

Unusual New Projects Launched at the Museum

A significant feature of the Museum's work in the last year has been the growth of fund-raising projects based on some of the traditional skills that have been demonstrated at the Museum.

There are two main advantages from these new activities. Firstly, visitors are able to see and enjoy regular demonstrations of the skills and crafts concerned and secondly the operations will bring the Museum some extra funds. These activities are run under the Museum's Subsidiary company.

This year saw the start of two particularly unusual activities. At the beginning of the season the Museum employed Albert Peacock on a full-time basis producing hazel spars for use in thatching.

Mr. Peacock works in the Woodlands Exhibition cattle shed, an appropriate site, where he makes 1,000 spars a day (5,000 a week) for sale to thatchers. Such is the demand that the Museum could sell many more.

The spar-making was made possible through another activity of the Museum's – the management of 22 acres of hazel coppice on lease from the Goodwood Estate. The coppice produces material not only for spar-making, but for hurdle-making and fencing, and wattle infill for the timber-framed buildings, together with a variety of sub products, such as bean poles, pea sticks, faggots etc.

The other major new activity which began in mid-season was charcoal-burning, using a metal retort, of a type which superseded the traditional earth kiln, and is in use on the few charcoal burning sites still in operation today.

Martin Bossom is now working full-time producing charcoal, with some assistance during the busy season. He averages two burns a week, producing just over one tonne of charcoal each time, which is bagged and sold through a number of local outlets.

Reports indicate that public reaction to the attractively packed charcoal is most favourable – people are clearly pleased to be able to buy good quality locally-produced charcoal in preference to the imported alternatives otherwise available. The chief market is barbecue enthusiasts, who have this summer been out in their gardens in force! The charcoal has sold well and it has been hard work keeping up with the demand.

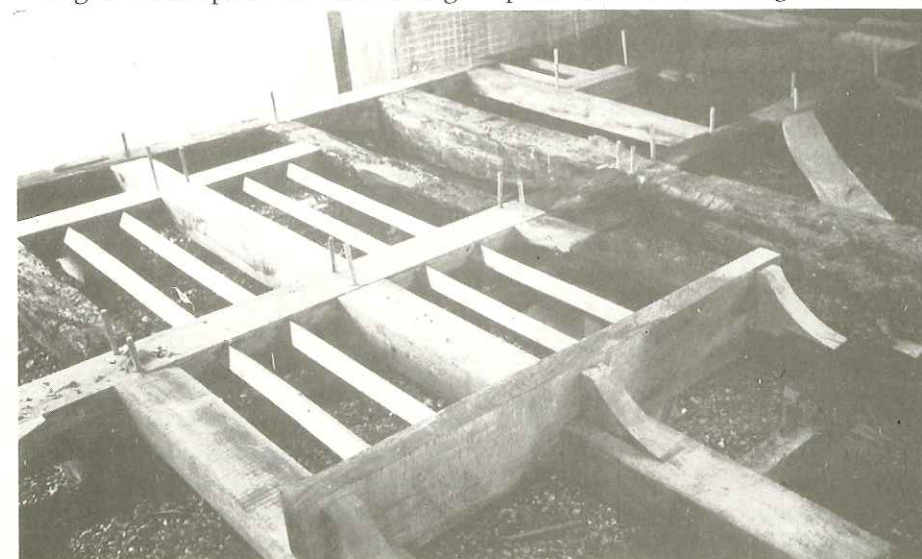
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North Cray Hall House

The building will be re-erected on the Museum site in the market square in the week beginning Monday, August 6 next year.

Roger Champion is continuing

the repair work on the timbers of the building, which is built almost entirely of elm. The work involves the use of epoxy resins to consolidate poor areas in the original timbers.



Two Major Schemes for 1984-85

A major new scheme for interpretation of the Museum's building exhibits is being planned for 1984-85. The scheme includes a redesigned exhibition in Hambrook Barn, and information facilities throughout the site, aimed at giving visitors more information during their tour of the buildings.

The scheme is dependent on the success of a variety of grant applications being made now.

