

**PRESS RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE**

**FOUR DAYS ONLY – SEPTEMBER THURSDAY TO SUNDAY, 9-12**

**LURIE SMITH TALKS 12.00AM – AND 3.00PM**

**The General Stores, Mill End, Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire GL17 0HP**

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**HISTORIC PRIVATE BUILDING OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC FOR FOUR DAYS ONLY, WITH  
FREE TALKS BY ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN, LURIE SMITH.**

A unique C14th half-timbered Gloucestershire building is opening its doors to visitors for only the second time since it was rescued from previous owners who had no respect for the history of the building, for Heritage Week on September the 9<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 2010. Visitors can tour the beautifully decorated and restored General Stores at Mill End in Mitcheldean from 10am-4pm and also enjoy talks by Architectural Historian Laurie Smith on the Saturday, who has extensively studied the history and construction methods of the daisy wheel design on the building's interior. Entry to the building and attendance of the talk are both free of charge.

The Grade II listed building, which was partially restored with the help of a Forest of Dean Tourism Grant, was featured in Grand Designs magazine while in its previous dilapidated state. It has since been sympathetically repaired and redecorated by its current owners over the last five years after numerous bodged modernisation projects which had been undertaken by previous owners, before the building was listed. It now successfully merges the old with the new through the use of beautiful and sensitive decoration by fashion and textile designer Liz Lewitt. Textile courses will also be running during the four days, with Textile Artist Penny Leaver Green

([www.pennyleavergreen.co.uk](http://www.pennyleavergreen.co.uk)) running workshops on the Thursday and Friday, and published Felter Teresa Searle running workshops on the Saturday and Sunday.

There are many fascinating original features still in evidence throughout, which help to tell the story of the buildings long and varied history, including the remains of a rifle range in the barn which was used for gunfire practice during the Second World War, and the series of bee skeps inset into the outside walls of the building into which small hives would be placed to protect them from the elements. Other points of interest are an internal Edwardian sliding casement window in the sitting room, doors and butterfly hinges which date back to the 1650's and an old bread oven from one of the General Stores previous incarnations as the village bakers.

This is a rare and exciting opportunity to visit such an important part of Gloucestershire's history.

**- Ends -**

**Notes to the Editor:**

**1) Contact Details:**

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Website: [www.millendmitcheldean.co.uk](http://www.millendmitcheldean.co.uk)

**1) Images:**

Hi-res/300dpi images can be downloaded by clicking the following links:

[http://www.millendmitcheldean.co.uk/images/MILL\\_END\\_MITCHELDEAN%20\\_300DPI\\_1.jpg](http://www.millendmitcheldean.co.uk/images/MILL_END_MITCHELDEAN%20_300DPI_1.jpg)

[http://www.millendmitcheldean.co.uk/images/MILL\\_END\\_MITCHELDEAN%20300DPI\\_2.jpg](http://www.millendmitcheldean.co.uk/images/MILL_END_MITCHELDEAN%20300DPI_2.jpg)

[http://www.millendmitcheldean.co.uk/images/MILL\\_END\\_MITCHELDEAN%20300DPI\\_3.jpg](http://www.millendmitcheldean.co.uk/images/MILL_END_MITCHELDEAN%20300DPI_3.jpg)