



Message from the Chairman of the Friends

NEW DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Members Magazine issued in March outlined the Museum's programme of development for the next several years and stressed the need for early and continuing revenue to start it and carry it through. The Friends Committee considered that something dramatic was called for in the way of fund-raising, and decided to accept responsibility for a Development Fund Appeal. Hence the enclosed brochure. The Appeal is made in the name of the Friends and is to supplement, not to replace, the Museum's own efforts. It is not primarily a request for renewed generosity on the part of members of the Friends. But it goes without saying that the Appeal can be greatly assisted by initiatives individual Friends can take.

Carol Hawkins, the Secretary of the Friends, is being paid an honorarium for part-time work as manager of the Appeal, and a start has been made with tapping new sources. In particular the need is urgent to develop interest in the Horsham, Crawley, and Reigate areas. Funds to re-erect, and thus rescue from decay in storage, the Horsham shop and the Reigate house are required immediately to enable the Museum to claim the £20,000 grant offered by the Museums & Galleries Commission, as stressed by Lord Watkinson in his "message" in the brochure.

The Museum Council of Management is keen to go ahead with the programme but needs to be sure funds are available, or at least promised, to meet each stage in turn.

Horsham: With the assistance of John Warren, the Museum's Hon. Architect, whose practice and home are in Horsham, a number of ideas for activity in Horsham are evolving. Key members of Horsham District Council are showing interest and enthusiasm. Friends of the Museum who live in the Horsham area are particularly asked to contact Carol Hawkins with offers of help – human energy is needed!

Success so far is encouraging: In particular, Rush & Tompkins Plc, the developers of the Reigate house site, have given £200 and have offered practical help with materials; Redland Plc, headquartered in Reigate, have offered bricks and one of their Directors, who lives locally to the Museum, has offered and given much personal support. Lignacite have offered concrete blocks and Hepworth's much of the drainage system for the Horsham/Reigate project.

The Draw organised by the Friends, to be drawn at the AGM on 10th November, had already raised £600 by the end of May.

The following organisations are currently assisting the Museum either financially or in kind:

Museums & Galleries Commission: £20,000 grant towards Horsham Shop/Reigate Town House building project.

Whiteheads, Estate Agents of Chichester: An interest-free loan for the publication of the Museum's guide book, 1984 reprint.

Area Museums Service for S.E. England: Grant aid towards the Biskupin Exhibition and Tour.

Horley Services Group: Crane hire for North Cray Hall House re-erection.

Sussex Mutual Building Society: Sponsorship for Heavy Horse Demonstration Day.

The Friends and the Museum are immensely grateful for these early expressions of faith in the proposed projects.

The Longer Term: The need for some £80,000 this year is urgent, but to enable the Museum's plans to continue fund-raising ideas are being formed for longer term fruition:

Events: The Friends Committee is exploring the possibility of staging a "Fashion Through the Ages" show, and auctions, open gardens, and other such activities away from the immediate Chichester/Singleton area, ... Would Members be willing to help by organising something?

Deeds of Covenant: Also important for the longer term are donations made by this method so that income is promised for years to come, and their value is increased at the taxman's expense!

Interest-free loans: Many people cannot offer substantial gifts to the Museum, but may be able to provide loans for, say, a six-month period, interest-free, with the investment benefits of such loans accruing to the Museum.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

To increase membership and thus widen the interest in the Museum and the support that can be given to it by the Friends, a scheme has been introduced this season for refund of the Museum's admission charge to those who join the Friends during their visit to the Museum. This has proved popular and some eighty new members have been recruited so far.

FINALLY

The emphasis in my message has been on the need for help, both practical and financial. But of equal importance is that membership of the Friends gives enjoyment to its members. Events such as the Country Fair, the Spring coach trip, and the various musical and theatrical occasions staged at the Museum are, we hope, to members' liking – not to mention the advantage of free admission to the Museum and the widening range of activities and exhibitions the Museum is now offering.

Sir James Waddell

Gordon Beningfield presents limited edition prints for Museum Development Fund.

An exhibition of paintings by one of Britain's leading countryside artists, Gordon Beningfield, opens at the Museum in August. On Friday, August 3rd he will be present at a special preview in the Crawley Hall, when among the paintings on show will be watercolours of Museum buildings which will be sold as a limited edition of 250 prints to raise funds for the Museum.

Gordon Beningfield has established himself in recent years, both as a respected artist, and a broadcaster and writer. He has made a number of television appearances, notably BBC Television's "In the Country", and has written three major books, including the most recent, "Hardy Country".

During 1983 he painted at the Museum, and the prints of his watercolours, reproduced on fine art paper, size 16" x 10" approximately, will be sold to aid the Friends of the Museum Development Fund, which is being allocated to the next phase of building at the Museum.

At the preview at 7pm. Mr. Beningfield will talk about his work and in addition the author and poet Robert Gittings, of East Dean, an authority on Thomas Hardy, will read extracts from Hardy's poetry. The exhibition opens on August 4th and continues until September 2nd.

For more information contact project organiser: Richard Pailthorpe.

Name _____

Address _____

I enclose my cheque for £2.00 to attend the special preview on August 3rd (wine inc.)

Name _____

Address _____

I enclose my cheque for £ to cover the cost, including postage, of limited edition prints (unframed) at £36.50 each.

Cheques to be made payable to the Friends of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. Please return this form together with your remittance to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex.

Medieval Players - Summer Tour

Tickets now available for Don Pedro Caldron "The Great Theatre of the World" - 20th, 22nd and 23rd June at 7.30pm.

