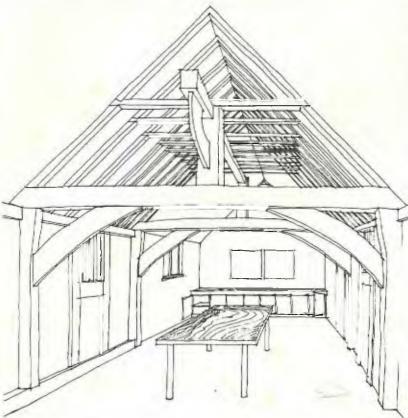


Members' Magazine WEALD AND DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Spring 1978

no. 11



Drawing of interior of seminar room in Crawley Hall
Alan Robson

J.C.P.

The Manpower Services
Commission has approved
a second Job Creation
Scheme at the Museum.
The project is to cobble
the remaining part of
the market square, to
lay stone paths and
gutters around the buildings so far completed.
The scheme allows for
the employment of four
young men, supervized by
Eddie Bell, who came to
us under the previous Job
Creation Scheme.

The main square will be laid with flint cobbles and an area in front of Titchfield will be surfaced with flags to allow events to take place on an even surface. Paths will be made using a variety of suitable materials, including sandstone cobbles and flagstones.

The scheme lasts for 25 weeks. The Manpower Services Commission is responsible for funding wages and the cost of materials is met by the Museum.

Lavant

Work on this building is up to schedule and the new shop will open for the main season in its new home. The ground floor will house the shop and on the first floor stock. Stock will be stored in long cupboards on each side of the room, leaving a very useful space for other purposes. Facilities for making tea and coffee will be installed and it is intended that this room will be used in association with the seminar room. Volunteers will be able to use the facilities and a noticeboard will be installed, on which information of interest to volunteers and members will be posted.

Some of the many journals and magazines received by the Museum will be made available in this room.

Lurgashall Mill

Work on repair of the machinery continues.
In the meantime, John Friar is rebuilding the brick wall. Landscaping the immediate area has partially been completed.

Crawley

by the time the Museum opens, the exterior of this building will be complete. The new ends will be tile hung and rendered - for the first time an impression of the market area will be gained.

The first meeting booked for the seminar room is in early June and it is hoped that the building will be operational before this time. In August, the Arts Council Touring Exhibition, "Barns and Farm Buildings" will be shown in the Seminar Room.

Course

Starting in September, a course - open to all - in association with South-hampton University is being planned. It will deal with vernacular architecture of the region, with particular emphasis on farmbuildings. Details will be available at a later date.

Transformer

The site electricity service is inadequate for present needs. Future expansion depends on an improved supply. With generous help from the Idlewild Trust, a new 200 KVA transformer is being installed during the summer. This will require trenches for new cables but the result will be a system adequate for forseeable requirements in the future.

Court Barn

David Russell, an architect and a member of the Museum's Council of Management, has begun work on the reerection of Court Barn, which was rescued from Lee-on-Solent last year. The building was illustrated in a drawing by Richard Harris in the last Newsletter.

The building will be mainly used to house an exhibition on the craft of the plumber and leadworker. It is being organized and sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, in association with the industry.

Work on the repair of the timbers will start when Crawley Hall is complete. The barn will be sited next to the Wheelwrights Shop, closing that corner of the Museum site.

H.M.S. Daedelus Volunteers

A team of volunteers from HMS Daedelus spent five days 'camping' in West Dean Village Hall while they helped lay the stone flag floor in Crawley Hall. Their help was much appreciated. The weather was particularly bad at the time they were with us but they came well-equipped and worked on regardless.

Arts Council

Exhibition

This exhibition will be shown in the Seminar Room of Crawley Hall from 22nd July to 13th August, 1978. It illustrates the construction and use of the main types of traditional farm buildings in England; setting them in context of the farms they served and processes they housed.

It has been written and compiled for the Arts Council by Richard Harris, who has been responsible for the reconstruction of Lavant House and Boarhunt cottage at Singleton.

A preview for Friends and Volunteers will be held on Friday, 21st July, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets in aid of Museum funds will cost 50p each, which will include a glass of wine. Please write to the Museum office for tickets by Friday, 14th July, 1978.
Admittance by ticket only.

APPOINTMENT

The Council of Management is pleased to announce the appointment of Heather Champion as Senior Assistant. She will also continue her responsibilities as Education Officer. This appointment will enable Mrs. Champion to deputise for the Director in many areas of responsibility. It will also help to ensure that there is somebody in authority on site at all times.

