

# WSSSEN

## Social Enterprise of the Month

### Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

Founded in 1970, the award-winning Weald & Downland Open Air Museum is the leading museum of historic buildings in England, covering 50 acres on the South Downs of Sussex.

The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, an independent museum, is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, it is home to 50 historic buildings which have been rescued from destruction and rebuilt in a beautiful setting of the South Downs National Park, bringing to life the homes, farms and workplaces of the south east over the past 500 years.

Exhibits include a medieval farmstead; a working 17th century watermill producing wholemeal stoneground flour sold in the Museum shop and used in the lakeside cafe; exhibitions of traditional building techniques and agriculture; a working Tudor kitchen, historic gardens and farm animals.

School parties are welcome at the museum and children can explore the entire site including the buildings, see the working animals and watch any demonstrations, including a working watermill, Victorian forge and Tudor kitchen, with volunteer stewards on hand to offer talks and guided tours of the area. The Museum also offers a range of workshops, suitable for educational purposes, which can cover topics such as Medieval, Tudor, Stuart or Victorian eras, or houses and homes and building materials.

The Museum also runs a comprehensive adult learning programme in Historic Building Conservation, and Traditional Rural Trades and Crafts. Special countryside events are held throughout the year and advertised through their website and local media.

The Museum offers a range of venue hire for organisations and businesses looking for a place to hold meetings, seminars conferences and team building days. Venues that can be hired include the Crawley House and the Jerwood Gridshell space.

The Museum was recently awarded the 'Grand Prix' in the education, training and awareness-raising category of the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards in recognition of the achievements of its historic building conservation programme. The jury commented that the award had been granted for the "exemplary initiative and long standing commitment of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum for creating a centre of training in historic building conservation"

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

Email Address: [office@wealddown.co.uk](mailto:office@wealddown.co.uk)

Telephone 01243 811348

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

