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Members' Magazine

1982

No. 18

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

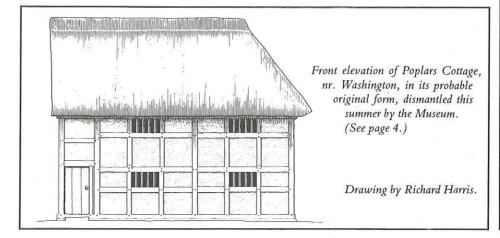
programme, but from greater promotional activity, including the caravan financed by the Friends, a concessionary voucher scheme and other efforts to improve the Museum's publicity throughout the year.

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. Hirchler 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.



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.

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New Chairman and President for Museum

IN JUNE the Museum's Council of Management elected a new Chairman, Mr. David Biart, a prominent Chichester solicitor with Thomas Eggar and Son.

Mr. Biart takes over as Chairman at a time of great financial strain, yet in a year which has seen the best ever visitor numbers since the Museum opened to the public.

He succeeds Mr. Geoffrey Godber, who has retired after seven years as Chairman. Mr. Godber, who lives at Singleton, had taken a keen interest in the development of the Museum while he was still Chief Executive of West Sussex County Council. On his retirement he was elected Chairman of the Museum's Council. During his term

of office the Museum has developed and grown enormously and Mr. Godber's skill and enthusiasm, especially in the field of fundraising, has been a major contribution to this development. At the Museum's annual general meeting in June members paid tribute to his service and leadership.

The annual meeting also saw the retirement as President of the Museum of Lord Egremont. His successor is Viscount Watkinson, who lives at Bosham. In 1976 – 77 Viscount Watkinson was President of the CBI. He was Chairman of Cadbury Schweppes from 1969 – 1974 and Group Managing Director of Schweppes Ltd. before that. He was MP for Woking from 1950 – 1964 and Minister of Defence from 1959 – 62. Viscount Watkinson has established over a number of years his own collection of early English Ironwork.

Building Repairs

AS THE MUSEUM expands the amount of repair work needed on the re-erected exhibits is correspondingly increasing. Our desire to be as original and traditional as possible in our methods of restoration itself leads to maintenance problems. Daub on an external wall needs constant attention and regular limewashing. In the more exposed positions the joints between the infill material and the timber are extremely vulnerable.

This year a number of maintenance jobs have been carried out on the buildings. At Bayleaf where the west elevation receives the full force of the weather, daub is being replaced and some timber is being repaired. The laying of a new chalk

floor is under way.

At the Littlehampton Granary the sole plate which is made of elm has been consolidated with epoxy resin. At the Mill major repairs to the wheel shaft have become necessary and will be undertaken shortly.

One of the most problematical buildings on the site is Tichfield Market Hall where the west gable has been consistently penetrated by rain. Early in the season the joints between the timber and brickwork were injected with expanded polyurethane foam, but it is now apparent that this method has not worked, and the only solution may be to tile-hang the gable end. This is a solution which the Museum was hoping to avoid as it hides so much of the original building, but it is a traditional solution which was employed on many buildings to prevent dampness and decay.

A long list of minor repairs to buildings remains and will continue to be undertaken. Towards the end of next year the major problems on the Winkhurst framework will be tackled.

Publicity Caravan

AT THE BEGINNING of the season the Museum acquired and converted an ex-army mobile exhibition caravan in an effort to redouble the Museum's efforts at publicity.

During the summer it has toured a number of shows and sites including the Surrey Show, the South of England Show at Ardingly, Worthing town centre and several visits to the Witterings, where it has been focusing on the Grand Draw in aid of the West Wittering School project. The caravan, financed by the Friends, has been designed to replace previous travelling exhibitions and encourage new visitors with a more direct approach. Inside is a largely pictorial exhibition about the Museum and its work together with models of some of the re-erected buildings and a stock of items for sale.

One of the features of the caravan is the handing out of complimentary tickets. About 25 per cent of these have been used at the Museum so far this year.

Special thanks are due to the volunteers who have manned the caravan, often on long and tiring days, particularly Mr. and Mrs. Hum who have staffed it on a number of occasions.

Ebernoe Kiln

AN UNUSUAL survival of a type of brick kiln known as a "Scotch Kiln" on Ebernoe Common, Northchapel, has been restored in situ this summer.

John Friar of the Museum staff was seconded to the project to carry out the necessary brickwork repairs after West Sussex County Council launched a restoration scheme.

