with a degree of certainty. A process of timber repair followed and in late 1990 the museum's Master Carpenter Roger Champion began to erect the frame, combining original timbers with a substantial quantity of new timber. The building opened as part of the museum's new catering facilities in 1991, providing an indoor seating area for those using the museum's café.

Sole Street on the move again

Dismantling Sole Street presented a range of unusual challenges, says the museum's Carpenter-in-residence, Joe Thompson, who is leading the project.

As Dr Danae Tankard explains in the preceding article, the structure is a good example of alternate rebuilding, with its late 14th century/mid 15th century hall and private retiring room, and late 15th century/mid 16th century service end. The earlier hall was mainly built with elm that had extensively decayed by the time it was dismantled in 1968. The later cross wing with its end jetty (a style prevalent in Kent during this period) was built using oak and had survived in much greater quantity and better condition. As a result of this, when Roger Champion repaired the building in 1990 the hall range contained relatively few original timbers that were supplemented by large quantities of new elm studs, braces and plates.

Dismantling this range, therefore, was akin to taking down a 25-year-old building rather than one that had seen 540 or more summers. Instead of the oak pins and treenails being decayed, broken or non-existent they turned out to be in 'good as new' condition and very firmly fixed, and many needed to be drilled out. Similarly the nails encountered were not corroded old wrought iron spikes but tough new steel roseheads and galvanised wire-nails that needed cutting with a mechanical hacksaw to release the timbers.

The oak cross wing turned out to share the issues with the oak pins and steel nails especially with the elm floorboards to the chamber. Once the fixings were removed the timbers came apart with some difficulty but were generally in good condition apart from the bases of the doorposts abutting the York Stone paving. One aspect that only became easily apparent once the tiles were off is that the elm wallplates had undergone a degree of permanent deflection or 'creep' over the length of the hall. These will require restraint to prevent further movement when the building is re-erected.

The next stage in the process is to bring all the timbers into the Downland Gridshell and examine them more carefully. I will be assisted with this work by the two building conservation trainees taken on as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund support for the Gateway Project, who will have an opportunity to work through these timbers and see how repair options and recommendations are drawn up. Then we will start raising the frame on its new site on 18 June.



Two views of Sole Street during dismantling from its catering facility site.

Dismantling Pallingham Quay

This building's story runs across four centuries and four major events, writes the museum's Carpenter-in-residence *Joe Thompson*, who led the project to remove the building from the Gateway Project site. It will eventually find a new home elsewhere on the museum site.

The structure was originally built in the 18th century as a three bay shed with hipped roof terminals over. Recent research by Dr Danae Tankard has unearthed a survey map of 1777 showing it as part of Pallingham Quay Farm, near Wisborough Green, Sussex, when it was owned by the Onslow family prior to being incorporated into the Leconfield Estate in 1790. However, it was separate from the main farmstead and aligned nominally east to west in a corner of a field some distance away from the main trackway to the farm.

Whilst the wall frames are fully braced both along and across, there is no nail or mortice evidence for any studs. This, combined with the lack of nail evidence on the external faces of the jowl posts, is interpreted as the shed being open-sided all round. The bases of the jowl posts could have sat on short pads on stone or brick piers, similar to the drying shed from Petersfield, now at the museum. They could also have had earthfast spurs fixed to them to prevent them being dislodged, similar to those on the open shed from Charlwood, now at the museum.

The most curious detail found in this first phase is the fact that the jowls on the posts were originally cut to a common length of about 500mm (20in) but were cut shorter to about 350mm (14in) during construction to enable the brace mortices to be more easily cut. Usually if such short cross-frame braces are used, a housing is cut out of the jowl rather than it being shortened. Other comparable buildings re-erected at the museum use



The Pallingham Quay wagon shed during dismantling, and the building on its original site (in a photograph by the museum's founder, Roy Armstrong).

longer cross-frame braces that mortice into the posts below the jowl.

The function of the building is unknown but probably incorporated both cart/wagon/machinery storage and a saw-shed. The evidence for this is a series of saw-kerfs on both tiebeams, similar to those on the Wiston wagon shed and Charlwood open shed, and a significant amount of race-knifed initials (W M, N D, G B, etc.), numerals (1810? 1816? 1841 and 1891? etc.), and tally marks scratched onto the internal sawn surfaces of the braces and tiebeams.

Judging by the pattern of fractured cross-frame mortices the southern elevation of the building I interpret as having partially collapsed during the 19th century. The building was then both repaired in-situ to restore the frame and then had timbers added into the wall frames, so as to enclose it with timber siding (vertical boarding) on all four sides. There are angled holes drilled in a regular pattern that I view as evidence for feeding racks being added to two of the walls and some re-used wallplates being used to form the jambs of two new doorways, the function of the building now being a shelter shed/stable, probably for cattle. The farm

was leased to successive members of the Evershed family from the late 18th century to the early 20th century, so they would have been responsible for this phase.

It remained in this form throughout the 20th century before it was dismantled by contractors on behalf of the museum in early 1981, having been kindly donated by the Golden family who then owned the farm. The Museum Magazine (No 16) from August 1981 informs us that "The wagon shed from Pallingham Quay has been re-erected by John Booker on the old site of the Toll Cottage, and is now serving refreshments, run by Peggy Tall. Richard Pailthorpe was responsible for the development."

The building continued in use as a café during the 21st century until we dismantled the building in the autumn. During dismantling I established, from the nail evidence, that the rafters had been re-roofed twice.

So the lesson learned is that appearances can be deceptive, and even a simple 18th century agricultural building such as this can provide a number of fascinating details that add to our knowledge of how these buildings were built and used.

Special award for Roger Champion

Roger Champion, the museum's former Master Carpenter, has been awarded a Balfour of Burleigh Tercentenary Prize for exceptional achievement in crafts.

The awards were made by The Radcliffe Trust to celebrate the success of the organisations and individuals it has supported over the years. To mark its 300th anniversary the Tercentary Prizes, named after a former trustee, were awarded to those who have displayed excellence in their field. This year's ceremony took place at The Travellers Club in London's Pall Mall.

Roger joined the museum in its earliest days in 1968, retiring 35 years later in 2003. Among the historic building exhibits on which he worked are the tread-wheel from Catherington, Hampshire; the early 15th century Bayleaf farmhouse, from Chiddingstone, Kent; the aisled barn from Hambrook, West Sussex and the 17th century labourer's house, Poplar Cottage from Washington, West Sussex. His skills in traditional carpentry and knowledge of medieval timber-framed building techniques and joinery have





Above, from left to right, Museum Director Richard Pailthorpe, Roger Champion, Lord Balfour and Lady Balfour, and below, Roger working on furniture for Pendean farmhouse.


been much admired by his peers working in the field.

Museum Director Richard Pailthorpe said: "Roger has quite literally built the vast majority of the museum's collection of historic buildings from the ground up. All but two of the timber-framed buildings were erected using Roger's expertise and he has made almost all of the authentic replica furniture, which shows how people would have lived and worked in our historic houses. This award is a testament to his devotion to the museum and his commitment to always getting things right, without compromise."

Since retirement Roger works at the museum as a volunteer and continues to produce furniture for the museum's exhibits to an excellent standard: all are based on surviving artefacts in museums or on evidence from artwork and documents. His latest piece is a replica Tudor livery cupboard, which is on display in Bayleaf farmhouse.

 **tripadvisor** "I love this place. It's the prefect retreat for a slow, rural day enjoying learning about the past in a very gentle, authentic way."

 **tripadvisor** "All the staff/volunteers were really friendly and helpful and made the visit extra special."

 **tripadvisor** "I've been coming here for nearly 30 years and loved every visit. From coming here as a child, to visiting the Christmas fair with my partner, to bringing my own children, I wouldn't change a thing."

Forty years at the museum for Pendean farmhouse



Pendean farmhouse, a key exhibit in the story of the development of the vernacular house in our region, was re-erected on the site 40 years ago. Dendrochronology-dated to 1609, the small yeoman farmhouse was dismantled from Pendean, near Midhurst, in 1968 and rose in its new home in 1976. It represents the stage in house building when the open hall gave way to a brick chimney, a revolutionary change which began in the mid-16th century. Pendean still retains some medieval features, however, including unglazed windows. The owner in 1609 was Richard Clare, who farmed 40 acres of land on common land belonging to Woolavington Manor from his farmhouse and an associated barn, including herbage and pasture for 100 sheep and 14 bullocks.

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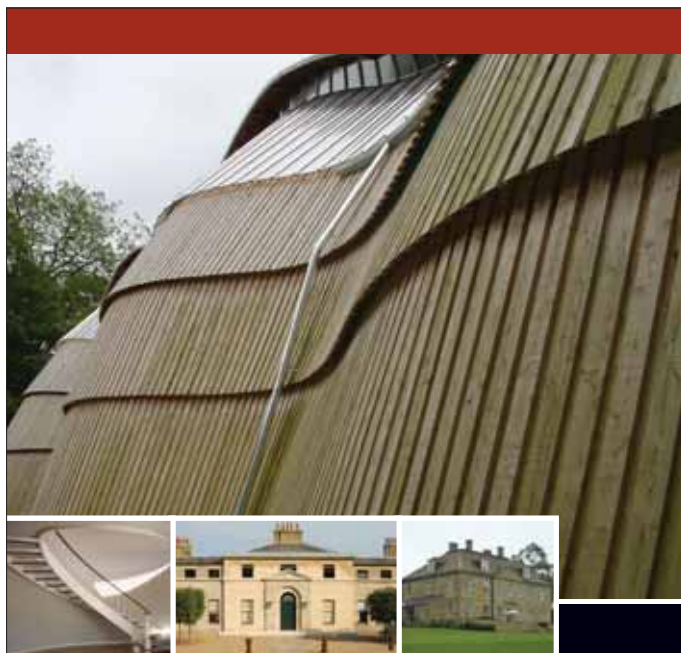
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From the Chairman

Would you like to be a trustee?



Two years ago I wrote about trustees and their role in running the museum. Last autumn we sought a review of our governance arrangements by respected museums consultant Adrian Babbidge of the Egeria Heritage Consultancy.

Adrian reported that “the museum’s successful development to date has been facilitated by highly-effective governance that reflects high levels of engagement and participation.” He went on to say that although its “. . . constitutional framework has served (the museum) well for approaching half a century . . . it could usefully be updated so that it is in line with modern practice.”

One of his principal recommendations, already agreed by the current trustees for implementation at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM), concerns trustees’ term of office.

The current Articles do not set a maximum period for which an individual can serve. Received wisdom is that time-bound terms of office for trustees are desirable, to enable transfusions of new blood to create opportunities for challenge that come with fresh perspectives, and to keep succession planning high on the board agenda. This needs to be balanced against the need for continuity and maintaining a bank of knowledge and experience about the charity’s operations.

The Combined Code of Governance for the business sector recommends three-year terms of office, with the number of renewals limited so that no board member serves for more than nine years in total. Lord Hodgson’s review of charities for the Cabinet Office in 2011 recommended a similar ceiling, and called for extensions beyond nine years to be justified in trustees’ annual reports. Similar provisions might be appropriate for the museum.

The museum’s AGM takes place at the end of April when at least three of our present trustees will be retiring. It is an appropriate time to introduce new blood with different skill sets to assist with the substantial changes in business arrangements that the new Gateway development will bring about.

Applications will therefore soon be sought from those interested in becoming a museum trustee. We will be particularly interested in hearing from candidates with the following expertise, but will also consider other applicants who can bring a different perspective and skills:

- Professional museum experience, to assist with museum development
- Academic (Further or Higher education or research), to help develop the very successful and sustainable learning programmes
- Fundraising, to assist with priority revenue/capital fund-raising
- Historic buildings, including architects and surveyors, to assist with project and site management
- Accountancy/finance, to assist with financial and risk management
- Legal, to assist with governance and risk
- Organisational change or a personnel management background, to help with restructuring
- Commercial, to assist with income generation, particularly retail and catering but also events
- Marketing, to help publicise the museum and reach new audiences

There are currently 17 trustees of which seven serve on the Executive Board. All trustees meet about three times a year including an ‘Away Day’. The board meets every other month. Two members currently serve on the separate Endowment Trust, while all members may find themselves asked to serve on various time-limited sub groups. For example, we currently have small sub groups for Gateway Project management, catering, retail, marketing, and fundraising. Non-trustees with specialist knowledge may be invited to join such groups. A new standing committee for audit and risk management is soon to be established.

With the current Museum Director’s decision to focus on delivery of the Gateway Project (reported elsewhere), there is a sub group of the board managing the recruitment of a new Director. Other examples of the current work of the board include strategy (including a forward plan and site management plan); annual budgeting; prioritising capital and maintenance projects such as new exhibits and re-thatching, and fund raising for these, and deciding future policy for catering and retail once the Gateway opens.

If you would be interested in becoming a trustee then please keep an eye on our website where the advertisement will appear soon with a role description and details of how to apply.

Paul Rigg
Chairman of Trustees



“We are so lucky having this museum on our doorstep. I paid for myself and my son to join this year. It’s really great value and one of our favourite places. You can just walk around if you wish, but there is so much to learn about.”

Discover more about our fascinating collections

New pages have been added to the museum’s website featuring our collection of rural trade and crafts artefacts. The collection of 15,000 items includes artefacts from across the south east, from craftsmen’s tools and traps, and saddles and smocks, to horse bells and historic chimney pots. Find out more at <http://www.wealldown.co.uk/explore/collections/>. You can visit the collection on site and marvel at its variety in the Downland Gridshell during special daily tours at 1.30pm.



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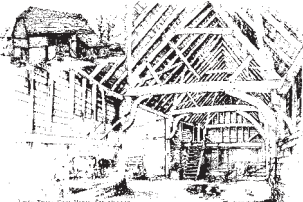


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Could you play a part in protecting the future of our architectural heritage?

The vernacular architecture of our towns, villages and countryside are important now, and will be even more vital for future generations. It provides a valuable insight into the way life was lived in the past and instil a sense of place for their communities. However, some important buildings cannot be restored in situ and these have often found their way to the museum to ensure their place in the region's architectural and social history is not lost.

The rescuing of the homes and workplaces of our ancestors, their conservation and re-erection on the museum site is an important and exciting element of our activity. But our work goes beyond rescuing these architectural treasures. Sensitive care and regular maintenance is needed to keep the fabric of the buildings in good condition, and their interpretation at the museum enables the public to access and fully understand their historical value.

The Weald & Downland is an independent museum, without any direct government support, and our income comes mainly from visitors, our lifelong learning programmes and our supportive Members. With significant ongoing maintenance costs, this income cannot secure and sustain the work of the museum alone.

A legacy to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum would help us secure the museum's future for the generations that follow, enabling them to enjoy and learn from their regional heritage. If you would like an informal discussion about making a gift in your will, please get in touch with our Museum Director on 01243 811363.

Thank you, donkeys

For many years the museum's heavy horse and autumn countryside events have included some small, perhaps easily overlooked, working animals. Largely ignored throughout history as they were the beasts of burden of the poor, these are the donkeys. Working to and from the cattle shed from Lurgashall, West Sussex, the stable from Watersfield, West Sussex and the animal pound from Walton Heath, Surrey, they were enjoyed by visitors, walking around the site with traditional panniers (baskets slung across their backs).

