



## Friends' Campaign to Raise £15,000

**THE FRIENDS of the Museum has begun work on organising a major auction to be held in Chichester next year as part of a campaign aimed at raising £15,000 towards the re-erection of one of the most important buildings in store at the Museum.**

It is the Friends' most ambitious fund-raising project to date, and all supporters of the Museum are urged to help spread the word and find objects for the auction.

The auction is being planned by the Friends' Committee which hopes it will raise a large proportion of the cost of re-erecting the late medieval hall house from North Cray, near Bexley in Kent.

The building will be sited in the market square at the east end of the Crawley Hall. It is a particularly interesting and important building, comparable in historic value to Bayleaf Farmhouse. A notable feature is that it was built largely of elm, rather than oak, and has walnut floor joists.

The auction is to take place at the Assembly Rooms, Chichester on Friday, April 3, 1981, at 7 p.m. with viewing from 12 noon.

Many Friends and friends-of-Friends may have tucked away some item of value which they would like to donate either by direct gift, on a fifty-fifty basis or some other proportion.

We are looking for items of good quality including works of art, jewellery, gold, silver, and plated items, porcelain, pottery and antiques, including furniture, wine, early edition books, maps, paintings and prints.

This will call for a great effort from everybody connected with the Museum and the Committee asks that you will help to publicise the event and locate objects for inclusion in the auction.

Mr. Henry Adams and Mr. John Haywood, of Messrs. Wyatt and Son of Chichester have generously agreed to give their professional services as the auctioneers, including the appraisal of the items and for arranging the storage and insurance of the items.

With this newsletter is a separate appeal to members to support the auction. Much work is needed to collate and publish a catalogue, so please do not delay in answering the appeal form.

In a year of economic depression, the Museum is finding it harder to finance its building reconstructions, and a good response to this auction could make all the difference to the Museum's immediate future.

## Walderton Cottage — A Challenge for the Museum

**DURING the early part of this season Museum staff have been engaged in dismantling a derelict cottage in Walderton, near Chichester.**

It has been an unusual and important project in a number of ways. The structure itself, which underwent many alterations in its life, is extremely complex. Partly because of this, but chiefly due to improved standards of recording, the method of dismantling the building has been far more detailed than any previous project undertaken by the Museum.

The project was led by the Museum's Research Director, Richard Harris, who explains in the article below what was revealed during the dismantling.

\* \* \*

"Some buildings reveal their history quite quickly and easily while others keep something important concealed until the last possible moment. The cottage at Walderton which has been dismantled by the Museum this year was of the second type. There were continual surprises throughout the dismantling in April and May and the archaeological dig in June and, even now, some questions remain unanswered.

The cottage appears to have started life in the 14th century as an extension to an earlier building of which no trace has survived. This extension was timber-framed and contained a small open hall and a large floored bay with an 'undershot' cross-passage entry. The timbers of the open hall were very heavily sooted but the roof timbers of the floored bay were also quite black. This blackening was probably caused when the upper floor was removed and an open fire burnt in this bay for some time, implying that the building had descended in status to a poor cottage or workshop.

In the mid 17th century, however, it was given a new lease of life. The outside walls were completely reconstructed in flint and brick, a massive brick chimney stack was built in the position of the cross passage, and new upper floors were put in throughout. It seems that this work was done in two phases, first one half of the cottage and then the other. In the second phase the earlier building (to which the timber frame had been added) was demolished and all traces of it obliterated by the new flint walls. Almost all the details of this 17th century work became clear during dismantling. The only features which had been destroyed were the windows but ample evidence was left to enable them to be reconstructed in their original form. The fireplaces, stairs, floors and plaster all survived intact.

Later alterations to the cottage were relatively superficial, the most important one being the construction of an additional fireplace,

(Continued on p.2)



Walderton Cottage during dismantling



# Museum's Success with "Special Days"

THIS YEAR the Museum has run most successfully a number of "Special Days" designed to enrich visitors' stays at the Museum.

The first was a "sheep day" revolving around the opening to the public for the first time of the shepherd's hut, restored with skill by volunteer John Powicke, and sponsored by the Sussex Downsmen.