The kiln, thought to have been built in the 19th century is a wood-fired updraught kiln with twin stokeholes. It is sited in woodland acquired recently as a nature reserve by the Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation. Nearby is a moulding shed where bricks were made by hand.

When the Museum first visited the kiln some years ago it was in danger of collapse by encroaching vegetation. Some clearance was carried out and this was completed by the Haslemere Archaeological Group supervised by County Archaeologist Fred Aldsworth.

Finance for the project has come from the Coast and Countryside Committee and the Department of the Environment.

Building Centre Exhibition

CHRIS ZEUNER and Richard Harris are jointly preparing an exhibition for the Area Museums Service for South East England and the Building Centre Trust entitled "The Traditional Builder."

The exhibition will concentrate on the materials used in building – lime, brick, timber, plaster, thatch etc., and show the ways in which these materials were used by traditional tradesmen.

It will open in London in late 1983 at the Building Centre Trust, Tottenham Court Road, and will then tour the South East.

Letter from the Chairman of the Friends Committee

AT THE MOMENT of writing – early September, a few days after the Grand Draw took place – the Friends of the Museum look like being better off by about £4,000. The first prize, a fortnight for two in the Algarve, was won by Stella Martin of Chichester. The Friends Committee is most grateful to the donors of that and all the other prizes; to the staff of the Museum, and especially Richard Pailthorpe, who put great energy and resource into organising the whole affair; and to all those, including a large number of Friends, who bought and sold tickets.

When it next meets, in October, the Friends Committee will have to consider the best way of helping the Museum with two projects, the North Cray Hall House and the West Wittering School, for which we have been raising money over the last 18 months or so.

Largely because of the insistent demands of maintenance work it has not yet been possible to get a start made on North Cray. It will be a big undertaking, comparable with Bayleaf. But in November work will begin on laying out timbers at Charlton Barns and the intention is to hold an open day at Charlton before Easter next year, when Friends and others interested, including local people, will be able to see the progress made. The auction last year, which was held specifically to support the North Cray project, raised something over £9,000. That sum has meanwhile been growing and I expect we shall feel able to advance £7,000 to the Museum at the end of November and another £5,000 in April or May next year.

By the beginning of March some work will have been done, or will be starting, on the school and it would then be sensible for the Friends to make over the proceeds of the Draw, and to follow that up two or three months later with a further substantial contribution.

A programme of help on these lines will result in big payments for

the two projects being made to the Museum in the early months of the coming year, when normal income is at its lowest and the overdraft tends to be at its peak. There is no advantage in the Friends hanging on to big balances, even though they earn generous interest, when the Museum has to pay even higher rates on borrowed money. We must at the same time keep faith with our own members and other supporters and take care to relate our contributions to the projects for which the money was raised in the first place.

Our money-raising efforts have been modestly successful in recent times, but success brings its own problems, which will have to be grappled with by the Committee. Some of us are getting on in years and it would be common prudence to recruit some younger blood. The AGM on November 7 provides the opportunity and I would be grateful if Friends would think about nominating suitable people – and take care to obtain their consent.

Sir James Waddell

School Furnishings Donated

FOLLOWING the publicity about the Museum's West Wittering School project, a large number of items of school furnishings have been donated, which will enable the re-erected school to be furnished much as it might have been at the time of its use.

Apart from large items of furniture, Heather Champion has also received old biblical pictures, slates and samples of children's handwork, which will be included in the furnished room.

The Museum's collection of artifacts for eventual display and for research purposes, has been increasing throughout the year.

Resulting from the dispersal of an estate in East Sussex the Museum was kindly offered a number of wood and metal working tools. Several items suitable for exhibition have been received, including samples of roofing and mathematical tiles, wall ties, land drains, a 17th century wooden lattice window, lead guttering and examples of medieval mouldings, exposed during house conversions. Wattle and daub samples have also been received to add to this section of the collection.

Refreshment Facility

THE MUSEUM'S refreshment facility has been running successfully during the season and has made a financial contribution towards the running of the Museum.

Even though the facility does not quite cope with our peak times it is providing a satisfactory service and public reaction appears to be good.

Jan Pack is to be complimented on running the unit throughout the year and on cooking such a vast supply of cakes of such good quality!

Museum Open Weekend

IN JULY the Museum held a most successful Open Weekend when the aim was to demonstrate the Museum's usually static exhibits. The result was a very lively two days during which something was happening at each building on the site.