They also showed how capable they were, by working the horse-gin and chaff-cutter, raising well buckets in the horse whim from West Kingsdown, Kent, cultivating the Bayleaf Farmhouse hop garden, and moving large quantities of wood and timber from the coppice to the houses where it is required for fuel. The donkeys belong to Norman and Barbara Roger and

travelled to the museum from their home in Newdigate. Last year their horse-box had to be retired and Norman and Barbara decided it was time for them and the donkeys to retire as well. Three of their four donkeys are at or approaching the time when they should taking it a bit easy so we would like to thank Norman and Barbara for their great commitment over the years. Woodsman Jon Roberts adds: "I also want to offer a very personal thank you to them and the donkeys. I have only been working closely with them for a small proportion of their years at the museum, but, aside from the help they have given me with my work in the woods they have taught me a great deal about donkeys and their capabilities and character. Our staff, volunteers and visitors will miss you." Pictured is Norman Roger with one of the donkeys en route to work past Littlehampton Granary; Jon Roberts is at the back of the cart.



How one supporter helped the museum

In October 2015 the museum was grateful to receive a legacy of £15,000 from the estate of Dr Marie Clough, a supporter of the museum who had been a senior lecturer in the history department at Bognor Regis Training College (now part of the University of Chichester). She died at the age of 93 in 2011. A stalwart of the Sussex Record Society (SRS) for which she was a literary director, and also the Chichester branch of the Historical Association (of which she was twice president), Dr Clough was described by Andrew Foster in an obituary for the SRS as "one of a very small group of remarkable, very well educated woman scholars" of her generation. She worked at Benenden School in Kent, obtained a Leverhulme Research Fellowship to pursue medieval studies, taught part-time at Midhurst Grammar School, and then moved to Bognor Regis Training College. She was a member of the Keynes Society, and after her retirement served as a Liberal councillor on Chichester District Council. A naturalist, walker and traveller, Marie was renowned for her dry sense of humour, and "her cartoon doodling on committee papers".



Opening the Anglo-Saxon House – 14/15 October

The reconstruction of the Anglo-Saxon House at the museum, using carefully researched evidence, external specialists and a construction team with wide experience of timber framing, has been a special achievement for the museum.

The house has been thatched, and its wattle and daub walls will be ready in late spring, with the interior completed for the official opening on 14/15 October. Over the two-day event there will be a fascinating programme of talks, demonstrations and readings relevant to the Anglo-Saxon period. Full details will be on our website shortly. We hope many of you will join us for this



Chris Tomkins thatching the Anglo-Saxon House during the autumn.

special occasion, and if you are visiting between now and then those working on the structure will be happy to chat to visitors about their tasks.

The vital importance of donations

As a self-funded charity, the museum receives no regular Government support and has to fundraise for all its special projects. The Anglo-Saxon House project has been supported by a quite unexpected donation from Jane Nicholls, and her generosity made all the difference to our ability to deliver this important new exhibit.

Not only will the house be a new exhibit for our visitors to enjoy and learn about, it will also be a valuable new learning resource for the many school children who visit each year. We will now be able to offer Saxon-themed workshops for schools, which in turn help to sustain the museum's revenue income.

If you are interested in the museum and feel that you would like to support our work for future, our Museum Director will be pleased to meet you and explore your ideas further. Please contact Julie Aalen, the museum's Fundraising Co-ordinator, on 01243 811016.

Historic Gardens Day – 10 July

Writing for this magazine on a freezing cold day at the beginning of the year you may imagine that there is little news from our gardening team – of course, as all keen gardeners will know, nothing could be further from the truth!

Carlotta Holt, Museum Gardener, starts the year with energetic planning for her volunteer gardening teams after assessing the progress of the museum's six period gardens from the previous year. They work on the museum herbarium in the winter months, and fencing is another important job in the early part of the year. The continuous hurdle fencing around many of the gardens and fields, which looks so striking as well as being a practical barrier and demonstrating an historic technique, requires a rolling programme of maintenance. Then, as the season progresses, the focus shifts to sowing heritage seed and providing protection for young plants from numerous pests. Despite all the challenges likely in the coming season, Carlotta and her team remain optimistic.

The gardens are a crucial aspect of the interpretation of our buildings, as they unlock the social history of the inhabitants of a house. Understanding what people ate, which elements of their diet came from a garden or local market, the medicinal herbs that were popularly used, and appreciating the lack of available produce at various times all give valuable insights into everyday life.

On 10 July we are holding a Historic Gardens Day enabling our visitors to find out more about gardening plans and challenges, to chat with the gardens team, join a tour and enjoy demonstrations and displays relating to the gardens and their produce.



Top, the garden of the mid-17th century home of a landless labourer, Poplar Cottage, ready for the season in spring, and above, planting garlic in the garden of Pendean farmhouse (c.1609), the home of a yeoman farmer.

Food and Drink: 1500-1900

Sunday 25 September

Join us for a day of presentations and demonstrations across the museum with expert speakers exploring how our ancestors ate and drank across five centuries. David Stone, independent medieval historian, will explain the medieval peasant diet and its connection to peasant agriculture, and Marc Meltonville, food historian and archaeologist at Historic Royal Palaces, will give a presentation on the food and drink of the elite in Tudor England. Mark Hailwood, from the University of Exeter, will explore ale houses and drinking culture c.1550-1750, and Nicola Verdon, from Sheffield Hallam University, will talk about the diet of late 18th and 19th century agricultural labourers. Demonstrations will include cooking in the Winkhurst Tudor kitchen, brewing and baking, and a historic gardens display. The talks are ticketed and pre-booking is essential. Contact us at courses@wealddown.co.uk or phone 01243 811021.



Charcoal & Woodyard Weekend

This is a great opportunity to see what is involved in burning charcoal in a traditional kiln, alongside other wood-related activities, and takes place over the August bank holiday weekend (26-29 August). Our Rural Life Interpreter, Jon Roberts, will lead a small team to support him, explaining the processes to visitors through the preparation work, during the burn, and afterwards as the charcoal is uncovered and sorted. Close to the charcoal camp a range of complementary crafts will be demonstrated and there will be more activity in the woodyard itself. For more information see the website shortly before the event.

150 barrow loads of firewood were moved across the site literally by barrow last year (c.40 modern loads of wood)

Shakespeare Week Families Day

On Saturday 19 March a day of family activities will be held at the end of Shakespeare Week. Activities will include a family trail, some simple craft-based activities and a chance to be inspired by, and share your inspiration for, Shakespeare's language. Find out more on the website.

Dementia-friendly activities

This year we are again running short dementia friendly tours of the museum on –

Thursday 14 April – Explore the Downland Gridshell artefact store

Thursday 21 April – Taste of the past: Bread and pottage

Tuesday 26 April – Sounds of the past: Visit the blacksmiths forge and mill

Saturday 7 May – Traditional crafts: Textiles

Thursday 19 May – Smells of the past: Tudor herbs and medicine

Tuesday 24 May – Explore Bayleaf Tudor Farmhouse

Over 60 volunteers and members of staff at the museum are 'Dementia Friends'

Each focuses on one specific area of the museum, with limited walking between spaces. Max. 10 participants per session.

All start at 2.30pm and last for c.45 minutes. Refreshments served at the end. Cost £3. Pre-booking essential: contact 01243 811021 or email courses@wealddown.co.uk.

These tours form part of the programme run by the Chichester Cultural Learning Partnership. The full programme will be in local papers and online from late February. The museum's sessions are part-funded as part of the Activity Plan of our Heritage Lottery Fund-supported Gateway Project.

IN BRIEF

MUSEUMS AT NIGHT

For the third year running we will be taking part in the national Culture24 Museums at Night initiative. The museum will open its doors in the late evenings of 13/14 May to treat people to a taste of what it was like to live and work before the advent of modern conveniences like gas and electricity. Groups will be taken on special tours and given an insight into the challenges of life in historic homes after dark. Whatever did they do in the evenings? The events are aimed at adults (16+) and places are limited so must be booked in advance (Tel 01243 811021). The evenings finish with hot drinks.



Careers Forum shows the way to working in museums, heritage and traditional trades



As part of the Gateway Project Activity Plan, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the museum organised a Careers Forum in October, writes organiser Lucy Hockley. It was a great way of responding to people's interest in working in areas related to our museum – historic buildings, traditional rural trades and crafts, countryside skills and the heritage sector.

More than 45 representatives of networks and learning providers attended with a stand and a willingness to chat to our participants. They ranged from The Heritage Alliance and South East Museums Development Programme to the Worshipful Company of Masons, Arts Council England and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Sixteen craftspeople also took part with short profiles of their skills published online. News of the forum spread quickly and the 130 free places were all taken up. Participants were also offered free tickets to return later the following day to meet more demonstrators.

After an intensive morning of discussions and feedback between groups, everyone circulated. Table topics were based on questions gleaned in advance and on the day, with discussions focused on ways of working, and areas of work, with 'experts' spread among the participants. The day benefited from an external facilitator, Dan Lake of Culture Shift, and we also held a parallel programme in the Gridshell classroom for a school group. Adult students from the Building Crafts College, East London and Weymouth College also joined the day. Twelve

members of staff led 'walk and talk sessions', focusing on their own fields of work and gave their views on the development of their careers in the future: these ranged from working with volunteers to research in museums, from working as a curator to what a museum director does.

We collected a lot of feedback, which was extremely positive. 'The chance for informal conversations with people working in an area that interests me' was a popular outcome, with 49% of participants rating this as most important, while 'Finding out about different working patterns' was rated as most important by 30% of participants. With a clear appetite for a similar event in the future we are hoping to hold the next forum in October 2017.

Above, over 130 people attended the museum's Careers Forum. Below, Eddie Booth of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation on The Heritage Alliance's stand, and bottom, matching topics with tables.



Tweets of the day

Rachael Willis @HantsHeritArch
Great careers forum at @WealddownMuseum today. Very inspiring, fantastic speakers/professionals. If another is held I highly recommend it.

Matt Rabagliati @RabMatt
Great for @Heritage_NGOs to be at @WealddownMuseum yesterday to meet so many inspiring people at the careers forum!

Rare & Traditional Breeds Show – 17 July

One of the South's biggest gatherings of farm animals, this delightful and intimate agricultural show is one of the most popular in the museum's calendar. Get up close to hundreds of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry – traditional breeds shown in a wide range of classes and culminating in a grand parade. At the museum's event there's the opportunity to chat to their owners, as well as visit craft and trade stands on countryside themes. Plus, you might like to sponsor a class – turn to page 31 for more information. Back this year is the nationally-popular Sheep Show, a humorous educational live stage show about sheep and wool, including nine breeds introduced onto their own stage – don't miss the Dancing Sheep! Appearing at over 100 shows a year before an estimated audience of 2.5 million people, this unique show has captured the hearts of many.



WHAT'S ON 2016

MARCH

6 Mothering Sunday (£5 entry – free for Annual Members)

Mothering Sunday is a fantastic time to visit the museum, with new-born lambs and spring buds bursting into life as visitors enjoy the South Downs in springtime.

19 Shakespeare Family Day

Find out more, through a trail and some craft activities, about everyday life in Shakespeare's England.

25, 27 & 28 Museum at Easter

Step back in time and experience the Tudor and traditional Easter celebrations of ordinary folk on Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. Our fun-packed schedule offers Easter cooking in the Tudor kitchen, egg painting, bonnet making and a traditional Bonnet Parade on Easter Monday.

APRIL

2-8 Historic Clothing Exhibition

Replica clothing made by the Museum's Needlework Group will be on display in Crawley Hall, including Medieval, Tudor, Stuart, Georgian and Victorian clothing.

9-10 Shepherding & Shepherds' Huts

This two-day event focuses on shepherds' huts and their agricultural applications. The range of huts on display will include visiting exhibits as well as the museum's permanent collection.

20 Hattingley Valley Wines Talk & Tour (ticketed).

Take a trip organised by us. See page 30 for more information.

23 A Walk in the Woods (ticketed)

MAY

1-2 Food & Folk Festival

The very best of the South East's produce and crafts. Enjoy demonstrations, traditional folk music, dancing and storytelling. There will be lots of tasty samples to try before you buy!

12 Visit to Knepp Castle Estate (ticketed)

Take a trip organised by us. See page 30 for more information.

13-14 Museum at Night Guided Walks (ticketed)

Join us for a special guided walk around the museum. As night falls we will explore different homes and see how the inhabitants of these houses would have experienced life before gas or electric lighting.

21-22 15th Century Encampment

By visiting a small encampment explore how everyone's life was affected by major military events of the 15th century, with some craft displays (mornings) and examination of weaponry/training (afternoons).

30 May – 3 June Spring Half-Term Activities

Make the most of the longer days with a wide range of arts, crafts, games and activities based in and around the museum's site. Suitable for all ages. Under cover if wet.

JUNE

4-5 Heavy Horse Show

An unforgettable weekend of heavy horse displays, demonstrations and parades. The show is a long-established highlight of the museum's calendar.

11 Morris Day of Dance

Enjoy the chance to see local Morris dancers performing at the museum throughout the day.

10-12, 17-19 Outdoor theatre – *Cyrano* (ticketed)

Enjoy one of many evening performances of this wonderful outdoor theatre production.

18-19 Raising the Frame: Re-erecting Sole Street Medieval Hall House

Come and see Museum Carpenter-in-Residence, Joe Thompson, and his team use traditional methods to begin raising the frame of this medieval hall house.



JULY

1-3 Outdoor theatre – *Cyrano* (ticketed)

Enjoy one of many evening performances of this wonderful outdoor theatre production.

2 Family 'Downland Detective Hunt' (ticketed)

A rare opportunity to experience the out-of-hours magic of a summer's evening at the museum. Our detective hunt will lead you around all of the most interesting parts!

10 Historic Gardens Day

Enjoy the museum's period gardens with their herbs, vegetables and flowers showing how rural households would have used their outdoor space from Tudor times to the Victorian era. Join a tour, see displays and demonstrations relating to the gardens, and chat to our gardening team.

16-18 Festival of Archaeology Weekend

Enter into the spirit of the national Festival of Archaeology with fascinating aspects of archaeology reflected in our historic buildings and rural life collections.

17 Rare & Traditional Breeds Show

Come and see cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry in this delightful agricultural show for rare and traditional breeds. One of the biggest events of its kind in the south east, it's popular with smallholders and visitors alike.

31 The Story of English Scything

Find out more about this traditional skill, with talks, a display and demonstrations of mowing with a scythe.

AUGUST

3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Wonderful Wednesdays

Join us for a day of hands-on countryside skills, crafts, activities and games.

6 William Cobbett Walk (ticketed)

11 Outdoor Theatre: *Murder on the Terrace* (ticketed)

Enjoy an evening murder mystery outdoor theatre performance by Heartbreak Productions.

20-21 Vintage & Steam

This wonderful event will showcase a huge selection of classic, vintage and steam vehicles, plus vintage music, themed refreshment stands, traditional fun fair, local crafts, demonstrations, and continuous arena displays.

26 Bat Walk (ticketed)

26-29 Charcoal & Woodyard Weekend

For five days, a traditional early 20th century earth clamp will be built, tended and then opened up on Bank Holiday Monday. Woodland management demonstrations will also take place.

28 Outdoor Theatre: *Ratburger* (ticketed)

Enjoy an evening outdoor theatre production of David Walliam's fabulously funny *Ratburger*, performed by Heartbreak Productions.