Retirements — J. R. Armstrong

JOHN LOWE

All those connected with the Museum, whether a Friend or volunteer, will be very sorry to learn that John Lowe has resigned his membership of the Museum's Council of Management and secretaryship of the Friends of the Museum.

John Lowe has felt the time has come to relinquish his two posts because of the many demands on his time and his wide field of interests.

His retirement will be a serious loss to the Museum and I know he would endorse my assurance to all those concerned with the Museum that this in no way reflects a loss of enthusiasm for the venture on his part.

How much we owe to him is more than any one individual, even among the Council of Management, may realise. His experience and wisdom were given to the Museum in the years when they were most needed; when in fact the whole project was a matter of faith, with the possibility of failure an ever-present cause for anxiety.

At that time the Museum was suspect to many professional curators, who regarded it as simply another amateur project launched by enthusiasts who knew nothing about what they were undertaking. When John Lowe made his decision to resign his post as Director of the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery and offered to assume the direction of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum in an entirely voluntary capacity, this particular problem was solved. Even so, one fairly prom-inent member of the professional museum service could not resist making the remark that we now had "a Management Council who knew nothing about Museums and a Director who knew nothing about buildings".

This was a travesty of the truth, but it indicates the kind of situation into which the Museum was born and the way in which John Lowe succeeded in changing this. The fact that the Museum is now generally recognised, not only as a serious newcomer but already a very much respected member of the International Federation of Open Air Museums, is due first of all to John Lowe and, secondly, to Chris Zeuner. When John Lowe became Principal of West Dean College, Chris Zeumer had already been working with him closely, on a voluntary basis, as keeper of craft artefacts donated to the Museum, and after he succeeded John Lowe as Director, he received from him assistance, advice and counsel whenever it was sought.

Those who became acquainted with the Museum in its early days will remember that John Lowe not only created the "Friends" organisation but saw it through its initial difficult phases and for several years acted as secretary - leaving it as a firmly based, fully responsible body, not only financially. It has become in so many ways a vital part of the Museum.

NORMAN WEST

The retirement of Norman West from the Company Secretaryship of the Council of Management, owing to ill health, is a matter of great regret and personal sympathy for all of us.

Both Norman and Pam West have served the Museum since its inception. They joined a small group of voluntary workers soon after negotiations of a site for the Museum on the West Dean Estate had commenced.

They joined a party working at weekends on the dismantling of Pendean and after that almost every weekend, even through the winters, they were helping somewhere on the Museum site or assisting with the dismantling of a building.

In particular, Norman West put his expertise as an accountant at the Museum's disposal and for years produced accounts which were a model of exactness and precision. During the early "hand to mouth" years, this particular help was the equivalent of a considerable donation and his knowledge of Company Law probably saved the Management Council a number of mistakes.

We all do hope that his health will improve and that Mr. and Mrs. West will, once again, become familiar figures on the site. In the meantime, we extend to both our gratitude and very good wishes.

SIR GEOFFREY THISTLETON-

Sir Geoffrey Thistleton-Smith has represented the County Council on the Museum's Council of Management from the time when the latter was first constituted and his resignation is a real loss.

Sir Geoffrey and Lady Thistleton-Smith, whose death a year ago saddened us at the Museum, were perhaps most generally known among those who acted as stewards.

As Chairman of the Coast and Countryside Committee of the County Council, he was an extremely valuable link and was instrumental when the Museum site was being planned for its designation as a County

His contributions to discussion at the Council of Management have always been concise, valuable and to the point. We trust that we shall continue to see him at the Museum, where his kindness and encouragement will not be forgotton.

Attendances 1977

In the last issue of the magazine, we reported a poor result as compared to previous years. However, the season improved towards the end of the year. The final figures to December 31st were:-

Adults - OAP's & - Children

78,900 77,298

TOTAL 15

156,198

MASTER PLAN 1978

In 1972 a 'Master Plan' for the development of the Museum was prepared by the Buildings and Site Planning Advisory Committee. This was the basis for the placing of buildings so far, and in addition, was submitted to the Planning Authority for information. Planning permission is still required for all buildings in the normal

It has become increasingly apparent that there is a need to revise the Master Plan. The changing landscape is one obvious reason, but there are others. During the last seven years the Museum has gained considerable experience in visitor control, problem areas have been highlighted, and the erosion of the site has been accentuated.

