

# Major Development Phase Planned at the Museum

A plan put to the Museum Council by the Director has been agreed as the basis for the next major phase of development at the Museum. It consists of two main proposals -

(1) The plan to re-erect in the market square the *medieval shop from Horsham* and the *town house from Reigate*, with associated exhibitions and improved library and seminar facilities, at a cost of about £300,000.

(2) The proposal to redesign the interior of *Hambrook Barn* to improve reception and interpretation facilities for visitors, together with *explanatory panels and exhibitions* in different parts of the site.

In addition over the next few years a number of buildings now in store will be re-erected. Priority will be given to those which contribute to the visitor's understanding of themes of building development so far illustrated on the site or which expand the educational facilities at the Museum.

The Museum has a developing library and information service and in order to expand this and house the large photographic collection it is proposed to re-erect the *Horsham Shop* on the west end of the Crawley Hall. This building, one of the first to be rescued by the Museum, will require quite a lot of new material but will illustrate a type of urban building now rare and of considerable interest. The public will have access to the ground floor. The second and third floors will house the photographic collection and other archives as well as providing space for study.

To the north of Crawley the *Reigate Town House* will be re-erected. The building contained the remains of wall painting and it is suggested that the first and second floor are devoted to gallery space dealing with interior decoration in vernacular houses, with special reference to wall painting. The Museum already holds some relevant exhibits in its collection. Such an exhibition is likely to be of considerable interest to visitors, particularly as so many of the buildings on the Museum site have plain unfurnished interiors.

To provide access to these buildings and to link them together with the Crawley Hall, the existing modern stair vice will be reconstructed, and at the same time a small kitchenette will be included to provide refreshment facilities for this group of buildings. Additionally lavatories will be provided in the complex.

Minor alterations planned to the existing Library areas include moving the division between the entrance lobby of the Crawley Hall and the Library to create extra Library space.

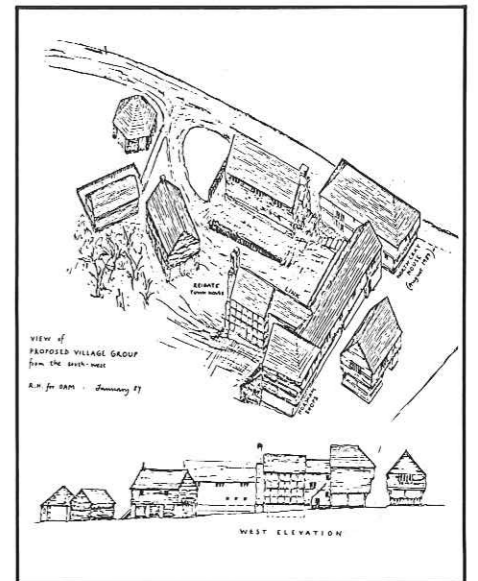
The extension of library and meeting facilities will be an additional encouragement to groups, such as the Wealden Buildings Group, the WEA, University extra mural classes, as well as individual students and research workers to use Museum facilities and associate themselves and their work with the Museum.

The extra space can be used for general meetings, exhibitions, social gatherings and small conferences. All these activities are already established at the Museum - the aim is to expand them.

Associated with the Horsham/Reigate/Crawley complex, it is proposed that a small workshop should be erected to provide space for practical demonstrations on aspects of conservation work. The Summer Workshop described elsewhere in the Newsletter is an example of the kind of use which would greatly benefit from such a workshop.

The need to improve the interpretation of the Museum's exhibits for visitors is urgent and the main improvement will be the redesigning of the interior of *Hambrook Barn*. The proposal is to mount a new exhibition on vernacular architecture

(continued on back page)



A drawing, by Richard Harris, of the proposals for the development of the Market Square area.

## STOP PRESS!

The Museums and Galleries Commission has offered the Museum a grant of £20,000 towards the Horsham Shop/Reigate Town House building project which will mean that readers can expect an early start to this project. The Museum would like to express its gratitude to the Commission for its support in getting off the ground a most important development.

## The Festival of Building and Erection of North Cray Hall House - Museum's Major Summer Event

The major event at the Museum this summer is the **FESTIVAL OF BUILDING** which will be held to mark the 150th anniversary of the **Chartered Institute of Building** and co-incides with the re-erection in the Market Square of the **NORTH CRAY HALL HOUSE**.