SEPTEMBER

13 Replicas & Reality: The Heritage Values of Replication & Reconstruction (ticketed conference)

Book your place on this fascinating conference exploring the heritage value of replicas – replicas from archaeology, replicas to mitigate destruction, replicas for experimentation, and replicas simply for fun.

21 Fun Quiz Night (ticketed)

Sharpen your pencils and join us for a fun general knowledge quiz evening at the museum. You'll also enjoy a fish and chip supper, so no cooking!

25 Food & Drink: 1300-1900 (ticketed study day)

Hear from expert speakers as they cover a range of high and low status topics in a day of illustrated talks covering food and drink from 1300-1900. There will be demonstrations across the site for participants and museum visitors.

OCTOBER

8-9 Autumn Countryside Show

Experience the countryside at harvest time and the 7th Horticultural Show. Take a step back in time and see heavy horses ploughing the fields, vintage tractors at work and steam-powered threshing demonstrations. Watch woodland and rural craft demonstrations, as well as traditional competitions.

14-15 Opening the Anglo-Saxon House

Two days of talks, demonstrations and readings from Anglo-Saxon times to celebrate the opening of the newly constructed Anglo-Saxon House.

24-28 Autumn Half-Term Family Activities

Wonderful seasonal activities and fun for families. Play conkers, make a mini Guy Fawkes and much more. Suitable for all ages. Under cover if wet.

NOVEMBER

24 Candlelit Walk (ticketed)

26-27 Christmas Market (£5 entry – free for Annual Members)

Our bustling Christmas Market is located in and around the Museum's historic buildings, with over 130 stands selling arts, crafts, food, unusual gifts and much more.

28 Museum closed

The museum will be closed after the Christmas Market in 2016 until spring 2017, as we carry out essential groundwork as part of our Gateway Project.

Please note that ticketed events require pre-booking.

To China and back with 'Carpenters without Borders'

By Joe Thompson

I often define carpentry (the making of strong and stable timber structures) to my students at the museum as "cutting stuff to the correct lengths, angles and tolerances". The criteria of the historic techniques I demonstrate to them are; that they are as simple, accurate and as consistent as possible whilst optimising speed of execution. Looking at some of the details of the museum buildings confirms that this approach has been generally followed for hundreds of years. This is a theme that runs through the prefabrication of timber buildings in North West Europe.

The recent practical timber framing workshop I attended near Guiyang, South West China, organised jointly between the Ruan Yisan Foundation and 'Charpentiers sans frontières' brought into sharp definition the complex and critical relationships between; tool design, tool sharpening, timber properties and joint design that carpenters empirically understand.

To put it bluntly (to coin a phrase!) my Northern European carpentry hand tools of 18th-21st century design that I use daily and rely on which work excellently in the West, are not optimised to work on the 18th-21st century East Asian buildings that I saw. My tools tended to be too heavy and too large as they are mainly configured for construction grade, home-grown hardwoods and imported resinous softwoods. In short I was out of my comfort zone!

The tool shapes, weights and the joints of traditional buildings in Guizhou province, from the 18th-21st century, are radically different and require a specific tool kit to line out and cut their respective connecting joints (Fig 1).



Fig 1. The two Chinese chisels are in the middle and the Western ones at the ends.

The frames are prefabricated, just as ours are in the West, but the design of the typical traditional Buye (a minority community of South West China) building that we worked on consists of a series of cross frames that are connected together longitudinally once they are reared up (similar in concept to the 'Square Rule' workshop I run at the museum occasionally). The all important cross frames (ours spanned about 6.8m) typically comprised five poles, of about 200mm basal diameter, extending from ground to roof level, a distance of about 7 or so metres, supplemented by four shorter (4.5m length), and smaller diameter poles (about 160mm basal diameter), extending from first floor to roof level.



Fig 2. Using a carpenter's square to obtain two more lines at 90 degrees.

Multiple through mortices are cut, allowing sawn and planed rails to be knocked in to connect the poles and complete the cross frame assembly. These cross frames are nearly always symmetrical about the longest central post, with the other timbers spaced evenly either side. They are reared up, by many hands, as assembled cross frames. There are two types of longitudinal timbers connecting the cross frames, firstly, the purlins, 75mm diameter or so, poles with one flat surface (that came ready sawn in our case) that fit very simply into rounded notches on the top of poles. Secondly, joists, 110mm square, are tenoned into the poles. The whole structure is set out to a rectangular grid, on plan, that relates to the centre lines of the poles, all with a noticeable lack of diagonal members and triangulation.

In sharp contrast to our last thousand years of using squared timbers the Chinese often use the trees in the round. The process starts with the preparation of the softwood poles. The bark is peeled off and knots and any excessive curvatures are hewn off with a hatchet. Then the poles are planed up removing the cambium and smoothing the surfaces. The pole is now orientated so that the largest curvature lies within the plane of the cross frame, and an ink line is snapped from end to end. This is then nominally plumbed down at each end, the pole



Figs 3a & b. 3a shows the Chinese way of creating a mortice, and 3b the historic Wealden method which requires an auger in addition to the chisels, due to the hardness of the oak.

rotated and these points similarly connected. Their carpenter's square is then used to obtain two more lines at 90 degrees to these first two (**Fig 2**). The pole is ready to be labelled, using the bamboo pen and ink, with cursive Chinese characters and a cross frame number, on its upper face. The cursive characters describe its position relative to the central pole, i.e. how many poles away and whether it is on the front or back of the building. The long slender bamboo rod is now tied to the pole and the ends of the mortices are marked out by taking the lines all the way around the pole. The width and lateral position of the mortices are then inked in, dependent on both the loads it has to support and the crookedness of the pole.

What was fascinating was that there was a lot of common ground in the overall technique of morticing (**Figs 3a & b**) between the method I teach at the museum and that used in South West China, but the tools used were markedly different. Our teaching often consisted of watching the Chinese carpenters work and then imitating them. There was also a certain amount of investigation and deduction by way of clarifying what we were doing. A couple in our party spoke Mandarin and this was very useful in explaining some of the concepts encountered. There was also a flow of information back to the Chinese carpenters as they watched us and the tools we were using (**Fig 4**).

To cross cut and rip the haunched tenons very lightweight frame saws are used. This enables the blade to be canted relative to the frame to improve visibility. Whilst the size of the saw teeth are comparable to my own saws, the set (the subtle bending of the tips of the teeth) is to a distinctive pattern I have not come across in any Western saws or textbooks, but which works very well.

The architect's overall measurements were given in metric, but the carpenters appeared to be using the traditional Chinese unit of 'chou' – 333mm, 'cun' –

33.3mm and 'fen' – 3.33mm for setting out the joints.

Once all the poles were morticed, and it was no mean feat for the 70-year-old master carpenter to position all the intersecting timbers, the cross frames were laid out over the foundations, ready for the rails to be lined out and cut. Each mortice was individually measured, using a short piece of bamboo and a square, and these dimensions were then transferred and lined out onto the labelled rail.

The rails having been all cut, the cross frames could be assembled by knocking these tenoned timbers into their mortices. The tenons are made a 'tight fit' within the mortices to allow for shrinkage, and to assist in safely absorbing the vibrational energy of earthquakes and turning it into heat energy via friction and sound energy via creaking and groaning. After a lot of knocking together and slight trimming up, all four cross frames were ready to lift up.

Raising day arrived with some ropes

and a box of nails. The ropes were used to tie struts to the cross frames and the nails were used for temporary fixing boards to prevent unwanted movements. With a significant heave we were able to slowly rear up the 800kg or so cross frame to vertical. By the end of the day all four were up and we were all elated at the progress made. In the morning a traditional Chinese ceremony involving music, alcohol, sweets and lots of fire-crackers ensured that the new building was suitably blessed.

The trip was tremendously educational and informative. It allowed me to take a quite different perspective on my usual timber framing work and to compare and contrast the different approaches. I owe a great debt to my Chinese hosts, the Risan Yuan Foundation, the six Buye carpenters and Charpentiers sans Frontiers organisers. Not forgetting my fellow 12 carpenters from France, four from Norway and four from the UK for being so hospitable, generous and good humoured.

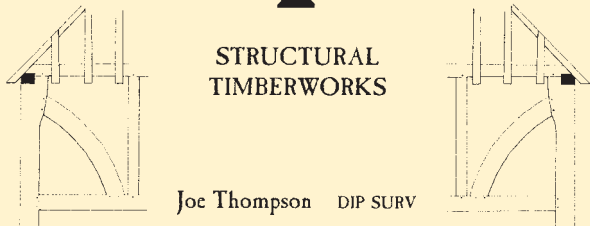


Fig 4. Sharing Chinese and Western information.

SUSSEX OAK AND IRON



STRUCTURAL
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Museum's award-winning course programme for 2016

We are looking forward to another great year of courses across our Historic building conservation and traditional rural trades and crafts programmes. Adult learning at the museum has a synergy of its own which is a powerful driver for our work. Our aim is to foster a culture of collaboration, innovation and ambition across all the individuals and organisations with whom we work.

Historic building conservation

Among the 24 new courses this year across both programmes we are highlighting several here. The *Wood finishes* two-day workshop will be delivered by Philip Hodge who also teaches the *Tool sharpening* course. *Modern services in period buildings* joins *Damp in historic buildings* as Duncan Phillips' contributions to the programme and in an effort to help participants make environmentally sound decisions *Green architecture*, led by new leader Anthony Brown, will demystify the process of designing in eco-friendly features which keep occupants comfortable but also save the planet. As an added collaboration with the University of York, three members of their team are coming in April to deliver *Documenting apotropaic and carpentry marks: new digital approaches*. This will explore up to the minute technology as the means of interpretation of marks in timber buildings and participants will learn how these can be integrated into existing strategies.

Roman timber building is a new and exciting course to be led by Damian Goodburn. Practically-based, the day will focus on evidence for 2,000-year-old timber technology, reflecting a time of revolution in building techniques. For the *Saxon building day* students will be able to see how much progress has been made in the newly-built replica Anglo-Saxon House on the museum site.

The *Farm buildings* two-day course in September will be led by Jeremy Lake, Historic England's expert on agricultural buildings. He will be supported by colleagues and by a developer who is an expert on sensitive rural developments. The aim of this course is to show how traditional farmsteads and their buildings can continue through new uses and sustainable development to make a vital contribution to the landscape, communities and economies of rural areas. The first day will introduce the historic character, significance and issues for change across England, and then outline the key issues for the assessment of farmsteads, their

maintenance and the conversion of buildings. The second day will focus on best practice in understanding how to assess the issues for change of individual sites and whole areas. There will be a site visit to a whole farmstead which was built in the Georgian period.

Traditional rural trades and crafts

Some courses are already fully subscribed. We have negotiated repeat dates for a number, including *Nettles: sting to string* which has just filled for the second time! We continue to experience that great circularity where people who teach on one course attend as a student on another. Caroline Vincent attended the *Birds of Prey* experience day and Christina Stapley attended *Botanical Illustration*.

There are, however, still places on the majority of day schools and longer courses. Examples are the new *Make a Gypsy peg* day where the whittling will be supplemented by the folklore and anecdotes around this ancient craft. For people with artistic aspirations there are places available on the new *Drawing in pen and wash* and *Painting in soft pastels*, and also on *Illuminated letter embroidery* and *Appliqué cushion* day schools. An inspirational teacher, Flo Collingwood is Royal School of Needlework-trained and now teaches there as well as working as a freelance embroiderer: she was part of the team that worked on the wedding dress and veil of the Duchess of Cambridge in 2011. Flo takes on a variety of commissions including the repair of antique clothing. These two days make terrific additions to our flourishing textile offer.

As well as the various historic life experience days in the programme we also cater for bespoke days on request and in March will be putting on a *Medieval day* in Hangleton for 12 undergraduates from the Medieval History department of Birmingham University.

MSc's in Timber Building Conservation and Building Conservation - As the current cohorts near the end of the taught part of their courses and prepare to research their personal projects, we have begun recruiting for the 2016 intakes!



Damian Goodburn, seen here at the museum's British Oak Conference last year, will teach courses on Saxon treewrights and their buildings, and building technology before the saw and the ruler.

TIMBER FRAMING FROM SCRATCH IS 50!

Carpenter Joe Thompson taught his first course in timber framing at the museum in autumn 1998 and so, the autumn 2015 *Timber framing: jowl posts* 5-day course was the 50th one to be delivered at the museum! While to the students the week was pretty much like any other, to Joe and Head of Learning Diana Rowsell it was exciting as a milestone in the development of our adult learning. The certificates of attendance were embellished with gold stars and Joe had his own certificate to mark the occasion. The way the subject is taught has changed a little over the years but in essence it is just the same: eight people eager to learn arrive on a Monday morning and by Friday tea-time they are very proud of the oak frame they have crafted together, and confident enough to go out and use their new-found skills.

REPLICAS & REALITY: THE HERITAGE VALUES OF REPLICATION & RECONSTRUCTION – THE MUSEUM'S 2016 CONFERENCE – 13 SEPTEMBER

Our 2016 one-day conference will explore the heritage value of replica – replicas from archaeology, replicas to mitigate destruction, replicas for experimentation, and replicas simply for fun! Replicas stimulate research and provide practical training, and the results provoke debate about heritage values and the significance of historic buildings. Are replicas "a feeble and lifeless forgery" in Morris's words, wrought by "the tricky hand of some unoriginal and thoughtless hack"? Or can they bring inspiration and delight, not only to visitors and users but also to those who use skill and passion to create them? Projects with an element of replication are very diverse – including Shakespeare's Globe; St Fagans; Ironbridge Gorge Museum; Uppark; Butser Ancient Farm; West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village; Colonial Williamsburg and the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum. Speakers will be announced on the museum website soon.

COURSE ENQUIRIES All course enquiries should be made to the Adult Learning Department. Tel: 01243 811021.

Email: courses@wealddown.co.uk. Website: www.wealddown.co.uk/courses. Leaflets can be posted or emailed on request and bookings can be made over the phone by credit or debit card.

Historic Building Conservation Courses 2016

Historic timber framing: modern engineering solutions

Leaders: David Yeomans & Jim Blackburn
Tuesday 8 March £110

Oak timber framing: jowl posts

Leader: Joe Thompson
Monday–Friday 14–18 March £520 **FULL**
Monday–Friday 19–23 September £520

Repair of timber framed buildings

Leaders: Richard Harris & Joe Thompson
Tuesday 22 March £110

Sash windows: history, repair & maintenance

Leaders: Charles Brooking & Stephen Bull
Tuesday 12 April £110

Oak timber framing: wall framing

Leader: Joe Thompson
Monday–Friday 18–22 April £520
Monday–Friday 17–21 October £520

Documenting apotropaic & carpentry marks: new digital approaches

Leaders: Gareth Beale, Dav Smith & Nicole Beale
Tuesday 26 April £80

Introduction to dating timber framed buildings in the South-East

Leader: Joe Thompson
Wednesday 27 April £110

Energy conservation in traditional buildings

Leader: Richard Oxley
Tuesday 10 May £110

A practical introduction to timber repairs

Leader: Joe Thompson
Wednesday–Friday 11–13 May £325

Damp & historic buildings

Leader: Duncan Philips
Tuesday 17 May £110

Introduction to leadwork

Leader: Nigel Johnston
Thursday 19 May £110

Oak timber framing: roof framing

Leader: Joe Thompson
Monday–Friday 23–27 May £520
Monday–Friday 7–11 November £520

Timber decay & its treatment

Leader: Matt Green
Wednesday 8 June £110

Historic roof coverings

Leader: Kevin Stubbs
Friday 10 June £110

Wattle & daub

Leader: Joe Thompson
Tuesday 14 June £110

Modern services in period buildings

Leader: Duncan Philips
Wednesday 15 June £110

English brickwork: Tudor to Edwardian

Leader: Gerard Lynch
Monday 20 June £110

Jointing, pointing & re-pointing historic brickwork

Leader: Gerard Lynch
Tuesday–Wednesday 21–22 June £230

Historic lime plasters & renders

Leaders: Jeff Orton & Tim Ratcliffe
Tuesday–Wednesday 28–29 June £230

The roofing square

Leader: Joe Thompson
Friday 1 July £110



Deathwatch beetle – discover more on *All pests great and small*.