It is clear that the Museum has grown faster than was expected. Many of the facilities were provided on the basis that the Museum would cater for around 50,000 visitors per annum. In addition, the buildings erected so far dictate the type of development that can be under-taken elsewhere on the site. The 1972 Plan was indeed seen to be a flexible document and the time has now come for a major revision.

This will be undertaken by the Buildings and Site Planning Advisory Committee to whom the Council of Management have delegated such matters. With the important contribution made by Mr. Hicks' report; John Warren, Honorary Architect to the Museum, and the Museum Director are preparing a Plan for discussion. The results of this work so far are summarised below, with the intention of stimulating comment among members.

It is hoped that members will feel free to comment at an early stage. The Museum has depended on participation in many ways and you are encouraged to take part in this planning process which will form the basis for development for some years to come. It must be realized that many of the suggestions made through this plan are not intended to be put into immediate effect. The changes will be gradual and will be phased to tie in with the provision of services and development in a particular part of the site.

The Plan considers five main areas, which can be grouped into three categories:

- (1)Visitor facilities
- Visitor Circulation (2)
 - Servicing and Management Considerations
- (3) The siting of buildings in an historical context The siting of buildings in a landscape context.

The whole area thus released from 'through' traffic could them gradually be very necessary development will be the provision of an additional lavatory block. This is not only required for peak times, but could also provide a frost-proof all-weather facility for expanding winter use. Other devel-opments could also be fitted into this area. The loss to the car park is calculated to be about ten car spaces. These could be made up and added to by improvements in the car parks. See B on plan.

The separation of the car parks from the Museum area has always been considered to be important. At present access is rather uncontrolled. It would be most unwise to channel all visitors through a narrow entrance. However, the use of the gate opposite the ticket kiosk is less than satisfactory. It encourages vehicles to use the site and enables pedestrians to mingle with traffic in a situation that is potentially unsafe. For other reasons explained below, it is proposed that the site road be changed eventually, emerging at a point halfway between the ticket kiosk and Hambrook Barn.

At this point, it would fic noise on the site can also be reduced by this

developed to provide basic services for visitors. One

See C on plan.

lead visitors to the Museum through the service area from a mid-point in the car parks, without crossing the exit road. There would be no access below this point, enabling the tree screen to be thickened increasing the seperation between the traffic and the Museum site. This is desirable from a visual point of view but the trafmeans. See D and E on Plan.

(2) VISITOR CIRCULATION

We have always tried to avoid establishing a specific route around the Museum, but some visitors prefer some guidance. The exhibition in the Hambrook Barn was planned as an introduction to the Museum, and from this point it is sensible for visitors to take the route towards the Wheelhouse. The guide book has also to be arranged in this order and therefore, this tends to establish a route. With this in mind, there is little that needs to be done and alterations are recommended.

The steps above Winkhurst are very steep. These could be closed and in their place a path leading gradually up the slope to be made, thus easing the climb and making it possible to push a pram along this route. See F on plan.

It will also be necessary to give access to the presently closed area above the Charcoal Camp. A path is suggested diagonally through the hazel coppice to this very attractive valley and returning along the west side, avoiding the valley bottom, which would be left as a thick wood. See G on plan.

In addition to this new path, improvements to the existing woodland paths could be made. They should, of course, retain their 'natural' look. Another new path could be made around the north side of the lower lake. Fine views can be had from this side of the lake and the path would avoid visitors having to retrace their steps at this point. A view of the water wheel will also be achieved. The upper lake would retain its closed North and East flank, in order that the wildfowl can be encouraged to breed. See H on plan.

In the previous section, it was suggested that the

main site road be altered to emerge to the South of its present egress. Indeed, it is suggested that the road be altered to run through the village centre turning North towards the village from the centre clump. Its access should be maintained as it emerges from the East of the square but instead of travelling due east be altered in a South-Easterly direction. By this means the sense of the village layout can be maintained with a minimum of roads breaking the open spaces that are so important to the site. See J on plan.

In order that access for servicing the Southern part of the site can be provided the present timber track that runs from the disabled car park should be upgraded and extended along the North side of the coppice but behind the tree screen, to join the present site road at Pendean. A complete ring would then be provided. Site traffic must, of course, be kept to a minimum. See K on plan.

(3) BUILDING SITES

It is not possible to be specific on the siting of buildings as we do not know what buildings we may be called upon to deal with. The site can only take a limited number of structures and has already been divided into several destinct areas.