The hut has been furnished as a traditional shepherd's hut would have been and demonstrates vividly the way of life the shepherd led and the tools he used. This was echoed also in a lecture given by Worthing Museum Curator John Norwood. Demonstrations of sheep shearing were carried out by shepherd Horace

Oliver, who cares for the flock owned by Mr. Humphrey of East Dean and regularly seen at the Museum.

The second was a "wood day", when the public were able to see demonstrations of cleaving battens, hurdle-making and spar-making, and adzing. The highlight of the day was a lecture by Philip Walker, an authority on ancient wood-working tools, who brought along some of the best examples from his own collection.

During August the Museum held an exhibition called "Country Life in Victorian and Edwardian Sussex", inspired by the book *All Change at Singleton* by Ian Serrallier and based on his collections of photographs. The photographic reproductions were carried out by

Mike Coviello, and the exhibition was sponsored by Phillimore of Chichester and organised by Dick Pailthorpe.

At the beginning of August, visitors were able to see a rare sight — a pair of oxen owned by Mr. C. Jenkin of Lindfield, pulling an ox cart, imported from France in virtually original condition. The oxen — Bill and Ben — were popular with visitors and are likely to return next year.

Other events held during the season have included demonstrations of hurdle-making, bee skep making and stone dressing, a performance by Musica Antiqua, with antique musical instruments, Morris Dancing, public lectures, and at the end of August a charcoal burn.

# Swings and Roundabouts

A YEAR AGO, when we were considering admission charges for 1980 so that they could be put into advance publicity, we wrongly came to the conclusion that we could manage without an increase. Doubtless we expected too much of the new Government, for instead of inflation being kept down it hit us, like everybody else, very hard before our financial year had ended in March.

But there are swings as well as roundabouts and perhaps it was this that caused the BBC to single us out as the best bargain for a family outing in the South, thus helping to bring in record numbers of visitors in the early months of this season when the sun was shining, and wiping out our temporary overdraft.

What of the future? The important thing is that so far the visiting public do not seem to be deterred by rising costs of motoring. When there was something of a petrol crisis in 1979 it was the actual shortage and the difficulty of being able to fill your tank on a Sunday which for a time put people off. The numbers will always vary with the weather and with the kind of publicity we get from

time to time, but the Management Council is reasonably confident that we shall continue to draw in the public so long as we can keep up our policy of having something new for the regular visitor to see.

There is no lack of projects waiting for funds: it is a matter of how to employ our craftsmen to best advantage without biting off more than we can chew at any one time. And always some exceptional opportunity crops up of which advantage has to be taken and our Director has to rearrange everything to try to achieve the impossible yet again.

A recent example of this is the cottage at Walderton which we have recently dismantled and shall begin to rebuild near the market square in the Autumn. Not only is this a most interesting building, but through our Research Director, Richard Harris, we have been able to interest the BBC in the project and it will form the subject of one or more television programmes in the Chronicle series. This is publicity of the very best kind, and we are very grateful to one of our most generous supporters who is to help cover the cost of the scheme.

One thing which I am sure we must now try to do more than ever before is to bring our site and our individual buildings to life by equipping them with agricultural implements,

by GEOFFREY GODBER,  
Museum Chairman.

craftsmen's tools, and furnishings. We know already how much our wildfowl on the lake, our Shire horse and the grazing sheep add to the atmosphere of the place. I look forward to Bayleaf becoming a really lively farm unit, complete in its curtilage, with a suitable barn (there is one on offer to us now, with a crown post roof) and tools and equipment on display and even perhaps in use at times.

In our newly established workshops and stores at Charlton we have many items, some awaiting restoration, which are just what is needed. It will take time and money and perhaps will be the sort of aspect to attract a new type of donor. Some of the practical work can be tackled by volunteers, of which the horse-drawn water-cart so handsomely rebuilt, is an excellent example.

The possibilities are almost limitless and the pleasure we can give by grasping them will be an ample reward. For the serious student of traditional building techniques our comprehensive library, largely the gift of our founder, will soon be properly shelved in the Crawley Hall and available for consultation. But the educational benefits for most people will continue to be absorbed by them almost unconsciously as they enjoy themselves in the setting of which we are justly so proud.