Significance of heritage assets: planning policy & conservation plans

Leader: Eddie Booth
Monday 25 July £110

Building technology before the saw & the ruler

Leader: Damian Goodburn
Friday 5 August £80

The Roman revolution in timber building

Leader: Damian Goodburn
Thursday 11 August £80

Tool sharpening: the cutting edge

Leader: Philip Hodge
Friday–Saturday 12–13 August £210

An introduction to wood finishing

Leader: Philip Hodge
Sunday–Monday 14–15 August £210

Saxon treewrights & the buildings they built

Leader: Damian Goodburn
Friday 26 August £80

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

Leader: Sibylle Heil
Thursday 1 September £110

An introduction to marbling & woodgraining

Leader: Paul Bailey
Friday 2 September £80

Leaded-light stained glass restoration

Leader: David Lilly
Tuesday 6 September £110

Fire & historic buildings

Leaders: Steve Emery, Marjorie Sanders & Roger Angold
Wednesday 7 September £110

Farm buildings

Leader: Jeremy Lake
Wednesday–Thursday 14–15 September £200

Conference

Replicas and reality – the heritage value of replication and reconstruction
Tuesday 13 September

Timber: identification of species

9.30am–5pm
Leader: Tim Belden, TRADA
Thursday 22 September £110

Home owners – day one

9.30am–5pm
Leader: Kevin Stubbs
Saturday 24 September £80

Home owners – day two

Leader: Kevin Stubbs
Saturday 1 October £80

Lime mortars for traditional brickwork

Leader: Gerard Lynch
Monday 26 September £110

Repair of traditionally constructed brickwork

Leader: Gerard Lynch
Tuesday–Thursday 27–29 September £350

All pests great and small

Leaders: Ed Allen & Dave Pinniger
Monday 3 October £110

Strength grading of oak

Leader: Tim Belden, TRADA
Tuesday–Thursday 4–6 October £450

Green architecture: an introduction

Leader: Anthony Brown
Monday 10 October £110

Practical thatching

Leader: Chris Tomkins
Tuesday 11 October £150

Flint walling

Leaders: Mark Middleton & Chris Rosier
Wednesday–Thursday 23–24 November £270

New bursary scheme

For the first time the museum will be supporting the Sussex Heritage Trust's Bursary Scheme, funded by the Historic Houses Association, which offers educational opportunities for young people based in Sussex. At the museum bursaries will help students on its building conservation techniques courses.



Oak timber framing: jowl posts.

Details of the full programme of courses for 2016 are available on the museum's website, www.wealddown.co.uk. Alternatively, if you would like a brochure by post please ring 01243 811021.

Traditional Rural Trade & Craft Courses 2016



Pole lathe turning.

Ropework – make an animal halter

Leader: Charlie Tyrrell
Saturday 5 March £50

Illuminated letter embroidery

Flo Collingwood
Saturday 5 March £75

Spinning: drop spindle and the wheel

Monday–Tuesday 7–8 March £95
Saturday–Sunday 1–2 October £95

Learn to crochet

Leader: Rose Savage
Saturday 12 March £55

Card weaving

Leader: Hilary Charlesworth
Sunday 13 March £55

Sussex trug making workshop

Leaders: Robin Tuppen & Mike Church
Saturday–Sunday 19–20 March
£140 **FULL**
Saturday–Sunday 6–7 August £140

Horse Logging

Leaders: Robert Sampson & Mark Buxton
Sunday 20 March £90

Willow garden supports

Leader: Ganesh Kings
Saturday 9 April £100

Irons in the fire

Leader: Martin Fox
Friday 15 April £90 **FULL**
Saturday 16 April £90 **FULL**
Friday 20 May £90
Saturday 21 May £90
Friday 24 June £90
Saturday 25 June £90
Friday 15 July £90
Saturday 16 July £90
Friday 23 September £90

Leaded-light stained glass

Leader: David Lilly
Friday 15 April £110

Dowsing day

Leader: Pete Redman
Sunday 17 April £50
Sunday 24 July £50

Beekeeping for beginners

Leader: Christine Stevens
Sunday 17 April £50

Introduction to pole lathe turning

Friday 22 April £60
Saturday 23 April £60
Friday 2 September £60
Saturday 3 September £60

Woven tapestry weekend

Leader: Hilary Charlesworth
Saturday–Sunday 23–24 April £95

Tudor Farmhouse day in Bayleaf

Leader: Lesley Parker
Saturday 23 April £60

Walk through the woods

Leader: Jon Roberts
Saturday 23 April £15

Make a shave horse

Leader: Mark Allery
Sunday 24 April £85 **FULL**

Care, management and harnessing of heavy horses

Leader: Mark Buxton
Sunday 24 April £90

Nålbinding or single needle knitting

Leader: Judith Ressler
Sunday 24 April £55

Deer preparation and butchery

Leader: Dominic Strutt
Sunday 24 April £85 **FULL**
Sunday 13 November £85
Sunday 20 November £85

Mill experience

Leaders: Museum Millers
Monday 25 April £45
Saturday 14 May £45 **FULL**
Monday 6 June £45

Gypsy peg making

Leader: Peter Jameson
Saturday 30 April £50

The Kingdom of Alfred and his Dynasty

Leader: Stephen Pollington
Friday 6 May £60

Nettles – from sting to string

Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond
Saturday 7 May £60 **FULL**
Saturday 28 May £60

Medieval appliqué

Leader: Tanya Bentham
Saturday 7 May £60

Dawn walk with breakfast

Leader: Jonathan Mycock
Saturday 7 May £20

Bark basketry

Leader: John Rhyder
Saturday 7 May £65 **FULL**

Stone carving: ammonite

Leader: Will Spankie
Saturday 7 May £80 **FULL**

Animal tracking and trailing

Leader: John Rhyder
Sunday 8 May £75

Exploring early medieval embroidery and art: needleworked medieval beasties

Leader: Tanya Bentham
Sunday 8 May £55

Letter cutting in stone

Leader: Will Spankie
Sunday 8 May £80 **FULL**

Museums at Night

Leader: Museum staff
Friday 13 May £15
Saturday 14 May £15

Life in a late Victorian Cottage

Leader: Lesley Parker
Saturday 14 May £60

Flax to linen

Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond
Sunday 15 May £55 **FULL**

Medieval tile making

Leader: Karen Slade
Sunday 15 May £125 **FULL**

Rag-rugging workshop

Leader: Linda Chivers
Friday 20 May £55
Friday 7 October £55

Herbs, humours and astrology

Leader: Christina Stapley
Friday 20 May £60

Hand shearing

Leader: Phil Hart
Saturday 21 May £60

Woodland Herbs

Leader: Christina Stapley
Saturday 21 May £60 **FULL**

Make a traditional hand-sewn book

Leader: Angela Thames
Saturday 21 May £60 **FULL**

Historic quilting day

Leader: Norma McCrory
Sunday 22 May £55

Driving heavy horses

Leader: Mark Buxton
Sunday 22 May £90
Thursday 9 June £90
Sunday 26 June £90

Introduction to traditional dairying

Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond
Sunday 22 May £60

The medieval medicine chest

Leader: Cathy Flower-Bond
Saturday 11 June £60 **FULL**

Make a felt hat

Leader: Hilary Charlesworth
Sunday 2 July £55 **FULL**

Natural dyeing

Leader: Lesley Parker
Wednesday 15 June £55
Sunday 31 July £55

Historic cheese making

Leader: Lesley Parker
Saturday 18 June £60 **FULL**

Natural navigation walk

Leader: Tristan Gooley
Friday 24 June £20 **FULL**

Woodcut printing: historic buildings

Leader: Will Dyke
Saturday 25 June £65

Stumpwork embroidery: a garden scene **NEW**

Leader: Caroline Vincent
Saturday–Sunday 25–26 June £95

Meet the Rose family – form, fragrance and flavour

Leader: Christina Stapley
Friday 1 July £60

Herbs in the stillroom

Leader: Christina Stapley
Saturday 2 July £60

Botanical illustration: the cottage garden

Leader: Leigh Ann Gale
Sunday 3 July £60

Birds of prey experience

Leader: Ray Prior
Tuesday 5 July £75
Tuesday 2 August £75

Herbs and health in the New World

Leader: Christina Stapley
Friday 8 July £60

Scything: learn to mow

Leader: Mark Allery
Saturday 9 July £60
Saturday 6 August £60

Arabic influence – exotics and pharmacy **NEW**

Leader: Christina Stapley
Saturday 9 July £60 **FULL**

Carve a wooden bowl

Leaders: Jess Jay & John Vardon
Saturday 9 July £65 **FULL**
Sunday 10 July £65



Irons in the fire.

Traditional Rural Trade & Craft Courses 2016

Willow workshop: weave and wale a basket

Leader: Deborah Albon
Sunday 10 July £70 **FULL**
Sunday 28 August £70

Bronze Age metalwork

Leader: Will Lord
Wednesday–Thursday 13–14 July
£250 **FULL**
Friday–Saturday 15–16 July £250
FULL

Deciphering old documents

Leader: Caroline Adams
Friday 15 July £60

Paint in soft pastels **NEW**

Leader: Kate Tugwell
Wednesday 20 July £60

Medieval experience day

Leader: Helen Mybe
Saturday 23 July £60

Peg loom weaving

Leaders: Hilary Charlesworth
Saturday 23 July £55

Prehistoric flint tool making

Leader: Will Lord
Saturday–Sunday 23–24 July £100
FULL

Bayleaf farmstead Tudor family fare

Leader: Lesley Parker
Sunday 24 July £60

Leather belt pouch

Leader: Jon Lewington
Sunday 24 July £60

Mowing with an English scythe

Leader: Mark Allery
Saturday 30 July £60

Prehistoric pottery

Leader: Alison Sandeman
Saturday 30 July Pot making
9.30am–5pm
Saturday 6 August Firing day
9am–6pm
Sunday 7 August Pit opening
9am–11am £120

Bobbin lace making for beginners

Leaders: Eva Falconer & Gay McCart
Saturday 30 July £55

Cross-stitch and raised-work techniques **NEW**

Leader: Caroline Vincent
Sunday 31 July £55

William Cobbett walk

Leaders: Museum staff
Saturday 6 August £15

Carve a wooden spoon

Leader: Jon Roberts
Sunday 7 August £50
Saturday 13 August £50

Weave a rush bag

Leader: Rachel Frost
Sunday 7 August £60

Weave a rush hat

Leader: Rachel Frost
Monday 8 August £60

Weave a rush mat

Leader: Rachel Frost
Tuesday 9 August £60

Anglo-Saxon herbs **NEW**

Leader: Christina Stapley
Friday 26 August £60 **FULL**

Bat walk

Leader: Sue Harris
Friday 26 August £10

Herbs in healthcare – a focus on herbal antibiotics

Leader: Christina Stapley
Saturday 27 August £60

Dorset button brooches **NEW**

Leader: Jen Best
Saturday 27 August £55

A history of knitting from the Tudor period onwards

Leader: Ruth Gilbert
Thursday 1 September £60
Friday 2 September £60 **FULL**

Shooting the traditional longbow

Leader: Jonathan Davies
Saturday 3 September £50
Sunday 4 September £50



Cross-stitch & raised-work techniques.

Coracle making

Leaders: Kevin & Ellen Grimley
Saturday–Sunday 3–4 September
£250

Calligraphy for beginners – Uncial Script **NEW**

Leader: Rebecca Osborne
Sunday 4 September £60 **FULL**

Georgian farmhouse day in Tindalls cottage

Leader: Lesley Parker
Sunday 4 September £60

Pole lathe turning: improve your green woodworking skills

Leader: Mark Allery
Sunday 4 September £60

Appliqué rose cushion **NEW**

Leader: Flo Collingwood
Sunday 11 September £75

Corn dolly workshop

Leader: Verna Bailey
Saturday 17 September £50

Stone carving: green man

Leader: Will Spankie
Saturday–Sunday 17–18 September
£160

Wild food: hedgerow gourmet

Leader: John Rhyder
Sunday 18 September £75

Tapestry workshop: weave a landscape

Leader: Hilary Charlesworth
Sunday 18 September £55
Saturday 24 September £55

Make a Pyecombe-style crook

Leader: Martin Fox
Saturday 24 September £90 **FULL**

Botanical illustration: the autumn garden

Leader: Leigh Ann Gale
Sunday 16 October £60

Inkle loom weaving

Leader: Steve Kennett
Saturday–Sunday 22–23 October
£95

Weekend woodcarving course

Leaders: Jess Jay & John Vardon
Saturday–Sunday 22–23 October
£130

Traditional English longbow

Leader: John Rhyder
Friday–Sunday 28–30 October
£260 **FULL**

Learn to knit

Leader: Rose Savage
Saturday 29 October £55

Ploughing with heavy horses

Leaders: John McDermott, Robert Sampson & Mark Buxton
Saturday 5 November £90
Sunday 6 November £90
Sunday 11 December £90

Introduction to chair making

Leader: Mervyn Mewis
Saturday 5 November £75 **FULL**
Sunday 6 November £75

Tudor bakehouse: pies and pastries

Leader: Lesley Parker
Sunday 6 November £60

Small game preparation and butchery

Leader: Dominic Strutt
Sunday 6 November £70

Print your own woodcut Christmas cards

Leader: Will Dyke
Saturday 12 November £65
Sunday 13 November £65

Introduction to coppice management

Leaders: Phil Hart & Jon Roberts
Saturday 12 November £50

Make a hazel stool with a woven willow seat

Leader: John Waller
Sunday 13 November £70

Christmas papier mâché

Friday 18 November and
Friday 25 November £50

Candlelit walk

Leader: Jon Roberts
Thursday 24 November £15

Christmas stained glass decorations

Leader: David Lilly
Friday 2 December £100

Willow wreath for Christmas

Leader: Ganesh Bruce Kings or Elaine Kings
Saturday 3 December £60

Tudor Christmas food

Leader: Lesley Parker
Saturday 10 December £60 **FULL**

The joy of carols: Victorian and Edwardian

Leader: Malcolm Brinson
Friday 16 December £15

Details of the full programme of courses for 2016 are available on the museum's website, www.wealddown.co.uk. Alternatively, if you would like a brochure by post please ring 01243 811021.

Tales of the downs and beyond...

