

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

Event Dates 2012

Cool Crafts Week Half Term Activities

Mon 13 – Fri 17 February 11am – 3pm

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

Open House on Mothering Sunday

Sun 18 March

A special spring day to welcome visitors old and new at the start of the season. £2 entry for everyone, plus our traditional bunch of daffodils for mothers and grandmothers!

Easter at the Museum

Wed 4 and 11

Wonderful Easter Wednesdays

Hands-on activities, crafts and games to occupy accompanied children of all ages.

All activities run 11am – 4pm

Sun 8 – Mon 9 April Easter Activities

Activities and Easter celebrations, with a bonnet competition and parade on the Monday.

Food & South Downs Fair

Sun 6 – Mon 7 May

A wonderful choice of delicious fare to sample and buy from quality producers, plus tastings, cookery classes and demonstrations. The stands will feature a stunning array of produce located in and among the historic buildings on the Museum's site. The Food Fair will also feature displays, demonstrations and activities celebrating many aspects of downland rural life, there will be a chance to enjoy music as you wander around the site.

Heavy Horse Spectacular

Sat 28 – Sun 27 May

One of the south's biggest gatherings of heavy horses: two unforgettable days of displays and demonstrations of horses at work on traditional tasks, and a wide variety of other working animals in action. There's continuous ringside commentary and a parade of horses at the end of each day, plus a chance to meet the animals and their proud owners.

South Downs Springtime Half Term Activities

Mon 4 June – Fri 8 June 11am – 4pm

Come and enjoy springtime in the countryside. Learn about the natural world, and enjoy arts, crafts, games and much more. For accompanied children of all ages, under cover if wet.

Fathers Day

Sun 17 June

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

Rare Breeds Show

Sun 22 July

Four legs, furry legs, feathered legs...come and see cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry in this delightful agricultural show for rare and traditional breeds of farm animals. With prizes at stake, and classes for young handlers, it's one of the biggest shows of its kind in the south east and hugely popular with visitors and exhibitors alike. Plus craft and trade stands with a countryside theme.

Wonderful Wednesdays Children's activities

1 – 29 Aug 11am – 4pm (5 weeks)

Hands-on fun and activities to occupy children of all ages! Have a go at all kinds of interesting and unusual countryside skills, traditional crafts, activities and games. The perfect antidote to holiday boredom! Under cover if wet.

Festival of Steam

Sat 18 & Sun 19 Aug

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

'Raising the Frame'

Sat 22 – Sun 23 September

A special opportunity to experience the re-erection of the timber frame of Tindalls Cottage. Rescued from the site of Bewl Bridge Reservoir in the 1970's, this early 18th Century cottage is the Museum's next historic building project.

Autumn Countryside Show

Sat 13 – Sun 14 October

Experience the sights, sounds and smells of the countryside at harvest time. At this beautiful time of year, enjoy heavy horses and vintage tractors ploughing, steam-powered threshing, falconry and dog displays, craft demonstrations and a chance to buy gifts with a countryside theme at the many craft and trade stands.

Autumn Adventures Half Term Activities

Mon 29 Oct – Fri 2 Nov 11am – 4pm

Wickedly wonderful seasonal activities, fun and farming for accompanied children of all ages! Carve a really scary pumpkin, play conkers, and enjoy arts, crafts and much more. Under cover if wet.

Christmas Market

Sat 17 - Sun 18 Nov

Find that perfect gift or treat at a Christmas market, set in and around our historic buildings. Bustling stalls with arts, crafts, food, unusual gifts and much more. Avoid the parking charges in town and shop in our lovely downland setting! Admission only £3.50, including access to all Museum exhibits.

Tree Dressing

Sun 2 Dec 12.30 – 4pm

A wonderful celebration for all the family of the life-giving properties of trees. Make a lantern (bring a jam jar!), and join the procession to dress the trees as darkness falls. Plus headdress making, music, dance and seasonal tasty treats.

A Sussex Christmas

Dec – Wed 26 Tue 1 Jan 2013

Experience the traditions of Christmas past and discover how our ancestors enjoyed the Festive Season. Walk off the Christmas pud as you enjoy our traditionally decorated houses with their crackling log fires, with many decorated for Christmas in the style of the period when they were originally built. Also enjoy a variety of festive fare and music. Come and enjoy a truly merry Sussex Christmas in our beautiful downland setting.