

complete contrast, the calm of the Sussex and Hampshire countryside results in some of Gordon's most endearing works that vary from old churches to farm barns and landscapes.



*Jackie Walker* gave up full time work in 1989 in international banking to become a full time painter and has never looked back. She has a particular interest in the effect of light on matter and in capturing mood and atmosphere. Jackie has exhibited widely including the Mall galleries.

Some 60 works from these painters will be featured and prints and paintings will be available to buy from the art marquee. Works from other local artists will also be available (**All weekend 10am-5pm**).

#### The Walks:

##### Sat 4th July 11.30am

A guided Downland walk through the Beech woods of Bignor Hill up to the top, with stops on the way to admire the views and to rest. The 360° views are astounding (about 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours).

##### Sat 4th July 3.00pm

A herbal stroll opposite the church through a stream edged woodland path, guided by an enthusiastic medical herbalist. Nettles, dandelions and elder have valuable uses- find out more. (about 3/4 hour)

##### Sun 5th July 11.30am

A guided Wealden walk. The flora and fauna, the birdsong and their recognition will all form part of the walk. A valuable insight into the countryside that will enlighten your future walks.

##### Sun 5th July 2.00pm

Another herbal stroll similar to Saturday's. Both walks will have an introductory talk beforehand.

*(Walks start from the church lychgate)*

#### The Evening:

##### Sound, light, fire and water. Quite magical.

The displays in the church will take on a new aura with special effect lighting and music to enhance a most moving experience.

Outside, as the sun drops towards the horizon, the sky will be lit up when the charcoal burner lets off steam and opens the kiln, to be followed by fire dancing and fire juggling as the evening wears into oblivion.

Licensed bar and barbecue with local beef.

**Sat. 7.30-10.30pm**

**(Charcoal burn 9.00pm)**

ENTRY: Adults £3.50 per day and evening.

Children (under 14): free

Parking: free. Master classes: free. Walks: free.



(Bignor is 6 miles from Petworth, Pulborough and Arundel and signposted from the A29/A285).

All profit towards the upkeep of Bignor Church

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# THE BIGNOR WEED & WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL



**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Sat 10am - 5pm and

7.30pm - 10.30pm

Sun 10am - 5pm

"...impressive on several fronts..." Country Life

With flower festivals galore, garden open days, Chelsea, Hampton Court and all that, the humble weed is often forgotten.

Over an amazing weekend at Bignor, with its breathtaking scenery of the South Downs, the ancient medieval church, churchyard and surrounds will be groaning with incredible displays paying homage to our common and garden natives. This is no ordinary flower festival.

The talents of some 25 arrangers and designers will be turning the inside of the church into a veritable haven of wild flowers, grasses, weeds, water and some special surprises.

Outside will be almost filled to overflowing with everything from paintings to plant medicine.



**Stunning church displays**  
**Art Exhibition–Nature**  
**Societies–Craft displays–Charcoal**  
**burning on**  
**site—Honey–Plants-Local**  
**produce-Guided Downland and**  
**Wealden walks-Music-Wildflower**  
**painting master classes-Wild food**  
**cookery demonstrations-Herb**  
**walks-Folk**  
**orchestra-Nettles-Bodger-Local ale**  
**and wine-Antique country**  
**implements-Plant medicine-Cream**  
**teas-Lamb**  
**roast-Poetry-Photography both**  
**contemporary and historic-Sussex**  
**books-Wildflower nursery-Lichen**  
**trail and**  
**much much more**

*There is so much to see and do at the festival including:*

### **The Displays:**



*“.....When I walked in I was absolutely speechless, it was beautiful” (Anne Smith, Petersfield.)*

*“Many visitors said how the displays rivaled the wildflower gardens of Chelsea and Hampton Court....” (Midhurst & Petworth Observer)*

*The theme this year is “Adventure” – you will have an unforgettable journey.*

### **The Crafts:**

The countryside produces some wonderful material which in this plastic age of mass production is carbon neutral, recyclable, ecologically sound and just a joy to own!



From chair making to fine stitch work; from mint working to hedge laying, the selection of country skills on display will be a joy to watch (**All weekend 10am-5pm**).

### **The Music:**



Under the shade of a 1000 year old yew tree the 15 strong Sussex Folk Orchestra, with their repertoire of traditional country music played on a wide variety of instruments, will give a lovely additional sense of Englishness to the event (**All weekend 10am-5pm**).

### **The Poetry:**



Sussex, with the South Downs and its countryside, has given much inspiration to poets and musicians alike. Some of our best loved poems will be on display amongst the gravestones. In the tea garden there will be readings (**Poetry reading Sun 5th 3pm**).

### **The Food:**



A day out in the country, especially at the Weed Festival, would not be the same without good wholesome grub. The ladies of the village will provide some scrumptious cream teas and home-made cakes. The licensed bar will serve local ale and wine. There will be herbal tea tastings; spit roasted South Downs Lamb; “the most delicious lamb baguette ever” (Mrs C) and demonstrations on how to cook wild food (**All weekend 10am-5pm**).

### **Wildflower drawing and painting masterclasses**

Antonia Dundas specialises in botanical art and the flora and fauna of the Downs. Bring along a sketch pad and spend some relaxing time, under guidance, drawing (and painting) the churchyard or venture out into the surrounding fields and woods (**Saturday and Sunday afternoons**).

### **Meet The Artists:**



The art exhibition this year has three professional painters “in residence”. If you are a painter, would like to paint, or just curious, then this will be an opportunity to find out more.

*Jan Harbon* has exhibited widely across the country and yearly at the Chelsea Flower Show. She has an RHS silver gilt medal, and won the President's award in 2007.

Jan teaches at workshops at RHS Wisley and Gilbert White's house in Selborne.



*Gordon Rushmer* is an official war artist and has worked in areas of conflict as diverse as Bosnia, Kosovo, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Iraq. His paintings are in many national collections including The House of Lords. At home, as a