Tickets at special Friends' reduction:
£2.50 (£3.00) Adults
£1.50 (£2.00) Children

An enjoyable and unusual evening. Bring a picnic. Museum open from 6.00pm.

Biskupin Exhibition UK Tour 1984

3rd May - 29th July: Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Nr. Chichester.
3rd August - 2nd September: Norton Priory Museum, Runcorn, Cheshire.
6th - 25th September: Museum of Archaeology, The Old Fulling Mill, Durham.
1st - 26th October: Edinburgh University Library, George Square, Edinburgh.
1st - 27th November: University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Downing Street, Cambridge.
1st December - January 1985: Nottingham University Art Gallery.

The exhibition of photographs and finds from the Iron Age site at BISKUPIN in POLAND was opened on May 3rd by Professor Barry Cunliffe. The Polish Ambassador, His Excellency Monsieur Stefan Staniszewski, was also present and brought greetings. The Exhibition is open every day until July 29th.

Festival of Building - Chartered Institute of Building 150 Years Celebration.

10/11/12 August

Plans for this special event are well under way. Among those taking part will be the Redland Brick Company, Hepworth, Lignacite, Chichester Joinery, the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings.

There will be displays by professional bodies concerned with building and demonstrations by a wide range of craftsmen including stained glass, leadwork, joinery, brick making and thatching.

Council of Management

At the Council of Management Annual General Meeting the following were elected members: Peter Careless, who has also agreed to act as Company Secretary, and Brigadier Walter Greenway, vice-chairman of the Friends, as representative of the Friends.

Also at the AGM Bernard Johnson, Eric Kay and Jack Kessler retired. All three have contributed greatly towards the development of the Museum and it is hoped that they will continue with their association.

Please will Friends and Stewards bear with us concerning address changes.

There has not been time to make all the necessary alterations and additions but these will have been done before the Autumn Newsletter.

New Manpower Services Commission Scheme

A new scheme will start work at the Museum in June. Members of the team under the supervision of the Hon. Librarian and the Library Assistant, Caroline Hallam, will undertake the cataloguing of the material already in the Library. In all there will be seven members on this scheme of whom some will be part-time. Applicants must be registered unemployed and over 18. The scheme runs for 52 weeks during which time it is hoped that a good proportion of the material will be available for use as a result of this work and it is also hoped that the training given to members of the scheme will assist them in their search for permanent employment.

For members the highlight of the weekend will be the re-erection of the North Cray Hall House.

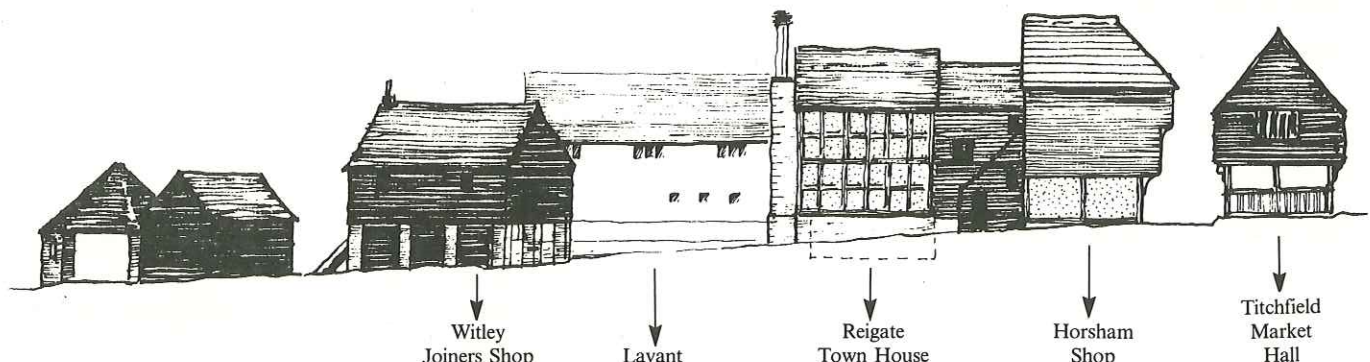
Diary Dates

June 7/8/9	Museum Caravan at Ardingly Show
June 10	HEAVY HORSES AT THE MUSEUM
June 20—23	MEDIEVAL PLAYERS perform at Museum
July 7—8	TIMBER FESTIVAL
July 30—August 3	Summer School
August 4	EXHIBITION BY GORDON BENINGFIELD until September 2nd (Details of preview enclosed)
August 6	"Portraits of Craftsmen" Exhibition, until August 31st. Summer Workshop on Repair of Traditional Buildings starts, until August 31st.
August 10—12	RE-ERECTION OF NORTH CRAY HALL HOUSE begins and FESTIVAL OF BUILDING
August 20—25	Summer School
September 3—30	Exhibition of Children's Work at the Museum
October 6—31	"Joy of the Craftsman" Exhibition
October 27/28	WEEKEND OF PLOUGHING, THRESHING ETC.

April Visitors

1981	1982	1983	1984
17,364	26,413	13,763	22,216

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Recently Published - Activity Book Entitled "Look Here"

This book, a new publication for children, is designed to encourage them to look and draw during their visit to the Museum. It has been written by Elizabeth Newbery and designed by Susan England.

It is now on sale in the Museum Shop and seems to be popular. It is also available by post for 50p plus 17p p & p.



The Weald and Downland
Open Air Museum
Singleton, Chichester
West Sussex.

Chairman: David Biart

Founder: J. R. Armstrong

Chairman of the Friends:

Sir James Waddell

Hon. Secretary of the Friends:

Carol Hawkins

Hon. Treasurer of the Friends:

Bernard Rush

Museum Director:

Christopher Zeuner.

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