The village will absorb a substantial number of buildings from urban and village sources. Two farm complexes have been established, (Pendean and Bayleaf). Buildings from similar areas or buildings that have a functional connexion (Forge and Wheelwright's Shop) will be grouped together and gradually the dispersed nature of the Museum will diminish The scheduling of the Building Programme can help to avoid too much dispersal (The next few projects will be concentrated in the village area.)

provide some new farm sites. Some possibilities are indicated on the Plan. The site is however, a totally artificial situation and can be likened, perhaps rather exageratedly, to a large Museum Gallery. Natural surroundings and relationships between exhibits are not possible. Instead a sense of seperation should be achieved, making use of the surprise element for visitors coming through screens of planting to discover another building, or group of buildings. Indeed, heavy planting and screening can be used to make the limited site seem larger. See L on plan. Some buildings in store have already been allocated sites as follows: (see plan)

However it is necessary to

- Horsham Shop
 Bexley Hall House
 Court Barn
- Wiston Waggon Shed Windlesham Carpenter's
- Ashurst Granary

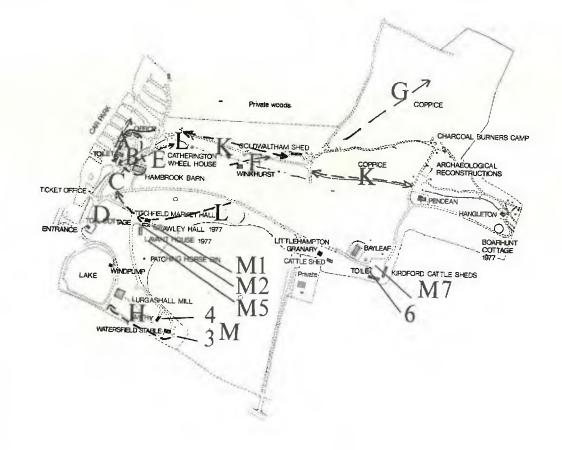
Fountains Farm Barn

(See M on plan)

The proposals put forward in this plan will be discussed during the coming months. Undoubtedly, alterations and improvements will be made. However, the result should be an outline within which those concerned with the development of the site on on a regular basis can plan. The collecting policy of the Museum and its firm stand against positive acquisition leave many uncertainties. Flexibility is essential, within agreed development areas.

It is accepted for instance that some of the proposed planting may turn out in the wrong place and have to be sacrificed in the light of future development. However, it is hoped that by undertaking a thorough revision of the Master Plan these situations will be minimised. Members are reminded that their comments on plans and proposals are very welcome and will be taken into consideration. Please do not hesitate to write.

Plan to illustrate proposed revisions to Maste r Plan

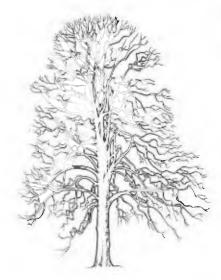


(1) VISITOR FACILITIES

The car parks have in general been adequate, in their extended form. Overflow only takes place at peak times. The constraints of the site and in particular the options that have already been closed by existing development, such as the siting of the lake, preclude any major expansion of the car parks on the site, or indeed in the immediate vicinity.

There is therefore, little possibility for increasing It may visitor numbers. indeed be undesirable to do so unless the season could be extended. How can visitors be controlled? we indeed continue to accept increasing numbers some policy for control be sought? These are policy decisions outside the terms of reference of the Master

Accepting the limitations of the car park, however, there are a number of improvements that can be made. The area around the office and the lavatories is very unsatisfactory at present. The downward flow of traffic between this heavily used area and the exhibit area is dangerous and inconvenient. It is suggested that the present exit road is closed to the south of the temporary office and looped behind to the east, emerging again to the north of the lavatories. See A on plan.



The Museum's Landscape —

A SUMMARY

OF A REPORT BY

IVAN R. HICKS

The Museum has long realised the loss of much of its spectacular and beautiful backcloth of trees was inevitable — and diseases in elm and particularly beech have hastened the necessity for felling.

So at the end of last year, the Museum commissioned a report on the site landscape from Mr. Ivan Hicks, Arboriculturist and Gardens Manager to Mr. Edward James and the Edward James Foundation.

The aim was to assess the condition of the trees at the Museum, the impact of any changes in the landscape on surrounding land and to make recommendations for future landscaping and management.

The Museum's 18 hectares is planted as classic English parkland with clumps and groups of trees and individual specimens surrounded by a frame of trees.

The dedicated woodland is managed by the Edward James Foundation, which in the traditional manner, retains the timber rights.