A series of fascinating evening talks at the museum, beginning 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 – call 01243 811021, email courses@wealddown.co.uk

Ghosts on the Somme: filming and photography of the battle June-July 1916

Tuesday 12 April

This talk looks at one of the first war films ever made, *The Battle of the Somme*, which focuses on the opening days of the battle which began on 1 July 1916. This 1916 British documentary and propaganda film was shot by two official cinematographers in France. Andy Robertshaw has undertaken a detailed study of the film and what emerges is a virtual time machine of events of 100 years ago. **Andrew Robertshaw** is a freelance military historian who was until 2014 the Curator and Manager of The Royal Logistic Corps Museum in Deepcut. He is an Honorary Lecturer at University College London and Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for First World War studies at The University of Birmingham. Over the past 15 years he has regularly appeared in archaeology and military series such as the BBC series *Two Men in a Trench* and *Channel 4's Time Team*. Andy was lead consultant for the ITV documentary *The Somme* the Real Story.

RAF Westhampnett during WWII

Wednesday 20 April

The RAF took over land at Goodwood in 1938-39 for use as a landing ground for RAF Tangmere but in 1940 had its first full-time resident squadron in the form of 145 Squadron with Hawker Hurricanes at what became RAF Westhampnett. Forty-six squadrons of Spitfires, Hurricanes and Typhoons operated from the field in support of air operations over Europe. This talk charts the history, the squadrons and the air and ground crew who served at the aerodrome before its closure in 1946. **Mark Hillier** is a Chartered Surveyor who has a deep knowledge of the history of the RAF, with a particular focus on the Second World War. He is a qualified pilot, and currently flies a WW2 Boeing Stearman from the former RAF Westhampnett, now Goodwood Aerodrome. He has co-authored two books on aviation, written biographies of Wing Commander Thomas Murray and Chief Technician Joe Roddis and has just produced a new book *A fighter command station at war*.



RAF Westhampnett during WWII.

Uppark revealed

Thursday 28 April

The fire that swept through Uppark, South Harting, in August 1989 and the subsequent five-year restoration exposed much of the fabric of the house previously hidden from view. New evidence for the original form of the house and its decoration emerged, along with the changes made during its life, and evidence for the development of the gardens. This new archaeological evidence will be discussed, along with documentary sources, in the context of a revised and more detailed account of the history of the house and gardens than has previously been possible. **Fred Aldsworth** is an archaeologist and heritage consultant, who has worked on several projects with the museum. He held responsibilities during the restoration of Uppark for salvage, survey, recording, research, and the preparation of reconstruction drawings and has recently published an article entitled *Uppark Revealed* in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, Volume 153 for 2015.

Master of Middle-Earth: Tolkien and the Anglo-Saxons

Thursday 5 May

The works of JRR Tolkien are loved the world over. When not exploring Middle-Earth, Tolkien was an Oxford don whose specialism was the culture of Anglo-Saxon England and Old English literature. Many of the themes Tolkien used in creating his fantasy world seem familiar to us because they are drawn from early English myth, legend and history. We will explore some of the points of contact between Middle-Earth and the early Middle Ages. **Steve Pollington** has been writing about Old English language and the Anglo-Saxons for more than 20 years. He has collaborated on numerous radio and television projects, most recently providing the voice of the Chronicle for Michael Wood's BBC series *King Alfred & the Anglo-Saxons*.

In sight of the Downs: Sussex, a centre for 20th century British Art

Wednesday 11 May

Sussex has always drawn artists to her rolling Downland landscape and exciting coastline. The 20th century saw many Modern British artists living and working in the county. An exhibition at Brighton in late 1913/early 1914 brought the nation's leading artists to the Sussex coast and enfolding Downs. Artists as diverse as Walter Sickert, Jacob Epstein, Eric Ravilious, Edward Bawden, Paul and John Nash, Graham Sutherland, John Piper, surrealists Roland Penrose and Edward Burra, Ivon Hitchens, and Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell at Charleston, worked alongside visitors like Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and Henry Moore. This talk tells the story of how Sussex found herself at the heart of the Modern British Art Movement.

Rupert Toovey is a Director of Toovey's Fine Art Auctioneers which he founded in 1995. He is a qualified Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and an Associate of the Society of Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers. Rupert began his professional life in Horsham in 1985 and has remained in Sussex throughout his career. He specialises in Modern British art whilst maintaining a generalist's eye for the major collecting disciplines. Rupert writes a weekly column for the *West Sussex Gazette* series and is a passionate advocate and sponsor of art and heritage in Sussex.

The lost Wey to the sea

Wednesday 18 May

A brief history of the inland waterway route from Portsmouth to London of which the Wey & Arun Canal was an important link. The talk will also cover the restoration work undertaken on sections of the canal, through photographs and film, as well as the latest development and future plans for the Wey & Arun Canal.

Tony Pratt retired early from GSK and spent several years as a volunteer trustee for the Wey & Arun Canal in the role of Conservation Officer. He was also qualified as Boatmaster for trip boats which he drives regularly. He has long been interested in local history, particularly related to the Arun Valley. He presented for the DVD *The Lost Wey to the Sea* in 2002, and has given talks about Sussex navigations and rivers for many years.

The maritime trade of Elizabethan Chichester

Thursday 9 June

Economically Chichester was part of the surrounding countryside – it provided a market twice a week, and in turn acquired wealth from the farming and industry which surrounded it. The talk looks at the materials going in and out of its port – wine, salt, grain, fruit, spices, glassware and timber. Cloth was sent all over the western world. We also look at the documents which tell us about the port's shipping, and the way in which the authorities tried to control the trade. This talk is indebted to Emlyn Thomas, who was a local historian for this area, and Senior Lecturer in history at Bognor Regis College.

Caroline Adams is a fully qualified and registered archivist, and is a member of the Archives and Records Association. Her PhD from the University of Chichester focused on *Elizabeth I's visit to West Sussex in 1591*. She is now a freelance archivist and historian after retiring as Senior Archivist at West Sussex Record Office.

Wildlife of Sussex and its management

Tuesday 14 June

This illustrated talk will discuss the important local habitats in Sussex of West Dean Wood, Kingley Vale and Chichester Harbour and explain how

these nature reserves work. The coppiced woodland of West Dean with its prolific wild flowers, birds and insects is dependent on good management, and the reserves of Kingley Vale and Chichester Harbour demonstrate how long term management benefits the wildlife, birds and flowers.

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

Harold, William and the Battle of Hastings

Wednesday 22 June

The 14th of October 1066 was one of the defining moments in our nation's history. As we commemorate the 950th anniversary of this climactic struggle, we explore the personalities and backgrounds of the two main antagonists: Harold Godwinson, the last Anglo-Saxon King of England, and Duke William 'The Conqueror' of Normandy. The relationship between these two men was instrumental in what occurred at Hastings, and the series of events that led up to the sunset of Anglo-Saxon England makes for a fascinating and lively talk.

Mark Perry Nash is a speaker and educator in history and the humanities. He has extensive experience in adult education and as a speaker for 16 years. His professional approach, academic background and sense of humour have made him popular with a wide variety of community groups and educational organisations. Mark is a regular speaker for groups such as historical societies and USAs.

Henry V's Navy

Wednesday 29 June

The story of Henry V's Navy is one of violence, brutality and folly, as well as of skill, tenacity and courage. Composed of royal ships, conscripted English merchantmen and hired foreign vessels, it enabled Henry to break French seapower, invade France twice and come close to 'winning' the Hundred Years War. Henry's ships also operated at the cutting-edge of contemporary technology and included four of the greatest ships ever built in medieval England. It was one of England's most effective fleets, but it is also perhaps one of the least remembered. This talk re-tells its dramatic tale.

Ian Friel is a museum and heritage interpretation consultant, historian and writer with over 30 years' experience. He also has an international reputation in the field of maritime history.

The myth of the Great Fire of London – houses in London before and after 1666

Wednesday 6 July

The Great Fire of London in 1666 has been misrepresented by historians. The City of London did not arise phoenix-



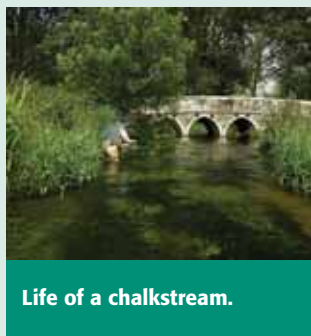


like from the ashes to become modern London. Only one fifth of the conurbation then standing was destroyed. We need to reset the balance of study by looking at buildings before and after the Fire, from documents, illustrations and archaeology.

John Schofield was an archaeologist at the Museum of London between 1974 and 2008. He is now an independent scholar writing up his excavations in the City. He is *Cathedral Archaeologist* for St Paul's Cathedral, and has written several books about medieval and Tudor London, including *The building of London from the Conquest to the Great Fire* (3rd ed, 1999), *Medieval London Houses* (2nd ed, 2003) and *London 1100-1600: the Archaeology of a Capital City* (2011).

Life of a chalkstream Tuesday 19 July

Follow Simon Cooper in his year spent on the chalkstreams. Discover the very special geology of these gin-clear rivers that barely exist anywhere else in the world except southern England. The history of their evolution and the creatures and characters that inhabit the secret valleys, will be discussed, all wonderfully illustrated with award winning photography. For **Simon Cooper**, the English chalkstreams have been part of his life for nearly as long as he can recall. Even as a young child he was let loose



Life of a chalkstream.

to paddle, dam and wield his beach net in the local streams. Moving away for university and work was never part of his life plan, so he hatched a scheme that would take him back to where it all started and provide him with a living. To begin with it was hard but in time he established himself as a proficient fly fishing guide and instructor, establishing the trust of the landowners who put their precious rivers into his care.

One man's back garden – the story of Hotham Park Tuesday 26 July

Sir Richard Hotham laid the foundation stone of Bognor in the 1780s and built his home within large grounds. They have been used in a variety of ways by numerous private owners. Following the Second World War and the death of the last private owner, the grounds became known as Hotham Park, the town's central recreation area. **Sylvia Endacott** lives in her adopted home town of Bognor Regis where she arrived over 30 years ago. Sylvia joined the local history society and researched the town's history. She has written numerous history books, provided talks to a variety of organisations and appeared on various radio programmes.

Petworth Park's hidden past Thursday 4 August

Petworth Park appears timeless and natural, but nothing could be further from the truth. Beneath Capability Brown's manicured landscape, created in the 1750s, lie the traces of hundreds of years of historical change, development and expansion. National

Trust archaeologist Tom Domett will show how recent archaeological survey and community excavation has helped to reveal aspects of this hidden history, from forgotten Tudor hunting lodges to deserted medieval villages and demolished monumental stables, a story of changing fashions and fortunes.

Tom Domett is the Regional Archaeologist for the National Trust in West Sussex and the South Downs, working on archaeological surveys and community archaeology projects across a number of properties with sites ranging in date from Early Prehistory to the Second World War.

Christmas in the Trenches 1914-1918 Tuesday 9 August

This talk looks at the way British soldiers celebrated Christmas whilst on active service during the First World War. Covering all theatres of war, the talk uses letters, diaries, memoirs and photographs to examine key themes such as food and drink, festive recreational activities and fraternisation with the enemy including the famous Christmas Truce of 1914. **Alan Wakefield** graduated from the University of Reading in 1990 with a degree in History and followed this with an MA in War Studies from King's College London. Having worked as a curator at the National Maritime Museum and RAF Museum, Alan qualified with an MA in Museum Studies from University College London. For the past five years Alan has held the position of Section Head – Photographs, being responsible for the curatorial team managing the Imperial War Museum Photograph Archive. In 2006 he wrote Christmas in the Trenches 1914-1918.

648 – the number of people who attended our evening talks last year

Lavender Fields Wednesday 2 August

The talk will cover the history of lavender cultivation and the Lavender Fields at Hartley Park Farm. Tim Butler will share his tips on growing lavender in your own garden and how you can use it.

Tim Butler is the third generation of his family to farm at Hartley Park Farm. He introduced English Lavender to the farm 15 years ago and Lavender Fields is now a local landmark

Our rural ancestors: place, people, past Thursday 18 August

Writer and historian Gillian Tindall has an established track record writing about places and the people who lived in them. She is a descendant of the family who lived in Tindalls Cottage (now at the museum). She will explore the geographical and social movements of her ancestors, from rural Georgian Sussex and their move out of their pre-industrial habitat to jobs elsewhere, becoming a coachman in the case of her great-great grandfather, and thence to a different way of life in Hastings and the opening up of the Victorian period. This talk explores the history of nearly all of us.

Gillian Tindall is well known for the quality of her writing and the meticulous nature of her research. She is a master of miniaturist history, making a particular person or situation stand for a much larger picture. She began her career as a prize-winning novelist and has continued to publish fiction, but has also staked out a territory in idiosyncratic non-fiction that is brilliantly evocative of place. Her *The Fields Beneath: the History of one London Village*, has rarely been out of print; nor has *Celestine: Voices from a French Village*. Her newest book published in September, *The Tunnel through Time: A New Route for an Old London Journey*, follows the route through London taken by the coming Crossrail tube line and the different layers of history and memory through which it runs.

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"We would just like to say that my two boys (8 & 6), my husband and I had an absolutely amazing time today. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the half-term activities especially the candle and badge making. Everyone was really friendly and helpful. We can't wait to visit again!"



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Shepherding & Shepherd's Hut Weekend – 9/10 April

The museum is once again holding this special small-scale and informative weekend, which has been very popular over the last two years. The first of these mini-events was in 2014, stimulated by research into our collections by Dave Morris from the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovil, for his informative book on shepherds' huts (available in the museum shop). We brought together our historic collection of huts with modern examples from today's manufacturers and craftsmen along with other sheep and shepherd's hut-related activities and resources. It was a great success and we repeated it last year, with even more huts from other individuals and organisations, as well as living vans such as our own gypsy caravan and a heavy duty road mender's van. We also featured a group of penned Southdown sheep owned by museum volunteer Graham Langford. We look forward to a similar event this year, once again welcoming traditional Sussex folk singers, the Copper Family from Rottingdean, to provide a special traditional dimension.



Living Van loan

Last year we lent a wheeled living van to Fishbourne Primary School for a themed fortnight of activities based around the book *A Small Miracle* by Peter Collington. Whilst lending items from the collections to local schools isn't at all unusual, we are not usually asked for something as large as the living van! Whilst we could not lend such large objects very often, for logistical reasons, we would certainly repeat it in the future, as it can clearly have a big impact on those who experience it.



The school's headteacher wanted to embellish the tale in the book with a real-life object. A similar activity was run at Bosham School in 2008 with a shepherd's hut, but, this time, being more familiar with the book, we suggested one of our road mender's living vans, which more closely matches the example in the story. We also fitted it out with a range of domestic items to give as authentic a feel for the schoolchildren as possible.

The book is a text-free, graphic story beginning on Christmas Eve when an impoverished old woman living in a shepherd's hut goes into town with her accordion to earn money. Forced to sell her instrument, she is robbed on the way home but her own good deeds mean that she receives help and a reward from the nativity figures she has set up, which magically come to life to aid her.

Activities for the children included interaction with a costumed interpreter who was based in the hut; writing; poetry; adding a narrative to the story, and running a tea party for local residents. Having the living van on site added a whole new perspective to the story.

