



PRESS RELEASE

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19 October 2018

Glastonbury Museum Wins Awards

The successful redevelopment of Somerset Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury has been recognised with two awards.

The Museum re-opened in June 2017 following extensive redevelopment led by the South West Heritage Trust. The project included the conservation and adaptation of the buildings, the creation of a new Community Learning Space and the redisplay of the galleries to tell the story of Somerset's rich rural past.

The Museum has received the William Stanstell Historic Building Award from Somerset Building Preservation Trust. The award praised the 'excellent use of materials and workmanship,' and added that 'the new spaces and the new buildings are beautifully designed and detailed to enhance the setting of the 14th century barn.'

Earlier in the year, the Museum received a regional award for Best Educational Building from the Local Authority Building Control (LABC). The Museum will go forward to the national LABC awards in November.

Chief Executive of the South West Heritage Trust, Tom Mayberry, said: "Architecturally the project sought to retain and repair the original buildings sympathetically.

"At the same time, we wanted to create a 21st-century family-friendly museum that meets the needs of today's visitors.

The South West Heritage Trust is a charity supported by Somerset and Devon County Councils and other generous funders

South West Heritage Trust is a charity and a company limited by guarantee registered in England.
Registered office: Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset TA2 6SF
Company number: 09053532 Charity Number: 1158791 VAT Registration Number: 197221592

“We’re delighted to receive these awards and are most grateful to everyone who has helped to make the new museum such an asset to the county.”

The redevelopment was chiefly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Viridor Credits Environmental Company, Somerset County Council, the Garfield Weston Foundation and other generous funders. The Trust is also most grateful to the Friends of the Somerset Rural Life Museum for their consistent support. Building work was undertaken by Ken Biggs Contractors Ltd and the architect was Robert Battersby of Architecton Ltd.

For more information about visiting the Museum go to www.srlm.org.uk

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For further information please contact Beth Jerrett, PR & Communications Lead Officer, beth.jerrett@swheritage.org.uk or 01823 347418.

Image/s: *Photographs are granted for one time use in conjunction with this press release only, and photographers must be credited.*

Photo Captions:

The redesigned ‘Working Village’ gallery tells the story of working life in rural Somerset

Notes to editors

1. The South West Heritage Trust

The South West Heritage Trust is an independent charity committed to protecting and celebrating Somerset and Devon’s rich heritage. As well as the widely-praised Museum of Somerset and the redeveloped Somerset Rural Life Museum, in Glastonbury, the Trust manages state-of-the-art facilities in Taunton and Exeter to care for the extraordinary archive collections of the two counties. The Trust also provides essential advice about the historic environment and manages historic sites. Individuals and businesses are invited to support the charity through its Supporters’ scheme. Visit swheritage.org.uk

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2. Somerset Rural Life Museum

The Museum tells the story of Somerset's rich rural and social history. The magnificent 14th-century Abbey Barn remains the centrepiece of the site, providing a unique and remarkable setting for exhibitions and events. Outside spaces, including the Farmyard and the Orchard, contain sculpture and family trails that interpret the history of the site and its buildings. The Grain Store Café is open all year round at this family-friendly destination, offering high-quality locally-sourced food and drink.

Opening Times:

Easter to the end of October

Tuesday – Sunday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm and Bank Holiday Mondays.

November to Easter

Tuesday – Saturday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm and Bank Holiday Mondays.

Last entry 4.30 pm.

Admission applies.

WWW.SRLM.ORG.UK

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