## Walderton (Continued from p.1)

chimney and bread oven in about 1800. In the mid 19th century the property was divided into two cottages and remained so until the present day. Its later uses included being the village post office. During the dismantling a lot of interest and discussion focused on the evidence for successive bread ovens. There had been four since the mid 17th century, the last rebuilding being in the late 19th century: evidently an oven in constant use needs to be rebuilt every 60 years or so.

The main problem we now face is the decision on how to reconstruct the building as an exhibit. What is certain is that the reconstruction will contain work of at least two dates, the 15th century timber-framed building and the 17th century renovation, both of which must be explained to visitors. In addition there will be other aspects of the building's development which we would wish visitors to understand. None of the other buildings at the Museum have presented these

problems and the solution which is adopted is bound to have some novel elements.

Extra impetus has been given to the project by the fact that the BBC 'Chronicle' team is making a film about it which it hopes to show in 1982. This is intended to trace the project to completion so we are committed to try to finish the reconstruction in time for the 1982 season.

The Museum is greatly indebted to Fred Aldsworth, West Sussex County Archaeologist, for his help throughout the project and for organising an archaeological dig on the site in June, and also to John Friar of the Museum staff who led much of the practical work. Finally our thanks are due to the owners of the two halves of the cottage, Miss Mills and Mr. Hurst, for their generosity in making the project possible and constant cooperation during the period of the dismantling."

# Progress in the Museum's Buildings Programme

by CHRIS ZEUNER

## Wagon Shed and Saw Pit

THE TWIN project undertaken by the McCurdy Bros., the Wiston Wagon Shed and the Sheffield Park Saw Pit, was completed in time for the summer season.

The Saw Pit, painted in its original colour, contains examples of tools used in the conversion of timber, and the large jigger wheels are now kept dry in the wagon shed.

## Milton Street Dovecote

EARLY this year, in appalling weather conditions, Museum staff dismantled a dovecote at Milton Street in the Cuckmere Valley, East Sussex.

The dovecote was in a dangerous state and the flint and chalk walls were beginning to fall apart despite every attempt having been made by the owners to restore it in situ.

Finally it was decided that it would not be possible to save the building on its original site and the Museum agreed to rescue it.



Chalk block nesting boxes at the Milton Street Dovecote

## Charlton Farm

THE MUSEUM'S major development at Charlton Farm is now in operation. The farmstead, a late nineteenth century complex, was made available to the Museum by the Goodwood Estate.

The large barn is being converted to provide storage for the Museum's ever-enlarging collections, and these are now slowly being moved from a variety of dispersed locations. The assembly of the collections in one place will make material more easily available as well as enabling conservation to be carried out in better conditions.

The other buildings on the site will have a variety of uses. Most important for the Museum is the provision of a new workshop. Members who know the conditions under which we have operated in the railway cutting will understand the need for improved facilities.

The new workshop is considerably larger and will enable two or three carpenters to work on large timbers. It is also now possible to install some items of machinery that would

have been impossible in the old workshop.

Adjacent to the workshop is a small room in which plans and other materials can be housed separately from the dust of a carpenter's shop.

Two buildings have been restored and let to a new young company, The West Sussex Rural Engineering Company, whose three partners specialise in restoration of mills and wagons. They are equipped to make wheels, and indeed have already produced three for the Museum. Currently they are working on the first phase of Salvington Windmill restoration, and continuing the restoration of Earnley Mill.

On the East side of the barn is a large fenced yard which is allocated for the development of the materials bank — a scheme which can make a contribution to conservation of buildings in situ. The bank, run by the Museum's new company, Singleton Museum Services Ltd., is acquiring useful building materials for resale to conservation projects. At present the demand is such that as soon as material is acquired it finds a customer. The bank is especially interested in small quantities of material, and any member who may be able to help should contact Dick Pailthorpe.

The Museum is very grateful to the District Council for the help it has given in this scheme.

## A Barn for Bayleaf

AT LAST a barn suitable for the Bayleaf complex has been offered to the Museum. It comes from near Cowfold, and has been redundant for some time.

It is a three-bay crown post roof barn, in very sound condition. Museum staff and volunteers are dismantling it this summer.

The Museum is very grateful to Miss Godman for offering the Museum the barn before demolition.



