



PHOTOCALL AND PRESS RELEASE

15 August 2013

PHOTOCALL: Scarecrows on The Green, Westerham, 11am Friday 16th August 2013 T: 07885 301590

Westerham prepares for 'best ever' scarecrows and soldiers weekend 7th and 8th September 2013

Preparations are already underway in Westerham for the 'best ever' scarecrows and soldiers weekend. On 7th and 8th September, Westerham in Kent will come alive with scarecrows of all shapes and sizes across the town, mingling with soldiers in full 18th century military costumes.

Jane Hunter of Westerham Town Partnership says: 'As well as being a great spectacle and fun day out for the family, the event raises money for good causes, particularly Westerham's Barley Charity Trust. The majority of the town's 90+ shops eating houses and businesses will be open all weekend – look out for the scarecrows in most shop windows.'

As well as retailers, pubs, clubs, societies and local families are all creating scarecrows that will lead visitors on the trail around the town. While some are made using kits or instructions from the internet, others are completely hand-made in traditional style. Some of the more unusual and creative scarecrows are being kept firmly under wraps until the weekend!

Jane Hunter continues: 'This event is important for Westerham and for the local charities. It created increased takings in large number of retail outlets last year and our aim is to attract more than 2,500 visitors to the town. We are expecting more than two dozen stalls at the Fair, (representing charities, clubs, societies and commercial enterprises), too.'

Other entertainment will come from the massed re-enactors of New France Old England who will recreate the battles of General Wolfe – one of Westerham's most eminent residents. The soldiers will also 'show and tell' close up, and their followers in The Living History Camp will demonstrate battle living conditions. At Quebec House, there will be a chance to sample some 18th century recipes and talk to a surveyor of the time. In addition to this, the fair and the scarecrow trail, there will be music, other children's entertainment and a bouncy castle.

More information about the weekend can be found at <http://www.visitwesterham.org.uk/>

Ends

Editors' notes

The event takes place from 11 am to 5pm on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September, with family-events centred on King George V's playing field. Entrance to most events is free.

Scarecrows (hay-men) in England were recorded in the sixteenth century – around the same date as some of the town's oldest surviving residential buildings.

Last year's event made contributions made and to the Barley Charity Trust (Charity number 267002) which exists for the benefit of the inhabitants of Westerham, and to RNLI.

Print quality JPEGs can be provided of Soldiers, battle re-enactments & Scarecrows.

Available for interview:

Jane Hunter of Westerham Town Partnership

Nikki Foster of The National Trust's Quebec House

Kim Jennings of Entre Nous on scarecrow making/scarecrow trail

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