Visitors saw demonstrations of pit sawing, farriery, wheelwrighting, chaff cutting, carpentry, milling, bread making, charcoal burning and water raising at Catherington Treadwheel. In addition there were demonstrations of hand milking of cows and goats, pipe making, candle making, basket making, spinning, and flint knapping.

There was a tremendous response from staff and volunteers to help over the weekend and both visitors and demonstrators went away from the site with pleasant memories. It is hoped to repeat the event next year.



Demonstration of wheel tyring by wheelwright David Bysouth during the Open Day.

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Opening of House from Walderton

ONE OF THE most significant projects to be undertaken by the Museum, the house from Walderton, was opened in July by Dr. Neil Cossons, President of the Museums Association and Director of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

The building presented the Museum with the ideal opportunity to explain to visitors the complex structural changes which traditional buildings undergo through the centuries. The reconstruction was approached in a new way. The better preserved end has been rebuilt in its 17th century form and contains replica examples of furniture types listed in the house inventory of 1634, made by the Museum's master carpenter, Roger Champion.

The less well preserved end has been reconstructed as a section through the building, demonstrating to visitors the medieval hall, which was the first phase of the building, and the inserted 17th century floor and ceiling. Visitors can also see the way in which the walls, ceilings, and wattle and daub panels were made. At this end are three panels explaining the building to be accompanied shortly by a sound commentary.

The dismantling of the building was

undertaken meticulously and with much greater attention to detail than any previous projects. This stage and the building's reerection formed the subject matter for a BBC Chronicle programme on the project which has been beneficial in explaining the work of the Museum to a wide audience and in attracting new visitors to the site.

The building was financed with generous help from the Monument Trust, Beaver Tool Hire of Chichester and Barclays Bank.

Woodlands Exhibition

AT THE BEGINNING of the season the Museum opened its new exhibition in the Coldwaltham Cattle Shed dealing with the products of the woodlands.

It aims to explain the links between the natural products of the forests and the historic buildings and artifacts seen at the Museum. The exhibition was prepared by Mrs. Ruth Tittensor, an ecologist with a special interest in the history of the landscape and designed by Bruce Williams of Chichester.

One of the main features is a series of panoramas showing the view of the surrounding landscape of Singleton and West Dean as it would have been at different periods.

The exhibition, which was financed with the help of the Countryside Commission (£3,000) and the Carnegie United Kindgom Trust (£2,500), was opened by Dick Steele, Director General of the Nature Conservancy Council.

The Museum is planning a nature trail leading from the exhibition through the woodland and coppice areas of the site to reinforce the themes of the exhibition for visitors.

Poplars Cottage

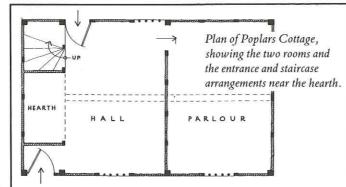
THIS SUMMER Museum staff have dismantled Poplars Cottage, a small timber-framed building which has been derelict for many years on the Wiston Estate, near Washington.

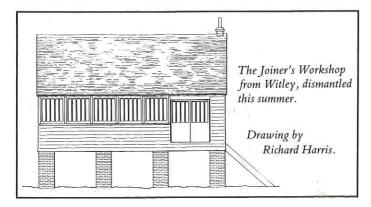
The principal feature of the two-roomed house is its smoke bay, parts of which have been recovered complete. During dismantling sufficient evidence was found to enable the Museum to reconstruct the building at its original smoke bay stage.

The brick and stone chimney was added later and the end gable wall had been built within the smoke bay and the staircase moved at one time from the smoke bay end to the other end of the house. Evidence was also found for an oven, similar in style to that of the house from Walderton, situated inside the inglenook. Evidence for a back door by the staircase was also uncovered.

The timbers of the building are all of elm and in poor condition. However Poplars Cottage represents a significant stage in house development and will be a valuable addition to the Museum exhibits when re-erected on site.

County Archaeologist Fred Aldsworth will shortly be undertaking an excavation of the site.





Joiner's Workshop

A SMALL joiner's workshop which was part of a builder's yard at Witley in Surrey has been offered to the Museum by Mrs. Mullard, widow of the builder.

