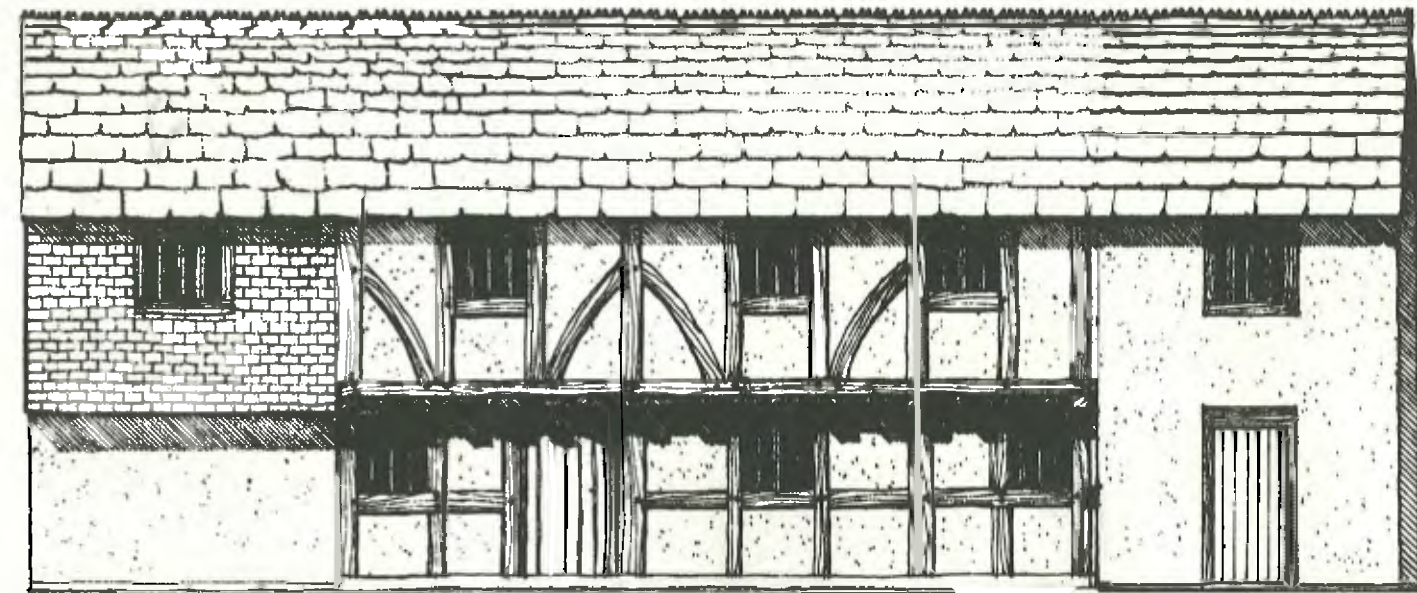




Members' Magazine  
WEALD AND DOWNLAND  
OPEN AIR MUSEUM



THE JETTIED UPPER HALL  
FROM  
CRAWLEY

C O N T E N T S

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COVER ILLUSTRATION

Drawing of the South Elevation of the Crawley Hall. Drawn by  
John Warren and Alan Robson.

MUSEUM NEWS

The bulk of this newsletter will be devoted to news and information about the Museum. At this time of year, many of you will be looking forward to returning to Singleton and I hope that the Newsletter will not only inform you, but also encourage you at the start of yet another season. We shall be starting on three major projects this year and details of these are included. This major step forward has been possible due to the success of last season and also due to the receipt of major grants. The fine weather and our good fortune during 1975 cannot, of course, be relied upon for the future. Fund raising and recruitment are just as important as before. A calculation of man-hours put in by volunteers and valued at a normal rate of pay show that without the help of our stewards and other volunteers, the Museum would be very far from viable. The continued development is still absolutely dependent on your help.

After five years of operation, as one would expect, it has been necessary to undertake quite a lot of repair work in many areas of the site. The entrance road has been resurfaced at considerable expense and attention has been paid to plumbing. In some areas of the site, erosion is becoming a problem and in one place we have had to fence off a piece of woodland to allow the undergrowth to recover. As well as this work we have started on a planned replanting programme which will help to alleviate the effect of losing so many trees over the next few years. We have already had to fell the elms near the entrance and will very soon have to fell the elms behind Titchfield.