The Festival, from August 10-12, aims to portray the building industry as it is today, and to show the public how it continues to contribute to the built heritage, to employment and to wealth. The displays will also portray the many skills involved in the industry, both past and present, from computerised drawing techniques to spar making and thatching.

The re-erection of one of the Museum's major buildings, the **North Cray Hall House** from Bexley, is a particularly appropriate activity to be taking place at the time of the Festival. Visitors

will be able to watch the assembly of the timber framework, repaired over the last months by Roger Champion. A **special repeat visit season ticket** will be available during the week beginning August 10, so that those with a special interest can make frequent visits to see the framework grow.

The Festival has already received enthusiastic support from the building industry, and a number of companies have agreed to take part, each representing an element of the industry, and providing demonstrations. Among these are Longleys (contractors to the Goodwood Race-course Stand, which will be open to public view during the Festival), Llewellyn, Hepworth, Bartol, Rentokil, Crown Paints, Laing, Redland, and Blue Circle.

In addition organisations such as the Building Conservation Trust, the Fire Brigade, the PSA, the Cement and Concrete Association and the

Royal Engineers, will be participating.

Considerable support is being given by technical colleges in the South East, providing student demonstrators for a wide range of skills, both traditional and modern, and showing training and career opportunities offered by the building industry.

The Museum will be providing many of the traditional demonstrations, including thatching, stone walling, flint knapping and traditional carpentry.

The Festival co-incides with the launch of the Museum's first workshop in traditional restoration techniques, described elsewhere in the newsletter.

The three-day event will be especially significant in that it brings together in one place a wide range of people involved in different aspects of the building industry.

# Diary Dates for 1984

March 24		Stewards Briefing Session
April 6	7.30 p.m.	Private view of "TRADITIONAL BUILDING CRAFTS" Exhibition
April 7	11.30 a.m.	"Traditional Building Crafts" runs until May 6. OPENING OF WEST WITTERING SCHOOL
April 17		AGM of Museum Management Council
April 23		William attending Easter Monday Harness Horse Parade at Regents Park
May 1		Broadside Band (see enclosed programme)
May 3		OPENING OF BISKUPIN EXHIBITION. Exhibition closes July 29.
May 19		COUNTRY FAIR
June 7/8/9		Museum Caravan at Ardingly Show
June 10		HEAVY HORSES AT THE MUSEUM
June 20-23		MEDIEVAL PLAYERS perform at Museum
July 7-8		TIMBER FESTIVAL
July 30-August 12		Summer School
August 4		EXHIBITION BY GORDON BENINGFIELD until September 2 (Details of preview enclosed)
August 6		"Portraits of Craftsmen" Exhibition, until August 31.
		Summer Workshop on Repair of Traditional Building starts, until August 31.
August 10-12		RE-ERECTION OF NORTH CRAY HALL HOUSE begins and FESTIVAL OF BUILDING
August 20-31		Summer School
September 3-30		Exhibition of Children's Work of the Museum
October 6-31		"Joy of the Craftsmen" Exhibition
October 27/28		WEEKEND OF PLOUGHING, THRESHING ETC.

## Lichen and Timber Analysis

**A sample of lichen on an ash stave from Poplars Cottage, recently dismantled by the Museum, could give valuable information to botanists studying lichens.**

The sample was sent to botanist Dr. Francis Rose by ecologist Ruth Tittensor, who systematically sampled natural materials found in Poplars Cottage during its dismantling. The lichen is now being checked by an expert in lichens at laboratories at Edinburgh.

Lichens do not normally survive long because oxygen and damp cause decomposition, and so conditions within Poplars Cottage must have been just right for the lichens found there to have survived so well for five centuries. As a result the Poplars sample is causing some excitement.

Although the species on the stave still occur in Sussex today, Dr. Rose says they are small and uncommon, and that scientists have to look to the Celtic west for the unpolluted conditions they represent. The results of the analysis of the lichen sample are likely to be published shortly. Dr. Rose hopes the sample can provide a datum for unpolluted environments against which he can assess modern lichen floras. Other samples from Poplars Cottage are being analysed for historical and scientific information at Aberystwyth.

