

NEWS



Immediate release

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TV STAR TO OPEN NEW HERITAGE CENTRE

FOOTBALL pundit and TV presenter Jimmy Hill will open the South Downs Heritage Centre in Hassocks, West Sussex, at a VIP ceremony on Friday 4 April, 2008.

The new tourist attraction, at South Downs Nurseries on the A273 just north of Brighton, will open to visitors on Saturday 5 April, showcasing everything connected with the heritage of the South Downs area.

The secrets and skills of a bygone age have been re-created at the attraction which boasts free entry, donating any proceeds to nominated local charities.

While the centre itself will concentrate on traditional crafts and trades such as the blacksmith, the wheelwright, the trug maker and the carpenter, a new Heritage Garden outside will display interesting plants such as old local varieties of fruit, local plants from times gone by, such as medicinal herbs.

The idea has come from the nursery's owner Jonathan Tate. "There are fascinating stories to tell about vintage Sussex plants, long since gone or forgotten," he says.

"We are delighted that Jimmy Hill has agreed to help us by opening this unique visitor attraction", adds Jonathan. "He is a good customer and a keen gardener, and we are really pleased he has given up his time to help us launch the exciting new exhibition to be a reminder and celebration of our local heritage."

Jimmy Hill, who had a distinguished career as a footballer with Fulham FC, lives nearby and is a regular customer at the garden centre.

He became a television legend as one of the first pundits to analyse football matches on TV. He had a long spell on ITV's The Big match, but in the 1973-74 season he joined the BBC as presenter of Match of the Day where he became something of an icon.

The 1987-88 season was Jimmy Hill's final one as presenter of Match of the Day, before handing over to Des Lynam, after a record 15 years.

Latterly Jimmy hosted Sky's breakfast show, Sunday Supplement.

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Further media information and interview requests to Karen Sexton, Marketing Manager at South Downs Nurseries on 01273 616011 or email Karen.sexton@south-downs.co.uk.

**MEDIA are invited to the opening -
please contact Karen Sexton, above, for a ticket.**

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IMAGES – a selection may be downloaded from www.tbutlerpr.co.uk/southdowns