I must also report the sad loss of the Selsey Waggon Shed which, in its unfinished state was blown down during that memorable gale. The Scouts had worked very hard on the project and indeed, won an award for their efforts. The damage to the timbers was considerable and it is unlikely that much can be salvaged.

CURRENT PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION

Pendean

By the time we are open at Easter, Pendean will be ready and open to the public. Its enormous chimney stack is a new feature on the site. Geoff Kent and John Friar have succeeded in reconstructing a complicated structure very accurately. The time involved has been considerable and a number of delays were caused by the bad weather.

Watersfield Stable

Anthony Simmons has nearly completed the re-building of Watersfield Stable and during the summer, Mr. Plewis, who some years ago donated the whole of his wheelwright's equipment to the Museum, will be coming down to establish a wheelwright's shop in the Stable. We should have an extremely interesting exhibit which will compliment the Forge very well.

New Workshop Site

The workshop site has been a problem for a long time now, but at last, the workshop has been moved to its new site at Singleton Station. In its new position, not only does it tidy the site behind Bayleaf, but also it enables us to establish much more

organised stores and facilities. A good laying-out area is available and stocks of timber are readily to hand. During this summer a small shed will be built in the top bay of the car park for certain tools, etc. that are needed regularly on site, as well as providing a dry storage area for lime and cement.

Facilities for Coach Drivers

For a long time now, coach drivers have been complaining that there is nowhere for them to rest and obtain a cup of tea. Mr. & Mrs Powicke have kindly restored a small road waggon which will be placed in the car park where the drivers will be able to make themselves a cup of tea or coffee.

Educational Work

Heather Jackson has produced a new series of teachers' leaflets. They are trails which aim to introduce teachers to the more detailed aspects of the buildings. They should prove useful to the more serious teacher. The loan service has developed further with the addition of new materials. At present it is only possible to provide this service in a limited way, but eventually, we hope it will come to be a useful resource for local schools.

Lining of the Lake

An order has been placed for the lining of the upper pond with polythene. As soon as conditions permit, the work will begin. By mid-summer, therefore, we should have a lake full of water at last.

Newspaper

Collection of newspaper continues. We have sold the first load, and made £25. for the Museum Site Fund. We hope that you will continue to bring your waste paper to the Museum, but please, always tie the bundles securely, and keep magazines separate. This is most important as the rate for magazines is very low, and one magazine in a bundle of newspapers means the whole bundle is paid for at the low rate. Many thanks for your efforts so far.

Plastic Envelopes

You may have been surprised by the plastic envelope that your copy of the newsletter arrived in. These envelopes are only half the price of the paper ones, and much lighter. With over one thousand newsletters to despatch, the saving is considerable.

Lecture Programme - 1976

We have made new arrangements for this year's lecture programme. The Sunday evening talks were not at all well attended and we have transferred them to Wednesday evenings at West Dean College. A programme and booking form is attached to this newsletter. If you wish to come, please complete the form and return it to the Museum Office as soon as possible. You are welcome to bring a guest, especially if you can persuade them to join the Friends or to become a steward! Information on the Autumn Lectures will be sent with the September Newsletter.

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SAFETY ON SITE

The recent introduction of the Health and Safety at Work Act has placed increased responsibility on the Museum, not only towards our full time staff but also towards the visiting public. For the purpose of the Act, volunteers on stewarding duty are considered as Staff. Most of the provisions affect the building works, but there are a number of points that volunteers are asked to bear in mind.

- 1) Care must be taken to see that no object is left lying around in such a way that it can cause injury. This, of course, applies to practical volunteers most of all, but stewards are also asked to take care.
- 2) Please report to the Director any broken item or obstruction that might cause injury.
- 3) First Aid Kits are available in the Office and in the Shop. Volunteers must not administer first aid in any but the most minor cases. Miss Maxwell has been trained in basic First Aid and should always be referred to. Any serious accidents will be dealt with by qualified people i.e. local doctor or hospital.
- 4) All accidents must be reported to the Director who will enter them in the Accident Book.
- 5) Out of kindness, some volunteers have supplied aspirin, etc., to visitors asking for help. This should never be done. It is not possible for a volunteer to dis-associate himself from the Museum whilst on duty, and the responsibility remains with the Museum. Please, be hard-hearted.

