

Another Fund-Raising Success for Friends and Good News from the Museum too

THE FRIENDS achieved another great success this year in their second major fund-raising project, the Grand Draw, which raised a net figure of £4,000. The winner was a local person from Chichester, a fact that was especially gratifying. The summer season has also been heartening for the Museum with attendances significantly higher than 1981 – and in a year when the recession has been expected to hit leisure and recreation harder than ever.

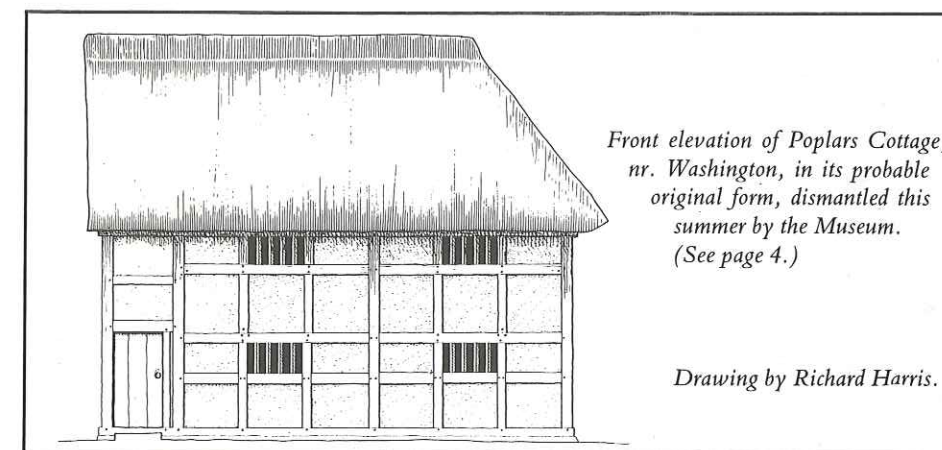
By the end of August visitor attendances were 24 per cent ahead of last year and had exceeded the total number of visitors in 1981. The figure stood at 150,000 compared with 124,000 at the same time in 1981. The major factor was undoubtedly the good weather. Increased publicity was also responsible, resulting not only from the BBC Chronicle programme, but from greater promotional activity, including the caravan financed by the Friends, a concessionary voucher scheme and other efforts to improve the Museum's publicity throughout the year.

The good attendances will have the effect of easing the Museum's financial situation at a crucial time – the onset of winter and the beginning of the annual problem with cash flow. The boost is vital for the Museum since there has been an almost complete drying up of new grant aid and major donations. Throughout the year many Friends and volunteers have been instrumental in raising the £4,000 produced by the Grand Draw and their ticket selling (and buying) efforts are greatly appreciated. Many local firms gave prizes (39 in all) for the Draw, in particular Lady Holderness who donated the first prize of a fortnight's holiday in a villa in the Algarve of Portugal, which was won by Stella Martin, Chairman of the Chichester Branch of the WEA, who lives at Fishbourne; and Charta Furniture who donated the second prize, won by F. Hirschler of Richmond. There was an encouraging sprinkling of local people among the winners of the Draw which was drawn by Lady Holderness on a showery August Bank Holiday Monday.

The money raised will go towards the re-erection of the West Wittering school, which will take place in 1983. Indeed West Wittering residents were among the greatest supporters of the Draw, which was organised largely by Richard Pailthorpe.

Another important factor in the Museum's year has been the enormous success of the new guide book, compiled by Richard Harris. The new format, produced after a great deal of careful consideration, has clearly proved popular, since the first run of 30,000 copies was gone by the end of August. The Museum is grateful to Whiteheads of Chichester, who eased the financial burden of producing the Guide by making a substantial interest free loan towards the £13,000 needed for its launch.

Throughout the year a survey has been undertaken by a postgraduate student of Reading University which will provide extremely useful information about our visiting public and their views on the Museum. The results will be of great benefit to the working party which is looking into the question of visitor facilities.



Front elevation of Poplars Cottage, nr. Washington, in its probable original form, dismantled this summer by the Museum. (See page 4.)

Drawing by Richard Harris.

Ploughing Through the Ages – Date Changed

THE PLOUGHING Through the Ages Demonstration planned at the end of the season has moved to a new date – **October 23-24**. The steam threshing of the crop grown in the central field will be on **October 16-17**.