At the same time serious thought and planning is being given to the re-erection of the Horsham Shop and the 17th century building from Reigate in the market square.

The Horsham Shop, despite its fragmentary state, will be a most important project.

It has already been decided that the first and second floors of the building will not be open to the general public. The building will be re-erected onto the western end of the Crawley Hall, with access from Crawley so that the two floors can provide extensions to the library and seminar room facilities.

Adjoining this project will be the Reigate building, which was on its original site attached to the rear of a building fronting the High Street. This will be rebuilt on to the back of the stair vice of Crawley, necessitating substantial alterations to this part of Crawley.

The planning of this project and subsequent fund raising are likely to take some time and a start date for this major development has not yet been decided.

North Cray Hall House under repair, taken by Geoffrey Claridge, who is making a photographic record of the repair of the framework, with a view to holding an exhibition to coincide with the re-erection of the structure in August next year.

Winter at the Museum

Autumn Activities Weekend

The Museum is holding another Autumn Activities Weekend this year, on **October 22 and 23**.

Activities will include horse ploughing, with two teams working each day, ploughing by a pair of oxen from Butser Hill, harrowing by the Museum's own pair of oxen, vintage tractor ploughing, and charcoal burning.

The highlight of the weekend will be steam threshing of the Museum's crop of Red Standard wheat, to produce grain and thatching straw. The threshing machine will be provided again by Bert Dibben and the steam engine by Arthur Martin. Straw will also be baled by a steam-driven machine.

Barbecued refreshments will be sold to visitors.

The weekend follows a similar one held last year which was most successful and provided a boost to the end of the season.

Christmas at Bayleaf

To celebrate Christmas at the Museum this year a special concert has been arranged for **December 17** when Lavinia Snelling, lute, and Ashley Stafford, counter tenor, will present a programme of music and carols in which the audience will be able to participate.

The setting will be the open hall of Bayleaf Farmhouse, complete with roaring fire and torches and Christmas decorations, and the occasion should be an evening to remember. Tickets will be £4.50, available from the Museum Office.

Lavinia Snelling is also arranging a number of musical evenings as part of next year's programme of activities.

Bayleaf will also be the setting once again for the Museum's traditional carol service on Tuesday, **December 20** at 7 p.m.

Retirement of Doug and Marjorie Bryant

Doug and Marjorie Bryant retire this year from their respective duties as Warden and Shop Supervisor. Doug was one of the first people to become involved on the site with the Museum project and in the early days was the only Warden.

He organised all aspects of visitor reception and public opening and developed the volunteer system that we know today. As one of the founder members of staff the Museum owes a great debt to Doug for his dedicated work.

Marjorie also has played one of the most

vital roles in the development of the Museum. Her enthusiastic work in building up the shop has established it as a major contributor to the Museum's income.

Neither Doug nor Marjorie intend to give up their involvement with the Museum. We can expect to see their interest in the Museum continuing in the future.

Attendance Figures

The weather in 1983 has been either too wet or too hot! After a slow soggy start to the season visitor numbers picked up, but the heat wave sent everyone to the beach, although numbers remained fairly steady during that time.

By the end of August the attendance figure stood at 129,000, which compares with 149,000 at the same time last year (an exceptional one for visitors, as readers will remember), but 5,000 better than in 1981.

The highspot of the year was the Heavy Horse Day in June which attracted nearly 4,000 people.

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Visitors are fascinated by the great smoky kiln, which lends great atmosphere to the site and gives an insight into what it must have been like at the nearby village of Charlton where eight kilns were at one time kept busy throughout the year. The traditional earth kiln will still be demonstrated at least twice a year.

For the third year running the Museum has grown a crop of thatching straw for use on the building exhibits and for sale to thatchers.

This year some 22 acres of Red Standard wheat were grown at the Museum and off-site. Despite a damp start the resulting crop was good, and the harvest was successful in the dry weather. Two ricks have been built in the overflow car park and thatched in by Les Whitecall and Albert Peacock (who also thatched the haystack by the stables).