Sadly, it has become necessary to fence each building site while work is in progress in such a way that the public cannot enter the compounds. We will try to do this as much as possible can be seen of the work going on from outside the fence. This will apply particularly to the two major projects to be started this year, the Crawley Building and the Mill.

All volunteers and Stewards are asked to respect this rule very carefully and we have a definite legal responsibility to do this, and your help in this matter will be appreciated. Of course, we do not wish to take away from your own enjoyment and interest, but if you wish to see a building from "the inside" please announce yourself to the craftsmen before you enter the compound.

I apologise for all these rules and regulations, but the provisions of the Act are very far-reaching and I have had to examine our operations very carefully and there are many areas where inconvenience has been incurred in the laudible interests of safety.

C. S. H. Zeuner.

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THE JETTIED UPPER HALL FROM CRAWLEY

The building known as the Crawley Barn represents an important development for the Museum. It will be converted for use as a library and meeting room, with a small exhibition area. At some time in its history, the Building was shortened at both ends and therefore, the frame is no longer complete. We intend to add a bay at each end, thereby providing access to the first floor and some extra space. These new bays will be of modern material and by choosing sympathetic colours the marriage of the old and the new should be successful. John Warren, assisted by Alan Robson will be acting as architects to the project and it is hoped that the result will be an example of conversion to modern use of an historic structure without compromising the original building. Roger Champion will undertake the repair work. There follows a summary by Roy Armstrong giving further details of the building, which is also illustrated on the front cover of this newsletter.

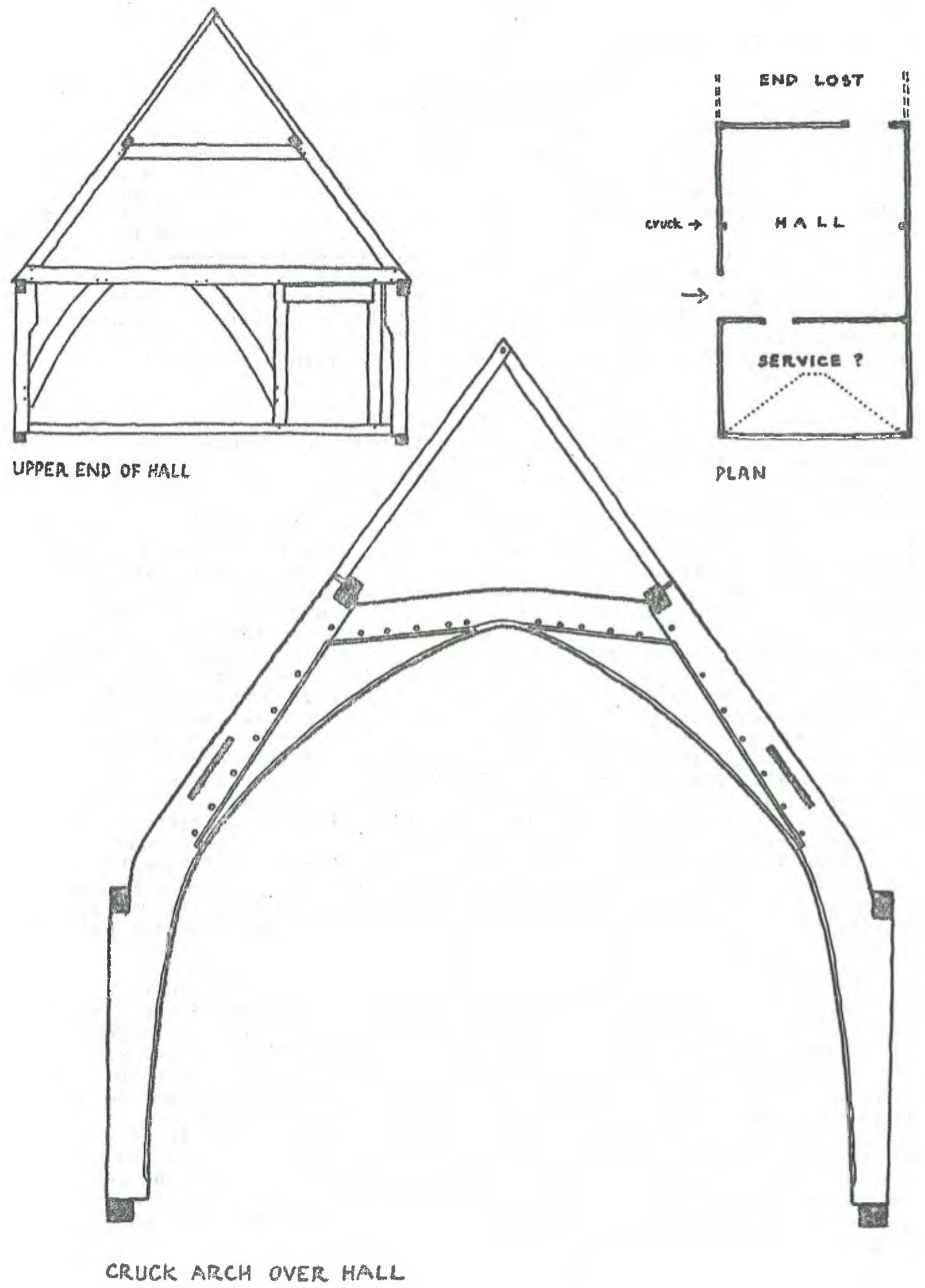
This building, long known as "The Old Barn" was situated close to the centre of Crawley and adjacent to the medieval manor house known as The Tree, in the High Street. As built it was a very different building. When carefully examined, at the time when demolition was imminent to make way for an office extension, it was revealed as originally a building with a continuous jetty at first floor level, the first floor designed as a long open hall of at least four bays - that is, some thirty-six feet in length. There was no indication of any partition and all the tie-beams, including the one at the end of the building were chamfered on both sides. Two bays were complete, with two-thirds of a bay at the West end, one bay at the East end having been demolished, but leaving the chamfered tie-beam. Excavation of the site confirmed the view that the building had originally consisted of four bays. The jetty had been concealed by moving the supporting posts to the end of the floor joists which supported the jetty, and then the whole of the exterior had been covered with weather-board which concealed both the timber-framing and the window openings (two of which still preserved their mullions). Behind the weather-board some wattle and daub infill also still survived. The roof had been stripped of its original tiles and a covering of felt substituted. The relatively low pitch of the roof makes it fairly certain that the original roof covering was of Horsham Slab which would have been most probable for a building of that status in that area. The Museum is fortunate in having a stock of Horsham slab tiles from a medieval building in Horsham (Bournes), which was demolished at about the same time.