The building is timber-framed on brick piers about 7 ft tall forming an undercroft for the storing and drying of timber. The building will probably be erected in association with the carpenter's workshop and form the beginning of a small traditional builders' yard

Friends Trip To East Anglia

A COACH LOAD of about 40 Friends spent the weekend after Easter visiting East Anglia. Two nights were spent in the Swan at Lavenham, where Trust House has made a sensitive conversion of five timber framed houses without excessive Olde Worlde blackened timbers. We were lucky to have Ian Howlett, an old friend (almost an ex officio Friend by now), as our driver; and he kept us up to a very rigorous schedule on all three days, never losing more than five minutes.

The main objective was the Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket, and the Director, Robert Shorland Ball, prepared us for this by an interesting talk on Friday night. Our enjoyment of Saturday was enhanced by the fact that we had an enormous coach, which allowed us to take the whole Shorland Ball family with us, and then to pick up our hostess from Fressingfield, Miss Rice, a Friend, for the second half of the day.

The scope of the whole visit was wide spread: Religious, -Greensted and other Churches; Industrial, - Saxtead Green post mill; roof structure, - Fressingfield church (hammer beam), Wingfield College (converted aisled hall), the "barn" or "stable" at Fressingfield ("an unnecessarily elaborate and decadent piece of visually spectacular carpentry"); Edgar's Farm House (aisled with scissor braces); agricultural, - (the Cressing Temple barns); local studies, - Thaxted and Coggeshall; timber framing galore in Lavenham, where by a couple of flukes we had access to one private

house and a big modern restoration of another. On Saturday evening Mr. Walker gave us a very interesting talk on his collection of carpenters' tools, when we all had a chance to handle many of his more interesting specimens.

Will any Friends who are interested in a similar visit to the Tamar valley in April 1983 please get in touch with Walter Greenway (Chichester 783057) before the Annual General Meeting.

Walter Greenway

Museum Benefits From Legacy

THE MUSEUM is pleased to acknowledge the receipt of a most generous legacy from the estate of the late Barbara Klein, who was a member of the Friends.

The Museum has already received a distribution of £1,500 and it is likely that the total will be in the region of £5,000. Under the terms of Barbara Klein's will the residue of her estate was left to five charities, including the National Trust, Christ's Hospital School and the Museum.

Charcoal Burns

DURING THE YEAR two charcoal burns have taken place, led by Alan Waters, with help from volunteer Ted Nash and Martin Bossom.

The second burn was more successful than the first producing better quality and a greater quantity of charcoal. The second kiln was much smaller, taking a shorter time to complete.

Visitors show a great deal of interest in the demonstration and it is hoped to hold another charcoal burn next year.

Salvington Mill

SIGNIFICANT STEPS have been made this year in the restoration of Salvington Mill, which is being repaired in situ in preparation for opening to the public by a Trust, of which the Museum is a co-trustee.

Recent months have seen the completion of repairs to the quarter bars and the main mill structure, and the lowering back onto the central

Work continues on the cladding and the machinery.

Restoring Houses

THE RESTORATION of old buildings has become something of a cult over the last few years. All too often the exterior receives the full treatment but the interior is ignored and often spoiled. Hugh Lander's new book "Do's and Don'ts of House and Cottage Interiors" is a sequel to his "Do's and Don'ts of House and Cottage Conversion" and includes a formidable list of pitfalls to avoid and practices to embrace.

He hopes to arrest the trend for destroying house interiors by spelling out the sort of advice many people find difficult to get. The books can be obtained from the Museum Shop.

Concert at **Petworth House**

AS AN ATTEMPT at a novel method of fund raising we organised a concert at the end of May. This was possible owing to the kind co-operation of the Headmaster of the Yehudi Menuhin School and of the National Trust staff at Petworth

Miss Amanda Hurton, one of the star pupils of the school gave her services free in return for the experience of performing in public in the unusual setting of the North Gallery of Petworth House.

Unfortunately she had been ill very recently and was still obviously suffering from the after effects; this prevented her from playing a composition of her own, to which we were all looking forward. She gave us a dashing performance of Beethoven's Appassionata Sonata, and a very sensitive rendering of Chopin's 24 Preludes. There was a long interval in which the audience had free access to the ground floor rooms of the House.

The attendance was disappointing, with the result that the profit was only small. The layout of the hall was such that it was possible to give the impression that it was fuller than it was, so there were no reproving empty rows of seats. Those of us who attended the concert were all agreed that the Friends who ignored the opportunity had made a great mistake. We now feel that we have a vested interest in the future success of this talented

Walter Greenway

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 stooks 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.

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