Julian Bell, Curator

IN BRIEF

FIFTY YEARS AGO . . . THE MUSEUM BEGINS IN EARNEST

Fifty years ago the inaugural meeting of the Committee for the Promotion of an Open Air Museum for the Weald and Downland was held at the University of Sussex. The 1966 event formalised the museum's foundation – last year we marked the 50th anniversary of the birth of Roy Armstrong's idea for a museum of the region's vernacular architecture (see *Spring 2015 Museum Magazine*). It had originally begun as a 'museum of the Weald', but by the time of the inauguration the adjacent 'Downland' had been incorporated. The committee took on all the groundwork that set the museum in motion: finding a site, rescuing the first buildings, the initial publicity and fundraising, and setting up a business company acceptable to the Charity Commission. Read more

about the early days of the museum in *Building History*, published in 2010 to mark the 40th anniversary of the museum's public opening. Copies can be obtained from the museum shop

(01243 811020) at £4.95. Pictured is one of the earliest buildings to be re-erected at the museum, the late 17th century treadwheel from Catherington, Hampshire.



New Acquisitions

by Julian Bell,
Curator

HAMBLEDON FUNERAL BIER

From the birthplace of cricket, Hambledon, Hampshire, came the offer of a 19th century funeral bier, funded by the local parishioners and dated 1899. Despite it residing for many years in a small outbuilding adjacent to the church graveyard, it remains in excellent condition and is of a somewhat unusual construction. We already have an example of a bier in the collection which is a simple wooden frame with sprung metal undercarriage. However, the Hambledon bier is a much more sophisticated item, having a removable 'stretcher' which would presumably have been used to move the coffin from the bier to the graveside. Once the stretcher is replaced, it becomes an integral part of the bier. The other unusual feature is a shaped, tensioned frame which slots into the bier to form a cover, although any fabric which once overlaid the frame has long since disappeared. The frame also requires some conservation work as for years it has stood separate from the main frame and has relaxed out of shape. The picture shows the two sections in place.



SPACE SAVER BATH

Richard Appleby, a neighbour of mine in Haslemere and a great acquirer of interesting 'things' donated a range of items to the museum last summer, among which was an unusual tin bath, originally from the almshouses at Ockham in Surrey. We have a number of tin baths in the collection of the sort which were usually stored in an outshot and brought in for use as necessary, next to the kitchen range. The example donated by Richard is much more exotic. The



'SavoSpaco' tip-up bath looks like most other tin baths, but this one would have been fully installed and plumbed in, probably in a cupboard next to the kitchen range where water would have been heated for its use. When in use the bath drops down to look and function like any other; when finished, tipping up the bath into its storage position allows the water to escape through the end outlet.

The SavoSpaco was manufactured by Fed & Edwin Darby of Birmingham under the name of the Patent Tip-Up Bath Company in the early 1900s, and during the course of production won a number of awards for its ingenuity.



TEN COMMANDMENTS PANELS

For some time I had been in discussion with Deryck Hamon from Lodsworth regarding the donation of some old zinc panels from the local church, St. Peters. The panels, dating from the 1840s, depict the Ten Commandments and were originally located in the chancel at either side of the altar where they would have given instruction and a reminder to all present. In the early 1960s the panels were removed for restoration and upon their return, relocated elsewhere in the main body of the church.

The restoration at this time was carried out by Lodsworth resident E H Shepard, illustrator of the *Winnie the Pooh* books, whose grave is in the yard of the same church. The panels were recently removed due to their increasingly poor condition and the huge costs involved in their potential repair.



ITEMS FROM CLEMENS & SON BUILDERS

After nearly 94 years in the construction and building repair business, the notable Chichester firm of Clemens & Son sadly ceased operations in October 2015. Jeremy Clemens offered us some of the items from the workshop in November last year, in particular a handcart and trestles, both signwritten with the company name and dating back to the 1930s. The company was started by Jeremy's grandfather, Samuel Thomas Clemens at premises in Southgate in 1922, along with his eldest son Ed which gave the firm its name. Samuel's second son Jack joined five years later, but the company name remained unaltered. In 1938 larger premises were bought in Chapel Street but their activities were much reduced during the war years with many of the workforce having been called up; indeed Jack himself served in the Royal Navy until 1946. Upon his return, Samuel retired and Jack, along with his brother Ed ran the business until 1960 when Ed retired and Jack's son Jeremy joined following the completion of his National Service. The firm continued to expand and following a compulsory purchase of their premises in 1972, the company moved to a yet larger site on Lyndhurst Road, coinciding with the retirement of Jack shortly afterwards. Jeremy took over the running of the firm and by the time of closure boasted a wide range of customers including Chichester District Council, local businesses, the Cathedral, church properties, hotels, shops and private individuals.



Little & Large

Part 2 of a fascinating article from Curator, Julian Bell, throwing light on some of the treasures in the museum's collections

In the last issue we looked at similar items very different in size from the museum's rural life collections. Here's another selection of artefacts, which although apparently very different, are basically the same. The results certainly demonstrate the range and depth within our collection!

HAMMERS

Some hammers can be quite sophisticated and delicate tools; this 'gentleman's' hammer used for very light furniture or upholstery work is one. The much larger sledge is not. These tools were used for a variety of tasks including timber framing and adding the iron tyres to wooden cart wheels.



SAWS

The smaller of the two saws is a very specialist tool used for producing wooden patterns for printing wallpaper. In appearance it is virtually identical to larger back or tenon saws.

However, this example measures only 8in in length. The larger is a pitsaw, used by two men in a sawpit to convert felled trees into planks. To give added scale to the photograph, the depth of the teeth on this saw is the same as the whole thickness of the smaller saw.



DRILLS

When it comes to making holes, we are blessed with a very wide range of items from awls and gimlets to augers and drills. Even within these different groups, the nature of specific examples varies greatly as can be seen from these two drills. The smaller is a percussion 'rapper' drill, commonly referred to today as a hammer drill, used for breaking into masonry. Today's hammer drills however are almost

exclusively powered whereas our 'rapper' is hand operated. In comparison the much larger bench drill is a very complicated mechanism, used for drilling accurate, vertical holes into wood or metal, although not necessarily any bigger than those made by the rapper.



WHEELS

The wheel may have been invented millennia ago, but its basic form and function have changed relatively little. However, the tasks to which they have been adapted vary hugely. Trolley wheels need to be very robust but small to cope with the relatively large weights they have to move on such a relatively small frame. The timber bob, used to move felled trees, requires a large ground clearance so that one end of the tree can be slung beneath the axle and dragged along using a team of draught animals. Their 8ft diameter allows for the movement of the largest of trees.



BELLOWS

The small set of bellows were used on a domestic open fire and consist of a chamber which is filled with air when the bellows are pulled apart. The air is expelled when the bellows are closed and this gives them a suck/blow operation which is fine for a small fire. The blacksmith, however, requires a much greater and constant flow of air to feed the coals of the forge which is why the larger set of bellows have two chambers; one being filled as the other is expelled.



Vintage & Steam – 20/21 August

Step back in time and experience the nostalgic sights, sounds and smells of an era when steam and world class engineering powered the country. Soak up the atmosphere of an extensive selection of full-size steam engines, as well as a wide range of other exhibits around the site – including commercial vehicles, miniature steam engines, narrow gauge railways, model boats and classic cars. Enjoy the gallopers, powered by a Fowler Showman's steam engine, and recall the time when these would have been at the centre of a traditional vintage fairground. Plus, enjoy vintage music, a themed tea tent, local crafts, traditional demonstrations and continuous arena displays throughout the weekend.



Transferring the administration of the Friends of the Museum to the museum itself continues to run smoothly with 'Friends' now being known as 'Members'. Currently we have 3,327 memberships representing more than 9,000 people. Independent charitable trust museums like ours receive no direct Government funding and the help Members give is vital to sustain our work. Membership subscriptions in 2015 generated just under £200,000 and continue to support our core activities, including building exhibit conservation, site maintenance, events and special projects.

Joining up!

Membership helps you through –

- **Free entry** to the museum – including special events (as well as our well-known favourites, the Heavy Horse Show makes a very welcome return over the weekend of 4/5 June). Plus, Members are fast-tracked into events on admission
- **Advance notice** of museum events and news by email
- **Social events** and tours in support of museum fundraising (see below)
- **10% discount** in the museum shop and café kiosk
- **Twice-yearly magazine** keeping you up-to-date with all museum news, events and courses dates
- **Special offers and discounts** – e.g. we offer a special rate for Members to attend our popular programme of evening talks.

Enjoy the museum even more by becoming a member

You can help us by –

- **Gift Aid** – we can claim tax back each year through Gift Aid. If you are a UK taxpayer and have not signed up for Gift Aid, please complete the box on your Membership renewal request
- **Direct Debit** – It helps us reduce administration if members pay their subscription by Direct Debit: watch out for the Direct Debit invitation on your membership renewal form
- **E-news** – If you provide us with your email address you can receive a special e-news with information about special events and other museum activities. If you are not already receiving this and would like to, contact membership@wealddown.co.uk

Contacting the Membership office

The Museum Membership secretary is Lisa Neville who will be pleased to help with any queries concerning your membership. The office is manned part-time, on a Monday and Wednesday 9.00am–1.00pm. The postal address is Membership at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0EU. Tel: 01243 811893 (there is an answerphone) or email: membership@wealddown.co.uk. To purchase a Membership by phone you can also telephone the shop on 01243 811020.

Fundraising for the future

We have set up a new Museum Fundraising Support Group, including some members of the former Friends' Committee. The group has been working hard to develop a programme of activities and has also been selling chestnut roof shingles in support of the Gateway Project: they have already raised £1,850, and shingles project will continue this year – see also page 4.

Events and trips – open to everyone

An exciting programme of events and trips has been planned for this year and these are **open to everyone**; we want as many people as possible to come along and have fun, and in doing so provide much-needed support for the museum.

Hattingley Valley Wines Talk & Tour – Wednesday 20 April

Hattingley Valley Vineyard at Lower Wield, near Alresford, Hampshire, produces fine English sparkling wines, and this is a unique opportunity to meet national and international award-winning winemaker Emma Rice who has agreed to give us a talk about this Vineyard and Winery. This experience is limited to 22 people.

- 10.30am arrive at Winery (using your own transport)
- Tractor and trailer trip to the Vineyard with Emma Rice, followed by a detailed tour of the Winery with wine tasting
- Enjoy a light sandwich lunch including soft drinks.



Walking shoes are suggested. Venue postcode for directions is SO24 9AJ.

Cost per person – £20 – suitable for adults only.

Visit to Knepp Castle Estate – Thursday 12 May

The 3,000-acre Knepp Estate, south of Horsham in West Sussex has been owned by the Burrell family for over 220 years and remains their family home. Previously devoted to traditional arable and dairy farming, the estate changed focus in 2001 and embarked on a series of regeneration and restoration projects aimed at nature conservation and less intensive meat production. On this visit you will learn about Knepp's Rewilding Project and take a Wildland Safari tour, to see how large herbivores are driving habitat change across the estate. This visit is limited to 22 people.

- 2.00pm – arrive at Knepp Estate (using your own transport) and enjoy a presentation about the Knepp Rewilding Project
- 2.30pm – head out on a Wildland Safari (by vehicle)
- 3.30pm – stop for refreshments en route
- 5.00pm – return to the Cow Barn.

Bring a cool bag if you would like to buy Wildland meat and local produce from the estate shop. Come prepared for being outdoors. Venue postcode for directions is RH13 8LJ.

Cost per person – £25 – suitable for those aged 12 years and over.



Family 'Downland Detective Hunt' – Saturday 2 July

Join us for a rare opportunity to experience the out-of-hours magic of a summer's evening at the museum. Our detective hunt will lead you around all of the most interesting parts of the museum and, with luck, you'll see swallows skimming the grass to catch insects on the wing.

- Arrive at 6.00pm
- Teams of up to six (minimum two)
- Hunt duration – 2–2.5 hours
- Bring a picnic to enjoy in the grounds afterwards
- Compete for our top prize – exclusive experience day at the museum.

Come prepared for being outdoors – sturdy shoes required. Bring a picnic blanket or your own table and chairs, or use one of the museum's picnic benches.

Adults can join in the fun for £15 per person and children (aged 8–17 years) for £7.50 each.

Fun Quiz Night at the Museum – Wednesday 21 September

Sharpen your pencils and join us at the museum for a fun general knowledge quiz evening. You'll also enjoy a fish and chip supper!

- Arrive at 6.30pm
- Teams of up to six (minimum two)
- Tea and coffee included
- Fish and chip supper (cod, sausages or vegetarian options available)
- A chance to win a museum masterclass in butter and cheese-making during 2017

Sturdy shoes are suggested to walk across the site – and bring a torch to aid your exit when darkness falls.

Cost per person – £15 – suitable for those aged 14 years and over.

To book any of these events/trips please call Katie Jardine on 01243 811363. Don't forget to have a card ready to pay and for the Hunt and Quiz you will need your team name – please book early as places are limited!

IN BRIEF

HAVE YOU MADE USE OF THE LIBRARY?

The museum's reference library is on the ground floor of the hall from Crawley and includes books, journals, magazines and offprints relating to all aspects of the museum's activities. There is also a loan library for the use of volunteers, staff and students on the two MSC courses on building conservation and timber building conservation run by the museum in conjunction with York University. Books recently purchased include *Woodlands* by Oliver Rackham; *The British Oak: Its History & Natural History* by M G Morris; *Cooking & Dining in Tudor & Early Stuart England* by Peter Brears and *West Country Households, 1500–1700* edited by J Allan, N Alcock and D Dawson. Recent subject enquiries have included the history of West Grinstead church; ritual marks in buildings; the history of Chichester's Washington Street; roofing shingles; Pendean farmhouse, and hinges and latches for 16th century doors. The library's catalogue has its own dedicated website, wdoam.co.uk: in mid-December the number of hits had risen to 144,980, an increase of 1,370 in 53 hours, or 25 an hour! The reference library is usually staffed on Monday mornings and visits can be arranged. Tel 01243 811363, email library1@wealddown.co.uk

WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

CLASS SPONSORSHIP FORM

Rare & Traditional Breeds Show

17 JULY 2016

The Museum's delightful annual **Rare & Traditional Breeds Show** has been supporting the South East's smallholders for over 30 years – dedicated breeders who are conserving rare and traditional farm animals for future generations. Please help us to continue our support by sponsoring a class at this year's show.

Sponsor a class and support the show!

With classes containing farmyard favourites, why not treat yourself by sponsoring a sheep, pig, goat or cattle class? It might also make the perfect gift for the friend who has everything!

Sponsorship is just £45 per class (£80 for cattle) and includes two free entry tickets to the show (or a family ticket for cattle sponsorship) and a credit in the show programme.

UK taxpayer? You can boost your sponsorship by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate by ticking the Gift Aid box below, which will be a huge benefit to the Museum. Thank you!



Rare & Traditional Breeds Show – Sunday 17th July 2016

I wish to support the show by donating £..... to sponsor a sheep / pig / goat / cattle class (please circle).

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please indicate below if you would like to sponsor a particular breed and we will try to match your requirements.

.....Breed requested

Class to be sponsored in the name of.....
(to feature in the show programme)

Name of sponsor.....

Address.....

.....Post code.....

Payment method

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

Card number Expiry date/...../.....

Security code

Signature Date

Please return this form to: Julie Aalen, Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Town Lane, Singleton PO18 0EU

New schools workshops

From May we have three new schools workshops, in addition to our existing Anglo-Saxon Through the Ages workshops, and Medieval, Tudor and Victorian sessions. They are cross-curricular and suitable, in different forms, for KS2 or KS3/4 pupils.