The timber-frame of the first floor, or upper hall, was found to be in very good condition, and it was possible to lift most of the rafter trusses from the roof and place in store without removing the pegs. The evidence provided by the two and a half bays which survive will make it possible to reconstruct the missing sections without undue guesswork. Its original purpose, like that of other long upper halls such as survive most notably in Long Crendon in Essex, Elstow in Bedfordshire and Finchingfield in Hertfordshire, would almost certainly have been to serve some public use, such as a Guild Hall, or Moot Hall, etc., the stairs being situated within one of the end bays. The ground floor might have been used for various purposes, such as lock-up workshops, storage, etc.. (At Finchingfield, the ground floors are now residential).

J. R. Armstrong.

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BASE CRUCK COTTAGE FROM BOARHUNT, EAST HAMPSHIRE



Like the Horsham medieval shop and the early brick house from Lavant, this cottage had remained derelict and unrecognised up to the time when demolition had virtually commenced. A casual interior inspection by a member of our Sites and Buildings Committee revealed its unusual structure - unusual that is in the area which the Museum serves. The status of the building falls into the small farm or cottage category rather than into that of the more substantial yeoman class emerging in the later Middle Ages.

The part of the building which was rescued consisted of a medieval timber-framed structure containing two rooms: a two bay cruck hall and a room - possibly a service room - under the hipped end. As found the building had brick walls (of several different dates) and a thatched roof. An upper hall had been inserted over the hall, lighted by dormer windows and a large brick chimney serving two ground floor hearths and a bake oven had been built in the lower bay of the hall. The service room was still open to the roof as it had always been and the rafters and thatch battens were heavily sooted from the original open fire. It is clear from the structure that the timber framed building originally extended on from the upper end of the hall, but this end (which may have been a 'solar' or possibly another open hall) had been completely replaced by a later brick building.