In it, Mr. Hicks says:
"The present situation is one of decline of the immediate landscape at a time of expansion of the Museum. The loss of a large number of trees over a relatively short period is unfortunate. The effect will, of course, be dramatic to those who are familiar with the present situation."

Mr. Hicks explains the majority of older trees on the Museum site are reaching maturity and their condition has been greatly affected by the extreme drought during 1976. This is also true of some of the younger trees.

Beech has fared particularly badly, and this, combined with beech bark disease and lime-induced chlorosis, has resulted in the decline of large numbers of trees.

He adds: "The park clumps have been decimated by disease and old age."

The high rainfall recently will have had considerable beneficial effect on the trees, he says and root growth should be good which may result in an improvement to the health of some of the younger trees.

The fate of some trees will be determined by their behaviour and condition in the next few years.

There is a great deal of regeneration in the woodland areas, particularly of ash and sycamore. Most of this is healthy, but there are signs of cankar and die-back.

Those new trees the Museum has already planted have been generally successful, he says, and Friends and Volunteers will notice that a considerable amount of new planting has been undertaken this Autumn, including the Jubilee Clump behind the village Square.

Mr. Hicks says the trees at the Museum act as a "frame to the picture - a visual backcloth to detail and create a sense of tradition to the whole scene".

"They also represent one of the essential amenities and as such their educational role is paramount."

In deciding where to plant new trees, he says to attempt to create a rural 15th century landscape would be out of character with the layout of the buildings and with the site itself. Clumps and individual trees give the site considerable impact, allowing vistas and sight lines. (This has been the view of those concerned with site planning.)

His plan is for planting sympathetic to the buildings and to the needs of the Museum and bearing in mind the impact on land farmed by the West Dean estate and land at Singleton.

His suggestion is for informal clumps, with an under-storey of smaller trees and shrubs to soften the edges of the groupings.

Below is an extract from his detailed assessments of conditions of present trees and suggestions for new planting.

<u>Car park areas, including office-toilet</u>
<u>section.</u>

Tall trees are now exposed because of excavation for the car parks. They are liable to suffer from windblow and sumscorch, and their stability is aggravated by the alteration of the soil level.

Together with disease and drought problems, the beech have declined rapidly "to the point of death", and some have already been removed.

There is good regeneration which should be thinned, and a low-storey screen created to screen the Museum from Singleton Village. All dead and dying trees should be removed and unstable ones felled. Car park banks should be predominantly planted with evergreens, and flowering shrubs, dogwood, cherry and rowan etc., introduced around the office area.

2. New tree screen
running parallel with
entrance road into

The new trees have mostly established well, Cypress nurses should be removed and the screen thickened. The slope below Hambrook Barn should be planted with wild cherry and an out-of-character weeping elm removed.

3. Tree screen between
Singleton-Goodwood
road and the lake,
below the Museum
entrance-way.

Mature trees here are suffering from beech bark disease and drought stress, there is butt-rot in some specimens. Excavation for the lake will have caused damage to roots and altered the water table.

This important area acts as a "corner-stone" to the Museum, screening the site from the village, and is a backcloth to the lake. Mature and diseased trees should be felled and holly and yew planted to give a dense evergreen understorey and help absorb traffic noise. A number of trees here have already been felled and some re-planting has begun.

Narrow belt of trees behind the Lakes and fronting the main Chichester-Midhurst Road.

The mature trees here are also suffering from beech bark disease and stress. Dutch Elm disease has killed many elms and Wych Elm are showing symptoms too. Some sycamore and Corsican Pine are showing decline. Excavation of the lakes has caused damage here too.

The majority of the trees must be removed because of their maturity. This should be phased over some years and replanting should take place as trees are felled. (West Dean Estate has this winter felled some of the trees here.) The tree strip should be widened where possible and species varied. A dense evergreen understorey will help exclude noise.

5. Smithy and Stable area.

New planting here is established, but growth is slow except for the horse chestnut outside the forge.

Alder should be planted north of Lurgashall Mill on the slope of the upper pond to help consolidate the slope, also on the south bank of the lower pond, plus white willows. (This planting has been done this auturn and winter.) Extra planting of the thin screen along the western boundary

should take place, preferably overflowing into the field. Crack willows, poplar and osier should be planted along the northern edge.

6. Millpond.

Trees should be planted to soften the edge of the pond and help prevent footpaths developing. Low shrubs could be established around the Windpump. A small informal clump of Scots pine, silver birch and gorse near the Toll Cottage would break the square appearance of the pond. (This planting has been carried out.)

