

Community News

Thursday, August 1, 2013 HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE

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NEWS ROUND-UP

History group gets a lift from lottery

EAST Meon History Group will receive money from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help it stage a history open day next month.

The grant of £5,700, from the Sharing Heritage fund, will help pay for the event on September 28 aimed at residents and those with family connections with East Meon and to feed their interest in its history.

East Meon History Group was founded three years ago and is a small, informal society. The grant will enable it to build an archive of village history, by scanning and indexing old photos and other memorabilia which villagers are encouraged to bring to the Open Day.

Its chairman, Michael Blakstad, said: "The event is the tip of an iceberg: to make it possible, we need to build the foundations on which local history can be systematically recorded — a fully-indexed archive of memorabilia, both in paper and digital forms, audio interviews with people with long memories of the village, as well as a print version of the guided walk around our historic buildings.

"The HLF grant will take us from a small, informal group to being able to record and celebrate the long history of this wonderful village."

Stuart McLeod, Head of HLF South East said: "Sharing Heritage is a wonderful opportunity for communities to delve into their local heritage and we are delighted to be able to offer this grant so that East Meon Open Day can involve the whole village in its history.

"Heritage means such different things to different people, and HLF's funding offers a wealth of opportunities for groups to explore and celebrate what's important to them in their area."

Sharing Heritage is for any not-for-profit group wanting to explore their community's heritage.

NEWS ROUND-UP

National park puts up community cash

THE South Downs National Park is pumping £30,000 into projects across the downs.

Its Sustainable Community Fund will benefit eight walks which promote local businesses, the joint promotion of four visitor sites in Hampshire, a new outdoor seating area for a village community centre and the renovation of an historic pond.

Chairman, Ken Bodfish, said: "Any group or organisation undertaking a non-profit making project that socially, economically, environmentally, or culturally benefits park communities can apply for SCF funding."

Initiatives include an 18-mile walk through 10 villages, including Compton, which will get £2,718, and up to £3,100 for a joint tourism project between Jane Austen's Museum, Chawton House Library, Gilbert White's House and the Oates Museum, Selborne.

The £1,000,000 fund runs from 2011 to 2014. Grants are available for up to 60 per cent of cost, from £250 to a maximum of £20,000.

History will come alive at East Meon

EAST Meon History Group is holding an open day on Saturday to celebrate the history of the village. The hall will be open from 2-5pm. Admission is free.

The event, funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, includes an exhibition of house histories researched by the History Group, including a display of the High Street in the 1920s.

At 3pm, children are invited to reenact Saxon life and dress up in costumes from the Hampshire Wardrobe, so they can see what their ancestors would have worn.

They can try their hand at medieval spinning, creating the yarn from which clothes were once made. Exhibits of antique farm instruments and a vintage tractor will also illustrate the traditions of this farming valley.

Chairman, Michael Blakstad, said: "We want to kindle an interest in the history of East Meon. We hope children will involve their parents and grandparents in exploring their own family trees, or other aspects of village history."

Villagers are invited to bring old photos of the village to help build an archive. At 4.30pm and 5pm, there will be guided walks around the historic buildings in the village, including The Court House and All Saints Church.

Thursday, September 26, 2013

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