The poorer quality sheaves from the edge of the field have already been threshed, using a threshing box owned by Michael Lugg, boiler-makers and steam engineers, of Billingshurst, and the rest will be steam threshed over the Autumn Activities Weekend.

Samples of the wheat have been submitted for analysis and have been shown to be a good-quality milling wheat. The crop will now be supplied to the Mill, for grinding into flour for sale.

This labour-intensive activity is another example of an operation which provides some income for the Museum as well as a valuable demonstration of rural activity, once so much a part of life and now past.

Thanks go to all those who helped bring the harvest in over a number of days, particularly to volunteer Ted Nash, whose help is unstinting on these occasions and greatly appreciated.

New Development at the Library

A special service is being established in the Museum library designed solely for Friends and Volunteers. Marjorie Hallam, the Honorary Librarian and her team are building up from duplicates a small section of loan material, which will be available only to these two groups.

Friends and Volunteers are particularly encouraged to use the library facilities, preferably by appointment through the Museum office.

Deposits of relevant material, including books, pamphlets, drawings and photographic records, are always welcome at the library, which is constantly expanding. The computer catalogue is being built up steadily and is now in use.

Time Trek

Owing to design problems the publication of the Museum Board Game "Time Trek" has unfortunately had to be postponed. However, printing is now under way and the game will shortly be available in the Museum Shop. Alternatively, it can be ordered direct from the Museum Office, by completing the enclosed form.

Special Summer Activities

During the summer season the Museum arranged several activities on site – the Country Fair, a Summer Activities Weekend and the Heavy Horses Demonstration and Pageant.

Nearly 2,000 people came to the **Country Fair**, which raised more than £800 from a variety of activities run by Friends and Stewards. These included a produce and plant stall organised by Joan Brooks, Ethel Buvyer and Mary Hum; a tombola organised by Walter Greenway; a second hand bookstall and a number of sideshows.

Demonstrations included the unusual spectacle of ewe milking by Mrs. Olivia Mills of Wield, near Alton, basket making, hurdle making, walking stick making, corn dolly making, spinning and weaving.

Children from West Wittering School gave a display of country dancing and a cheque for £600 was presented to the Museum by Mr. Chris North on behalf of TVS towards the reconstruction of the school.

The **Heavy Horses** event was organised jointly with the Southern Counties Heavy Horse Association in June and was a great success, attracting almost 4,000 people.

Museum's Smallest Building

The smallest building to date at the Museum is being erected at the bottom of the Toll Cottage garden. It is a timber-framed privy from Charlton, just down the road from the Museum.

The structure was restored by the Winter volunteer working party and re-erected by Brian Boseley.

The privy is part of the project to complete the Toll Cottage curtilage in the manner of such a home of the 19th century. The bee hives have been moved into the garden, which includes a vegetable patch and a flower garden.

Plans to furnish one room of the Toll Cottage and mount an exhibition on turnpikes and toll cottages in the other will be completed by the opening of the new season.

Plumbers Activities

The Worshipful Company of Plumbers entertained the Institute of Plumbing during their annual conference at Brighton recently with a picnic at the Museum and a tour of the Plumbers' museum in Court Barn.

The Plumbing Teachers Association held its annual meeting at the Museum, at which Phil Mead, of Chichester College of Technology was elected President. Mr. Mead has been responsible for organising the colleges' demonstrations of leadwork in the plumber's workshop inside Court Barn.

As a record of appreciation of the help and support the Open Air Museum has given to the establishment of the Plumbers' museum, a plaque was presented during the annual meeting to the Director.

Some 20 horses demonstrated a variety of agricultural tasks, including ploughing, harrowing, cultivating, rolling, chaff cutting and carting.

The event ended with a pageant of horses in hand, and drawing wagons and agricultural implements in the main ring.

The day was an experiment both for the Museum and the SCHHA and in view of its success another similar day is planned next year, on June 10.

The **Activity Weekend** in July attracted 3,700 visitors, who were able to watch a wide range of demonstrations and activities, including the hand milking of goats and a Guernsey cow, wattle and gate hurdle making, chestnut cleaving and spar making, besom brush making, wheel-wrighting, steam and pit sawing, flint knapping, and corn dolly making.

