

WEST OF PETERSFI

EAST MEON

Saxon versus Normans rematch at history day

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WILL IT be one in the eye again for the Saxon King Harold, or this time around will the Norman leader, William the Conqueror, turn tail and flee when the Battle of Hastings is refought at East Meon history day.

The day is funded by a Heritage Lottery grant, and residents are invited to bring along artefacts and memories, theirs and their ancestors, to be recorded for posterity.

East Meon History Group chairman Michael Blakstad said: "We are inviting anyone with roots in East Meon, to bring old photographs and other records of family life in the village of 50 or more years ago, for a Living History archive. We shall make digital copies on the spot so people do not need to sacrifice their mementoes."

At 3pm, children can take part in re-enactments of Saxon life including the Battle of Hastings – armour, weapons and shields supplied.

Stage managing the battle on the green outside the village hall, volunteers from the Meonwara (Meon people) Saxon project will use a script developed at similar events in local schools.

Those less blood thirsty



Youngsters will get the chance to re-enact battles

can enjoy a history quiz with prizes of family tickets to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, dress up in costumes from Hampshire Wardrobe, and try their hand at mediaeval spinning, creating the yarn from which clothes were once made.

Mr Blakstad said: "We want to attract children, to kindle an interest in the village history, and hope they will involve their parents and grandpar-

ents in exploring their family trees, or other aspects of village history."

There will also be an exhibition of house histories researched by the village history group, and antique farm equipment and a vintage tractor will illustrate the farming traditions of the Meon valley.

A display of the High Street in the 1920s, a time when few villagers could travel as far as Petersfield for their everyday

needs, will reveal that almost every building was either a shop or work place.

At 4.30pm and 5.00pm, there will be guided walks around historic village buildings, including The Court House and All Saints church. The event from 2pm to 5pm at the village hall on Saturday, September 28, is free, as are refreshments until they run out. For details contact Mr Blakstad on 01730 823337.