Redford Roundhouse

One of the most spectacular operations in the Museum's history took place this summer when massive stone and brick walls, weighing well over 20 tons, were moved intact, onto the site. From their original site at Redford, near Midhurst, the walls undertook a 15 mile journey along the West Sussex roads, taking more than these hours to reach the Museum—a trip which normally takes no longer than 10 minutes! Sections of the building were underpinned with concrete beams into which were set large lifting "eyes". A framework of timber was built around the walls to hold them firmly during the tricky and slow journey back to the Museum. One of the walls was "craned" and weighed a total of about 30 tons with its concrete beam. It was a tense moment for the Museum staff and Consultant Engineers (who volunteered their "time" for the project) when wall was carefully lifted by crane off its original site. The walls were fixed to two low-loader transporters, which then began the arduous journey back to the Museum. On arrival at the site, the walls were lifted into their new position on foundations prepared in readiness for the building—an instant historic building exhibit!

Visitors to the Museum gathered around to watch and responded enthusiastically to this spectacular operation with a loud round of applause. Work on underpinning the building took six weeks and was carried out by Museum staff, led by John Feat. The Consultant Engineers were R.J. James & Partners and Mr. D. Wilksman. The project was greatly assisted financially by Marsh Plant of Saffron Walden, who sponsored the 35 ton crane, C.W. Burch & Sons, of Wiltshire, provided two of their low loaders, together with exceptionally careful and helpful drivers. The huge walled sections that are now firmly in position below the Market Square, are part of the hexagonal building, which once housed equipment for preparing clay in a rural brickyard. It was the last surviving remnant of the brickyard, which appears on the 1838 Ordnance Survey map.

The Museum aims to return to the site of the dismantling the brick kiln sometime in 1980.

Petersfield Drying Shed

A drying shed, which will form part of the brickmaking exhibit, was dismantled during the summer from its site at Petersfield, together with a stable associated with the brickworks. This housed the horses working on the site. The dismantling was undertaken by volunteers from the Birdham & West Wittering Youth Club, under the supervision of Museum Director, Chris Tegner, and their own Youth Leader, Alan Vetara, who is now a member of the Museum staff.

The site has been carefully surveyed by our Research Director, Richard Harris, who traced records of the brickworks on the site back to the 1860's. Known as the "Causeway Brick & Tiles Works", it appears to have stopped operating at the outset of the Second World War. A number of papers and documents relating to the business were found in a desk in the abandoned office.

The Museum already has a considerable collection of old brickmaking equipment, which will be displayed in the finished brickyard complex.

A later drying shed that was alongside the one taken by the Museum, has been dismantled by the Amberley Chalk Pit Museum.

The Museum aims to return to the site, dismantling the brick kiln sometime in 1980.

Charlton Workshop

The first phase of the conversion of Charlton Farm and Workshops is nearing completion. Services for the whole scheme have been installed and the range of buildings (which will form the Museum's workshop) is now nearly ready for occupation. Repairs on the first workshop for 'letting' is also underway; the first tenants will be 'The West Sussex Rural Engineering Company'. This Company is a new venture, recently formed to specifically undertake restoration work ranging from windmills to sawpits. They are also due to start work soon on Phase I of the restoration to Salvington Mill, near Worthing, Sussex.

As reported in an earlier issue, Charlton Farm will be managed by a subsidiary company of the Museum, to be formally known as 'Single Museums Services Limited'. The Company is wholly controlled by the Museum's 'Council of Management'. Coupled with any profit it should make to the Museum.

The purpose of this is to enable the Museum to undertake certain related activities with greater flexibility and separate from the main responsibilities of the Museum. One of the most important activities will be the 'Museum Bank', a revolving fund of materials for conservation work. The Chichester District Council has enabled the 'Bank' to commence work by a very generous 'piloting' grant of £1,000. The complex at Charlton will not be open to the public. However, members wishing to see the premises can do so by prior arrangement through the Museum office.