1. Real lives of our rural ancestors – warts and all

A myth-busting exploration of how our ancestors lived. The focus is on the role of people (e.g. the farmer, blacksmith, miller, carpenter and teacher), who were essential to society. We will explore the places where they worked and discuss the hardships as well as the more pleasant elements of their role. Let us know whether your focus is Anglo-Saxon/Medieval/Tudor/Victorian or cross-period and we will highlight this period of history for your group. The 90-minute session takes the form of a guided walk with some hands-on activities. Max. 15 per group.

2. Terrific trees

In this workshop your group will –

- learn how to identify a small number of common species of tree and know some of their characteristics
- find out how to work out the age of a tree and why this may be important
- discover different uses of trees that were essential in the past – and the difference between wood and timber
- learn about how people have managed woodlands and why
- explore timber building techniques using the museum environment.

The 90-minute session takes the form of a guided walk with some hands-on activities. Max. 15 per group.

3. Survival in the past

In this workshop your group will –

- think about basic human needs (warmth, shelter, food...)
- consider the natural resources of our region and how our ancestors used them at specific times (Anglo-Saxon/Medieval/Tudor/Victorian/today – please tell us in advance if you are focusing on one of these periods of history)
- explore housing at the museum
- look at two different ways of building and think about how heavy materials can be moved
- consider the calories people working physically would have needed and their working environment.

The 45-minute session takes the form of a guided walk with some hands-on activities. Max. 15 per group.



500 yards – of hazel was used for scarecrow bodies and arms (in autumn half-term)! Pictured is 'Percy' outside Whittaker's Cottages.

Coach funding

We are delighted that funding is now available towards the cost of coach travel for schools groups to attend the museum. This is allocated on a strictly first-come-first-served basis and we particularly encourage schools who have not benefited from this in the past to apply. Contact us on 01243 811028 to discuss your visit and the funding that may be available.

Cyrano – schools programme

During the summer we will be hosting performances of Cyrano (see also page 37) and we have a parallel programme specifically designed for school groups. In a workshop funded by Arts Council England and led by the performers and museum staff, we will explore ideas of image and identity, put the play into the context of everyday life of the period and finish with a shortened performance in our market square. This is suitable for KS2/KS3/KS4. School days are: 14-16, 21/22, and 27, 28 and 30 June from 10.30–2.15pm. £6.50 for a full day of workshops, including museum entry. Pre-booking essential. Contact 01243 811459 or email schoolbookings@wealddown.co.uk

Anglo-Saxon literature & language for teachers

We are holding a *Twilight teacher session: Anglo-Saxon literature & language* with Stephen Pollington. Following a successful session in 2015 there will be another chance on 5 May at 3.30pm to join this event which consists of a 50-minute talk with time for questions. £15 per teacher, including refreshments.

Shakespeare Week

Take part in a special day-long programme designed for KS2 or KS3 pupils to learn about everyday life in Shakespeare's England and one of his plays, which this year will be *The Tempest*. In the morning there is a carousel of workshops, and after lunch a chance for final rehearsals and a group performance. Activities are run in partnership with Chichester Festival Theatre. £8.50 for a full day of workshops. Pre-booking is essential. Contact: schoolbookings@wealddown.co.uk



Teachers' preview day

Teachers are invited to find out more about the museum at our annual beginning of the season teacher preview day on 12 March. Contact education@wealddown.co.uk to make your booking; please include your name, the name of your school and the names of up to two guests who you may bring free of charge.

New science and literacy materials...

will be launched on our website in the early summer – there is a chance for schools to help us trial the materials. Science materials are for KS2 and 3, literacy materials are aimed at KS2. To find out more please email education@wealddown.co.uk

Takeover day

In November the museum again took part in Takeover Day (an initiative run by Kids in Museums). This year a group of 51 year 5 & 6 pupils from Easebourne Primary School, the Otters and Foxes, took over the museum. The Easebourne pupils had looked through special Takeover Day job descriptions in advance and decided which jobs they wanted to do. Staff worked alongside groups of pupils, in our entrance reception; with the adult learning team; helping our Curator in the artefact store; learning from our Historian in Bayleaf farmhouse; interpreting Whittaker's Cottages, and digging up vegetables with our Gardener; updating social media with our Marketing team and many other tasks. At the end of the day the group who had been preparing a tour of the market square delivered it to everyone, and a wonderful group of four co-ordinators helped ensure the day went smoothly. Pupils wrote about it in their newsletter –



Pupils from Easebourne Primary School in the market square in November – they enjoyed 'taking over' the running of the museum for a day.

Today we found out –

- that they send letters to Japan, USA and Canada
- how to seal bags at the mill
- to be accurate you have to have strength, patience and be tough
- it is quite hard running a museum!

Today we enjoyed –

- seeing the different types of animals whilst taking pictures
- sitting on an office chair and doing a proper job
- polishing the artefacts because it was fun!
- lying on the bed in Bayleaf. I learned that we share a similar sort of life to people before Henry the eighth.



**Heavy Horses at the museum –
4/5 June and 8/9 October**

After a break for a year the museum's Heavy Horse Show is back! A long-established summer highlight of the museum's calendar. It promises to be an unforgettable weekend of heavy horse displays, demonstrations and parades. Meet the different breeds – Shire, Clydesdale, Suffolk and Percheron – see them pulling traditional wagons, carts and implements, and watch them in ridden demonstrations and obstacle competitions, all to an informative commentary by John 'Jumbo' Lovatt. Then, for the Autumn Countryside Show, see them ploughing and preparing the soil, along with vintage tractors, a steam-powered threshing machine, and a wealth of other harvest-time crafts, demonstrations and trade stands. And watch out this year, for a new introduction – The Dog & Duck Show!



IN BRIEF

OUT ON SITE THIS WINTER

The autumn and winter months have been exceptionally wet and un-seasonably mild. There has been much to do, sweeping up leaves in the car parks, making good paths and driveways, and encouraging ground recovery following the effects of the volume of visitors to our Christmas Market. The rooks have again caused damage to thatched roofs in search of greenbottle fly larvae: as a deterrent we are considering introducing an imitation flying hawk close to their favourite roofs. Has anyone any other suggestions about how to tackle this expensive problem? The wheat crop suffered some badger damage during the spring and summer, and also bird damage as it ripened. However, it did produce 510 bundles of combed wheat reed, which will be used around the site to repair our thatched roofs. The 2014 crop was used entirely on thatching the Anglo-Saxon House.

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Keith Bickmore 1932-2015

Keith Bickmore, who held a senior post at the museum in the busy years of the 1980s and 1990s, has died at the age of 83.

Keith arrived in 1983 to take up the post of Senior Warden and Shop Manager, and retired formally in 1998, although he continued to run the shop until 2002 and undertook a range of volunteering activities right up until his death.

"Little did I know then what I was taking on," Keith said of his first days. "... We had a very wet spring in 1983 and I wondered if I had done the right thing. But the sun eventually shone, and I stayed."

Keith's arrival coincided with a period when the museum was attracting very large numbers of visitors, some 180,000 a year. School visits were also very high with daily numbers in the 500s and on one occasion, Keith remembered, "we had 800 in 18 coaches."

Keith's role was to oversee the daily opening of the museum, the opening and closing of the exhibits and the lighting of fires in the houses, along with organising the volunteer rota, and running the shop. It involved an early start, he recalled, "with a very fast run-around of the site in time to get back to the ticket offices to receive the volunteers and to greet and park the coaches." It was before the introduction of site-wide radio communication and involved "a lot of walking and running to communicate messages, especially when the overflow car parks were in use."

It wasn't long after Keith's arrival that his late wife, Beryl (obituary, Museum Magazine, Spring 2011), joined him as a volunteer, and together they put their heart and soul into the museum. Keith's dedication, his natural eye for potential challenges and his instinctive nurturing of friendship with the volunteers, provided a crucial and steady rock for the museum at the time of its greatest development.

Keith, who was born at Little Horsted, Uckfield, East Sussex, had been a Police Inspector based at Chichester before his arrival at the museum. He had just retired

as the prosecution inspector at Chichester Magistrates Court: he was also the licensing and gaming inspector and was in charge of the special constabulary. He had met Beryl while working in the Metropolitan Police where she was a WPC. They had two children, Wendy, a Professor and Director of the Human Genetics Unit at the University of Edinburgh, and Paul, who is a founding director of The Art House, a not-for-profit CIC (Community Interest Company) in Southampton which comprises a gallery, performance venue and vegetarian café in the city's cultural quarter.



Keith and Beryl photographed at the museum, with the market square in the background.

Keith's first paid jobs were as a gardener at the homes of Sir Bernard Eckstein and Sir Hartley Shawcross, the lead British prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Crimes tribunal. Here was the foundation for his lifelong passion, gardening, which he later took to great heights in Chichester, where he worked on three allotments and won the regional wildlife garden competition for so many years he stopped entering to give someone else a chance. Keith was also a 'seed guardian' for Garden Organic (formerly The Henry Doubleday Foundation) growing

and saving seeds for the Bronze Arrow lettuce, a variety grown in the 1800s. He managed his allotments and garden organically for 40 years.

Keith and Beryl were both much involved all their lives with the British Red Cross and it was this experience which led him to join the Royal Army Medical Corps when he was called up for National Service. At the time of the Korean War he served on HMT *Empire Windrush* which had been fitted out as a 60-bed hospital. For the Red Cross he and Beryl spent many summers helping organise outdoor activity holidays for children with disabilities at Hindleap Warren in East Sussex: they were awarded the British Red Cross Badge of Honour. After he was demobbed in 1952 he applied to join the Metropolitan

Police. His first day's duty was on the streets for the Queen's Coronation. He was posted to Bethnal Green Police Station, and then after promotion to Sergeant, to West End Central, where he met Beryl. Later he transferred to Shoreham-by-Sea, then to Linchmere before his promotion to Inspector and posting to Chichester.

During their years living in Chichester Keith became much involved with the Chichester Gala, leading the week-long event, while Beryl organised a service in the Cathedral, providing all the flower arrangements with blooms from Keith's allotment.

Keith had never had so much as a cold all his life, but he approached his cancer diagnosis in the same way he approached everything in his life, Paul says: "with steadfastness and determination". He died at St Richards Hospital, with Wendy at his side. He had kept up the allotment as best he could right to the last – Paul adds: "... the soil will miss his expert hand".

Former Museum Director Richard Harris says Keith made an "inestimable contribution" to the museum. "Ultra-reliable, he was liked and respected by everyone ... and through his management of the bookshop made a distinctive contribution to the museum, helping establish it as a knowledge-based institution."

"The Open Air Museum will miss his sweetpeas," Paul said at the end of his tribute during the service of thanksgiving in St George's Church, Whyke – and everyone who knew him will miss his generosity and good humour.

Diana Zeuner

Farewell

Karen Searle Barrett

Barrett is retiring after five years as Head of Interpretation. But her involvement with the museum goes way back to 1994, when she started as a two-day-a-week secretarial assistant to Museum Director Chris Zeuner and his then assistant, Richard Pailthorpe, in the old office (now Roger Champion's joinery workshop).

Her days soon increased to three and then four a week. There was no voicemail or email then; every phone call had to be answered, the school bookings were all taken manually, everyone's letters had to be typed, and messages were hand-written. The admin staff watched Longport House being re-erected out of the office windows, and in January 1996 they moved in. Computers, files and office equipment were carried down the hill. Low level doorways at Longport had to be padded with horsehair and hessian, so that no heads would be cracked on the low timbers. It was cold at first as the shop below was fitted out, and for several days they sat at their desks in outdoor clothing with winter boots on.

Karen continued working alongside the Director's secretary Pat Melhuish until 2000 when she changed direction and worked as a volunteer with the schools team delivering school workshops, as well as taking on the role of secretary to the trustees, which she did for nine years. Other volunteer roles took her to the library, the Rare Breeds Show and more office administration. In 2006 she rejoined the schools and interpretation team and two years later, with her colleague Bob Easson, took on running the children's activity days as well as organising the Easter weekend and Christmas week. Covering Head of Interpretation Hannah Miller's maternity leave in 2009 led to a renewed interest in interpretation at the museum, and when Hannah moved on after establishing a strong foundation Karen was offered the permanent position.

"The last five years have been enormously enjoyable and I have really loved being able to work with a great interpretation team to deliver authentic and innovative ways of explaining the buildings and the lives of their occupants," she says. "We have worked hard to hold fast to the original principles and aims of the museum while at the same time moving forward to keep it alive and exciting." Karen acknowledges the help and support of her colleagues in the interpretation team in adhering to best practice in heritage



Karen Searle Barrett

interpretation while "guarding the unique ethos of this museum."

New Head of Interpretation is Lucy Hockley, formerly Schools Services Manager. Interpreter Jez Smith will be increasing his time at the museum to five days a week and will assist with school visits and family activities.

Bob Easson, the museum's former Visitor Services Manager who joined in 1998 as Warden and Volunteer Coordinator, is also retiring. He took over from

Keith Bickmore in this crucial public-facing role, and continued to ensure the smooth everyday opening of the museum. For the last nine years he has worked with Karen Searle Barrett as Family Activities Coordinator, working with the interpretation team and helping organise family activity days at half-terms and during the summer, as well as activities over Christmas and Easter. Karen and Bob also provided refreshments for volunteers at major events. The museum thanks him for his support and hard work over so many years. "We will miss this popular and lively staff member, who could always be relied on to know the cricket or rugby scores!" says Lucy Hockley.



Bob Easson

Welcome . . .

The museum's staff has expanded with a number of trainees taken on as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund-supported Gateway Project and we welcome them all and hope they will thoroughly enjoy their time with us. They include George Grime, who is working with Jenny Rudd, the museum's Marketing Manager; Tarun Ingvorsen, who is working with Site Manager Nick Conway; and Richard Toogood and Claire Vidler who joined as building conservation trainees, and will work with Carpenter-in-residence Joe Thompson, primarily on the medieval house from Sole Street. Further trainee appointments focusing on schools, interpretation, collections and gardening, and a Community Engagement Officer, will have taken up their posts by March.

George Grime – heritage marketing trainee. "Coming from more of a sporting background with a degree in sports coaching science, this is my first official marketing role and I am loving every

minute of it. The whole team of volunteers, paid staff and of course the wonderful exhibits and grounds make the museum a fantastic place to work. When my traineeship here is over, I'm hoping to use the skills gathered working with my manager Jen to continue marketing in a museum or nature conservation environment."



George Grime

Tarun Ingvorsen – site maintenance trainee.

"I have always loved nature and before starting at the museum I studied for a Level 3 BTEC extended diploma in countryside and wildlife management. From my traineeship, I hope to further my knowledge, experience and rural skills. I see this as a brilliant opportunity to develop a career in site management. I am taking great joy in working at such a fascinating and beautiful place, whilst keeping fit and healthy at the same time!"



Tarun Ingvorsen

Claire Vidler – building conservation trainee.

"After working with a timber framing company, on construction sites and training in carpentry, I joined the MSc programme in Timber Building Conservation. I am doing this alongside my traineeship working with Joe Thompson on the conservation of the medieval house from Sole Street. I am also an architectural artist and plan to combine these skills going forward in my career."



Claire Vidler

Richard Toogood – building conservation trainee.

