

Duke of York opens Tollbridge



The Duke of York unveiled a Bronze plaque on the Old Shoreham Tollbridge to mark its official opening before hundreds of delighted people, including pupils from Buckingham Park School, following its extensive restoration.

Chairman of the Old Shoreham Community Trust, Liza McKinney greeted the Duke along with members of the trust who have worked tirelessly to raise £500,000 and see the bridge bought back to life. She said: "The Trust and West Sussex County Council's success in restoring the bridge is living proof that a local community and local authority working in partnership can achieve what may seem impossible particularly financially. To start the restoration the Trust had to pay off the outstanding debt of some £120,000 over the next three years. Please help us raise the rest. Come to the Christmas fair in the Marlipins Museum on December 6th".

The first bridge was opened in 1782 by the Earl of Surrey. A newspaper clipping from the time said that two thousand people ascended on the bridge for that occasion.

It took 10 months to build the original bridge and when it was finished it was hailed as a major road development for travellers between Portsmouth and Dover.

Following this grand ceremony the Earl and other gentlemen went to the Star Inn at New Shoreham where they dined. Toasts were drunk throughout the dinner. One of which applies today; "to the firmness and durability of the bridge".

The bridge officially closed to cars in December 1970 when the flyover was built. Walkers and cyclists have enjoyed it ever since.

"A toast to the firmness and durability of the bridge"

To find out more

About the Tollbridge call Liza McKinney on **01273 462233** or e-mail **liza.mckinney@adur.gov.uk**

Great news for real christmas tree lovers.

Instead of taking your tree to a compound for recycling we will pick it up FREE with your refuse collection from Monday 12 January 2009. Don't forget to leave it at the kerbside.