PHOTOS—REDFORD ROUNDHOUSE

above: removal from original site
below: arrival at museum
VICE CHAIRMAN RETIRES

During this year, a number of changes have taken place, and one of the most important one being the retirement of our Vice-Chairman, C.J. Treharne. Although we are all deeply involved in our work, as Vice-Chairman, and our relationship has been maintained with members who have given their support for so many years, serving as a Chairman and as a Member of Council and as a voluntary steward. One of the most significant contributions made by C.J. Treharne to the Museum has been the close relationship he has maintained with members over the years. This has included the provision of a valuable service and support for the Museum.

New members of staff

Over the last year, it has become increasingly clear to the Museum Director and Education Officer that our staff have been unable to concentrate on their main duties and responsibilities. It was eventually decided that an assistant should be appointed to undertake these tasks.

Richard Harris has been appointed as an Assistant Carpenter to work with Roger Champion and as a voluntary steward. One of the most significant contributions made by Richard Harris to the Museum has been the close relationship he has maintained with members over the years. This has included the provision of a valuable service and support for the Museum.

HATCH!

Congratulations to Chris and Diana Tye on the birth of their daughter, Francesca. Francesca has been a valued member of the Museum team and her presence will be greatly missed. She will continue to provide a friendly and informative service to visitors and members of the Museum.

Visitor Statistics to 1st October 1979

During the season, the number of visitors has increased by a significant amount, with the peak being in August. The Museum has been able to maintain a high standard of service and support for the Museum.

Centre Field

Next year, the Museum will be undertaking a number of improvements to the Centre Field, including the replacement of the roof on Court Barn. The work will be undertaken so that the Museum can continue to provide a high standard of service to visitors and members of the Museum.

FRUIT TREES

As a result of the future of the trees on the Museum's site, the decision has been made to clear the site of all trees. The Museum has been working with the South Western Thatchers (who undertake thatching on Court Barn) to harvest the straw in the field. The Museum is also planning to use the straw for thatching material.

Barn Dance

The Barn Dance will be held on Court Barn in September, as part of the Museum's Market Square project. The dance will be a great opportunity for visitors to enjoy the Museum's facilities and to celebrate the start of autumn.
Miss Selby

All those friends who knew Miss Dorothy Selby will be glad to hear of her death on 20th August. For some years, her health had been steadily failing. However, two years ago, she managed to visit Ulster Museum as part of the General Meeting and during that Summer visited the Ulster Museum several times. Miss Selby’s family came from the north of England and was interested in history, especially that of the Ulster region. The Ulster Museum was her home, and she enjoyed spending time there examining the exhibits and discussing them with other visitors.

FRIENDS’ SUBSCRIPTION RATES

It is hoped that Members will be able to increase their subscriptions over the above amounts. It is to be understood that ‘Sponsor’s Membership’ is a new and regular subscription to the Museum. Companies will take advantage of this new membership by interesting their staff in visiting the Museum. This could be done by distributing passes, booklets and other publications.

FULFILLED Covenants

Miss Selby’s interest in the Museum was well known. It is disappointing to note that many of the covenants of friends have not fulfilled their obligations to the Museum. This has led to a decrease in the number of visitors to the Museum. It is hoped that friends will be able to fulfill their obligations to the Museum.

Book Review

This year, both Roy and Lyn Armstrong have written books which are especially applicable to the Open Air Museum.

‘Woodcutters and Charcoal Burners’ by Lyn Armstrong

Everyone interested or connected with the Ulster Museum will know that from very early days, the Museum has been the focal point of interest for the Ulster region and the whole of Ireland. It is a pity that illness has prevented Miss Selby from visiting the Museum more often. It is hoped that she will be able to do so in the near future.

‘Traditional Buildings – Accessible to the Public’ by Roy Armstrong

This book is a testament to the efforts of Mrs. Armstrong. It is partly thanks to Mrs. Armstrong and the efforts of her husband, Mr. Armstrong, that the Museum has been able to continue to operate.

The Museum Shop

From the Museum’s earliest days, it was apparent that there would be a need for a Shop. It was not only because of the need for a Shop, but also because of the need for a place to sell souvenirs and gifts. The educational potential of the Museum has been realized and has been a high priority in the selection of goods.