Near the Mill, oak, whitebeam and cherry should be planted. (This too was done this winter.)

7. North of the Market Hall on the site of the felled elm clump.

The clump has been replanted as a small irregular shaped wood, to mark the Queen's Jubilee. A number of different varieties have been introduced.

A small group of sessile oak should be planted near the Market Square in the open space before the pond. The two existing trees between the main Museum site road and the market square should be extended as the single chestnut nearby shows signs of decline.

8. Middle Clump.

Most of the remaining trees in the clump will have to be felled as the beech are in a poor condition. Black poplar which are quick growing have been planted here this winter.

From Gonville Drive in a strip to the hedge line and including the row of trees up the hill.

New trees planted in this area have established well. There is some decay in the trunk of the big ash tree by Gonville Drive and the hornbeam and beech up the hill are sparse and cholorotic.

A hedge around the car park area near Gonville Cottage of yew or holly would help to hide it from the site. A new clump should be planted straddling the junction of the two roads, to make up for the inevitable loss of the clump behind the granary. The basis for this clump exists near the oak post and rail fence.

10. Gonville Cottage and garden.

The mature beech has extensive decay in the base and the clump of horse chestnut overhanging the granary shows signs of extensive decay

Replanting should take place around the cottage of oak, ash and cherry.

11. Bayleaf complex,
stretching up the hill
to the hedge line.

New planting has established well, but the remaining beech are dying rapidly.

The Bayleaf clump should be replanted after the felling of the beech with scyamore, chestnut, oak and hornbeam, with cherry and rowan behind Bayleaf. It should form an enclave around the sides of the complex. A small wood in the area would give a wealden character to the site. A thorn hedge should be planted around Bayleaf and the beginnings of the orchard extended to include a range of long cultivated fruit trees using stock from government research stations, taking care to maintain sight lines. A nuttery could be located to the south next to the hedge line to act as a visible separation between two possible building sites.

12. Pendean, Hangleton and Boarhunt site.

Most new planting has established well though the yew has suffered some deer damage.

A single beech should be planted along the track from Bayleaf to Pendean with silver birch acting as nurses. Planting on the hill by Hangleton could be extended across the new track giving an element of surprise to the cottages.

This could include juniper yew, whitebeam and black-thorn, and should maintain the view of Hangleton from Bayleaf. Some planting s should be established to soften the line of the dividing fence.

13. Woodland from Hangleton to the Charcoal Burners Camp.

Trees here are suffering from beech bark disease, and drought stress and an area of windblow to the north is affecting the trees. A dead elm exists by the Saxon Hut and a declining, mature beech is leaning dangerously towards Pendean. Tree surgery will be required to fell trees overhanging Pendean and Hangleton. The mature beech immediately behind Pendean and Hangleton will be felled by the Estate next year. A clearing could be established behind Pendean for ancillary buildings.

14. Valley above the Charcoal Burners' Camp.

Some trees here are unstable and there is buttrot in the horse chestnuts at the north. Young
sycamore and ash require
thinning.

There are sites for buildings in this area and one possibility being discussed is to establish a small field with farm-house or cottage in the area. Dangerous trees should be felled but mature horse chestnut retained. Sycamore and ash could be managed as coppice with standards.

15. Woodland.

Hazel coppice in the Museum is now being managed but recent coppice area is suffering from deer damage. This must be prevented or the coppice will die. Hornbeam standards are about 70 years old with visible signs of butt-rot and are sparse and cholorific. The mature ash appears healthy and there is good regeneration of sycamore and ash. Dead and declining softwoods should be felled and hornbeam standards replanted.

Below the path the coppiced stools are showing vigorous growth and the ash fringe is fairly healthy.

Continued on back page

Friends' Members Council Management

As members realise, the "Friends of the Museum" is an entirely separate organization to the Museum. The Council of Management of the Museum has been increasingly aware that the Friends have no formal representation although there has, of course, been considerable overlap between the organizations.

It has been thought desirable to arrange for the Friends to elect three members to the Museum Council. Each member would hold office for three years; one to be elected each year at the Friends' Annual General Meeting. Initially, two existing members of Council - who are also Friends - will be asked to represent the Friends.

The Friends' Committee has asked Sir James Waddell to fill the third vacancy. At the next AGM, members will be able to elect their representatives.

New Grants

As reported elsewhere, a Job Creation Scheme has been approved by the Manpower Services Comm-1ssion. The Scheme is worth over £5000 in wages to the Museum and enables work to be undertaken that would have been impossible at present.