The Broadwood men gave a display of Morris dancing and visitors were able to sample sausages cooked over charcoal made at the Museum.



Basketmaker Suzannah Chaplin talks to a visitor during the Summer Activities Weekend. Taken by Ian Seraillier

West Wittering School

The West Wittering School together with its stable and yard will be officially opened at the beginning of the 1984 season.

Work on the building is being undertaken by J. Booker and Son, and the school will be furnished with artifacts collected by the Museum over recent months.

Witley Joiner's Shop

The joiner's shop from Witley in Surrey is being re-erected in the back-yard of the village square, behind the shop and next to the Carpenter's Shop.

The pillars of the undercroft were moved and re-erected whole under the supervision of John Friar and the chimney rebuilt by Brian Boseley. Jim Cartmel carried out the timber work.

The upper workshop will be furnished with joiner's tools and benches and the undercroft below offers an opportunity to store timber in use by the Museum. Both sections of the building will be used as demonstration areas.

Letter from Chairman of the Friends

Along with this issue of the Newsletter Friends will receive formal notice of the annual general meeting on November 5, with minutes of the last meeting, accounts for 1982-83, proposed revised rules and notes on the respects in which they differ from the present rules. The Committee found, when they got down to examining the rules, that they needed bringing up to date in various ways – most obviously in order to regularise the arrangement for electing officers and members of the Committee.

I hope the new rules, which have the general blessing of the Charity Commissioners, will be approved by the AGM at the outset, so that the meeting can proceed in accordance with them. As the formal notice indicates, we need a new Secretary and a new Treasurer.

Bernard Johnson has been Secretary since 1977 and Elsie Kessler Treasurer since 1975. Both have given devoted service and have looked after Friends' affairs with great skill and at little or no cost to the Friends. Both feel they ought now to be allowed to resign. I am glad to find they are willing to continue as members of the Committee if elected.

It is a comfort to be able to propose successors. Carol Hawkins and Bernard Rush have agreed to be Secretary and Treasurer respectively, if elected. The job of Treasurer is especially time-consuming and I hope that together they will be able to work out ways of lightening the load, possibly by separating off some of the routine work which falls to a membership secretary.

The new Committee will have plenty to think about. The Friends

Spring Field Trip to the Welsh Marches

A trip to the Welsh Marches is being planned to start on Monday, April 9. Three nights will be spent in the Abbey Hotel at Great Malvern, and the party will return on Thursday, April 12.

Plans are not yet finalised, but it is likely that long stops will be made at Avebury, Ledbury, Stokesay Castle, Ludlow, Worcester, two Herefordshire villages (selected from Eardisland, Pembridge and Weobley), Kilpeck Church and Bibury in the Cotswolds. This will leave time for another couple of places to visit. These are being sorted out now, and final decisions will be made in time for an announcement at the Annual General Meeting. The cost will probably be about £100.

Pencil bookings can be made from now on by application to Walter Greenway at 21 Cavendish Street, Chichester (Telephone Chichester 783057). Applications will be dealt with in order of receipt, and a line will be drawn across the list after 42 names – names below the line will be treated as reserves. Please confirm any telephone applications in writing.

Pencil bookings must be confirmed by early March, accompanied by the money. Last minute cancellations owing to illness etc will not be penalised and the money will be returned when the final accounts are made shortly after the end of the trip!



Spar-maker Albert Peacock, dressed for his part in the BBC Television Series "Paradigms" (see back page).

are now a substantial enterprise having contributed since 1972 £43,344 to the Museum. In 1983/84 some £9,500 is committed yet we still have in hand a matter of £7,000. This is available to assist specific projects on the ground, as in the past, but we may be reaching a point where the emphasis in our help should be altering. In the affairs of the Museum fewer new projects are being undertaken, partly because (properly and inevitably) resources are being consumed on maintenance and development on the site. We are in preliminary discussion with the Museum and it seems possible that a useful general objective for the Friends might be to support an expansion of the Museum's links with the general public and particularly with educational bodies at all levels.