Interior of Cowfold barn

## Boarhunt Cruck Cottage

ROGER CHAMPION is making good progress on the repair of the timbers of the cruck cottage from Boarhunt and the day will come when it is finally re-erected on site!

Members will recall that work ceased for a while on the repair of this building after Anthony Simmonds left the Museum staff. Roger, who is under immense pressure from all sides, is undertaking the work, but inevitably it gets interrupted. Work will have to stop again temporarily when he is involved in the dismantling of the barn from Cowfold this summer.

## Court Barn

WORK is now going ahead apace to mount the exhibition of the history of plumbing by the Worshipful Company of Plumbers inside Court Barn.

Following a postponement of the original opening date, the scheme is expected to be ready in time for a new day — October 4, and all members of the Friends are welcome to attend.

## Toll Cottage on the Move

THE TOLL COTTAGE, one of the first buildings to be rescued by the Museum, is to be moved again, to a more suitable site on the road out of the Museum's Market Square.

The Museum has been unhappy about the siting of the building close to the entrance for some time. Its position near to traffic is a potential hazard for visitors and its isolation from the rest of the Museum is a disadvantage to it as an exhibit.

With the new siting, the Museum has decided to reconstruct it in a slightly different form. Prior to its dismantling the Toll Cottage was badly damaged by a lorry and the road elevation was beyond repair. In addition, some years before the central chimney had been removed and the re-erection of the building was therefore full of problems. At the time it was decided to rebuild only the parts of the building that remained.

On removal, therefore the missing end will be reconstructed and the chimney rebuilt. The end can be fairly accurately rebuilt using early photographs and from evidence provided by other Toll Houses on the same Turnpike.

A good photograph of the Bramber Toll cottage will enable the Toll gates to be reconstructed, and it is also intended to furnish the interior with domestic artifacts. The final exhibit will be a much improved presentation, and sited in a far better place.

The bulk of the work is being done by volunteers. Phillip Burchett, John Warr and the Ayling family are the core of the team, but others may wish to join them. If you would like to help please contact Chris Zeuner for details and dates.



(a retired industrial chemist, who is a member of the Friends)

A repeat was not possible in 1979, but by

Another problem is an ethical one. When will his 'improved' dau cease to be daub? It would be a waste of time, for example, to re-invent sand-cement mortar rendering, even

It will probably be a long time before we have all these questions answered, if ever, but we do hope to increase our understanding of the behaviour of daub and how, at least with our own local materials, we may be able to select the best recipe for use on the Museum's buildings. Perhaps, too, others elsewhere may benefit.

Acknowledgements are made to John Friar, Roger Champion and others who helped with the erection of the screen and panels and who contributed valuable experience and ideas.

\* \* \*

(a) Tools and equipment used in crafts such as — blacksmithing, thatching, brickmaking, woodworking, leather, building trades and crafts.

The greatest need at present is to display the wheelwright's collection in the correct type of building. So far we have been unable

Please keep the Museum in mind, and should you find items or buildings that you think may be of interest please contact either Heather Champion or Chris Zeuner.

Because demand for these exhibitions is very high we have been unable to reserve it for a showing at Singleton before 1982! Any members finding themselves in the vicinity of Store Street between 2nd and 12th of September might therefore wish to take the opportunity of having a preview.

THE MUSEUM's first special fundraising event, a country fair held in May, raised more than £1,000 towards the re-erection of the North Cray Hall House.

The Museum is grateful to IBM for making a small grant towards the publication costs of the guide book.

In order that there shall be no gap in time on the membership cards, orders dated July would have the end of August in the following year as the expiry date on the cards. I hope this has clarified the Banker's Order system.

Elsie Kessler



## Budget Changes Make Covenants Easier

THE FRIENDS Committee appeals to members to covenant their subscriptions if they can. Covenants are a great advantage to the Museum at no cost to the contributor.

Since the last Budget covenants can now be made for four years instead of seven, as before, and this may make it easier for some members who would wish to take out covenants but were previously unable to.

Covenants mean extra work for the Friends Treasurer, Elsie Kessler, but she says she will gladly do it for the benefit of the Museum!

