

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bridge Cottage & Nutley Windmill are open again!

This is to confirm that properties owned by Uckfield & District Preservation Society have been opening up after the hiatus of the past 18 months. Here's what is happening:

i. Bridge Cottage, High Street, Uckfield:

Open days have been held, with the next one due on Saturday 2 October, 10-00 am to 2-00 pm. No admission charge, come and see displays of Uckfield past.

Bridge Cottage Markets will be held inside and outside the Cottage (weather permitting) on Saturdays 9 & 23 October, 6 & 27 November, and 4 December, from 10-00 am to 2-00pm. Stalls will feature arts, crafts, antiques, food, produce, hand-crafted goods, etc. Stalls are still available; for details of rates or other information, contact liz@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk, or ring the UDPS shop on the number above.

Uckfield Late Night Shopping, Friday 3 December will see Bridge Cottage open for shopping from 5-00 pm to 9-00 pm.

ii. Nutley Windmill, Crowborough Road, Nutley:

Open afternoons are scheduled for 26 September and 10 October, from 2-30 to 5-30 pm. Please park in Friends Clump car park, then follow the signs to the windmill. No charge, but donations always welcome.

iii. UDPS Charity Shop, Uckfield High Street:

The shop is open 6 days a week. Donations of saleable goods are always welcome, and there is a good range of stock for browsing.

iv. Local History talks, Bridge Cottage:

7 October – Ian Currie: 'Droughts, Deluges and Dust-devils. A look back at 350 years of South-East Weather'

4 November – Alan Brindle: Magic Lantern Show, 'Victorian Humour'.

2 December – Andy Thomas: ‘Christmas – A Festive History’

These talks start at 7-00 pm. Tickets £5.00 for UDPS members, £8.00 for non-members. To be cautious, numbers are limited, so please book in advance at Bridge Cottage (the October talk is virtually sold out already).

v. Music Concerts:

We are looking at re-starting these in January, but no decision yet. Details will be released as soon as possible.

ENDS

Notes to editors

Bridge Cottage is a central feature in the town and is an early 15th Century timber-framed building. Uckfield & District Preservation Society (UDPS) aims to run Bridge Cottage, a Grade II Listed building, as a usable and sustainable building. Our Aim is to create an historic meeting place available to the whole community for present and future generations to enjoy.

The mission of UDPS is to use a range of heritage activities and means of interpretation to enable all sectors of the growing town of Uckfield to understand and appreciate their heritage. This includes an educational programme at all levels, local history and craft events, Music Concerts and the use of a heritage hub for historical research.

The building is registered for Civil Ceremonies allowing the community to enjoy those special moments in a very local heritage setting.

More details about our activities can be found on our website www.bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

For further information about using the Heritage Centre, please call 01825 760734 or email admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

HISTORY

Bridge Cottage Heritage Centre is a 15th Century Medieval Wealden Hall house of above average construction situated in the heart of Uckfield, East Sussex. In 1983 the building was saved from demolition by the Uckfield & District Preservation Society and Uckfield Town Council. Thanks to a grant in 2016 from The Heritage Lottery Fund, it has now been extensively restored and today looks much as it would have done in the early 1600s.

There have been many changes, the most noticeable of which is the addition of a new section above the lean-to extension at the northern end, re-establishing the original Wealden house appearance. In addition the restoration has enhanced the sustainability credentials of the original building by the inclusion of underfloor heating driven by a Ground Sourced Heat Pump, sheeps wool insulation and LED lighting throughout – all sympathetically incorporated in an historic environment

During recent archaeological excavations, a hearth from a pre-1436 building was discovered; evidence that a building has stood at this site for many centuries.