

## Latest news on ‘Learning from the Past – Skilled for the Future’ a partnership project between Heritage Lottery Fund, Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse and Museum of East Anglian Life.

Providing opportunities for people to develop knowledge and understanding in traditional skills. The traineeships range between three months and eighteen months, taking place between 2011 and 2014.

### Trainees at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse:

Gressenhall's first trainees, Kay Davis and Nigel Boldero began working at the end of July. As Heritage Gardening Interns they will be working on projects in the museum gardens on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and going to the impressive gardens at the National Trust's Peckover House in Wisbech one day a week to work and train there with the Head Gardener.



A few words from Kay after her first month:

“I'd been a volunteer gardener at Gressenhall for almost two years when the opportunity to apply for the lottery funded heritage garden post came up. I was really excited when I was offered the Garden Heritage Internship at Gressenhall I

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### Trainees at Museum of East Anglian Life:

The Skills for the Future project is well underway at MEAL. We have three 12 month interns, who started in April. They are Chloe Brett (Visitor Services), Shaun Wolton and Max Beston (both Estate Management and Environmental Conservation).

The first three month Heritage Skills Taster Course is also in full swing. Running from July to September this course is designed to give people with a desire to work in a heritage environment, a taster of a number of traditional skills and crafts, as well as finding out what it is like to work in a museum. There are six places on the course each year during the programme. Becky Sutton and Hannah Baker have been describing their experience, two months into the course.

“There are six of us on the course and we have formed into a great little team. We have been able to sample a large variety of traditional skills such as Blacksmithing, Bodging (carving traditional wooden tools and implements), working with willow, traditional printing and working with heavy horses including the wonderful Suffolk Punches. As well as learning the basics of these skills we have been able to demonstrate some of them to the public visiting the museum.

We have also been involved with estate work including livestock management, nature conservation and clearance, building an eco-friendly children's play area and making scarecrows!

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couldn't wait to start. I began my first official day of the traineeship at the National Trust's Peckover House in Wisbech on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011. It is a truly beautiful garden and our induction was a tour from head gardener Allison with lots of health and safety discussions and the making of a short film. We just about managed to get our new scateurs dirty by the end of the day.

The following week, back at Gressenhall we met Carol and Jenny who plant and maintain the Dyer's garden on the farm. They gave us a good insight to the plants and I found it particularly fascinating as I have a background in art. We discussed various plans and made a small start tidying and rescuing a small herb bed next to the Dyer's garden."

The combination of on-the-job training and the working in three heritage gardens with many different colleagues over the course of the year will enable them to develop a wide range of Heritage Gardening Skills and hopefully have a very enjoyable experience at the same time.

The Heritage Farming Apprentice, Oscar Smith has just begun his Skills for the Future work at Gressenhall Farm, working with Suffolk Punch horses and helping Red Poll cattle to calve - more about his work in a few months time!

We are now developing traineeships in historic steam engine running, visitor services, traditional farriery and looking after the museum's collections. If you are interested in finding out more – get in touch.

**For Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse traineeships or general project information:**  
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And we learnt how to organise a museum event – a Steam and Crafts weekend, which went really well ... and we are fortunate enough to have been taught to drive a Steam engine!



In the next couple of weeks we are going to Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse in Norfolk to learn more about ploughing with Suffolk Punches, rare breed livestock and woodland management.

We are really enjoying learning the different traditional skills that have shaped the culture of our country and keeping them alive for future generations. Over the next few weeks we will also be thinking about how we will take this forward as part of our future careers. We'd certainly encourage other people to get involved with the Skills for the Future programme at MEAL or Gressenhall."

There will be another 3 month taster course at MEAL starting next summer.

**For Museum of East Anglian life traineeships**  
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