Sir James Waddell

Junior Friends to be Formed

Elizabeth Newbery, who ran the Summer School, has volunteered to run a Junior Friends group at the Museum, an idea which has been welcomed by the senior Friends.

Elizabeth, who has had experience of childrens' museum clubs, has suggested that the club should be open to children aged seven and upwards and membership would entitle them to special privileges, such as free entry to the Museum, a membership badge, competitions and prizes.

The Junior Friends will be open to individual membership only, not to schools or groups, and members would receive a newsletter three times a year corresponding with activities planned in the school holidays.

There will also be special activities at Christmas, Easter and during the summer open only to the Junior Friends (as distinct from general children's activities at the Museum).

Friends Trip to the West Country

The Friends' outing to the West Country on April 14 was enjoyed by all who participated. "The Duke of Cornwall" at Plymouth, where we spent two nights, proved to be a good choice, and from there we visited, amongst other places of interest, the Museum at Morwellham.

Several of us boarded the miner's train for the short journey to see the workings where copper, and later arsenic, were extracted. One of the highlights of the visit was to the beautiful old house of Cotehele in Cornwall.

We broke our return journey on the Sunday to visit the water mill of Otterton in Devon.

All who took part in this trip expressed their thanks to Brigadier Greenway for the months of hard work he had put into organising the outing.

Joan M. Brooks

Biskupin – Poland's Iron Age Time Capsule Museum to Host Major Exhibition

In May next year the Museum is host to a major exhibition about one of the most important iron age sites in Europe – Biskupin in Poland. The event will be remarkable in that the exhibition will include the building of replicas of three iron age houses based on reconstructions on the site itself.

The houses will be built in the overflow car park, isolated from the very different traditions of English vernacular architecture.

The structures, built of pine logs, will be built at the Museum by specialists from the Butser Ancient Farm working from plans supplied by the Biskupin archives, together with personal knowledge of the site, gathered by Peter Reynolds, Butser's Director in the past and Chris Zeuner, during a recent visit to Poland.

One of the houses will be furnished completely in the manner of the time, the other two will be used as exhibition space for 177 objects, found during archaeological excavation together with text.

The exhibition will open on May 3 and remain for three months, after which it will travel through Britain for four months, without the reconstructed houses, which will then be dismantled. Other venues include Norton Priory Museum, Runcorn and Cambridge.

1984 is the 50th anniversary of the first excavation on the lakeland site of Biskupin, and it is an appropriate year for the exhibition to travel abroad. The Museum was approached as host for the display by George Lambor of Agora Antiquities, who lives in Hove, an expatriate Pole very familiar with Biskupin, who was determined to see information about this extraordinary site travel beyond the boundaries of his homeland.

Biskupin is Poland's iron age time capsule. Its importance lies in its remarkable state of preservation. The Biskupin settlement, built of wood c. 550 BC, once housed 1,000 people. Over the centuries it settled into the marshy ground so ensuring the preservation of the entire defensive wall, wooden catwalks which constitute the streets, every house, every partition, every fireplace, wall details and doors,

Museum Caravan

The Museum's Publicity Caravan continues to visit a number of shows, events and sites during the summer season, and these have been most successful.

However the Museum is looking for fresh sites for the caravan, in particular town centre locations such as shopping centres and the Director would welcome suggestions from Friends about possible inclusions in next year's programme of sites.

Windpump

The miller, Robert Demaus, has been carrying out repairs to the windpump machinery during the summer, which necessitated removing it from its post. The windpump will be reassembled during the winter.