Today, the shop, staffed by volunteers (whom I think I saw in the office), is doing its best to satisfy the needs of visitors. The drawings, our narrative history, and John Harris, of the South, have done an excellent job in preparing goods and souvenirs. The Museum shop is open all year round, fresh buildings go up, and the Museum continues to be a place to visit. The Museum’s shop is a place of continuous growth which gives a true sense of special attraction to those who visit it and repeat their trip.

Visit to Ulster Folk Museum

There is a possible excursion to the Museum for anyone interested in the Museum. The easiest way to set up a visit to the Museum is to contact the Folks and ask for information. The museum has a vast collection of artefacts as well as a large collection of paintings. It is necessary to book your visit a few weeks in advance. The museum is open from 10am to 5pm. The museum Director and Richard Harris both recommended visiting the above museums. They found their visit extremely interesting and very rewarding.

Anyone who would be interested in a visit to the Museum can be contacted at the museum office. There is a large collection of artefacts as well as a large collection of paintings. It is necessary to book your visit a few weeks in advance. The museum is open from 10am to 5pm. The museum Director and Richard Harris both recommended visiting the above museums. They found their visit extremely interesting and very rewarding.
Court Barn

Certainly from a visual aspect, the most significant addition to the Museum during the year has been the magnificent Court Barn, from Leamington, which now houses an exhibition of lead-working sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. The timber-frame, repaired by the Museum Master Craftsmen, Roger Champion, was re-erected in April. The following month, the Worshipful Company of Plumbers launched an appeal for the project by unfurling the St. George's flag above the finished timber-frame.

In the following weeks, thatching of the huge roof was completed and timbering started. This was carried out by South-Western Thatchers, who worked through the depressing winter ready for re-extending the workshop in late Spring. The project has been under the leadership of Philip Burghes, with help from Mr. Greenway, John Marx, Ken Bylyng, his family and other helpers. The Museum has the entire collection of thatcher's tools and benches from the workshop, which is hoped that eventually a professional thatcher can be found who will work (either full or part-time) in the workshop to bring it 'alive' for visitors.

Lurgashall Mill

Work continues on re-erecting the machinery of the Mill and it is hoped that it will be ready by June. Peter Stennig, the Millwright, has completed the installation of the large mill-wheel, the wooden leat and sluice arrangements. He has taken a great interest in the history of the area and has talked to many local people about it. The Mill has been acquired by the Museum and will form the central exhibit in a display illustrating the life of the Downland shepherd which is being prepared by the Museum for 1980. The aim is to "furnish" the shepherd's hut with equipment and domestic items used by the traditional shepherd. The exhibition is being financed by grants received from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund and Olbys Limited of Bognor Regis.

Wendlesham Carpenters Shop

Another smaller building which will add greatly to the attractions of the Market Square area is the Carpenter's Shop from Windlesham, Surrey. The work was undertaken entirely by volunteers who worked through the winter ready for re-extending the workshop in late Spring. The project has been under the leadership of Richard Harris, with help from Mr. Greenway, John Marx, Ken Bylyng, his family and other helpers. The Museum has the entire collection of carpenters tools and benches from the workshop, which is hoped that eventually a professional carpenter can be found who will work (either full or part-time) in the workshop to bring it 'alive' for visitors.

Shepherd's Hut

Volunteer John Povick is progressing well with his replica of a shepherd's hut. This will form the central exhibit in a display illustrating the life of the Downland shepherd which is being prepared by the Museum for 1980. The aim is to "furnish" the shepherd's hut with equipment and domestic items used by the traditional shepherd. The exhibition is being financed by grants received from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund and Olbys Limited of Bognor Regis.

Museum Hostel

The hostel is now completed and already it has been used by people working at the Museum. Conversion has been financed by grants received from the Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund and Olbys Limited of Bognor Regis.

Filming

This summer, the BBC again used the Museum as the basis for one of their major programmes produced for the "Schools Service". They spent three days filming and used three of the Central Junior School in Chichester. The programme was made for the "Harry Go Round" series on "Different Sorts of Houses". The Museum's Education Officer, Heather Chatwood, was involved in the running of the programme, which was televised in October.

Volunteer Work

This Winter

Any Members who wish to retain their links with the Museum during the winter will be extremely welcome. In past years, a number of useful jobs have been undertaken by volunteers coming during the winter. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Chris Fenner or Heather Chatwood.