The timber framed building is fragmentary in that only about 30% of the timbers still exist. Normally, this would be considered too little on which to base a reconstruction, but luckily, this does not apply to Boarhunt, mainly because the building is extremely small scale and simple, and because the remains were well distributed throughout the frames. The main difficulties arise because the wall plate had almost completely disintegrated, but probable original door and window positions can be guessed from other features. The form, dimensions and construction details of the building can be reconstructed with almost complete certainty.

The main interest of the reconstruction will lie in the hall: it is small (approximately 17 feet square) but has architectural pretension. The cruck arch which divides upper from lower bay is illustrated opposite. In addition, there is evidence that the frame at the upper end of the hall had a moulded 'dais rail' at doorhead height, and was designed with arch braces under the tie beam forming a visual accent above the high table.

The construction method is also of great interest. It is a unique example of cruck construction with 'clasped purlins' - side purlins clasped between principal rafter and collar. The crucks are unusual in that they terminate just above collar level: they may, therefore, be called 'base-crucks', although they are very distant relatives of the true base-crucks of quasi-aisled houses such as Tickeridge and Chennels Brook Farm.

Anthony Simmons will commence the repair of the timbers when he has completed the Watersfield Stable. A site has been set aside to the north of Hangleton Cottage.

Richard Harris

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 16th April Summer Season Starts
- 16th - 30th April Exhibition of Schools work at the Museum in Titchfield Market Hall.
- 5th May Seminar - "The Interior Workings of Mills" by Frank Gregory
- 6th May - 25th July Exhibition in Titchfield Market Hall of "The Reconstruction of Titchfield Market Hall"
- 2nd June Seminar - "Problems of Conservation Philosophy in Buildings in Use" by John Warren
- 30th June Seminar - "The Wheelwright's Shop" by Arthur Plewis
- 30th June - 3rd July Exhibition of Guild of Sussex Craftsmen
- 10th July Buffet Supper - Friends and Volunteers
- 1st - 22nd August Exhibition in Titchfield Market Hall "English Cottages and Small Farmhouses" (Loaned exhibition from Arts Council)
- 4th August Seminar - "Avoncroft Museum of Buildings - Recent Projects" by Richard Harris
- 1st September Seminar - "Chichester Cathedral - Stonework Restoration" by E. Brookes
- 13th October Seminar - "The Tudor House" by John Lowe

FURTHER DETAILS OF ANY OF THE ABOVE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST BOOK FOR ALL SEMINARS AND OTHER EVENTS.

MUSEUM SCHOOLS SERVICE

Schools and colleges have been taking advantage of the Tuesday and Thursday winter openings, particularly in the months of February and March, for educational use.

The majority of schools came to the Museum to study in detail selected exhibits and link these with topic work being carried out at school. Most of the schools which used the museum for a more 'general' visit had been prepared beforehand and had been issued with questionnaire work to be carried out at the Museum. Some of these visits were going to be followed up with more work on their return to school in the form of interest books and model making.

The majority of students visiting the Museum were first year and studying architecture or types of building techniques and materials. They viewed the exhibits in a general way as an introduction to their course.

One school has been in the position to help with maintenance of Winkhurst and Bayleaf in particular. The wattle and daub walling of these two buildings has to be lime washed, ideally annually. The children concerned have involved themselves in collecting the materials required, mixing it and applying the wash to the walls. This has been carried out with enthusiasm and has proved to be a valuable educational experience.

The more local schools especially, have been taking advantage of the Loan Service now functioning from the Museum. Loan material includes a selection of types of building materials and tools, visual material includes hard-backed large photographs of the various stages of building exhibits and applicable slides and film strips of building and craft techniques.

Another Teacher Centre Course, held at the Museum was arranged for three afternoons in March. The course, an introduction for teachers in the use of the Museum, aimed at helping them to make the most of the museum with their classes. The three meetings were well attended by junior school teachers who during the first meeting studied in detail the exhibits built between 1400 and 1600. At the second meeting, after looking at the exhibits based upon archaeological evidence, Mr. Armstrong showed slides illustrating the excavations and explained the difficulties in interpreting the evidence to both children and adults.

The last meeting took the form of a general discussion on the most practical methods of school children using the museum and gaining the most from their visit. The publications issued and services available to educational establishments were explained to the teachers.

An exhibition of educational material available from the Museum, together with samples of children's work resulting from their visits will be held at the beginning of the season for three weeks in the upper room of the Titchfield Market Hall.

Heather Jackson