The Worshipful Company of Carpenters

The Worshipful Company of Carpenters have very gen-, erously agreed to grant aid for the re-erection of the Windlesham Carpenters Shop. The Worshipful Company have donated £500, in 1977, and in 1978, another £500 towards the project.

Museum Collections

During the ten years of the Museum's existence, the collection of the smaller items applicable to our type of Museum has steadily grown.

The majority of the collection has been donated by people who have no use for the particular item themselves but nevertheless wish it to be placed in a permanent home. The items range from samples of bricks, windows, chimney pots, etc., from demolished buildings of interest, craftsmen's implements, including thatchers, coopers and brickmakers tools, to the more domestic range of butterchurns, earthernware pots and trivets.

Every donated item is given preservative treatment and a classification number before being stored in a specially adapted barn in the vicinity of the Museum. It is important, at this stage, to obtain as much information about the item as possible for the Museum records.

Occasionally, items can be displayed immediately at the Museum, as in the case of the chimney crane and peel now placed in the inglenook of Pendean Farmhouse. Other items await a suitable building. With the acquisition of the Windlesham Carpenters Shop, many of the carpentry tools collected over the years will be used to furnish the building. The transfer of the Museum shop to the Lavant building will enable us to display certain stored items such as scales and weights and wooden grain shovels in the Littlehampton Granary.

It can be a difficult task in deciding which items are applicable and important for our particular collection. However, we are always pleased to hear from people who have an interesting item that they are willing to donate to the Museum collection.

Summer School

The success of the Summer School held during last year has lead us to re-peat the sessions this coming August.

The sessions will take place on Tuesdays, 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd August, during which time the children will be able to pursue such subjects as painting, model-making, blacksmithing, traditional methods of cooking, etc.

Children of all ages will be welcome but there will be a small charge of 20p per session to help cover the cost of equipment,

We are also in need of adult help, either in the mornings or the afternoons, teaching experience is not necessary. If anybody has the time to spare and would like to help, we would be pleased to hear from them.

For further details of the school and an application form, please contact Heather Champion (Education Officer at the Museum).

Dismantling Camp Volunteers Needed

During the summer, we have two buildings to dismantle. For both, we need volunteers of all types.

The largest project is Fountains Farm Barn, near Petworth. We will be working on this building from Saturday, 1st July until Saturday, 15th July 1978.

A camp will be arranged close to the building. Why not spend a few days of your holiday helping on this project? You need not come for the whole time. If you are interested, please contact the office for details.

The other building to be dismantled is a Carpenters Shop at Windlesham, Surrey. Can anyone help on the following dates: Sat. 6th May, Sun 7th May, Sat.14th May, Sun.15th May.

It is important to the Museum for helpers to be firm about their offers of help. If we get all the equipment out for dismantling and people fail to turn up, it is very expensive and wasteful. Please contact us and offer your help.

A New Job

B. JOHNSON

Taking over the Honorary Secretaryship from such a predecessor as Mr. John Lowe is rather daunting and I would like to make it clear that I did not volunteer for the job! John Lowe's praises will, I am sure, be enumerated by a more fluent writer than myself. Having in my time at the Museum been an amateur carpenter, joiner, thatcher, roof tiler, etc., I am now expected to prove that the 'pen is mightier than the saw'!

The Friends are, however, the prime fund raising unit of the Museum and it is the constant flow of subscriptions which can give confidence to the Council and the Museum Director when they are planning the development of the Museum and re-erection of buildings. If you are not already a Friend, will you consider becoming one or, if already a Friend, increasing your subscription and introducing other new members? If your subscription is £5 or more a year and is covenanted for seven years, our Honorary Treasurer can then regain the equivalent of the current tax rate, which makes the subscription so much more valuable.

Co-opted to the Friends' Committee is Miss Penny Kirkpatrick. Penny, as she is known to many of us, is one of our younger and very enthusiastic volunteers; not daunted by lack of transport, oblivious of the weather, un-deterred by the long distance to travel, Penny always seems to be at the Museum. Also directing the carparking, taking the money at the pay kiosk, steward-ing a building and ful-filling the unexpected vacancy with cheerful good humour. Miss Kirkpatrick will, the Committee is sure, make a valuable contribution to their deliberations.

1978 Tour

In the last Newsletter, there was the suggestion of another visit to the continent to tour an open air museum or, alternatively, to see others in this country. In addition you were invited to send in your suggestions. First, my thanks to those people who replied, but I must confess that the divergent wishes cancelled out each other.