The Ploughing demonstration will show something of the development of ploughing. Visitors will be able to see a team of oxen drawing a primitive plough from Butser Hill Iron Age Farm, two horse ploughing teams, a demonstration by vintage tractors from D. Rowe and Co. of Chichester, and a rarely seen sight of steam ploughing by Vic Mitchell of Midhurst with his two Fowler BB1 engines and tackle. A modern tractor will complete the scene.

The threshing will be the culmination of an excellent harvest of three separate crops of wheat grown in the central field with the co-operation of Karova Farms, Edward James Foundation. At the top of the field was a now rarely grown variety, Red Standard, providing a particularly tall thatching straw; in the centre was Marris Widgeon, suitable for thatching and at the lower end was a spring wheat called Timmo. The crop was harvested with a tractor-drawn binder by Geoff Boxall and his father-in-law Les Whitecall, a member of the Museum staff. The field produced a good straw crop and corn yield.

Library Open for Business

UNERRING HARD WORK has gone on behind the scenes over many months to establish the Armstrong Library in the Crawley Hall. The library team under the leadership of the Honorary Librarian, Marjorie Hallam, were gratified by the heartwarming approval their work won from the public during the recent Museum open days.

The library, which comprises books for research on the spot, not for loan; is now available to all Friends of the Museum and volunteers on Tuesdays between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The collection of published material covers four main areas – buildings; local studies; museums, particularly open air ones; and personal archives and collections. All books have now been classified and it is hoped to produce a catalogue before long.

Unpublished material, including a very large collection of photographs, is not yet available for consulting, as it will require rather elaborate arranging and indexing in order to provide for efficient but easy

retrieval. Richard Harris is organising the mini-computer to help with this.

Mrs. Hallam would particularly like to hear of anyone who could help with translating modern languages, particularly Scandinavian and Eastern European (including Russian). This work could of course be done at home. Anyone able to assist should contact Mrs. Hallam or the Museum Director on Singleton 348.

Any Questions?

FOLLOWING the success of last year's series of evening meetings for Friends and Volunteers another series is being planned for the coming winter beginning after Christmas. Full details are given on a separate sheet accompanying this magazine.

One evening will take a rather different form, when members will be able to put questions to a panel, consisting of Roy Armstrong, Christopher Zeuner and Richard Harris. Questions should be sent in in advance.

Apart from the annual briefing session for stewards, there will be a Saturday afternoon training and information session specially designed for recent and new volunteers.

Sussex Oxen Arrive at Museum

A NEW ADDITION to the livestock on the Museum site is a pair of pure-bred Sussex oxen, called Hearty and Heedless, who come from Mr. Peter Clery's Upwaltham Farm.

At the age of two the Museum plans to begin training them to work together under the yoke and hopes eventually that they will be able to do a number of carting and site jobs while the Museum is open to the public. In the meantime Museum staff, in particular Alan Waters have been getting to know them and gaining their confidence,

with the aid of morning rations of sugar beet.

The oxen are in an appropriate setting at the Museum, particularly as they preceded the horse as draught animals on the land and are therefore much in keeping with some of our older exhibits.

The county of Sussex was one of the last places in the country where oxen were regularly used for farm work and only finally disappeared from the land after World War 1.

The Museum is particularly keen to learn more of the use of oxen in agriculture in the county and if anyone has any information on the subject the Director would be pleased to hear from you.

WEA Course

THE MUSEUM will be the venue during the winter of a course entitled "Farming and the Local Landscape," run by the WEA and the Southampton University Department of Adult Education with Ruth Tittensor as tutor.

The course will trace the history of farming from the 18th century until the present day, considering farming methods and produce and their effects on landscape, wildlife and the local population.

Further information can be obtained from the Enrolment Secretary, 6 North Pallant, Chichester, or from Ruth Tittensor, telephone Chichester 788027.

William on Parade

CHRIS ZEUNER'S heavy horse, William, helped publicise the Museum at a variety of events during the year including the annual Harness Horse Parade at Regents Park on Easter Monday, and the South of England Show at Ardingly where he drew the Museum's newly-restored Sussex wagon.

He also put in an appearance giving rides at Salvington Mill open day together with his companion, Champers, a Shetland pony owned by Peter Linfield of Rowlands Castle. In September he played a part at the Heavy Horses At Work event at Dunton Green in Kent.

During the year he has carried out a variety of jobs on the Museum site, including carting the harvested stocks from the central field and working the chaff cutter on its new site at Watersfield Stable.



William and the newly restored Sussex Wagon in the ring at the South of England Show, driven by Chris Zeuner.