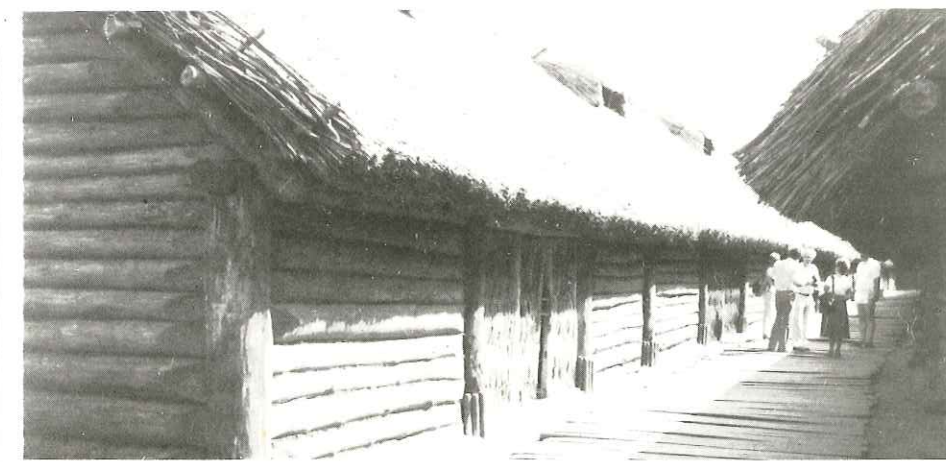
which were preserved where they fell. Elsewhere archaeologists specialising in pre-historic sites have to content themselves with searching for post-holes – at Biskupin the intricate foundation system and thousands of objects lay waiting in the mud to be discovered.

Unfortunately for the vast majority of people interested in the site Biskupin is too much off the beaten track – the exhibition will give hundreds of professional, amateur and armchair archaeologists and antiquarians, together with the general public, the opportunity to learn more about this remarkable site.

The exhibition, loaned by the Polish National Archaeological Museum, includes many artifacts, mostly from Biskupin, but some from other Polish sites, which give fascinating insight into the Lusation Culture to which the Biskupin people belonged. Visitors will be able to see a large scale model of the settlement as it was in its lifetime, maps, plans and photographs of the site at various stages of excavation, as well as graphic representation of life and times in Biskupin when it was one of the many fortified settlements of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age Lusation Culture which grew in Silesia and into the plains of Greater Poland.

Two senior archaeologists working full time in Biskupin will accompany the exhibition and it is hoped that they will be available to lecture to archaeological societies during their stay.

Further information about the exhibition will be published in the March newsletter.



GLC Wagons Restored through Museum

Through the Museum's trading company, Singleton Museum Services, the Museum obtained an order from the GLC to restore two wagons, a tip cart and other agircultural equipment in its ownership.

The work was carried out by Gus Pollard and Peter Darby of the West Sussex Rural Engineering Company of Charlton.

The vehicles will be on show and in use at the proposed working farm project in North London, not yet open to the public.

One of the wagons has already made a number of public appearances drawn by the GLC's newly acquired heavy horses, named Peace and Friendship.

1984 – An Eventful Year

1984 promises to be an especially eventful year at the Museum. At the very beginning of the season will be the opening of the West Wittering School, the date to be announced in the Spring Newsletter.

The Biskupin Exhibition opens on May 3rd and runs until the end of July.

The beginning of April will see the showing of Richard Harris' Exhibition prepared in association with the Area Museums Service for South Eastern England, the Building Centre and ourselves, entitled "Traditional Building Crafts". The Exhibition will also be shown in London.

June 10th is the date for "Heavy Horses at Singleton", once again in conjunction with the Southern Counties Heavy Horse Association.

The beginning of August will see the re-erection of North Cray

Hall House. This will take place during a week which will be devoted to celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Chartered Institute of Builders, whose Southern Region branch as part of their celebrations will be arranging, in association with the Museum, a festival of building crafts under the banner "Building Tomorrow's Heritage". The three-day event will take place on August 10th, 11th and 12th.

October 20th and 21st 1984 are the dates for the Autumn Activities Weekend and there will be the usual range of demonstrations throughout the year.

Design of Museum Gardens to be Tackled

The Museum is taking steps to improve the historic accuracy of the design and care of the curtilages around some of the exhibit buildings.