As there is only one other continental museum within easy reach of us - Arnhem in Holland - it was thought best to save this for another occasion. Several of the replies received stated, quite correctly, that our own museums be visited indi ually so to counter this, I have included in this year's venture, two places which are not, as yet, open to the public: Barton Farm at Bradford-on -Avon and Cogges Manor at Witney. Details of the three whole day excursion are included in a separate sheet but I would ask if those people who made a 'pencil booking' at the time of the AGM, or after, to please confirm or cancel on the enclosed form. You may wonder at the time selected - the last week-end in April - but this is to take advantage of the "breakaway weekend" tariff at the Trust House Forte Hotel for the two nights.

Seminars

A series of talks have been arranged for the Friends of the Museum to be held at West Dean College on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. in April and May, thereafter being held in Crawley

Tuesday, 25th April.

'LOOKING FOR THE CRAFTS-MAN' - John Norwood.

Mr. Norwood is curator of Worthing Museum. His recently published book "Craftsmen at Work" holds a wealth of information on local crafts and craftsmen. This evening, he will be talking about some of the craftsmen he has met.

Tuesday, 23rd May.

'THE OPEN AIR MUSEUM, CHILTERN' - Paul Simons.

This is a newly founded Museum for the Chiltern area, whose southern boundary touches our northern one. Mr. Simons, from the Museum, will be talking about the Museum's aims and principals, also showing some of the buildings already in their possession.

Tuesday, 27th June.

'THE SUSSEX TRUST' -Chris Zeuner.

The Sussex Trust has recently been formed to acquire important historical properties that are in decay to restore them for placement on the market. It will operate a revolv-ing fund. Chris Zeuner is a member of the Management Committee and will describe some of the current projects.

Tuesday, 18th July.

'HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND COUNTY PLANNING' -D. Briggs.

Mr. Briggs, from the County Planning Department, will talk about some of the problems imposed by historic buildings and county planning. He will be illustrating his talk with some of the more local examples.

Tuesday, 22nd August.

'BUILDINGS OF THE WISTON ESTATE' - Roy Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong, the founder of the Museum, will be talking about some of the more interesting buildings of the Wiston Estate, near Steyning.

Tuesday, 26th September.

'ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUSSEX -Fred Aldsworth.

In recent years, much aeolog: been carried out in our vicinity. Mr. Aldsworth, the county archaeologist, will include something of the more recent digs in his illustrated talk.

REMINDER. FRIENDS' SUBSCRIPTIONS

Last year, our stalwart treasurer, Mrs. Kessler, had to remind over 100 people to pay their subscriptions. This is ohviously a waste of postage and members are asked to pay promptly on their first notice.

Calendar 1978 March - September

March 18. Stewards Briefing 24. Main season starts

April 25. Seminar

28) Excursion

May Windlesham dis-7) mantling

13) 14)

23 Seminar

27. Seminar

July 1-15. Fountains Farm dismantling

Summer Party 18. Seminar 21. Private View -Barns and Farm-Houses Exhibition

22-13.

1. Summer School Aug. 8. 15.

22. Seminar

Sept. 6 - Guild of Sussex 10. Craftsmen. 26. Seminar



Continued from Page 2.

Beech in the woods from the saw pit to the car parks suffers the same problem as elsewhere on the site, and will be felled within the next few years. there are some healthy trees here and a mixed underwood. Excavation for the pottery shed has hastened the decline of some trees by root severance. After the mature beech is felled the regeneration should be thinned. Dead elms should be removed in the woodland fringe and some overgrown coppice left as examples.

The recently cleared strip of wood between Winkhurst and the woodland path is healthy with a good mixture of young trees growing well. Coppice shoots from hazel and ash are vigorous.

16. Hillside below

Winkhurst.

This should be left open in the main, because of the particularly impressive view through to Bayleaf Farmhouse.

Single specimen trees should be planted at the bottom of the slope near the line of trees up the hill and near Winkhurst to frame the building.

The wood should be extended between the Treadwheel and Winkhurst.

Mr. Hicks stresses the Museum should not be seen in isolation but in perspective with the surrounding landscape.

Considerable impact on the landscape as a whole over the next few years will need to be accepted, he says particularly when felling of the beech is Carried above the Museum on Singleton Hill. The Edward James Foundation is to replant broadleaved trees.

Summary by Diana Zeuner.

Summer Party

Buffet, wine and entertainment. 8.00 p.m. July 15. Tickets: £1.00. From the Museum office by July 1.