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# LINGFIELD COUNTY BORDER NEWS

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INSIDE THIS WEEK....Our Valentine Special and pages of properties for sale

## Lord Lingfield's charity to raise treasure laden wreck

A charity headed up by Lord Lingfield, otherwise known as Sir Robert Balchin, will be involved in raising a treasure laden ship from the bottom of the English Channel. HMS victory sank in 1744 in a storm and on board was a relative, Admiral Sir John Balchin.

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Lord Lingfield's Maritime Heritage Foundation will be in charge of protecting the site of the Victory and responsible for artefacts to be recovered - the ship was apparently carrying four tons of gold coins from Lisbon to England. The ship also has a unique collection of bronze heavy cannon.

The Victory lies in international waters 60 miles off Alderney and was found and surveyed in 2008. Lord Lingfield's charity will employ an American company to recover the Victory. If coins are found the bulk of the fortune will go the US company. Any bones from the crew will be left on the sea bed. The charity will display the cannons and other items at naval museums in Britain to give the



public an insight into Georgian society. Lord Lingfield himself - he lives in Lingfield's Station Road - will not profit from the salvage of the Victory.

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# The Wild West comes South - to Surrey



Saloon gal Trixie gets up close and personal with the object of her desire, the mad and bad to know Major Clell Miller who is obviously a man not to be trifled with, especially when he is packing a lethal looking six gun.

In their every day life Trixie is Kim Taylor and the tall and dangerous Clell is former estate agent and now financial advisor Simon Elliott and the pair run the Spearfish Creek Living History and re-Enactment Group from the home they share in Lingfield.

Both Kim and Simon loved playing cowboys and indians - as they were then called - as youngsters and western films and the Victorian period of history, as applied to the American West.

Now they have channelled that love of a unique period of American history into the Spearfish Creek - it was a booming mining town in South Dakota in the 1800s - group which now has 30 members.

The aim of Kim and Simon and their fellow enthusiasts is to educate and entertain the public in the history of the American West during the 19th century and the re-enactors recreate in fine detail, the life and times of the USA from the 1750s through to 1900.

With an eye for the finest detail of the period Simon and Kim and the Spearfish Creek crew are able to create gun fights, historical and fictional, and last year they set up camp at Flower Farm, Godstone, where

the public was able to view their living history camp displays and all their various props and clothing which are period correct for historical purposes.

Although the public wants to see gun battles like the legendary shoot out at the OK Corral recreated, the camp contains many more characters such as doctors, working girls, school teachers, mountain men, and prospectors, just some of the colourful individuals who populated the old American West.

The Spearfish Creek group will be back at Flower Farm at Easter but Simon and Kim are keen to take their spectacular love of the wild and woolly West to weddings, steam rallies, and country shows.

If you would like to join the Spearfish Creek Re-Enactment Group or have any other enquiries check out [www.spearfishcreek.co.uk](http://www.spearfishcreek.co.uk) or ring 01342 837076.

Photo kevin black

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