A working party has been set up comprising Chris Zeuner, Richard Pailthorpe, Dr Sylvia Landsberg, Stella Palmer, Ruth Tittensor, Ted Nash, Anne Beaumont, and Ethel Buvyer.

Dr Landsberg has been responsible for designing the Tudor Garden in Southampton and is currently designing a Medieval Garden in Winchester. She will be drawing up plans in the near future for a garden around Bayleaf.

We are extremely grateful to Ted Nash and Anne Beaumont for all the hard work they have done in creating the Toll Cottage garden and to Ethel Buvyer for once again maintaining the Bayleaf herb garden.

The Toll Cottage garden is gradually taking shape and despite a difficult growing season, has been very colourful.

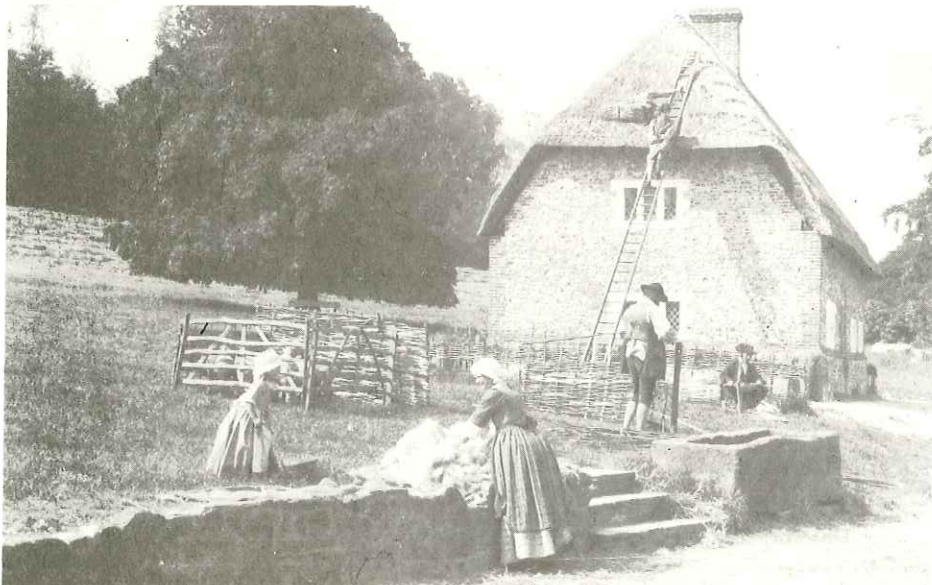
Step Back into Time

Early visitors to the Museum one day this season must have felt they had stepped back in time when they came across men and women in 17th century dress going about their daily work in the market square.

In fact they had stumbled across the last moments of two days of filming by the BBC Science Unit, for a programme called "Paradigms" about changes of technology through the ages.

Members of the Museum staff dressed in period costume took part in scenes which included hay gathering, woodland crafts, oxen working in the woods, and a market place.

The programme will be shown in 1985 and will be presented by James Burke. However, it should be added that the two days of filming will be compressed into a very short time indeed!



The scene outside Walderton House during filming.

Summer School

During the long summer holidays the Museum ran a most successful summer school, organised by Elizabeth Newbery, formerly an education officer at the Museum of London.

The series of morning sessions were based on the Walderton House and the Catchlove family, who lived in it 300 years ago. The sessions included a variety of activities which the Catchloves might have undertaken in the course of their daily lives – cooking, working with animals, woodland crafts, making a will with home-made ink and quills, spinning, and making music. The emphasis was on participation for the children.

At each session there was an average of 30 children, who came from Chichester, Selsey, Bognor, Worthing, Arundel and the Lavant Valley.

Elizabeth Newbery was assisted each morning by Elaine Vawdry, and at some sessions by Eileen Simance, Virginia Lyon and Christopher Challen.

Happy Events

Two happy events in the lives of members of Museum staff have occurred during the year. Richard Harris, the Museum's Research Director, married Judy Rich in May at a ceremony in New York. Shortly before that Richard and Jane Pailthorpe welcomed a new addition to their family, a little girl, Victoria, a sister for Nicholas.

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

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