



# Land Settlement Association

## Bulletin No 58

May 2026



### Headline News

First Donation

Fund raising

LSA links to the museum

### First Donation



Sidlesham Women's Institute closed this year after 98 years. The balance of their funds was generously donated to the LSA Project at the Weald and Downland Living Museum. It will be used to commemorate some of the WI members who were also tenants on the LSA.

### Fund raising

Staff at the Weald Downland Living Museum have started the fund raising process. Initially supporting the development phase of the project, the planning application and architectural drawings, etc. Subject to a successful outcome the next phase will be a more comprehensive fundraising campaign for both the capital build and the associated revenue elements of the project. This will include interpretation (with the possibility of a film of the rebuild and an audio tour (subject to funding)

A provisional site has been identified at the museum and the plan is to have a complete smallholding with piggery, chicken battery and glasshouse (subject to funding)

Talking of funding there is a way you can help. 'Buy a Memory' and add to the history of the LSA by having your name or that of a relative displayed in the house. For example:

*John 'Jack' Dixon (& Hannah) Sidlesham LSA No 50 1939-55  
Former miner from Allerdene Colliery, Co. Durham.*

Details to follow. If in the meantime you have any thoughts or suggestions on this funding idea please let me know - many thanks.

When it is rebuilt the house will tell the LSA Story, not just of Sidlesham, but all 20 LSAs across the country – my personal challenge is get at least one memory from each LSA.

## **Museum links to the LSA**

The last LSA resident at the house (No 144) was Godfrey Shirt, LSA Central Services Manager. In the 1960s Godfrey organised LSA lorries to transport some of the first buildings to the Weald and Downland Museum. Later he became the founder volunteer steward of Bayleaf House and there is a bench with his name nearby.



Godfrey's Shirt's wife and daughter outside No 144

## Website

The LSA website is currently 'under re-development'. It contains the names of 600 + tenants and staff and 100+ of their stories. This information will be made available via QR codes as part of the interpretation of the house.

## Piggery



You may recall a previous Bulletin asked for a piggery. One at Newent LSA in Gloucestershire burnt down recently.

## LSA Presentation

It is 13 years since I did my first LSA presentation in Sidlesham. A lot has happened since then, so it is time for an update:

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at Sidlesham Memorial Hall (PO20 7RD) 6.30 for 7.00**

Let me know if you are able to make it.

## and finally. . . . .

The Podcast 'The Sidlesham Experiment' was on BBC Radio Sussex (Sarah Gorrell's Morning Show) on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am. It features Julian Bell, the museum's curator, Norman Dixon, a former tenant now aged 97 and myself. As Sarah said at the end of the recording:

"What a wonderful story delving into another of the Secret Sussex Series"

[www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0m7cwn](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0m7cwn)

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**KEEP IN TOUCH**

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**Thank you for your continued support and assistance with this project.**

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