### STUART RIGOLD

SADLY AND SUDDENLY, Stuart Rigold is dead. That shambling, pipe-forgetting, raincoat-strewing figure, will enliven no more Building Committees with wisdoms unmatched by his lesser, tidier, brethren.

Stuart was a man of deep and brilliant scholarship who retired only recently, at the age of 60, from the post of Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments for England and Wales.

The Museum was the beneficiary of much of his thought and interest and it will forever bear the impact of his ideas. His was a wide-ranging mind. As a very young man he was among the war-time cypher-breakers at Bletchley. He spoke several obscure languages, and spoke them well. He was an eminent numismatist and a distinguished Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. The tragedy is that he died so young, with, ahead of him, a retirement that promised riches of erudition and friendship.

*John Warren*

## Freddie

THE MUSEUM's Shire Horse, Freddie, will by now be a familiar sight to members both on site and through the surrounding villages as he goes on Museum business.

Freddie has settled in well and is increasingly undertaking more site jobs of various sorts. He now pulls a 1929 farm wagon restored by the West Sussex Rural Engineering Company, based in the Museum's workshop complex at Charlton.

In the summer the Museum was honoured to provide horse-drawn transport for the Gala Queen in the Chichester Gala when Freddie pulled a wagon loaned to the Museum by Tony White of Yapton. A number of members watching the procession will have seen him at its head, confidently pulling his load despite the loud noise of the band in front!

One difficulty the Museum needs to overcome where horse-drawn transport is concerned is the acquisition of a tip cart on iron-shod wheels, and anyone who knows the whereabouts of such a vehicle should contact Chris Zeuner.

Members will be saddened to learn that the first horse the Museum had from Whitbread's London stable, Rhyme, had to be destroyed.

WEALD AND DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM  
SINGLETON: 0243-63-348

## Future Events

September 7

Demonstration of joint cutting, by Roger Champion.

September 20 - 21

Demonstration of the construction of wooden scaffolding, by Geoff Kent.

October 4

Opening of Worshipful Company of Plumbers Exhibition at Court Barn.

October 5

Public Lecture — "The Dismantling of Walderton Cottage" by Richard Harris. A detailed account of the recent dismantling project. Crawley Hall — 3 p.m. Tickets free at the door.

November 1

Friends of the Museum Annual General Meeting, Assembly Rooms, Chichester, at 2.30 p.m.

November 8

Steward's Ploughman's Lunch.

December 22

Carol Service at Bayleaf Farmhouse at 7 p.m.

February 28, 1981

Open Day at Charlton Farm — 10 a.m. — 1 p.m. An opportunity for members to see the Museum's new workshops and stores. Refreshments available.

### R.T. MASON

ALL WHO KNEW Mr. R.T. Mason will be very sorry to learn of his death, after some years of suffering from heart trouble. His "Framed Buildings of the Weald", "Framed Buildings of England" and many articles in the Collections of the Sussex Archaeological Society and other journals are a comprehensive and classic source in the study of early buildings, and will remain as such.

He was a founder-member of the Vernacular Architecture Group, a national body formed over twenty years ago, for which he served as President for a period. Before that, to use his own phrase, he "drove a lonely furrow", and it is only in the last two decades that the work he did in isolation (though greatly supported by his wife) has been taken up and continued by others. It was largely

through his initiative that the Wealden Buildings Study Group was formed, which in turn became very much involved in the project of forming a Wealden Open Air Museum. He was a member of the Committee for the Promotion from the outset, but the distance and necessity to limit his commitments prevented him continuing this close connection.

Although he expressed himself quietly and without self-assertion in those cases where he was in disagreement with his colleagues he was almost invariably later proved right. His friendliness and kindness to all who were associated with him, and his readiness to spend a great deal of time helping and encouraging newcomers and would-be-students — and I include myself among them — will always be remembered with gratitude.

*J.R. Armstrong*

Sadly he suffered from a diseased pedal bone which was known about before he arrived. It was hoped that the disease could be halted, but this was not the case, despite extensive treatment in London. Freddie, who was also due for retirement from pulling Whitbread's Brewery drays, is Rhyme's replacement.



Freddie taking delivery of the newly-restored wagon with Les Whitecall.  
Photo: By courtesy of the Southdown Observer Series.

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