"For the last three years I have been travelling around the UK learning about rural crafts and skills. Now I have the opportunity to put those skills into action whilst also learning how to professionally conserve heritage buildings, something I hope to do more of in the future."



Richard Toogood

Faces of the South Downs

Photographer **Anne Purkiss** captured museum staff in a series of portraits of people whose lives are connected with the landscape of the South Downs National Park. An exhibition was held in the museum's Downland Gridshell last year. The project, which began in 2002 when the National Park was launched, has become a record and social document of people and landscape at a time of change.

Pictured clockwise from top left are, seated, Head of Learning, Diana Rowsell and colleagues from the museum's learning department – from left, Lucy Hockley (now Head of Interpretation), Sally McCubbin, Ed Downs and Lesley Featherstone; museum Gardener Carlotta Holt; volunteers from the Tuesday gang, from left, Paul Shove, Ken Holmes, Bob Brotherhood, and in front, Ted Talmadge, and Horseman Mark Buxton. Learn more about Anne's work at www.purkiss-images.eu



Open air theatre at the museum

Cyrano – 10-12, 17-19 June & 1-3 July

With support from Arts Council England, The Company will present a promenade performance of *Cyrano* – a story of love, swashbuckling honour, torn allegiances, and a rather large nose! Come & enjoy the spectacle, as the museum's market place is filled with fast action, and live music & songs based on traditional Sussex folk tunes. Built around John Wells' adaptation of Edmond Rostand's classic French play, and developed specially for the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, this outdoor performance is suitable for anyone aged eight years & over. It has been adapted by Suzi Hopkins, and is directed by Stephen Israel, with musical composition by Mike Simmonds.



Performances start at 7.15pm, except 2 July, which is a family matinee performance starting at 2.00pm. Doors will open 45 minutes before the performance, for those who wish to picnic before the show. This is an outdoor performance, so bring clothing to suit our unpredictable climate! Also, please note that audiences will be standing for much of the performance. To book tel 01243 811021. **Tickets – £10 full price, £7 concession rate (under 25s & OAPs), £30 family ticket (2 adults & 2 children).**

Murder on the Terrace – 11 August

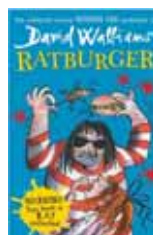
The first of two shows from Heartbreak Productions for the summer, this murder mystery will benefit enormously from being performed near the museum's millpond, and there will be plenty of audience participation! The scene is a respectable garden party to celebrate Lord



Cava's retirement and the handing over of his sparkling wine empire to his nephew, Charles Standen-Delliver. It is no secret that Charles intends to shut down the business and convert Lord Cava's Manor (The Cavary) into a conference centre. Unsurprisingly, Charles is later found dead, poisoned, clutching Percival – Lord Cava's beloved pet parrot. The garden party is thrown into disarray. Inspector Back arrives to investigate and we watch the twists and turns of a whodunit which will both puzzle and entertain alongside dangerous amounts of humour. Can you solve the mystery? This original murder-mystery by David Kerby-Kendall will be an interactive play with references to Downton, Agatha Christie, part romp, part farce and a whole lot of fun. Suitable for 10+. To book tel 01243 811021. **Tickets – £12 adults £8 children £35 family ticket (2 adults & 2 children).**

Ratburger – 28 August

After the successful 2015 adaptation of Mr Stink (which David Walliams described as "Magnificent!"), Heartbreak Productions returns with the theatrical premiere of David Walliams' Ratburger, adapted for the outdoor stage. Come and join the grand opening party of "Armitage's Ices", the ice cream parlour set up by 12-year-old Zoe and her Dad and follow Zoe's journey as she takes on the revolting characters that have proved to be one of the hallmarks of David Walliams' appeal. Our heroine has a profound love of animals and a dream of travelling the world that keep her going as she copes with her disgusting neighbours, her recently unemployed dad, and the menacing Burt (of Burt's Burgers) who is after Zoe and her pet rat! Voted the top children's book of the year in 2012, David Walliams' Ratburger encourages us to support Zoe as she battles through life. Suitable for 7+. To book tel 01243 811021. **Tickets – £12 adults £8 children £35 family ticket (2 adults & 2 children).**



IN BRIEF

GETTING JOBS DONE!

The museum welcomed a host of organisations for special occasions over the last few months. **Sussex Girl Guides** had enjoyed a sleepover in the Downland Gridshell in July, and on the last day of term before Christmas we welcomed 35 boys and girls from **Cranleigh Scout Group** with their leaders for a night in the Gridshell as their Christmas party. In the morning they gathered enough kindling to keep the museum fires going over the whole of the festive season!

2015 SEASON

2015 was a year of two halves. After a slow start, there was a strong finish resulting in a break-even position with 2014 of around 120,000 visitors to all events and activities. But for the wet weather, notably over the Christmas Market weekend and again at Christmas, we would have finished marginally ahead. Event numbers showed a significant increase, with the Autumn Countryside Show demonstrating the most dramatic improvement, but The Wood Show and Vintage & Steam both proved very popular. Long standing, but lower-key events such as Mothering Sunday and Easter activities are not so busy, probably due to the local increased competition, not only from other attractions, but the leisure industry in general. Numbers attending major events now represent 47% of total visitor numbers, providing a good opportunity to attract more people to join as Members. 2015 was going to be a challenging year for school visits because of the National Curriculum changes, and group visits will improve once the new Gateway facilities are open. Core visitor numbers on daily visits are slightly down after an improvement in 2014 but this is something we shall be working very hard on with the opening of the Gateway Project.

HAVE YOU READ OUR BRILLIANT BLOGS?

From 'a day in the life' of a volunteer miller, to information about mummers' plays, threshing trains and 17th century interior design – there's sure to be a blog article to peak your interest in the workings of the museum! Take a look at www.wealddown.co.uk/blog

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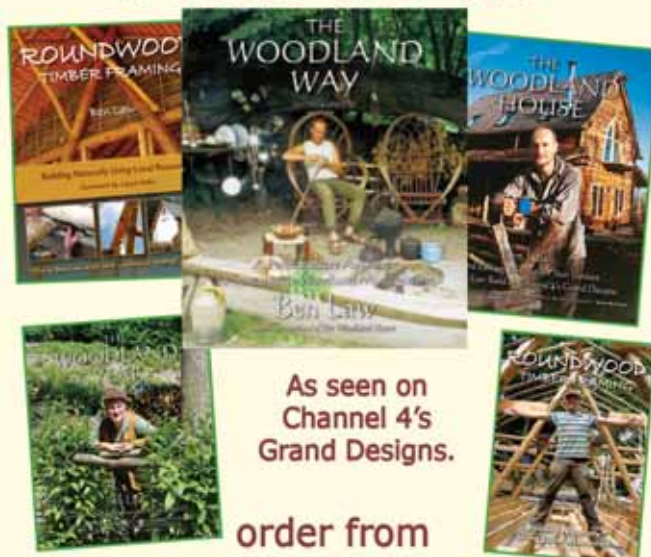


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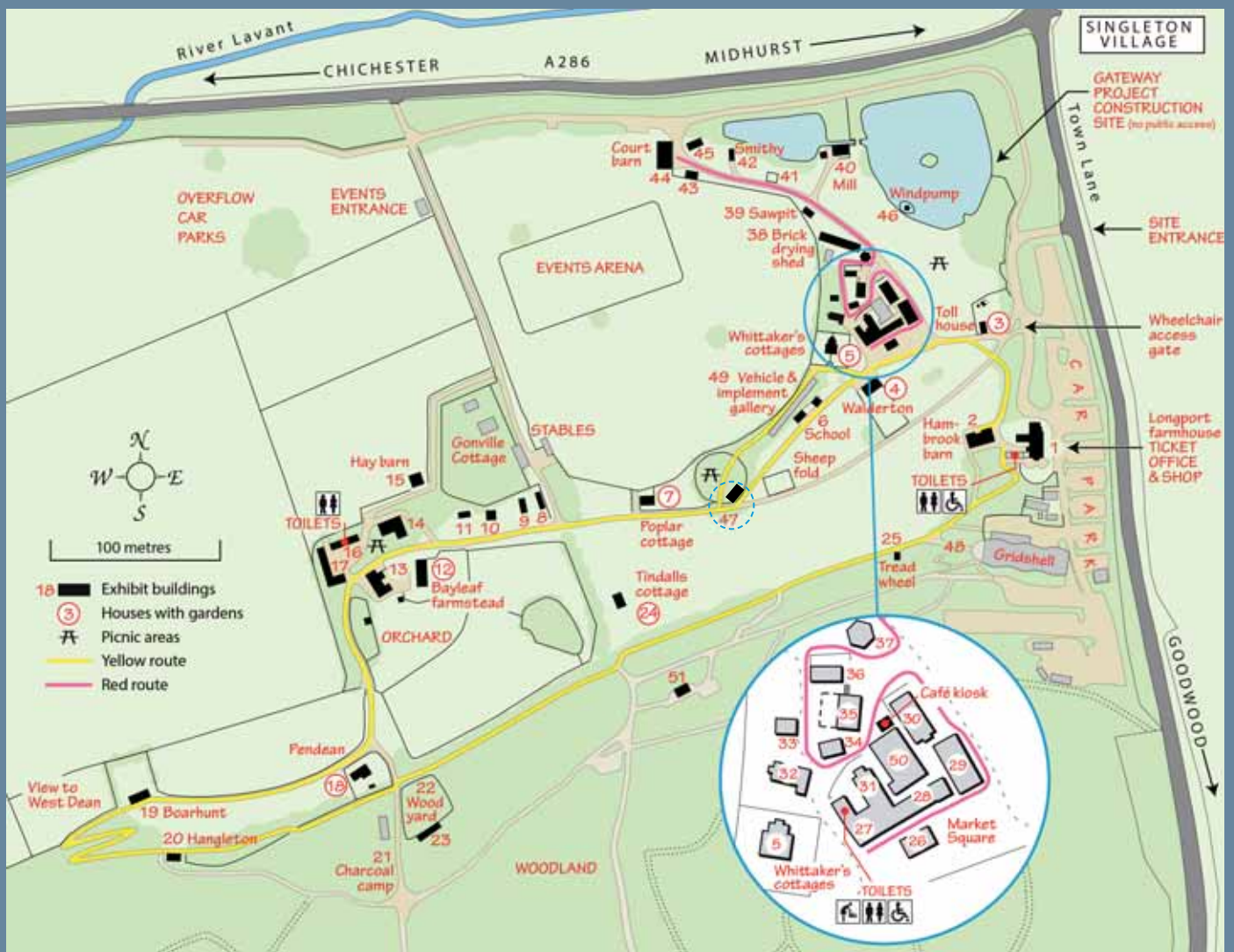


Finding your way around

With so much happening on the museum site at the moment one or two readers have asked if we can reproduce a site map, so that they can easily picture whereabouts things are taking place! We hope you will find it useful.

These are the buildings you can see at the Museum

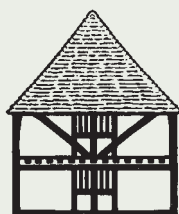
- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 'Longport': farmhouse from Newington, Kent (Museum entrance and shop) 2 Barn from Hambrook, Sussex 3 Tollhouse from Beeding, Sussex 4 House from Walderton, Sussex 5 'Whittaker's Cottages' from Ashted, Surrey 6 School from West Wittering, Sussex 7 'Poplar Cottage' from Washington, Sussex 8 Horse whim from West Kingsdown, Kent 9 Open shed from Charlwood, Surrey 10 Granary from Littlehampton, Sussex 11 Cattle shed from Lurgashall, Sussex 12 'Bayleaf': Wealden house from Chiddingstone, Kent 13 Barn from Cowfold, Sussex 14 'Winkhurst': Tudor kitchen from Sundridge, Kent 15 Hay barn from Ockley, Surrey 16 Cattle shed from Kirdford, Sussex 17 Cattle shed from Goodwood, Sussex 18 'Pendean': farmhouse from Midhurst, Sussex 19 Hall from Boarhunt, Hampshire 20 Medieval building from Hangleton, Sussex 21 Charcoal burner's camp 22 Timber crane from Basing, Hampshire 23 Cattle shed from Coldwaltham, Sussex 24 Tindall's Cottage (to be completed in 2013) 25 Treadwheel from Catherington, Hampshire | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26 Market hall from Titchfield, Hampshire 27 Medieval shop from Horsham, Sussex 28 Upper hall from Crawley, Sussex (Museum library and meeting room) 29 Medieval house from North Cray, Kent 30 Building from Lavant, Sussex (Education room) 31 House extension from Reigate, Surrey 32 Church from South Wonston, Hampshire 33 Bell frame from Stoughton, Sussex 34 Plumber's workshop from Newick, Sussex 35 Joiner's shop from Witley, Surrey 36 Carpenter's shop from Windlesham, Surrey 37 Pugmill house from Redford, Sussex 38 Brick drying shed from Petersfield, Hampshire 39 Saw-pit shed from Sheffield Park, Sussex 40 Watermill from Lurgashall, Sussex 41 Animal pound from Walton Heath, Surrey 42 Smithy from Southwater, Sussex 43 Wagon shed from Wiston, Sussex 44 'Court Barn' from Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire 45 Stable from Watersfield, Sussex 46 Windpump from Pevensey, Sussex 47 Medieval house from Sole Street, Kent (dismantled and to be re-erected 2016) 48 Downland Gridshell (conservation workshop) 49 Vehicle and implement gallery 50 Building crafts gallery 51 Saxon Hall House reconstruction |
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Spring is enchanting at the museum!



At last the weather is welcoming – come and enjoy this lovely season among the historic buildings and beautiful landscape of the museum. The season begins with *Mothering Sunday* on 6 March with our traditional complimentary posy for mothers and grandmothers. There's a *Shakespeare Family Day* on the 19th, as part of celebrations to mark 400 years since the Bard's death. *Easter's* early this year but the museum will hold traditional celebrations on 25, 27 and 28 March, including egg painting and bonnet making. Visit our *Historic Clothing Exhibition* on 2/8 April, including Medieval, Tudor, Stuart, Georgian and Victorian clothing all made by the museum's own talented needlework group, and on 9/10 April discover *Shepherding & Shepherd's Huts*, traditional and modern, in a special weekend celebrating this important downland skill. Stock up your larder and fridge at our *Food & Folk Festival* on 1/2 May, enjoy a special *Museum at Night Guided Walk* on 13/14 of the month, and round off the season with *Spring Half-term Activities* from 30 May-3 June. We look forward to seeing you!



WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

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



Directions

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

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

By rail: Chichester 7
miles, Haslemere 15 miles.



Opening Times and Admission

Open daily from 27 February until 27 November 2016. The museum will be closed from 28 November 2016 for Gateway Project landscaping work and will reopen in spring 2017. Opening times: 10.30am-6.00pm during British Summer Time and 10.30am-4.00pm at all other times. Opening times vary on major event days – please see our website for details.

Admission 2016: ticket prices include Gift Aid (standard charges in brackets). Adults £13.00 (£12.50); children 4-15 years £7.00 (£6.00); 65+ £12.00 (£10.50); family £36.00 (£32.00); registered disabled/single helper £5.00 (£4.50); 3s and under free. Call 01243 811363 for details of group rates and disabled access. Free car and coach parking. Dogs on leads welcome. Café kiosk, picnic areas, Post Office, book and gift shop.

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

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