The Museum has also received interesting information following dendrochronology analysis on timber from Tichfield Market Hall and Little Winkhurst.

Dr. John Fletcher of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, has been able to give estimates of the likely felling dates of timber from the two buildings. The date in the case of the Tichfield sample is between 1525 and 1535, so we can now say fairly confidently that the Market Hall was built in the second quarter of the 16th century, somewhat earlier than had previously been thought.

Little Winkhurst, more correctly known as Winkhurst House, which is in store, had two distinct phases of building, the original hall house and an added rear wing and stair vyse. The first phase, a four bay house with open hall, yielded a likely felling date of 1501-1505, and the second phase was probably added about 40-50 years later.

## Catering

**Jan Pack has left the Museum to pursue a freelance career in catering. Jan latterly managed the catering unit at the Museum but for many years worked as Secretary in the Museum office. We wish her the best of luck in her new career.**

The kiosk will this year be operated by Mr. & Mrs. David Fry from West Wittering who will be running our facility as part of their general catering services in the area, which includes many of the events on the Goodwood Estate.

## Visitor Statistics

**The final total of visitor numbers for the 1983 season, to the end of October was 153,000.**

This compares with 176,000 in the exceptional year of 1982, and 145,000 in 1981.

Visitor numbers during the winter season to the end of January were 15 per cent more than the same time last year. Mild weather and organised Wednesday openings have contributed to this, but nevertheless the trend is encouraging.

## Music at the Museum

**A series of musical entertainments has been arranged for the coming year. On May 1 the Broadside Band, who specialise in the performance of 17th century British popular music, will perform during the afternoon.**

On May 26 Ashley Stafford, counter tenor accompanied by Lavinia Snelling, lute, will present an evening of early music. On August 11 Philip Astle and Paul Williamson will present a programme of busking and ballads.

In June, with the support of the Southern Arts Association the Medieval Players will present a varied programme over four days (see page 5).

Further details of these events are enclosed with the newsletter.

During the Autumn Ploughing Weekend Humphrey Lewis and the Cooper family will present a programme of traditional folk singing - details will be included in the Autumn newsletter.

Finally as part of the Timber Weekend in July the West Dean Musical Instrument Making Course, under the tutorship of Christopher Challen will demonstrate aspects of their work.

# Biskupin Exhibition

**A major exhibition on Biskupin - Poland's iron age island village site, will be opened at Singleton on May 3, by Professor Barry Cunliffe.**

The exhibition, which marks the 50th anniversary of the first excavation of the site, is attracting considerable interest among archaeologists.

Biskupin is among the most important pre-historic archaeological sites in Europe. On most sites archaeologists have to be content with scratching the ground for signs of post-holes, but at Biskupin the complete settlement once housing 1,000 inhabitants and built of wood c. 550 BC had settled into the marshy ground leaving the entire intricate foundation system and lower parts of the walls intact.

Doors and parts of walls were preserved where they had fallen. Wooden streets, details of house foundations, fireplaces etc remain. No settlement, large or small, in Europe outside the Mediterranean area is in a comparable state of

preservation.

The exhibition opening at the Museum illustrates the site and the findings. Apart from the many farming, hunting and domestic artefacts on display, visitors will be able to see a large-scale model reconstruction of the settlement, maps, plans and photographs of the site, as well as graphic illustrations of life and times in Biskupin when it was one of the many fortified settlements of the late Bronze/early Iron age Lusation culture.

It had been hoped to build a replica of some of the iron age houses based on reconstructions on the site itself, but unfortunately due to lack of finance this will not be possible.

## Progress at the Library

**Marjorie Hallam, the Museum's Honorary Librarian, would welcome gifts of books or booklets on the themes represented by the Museum for inclusion in the Library, where work on cataloguing and general organisation has continued during the last year.**

All material so far gathered by the Museum has now been recorded and a computer programme agreed. Before long it is hoped to have the catalogue available for public use.

Roy and Lyn Armstrong are currently analysing and cataloguing Mr. Armstrong's large collection of slides. The Museum is grateful for grants from the Peter Minet Trust, Chichester NADFAS Group, the Worshipful Company of Plumbers and the Friends of the Museum towards the appointment of a temporary person to undertake this work. We are pleased to welcome to this post Caroline Hallam who joined the library team at the beginning of March.

## Photographic Competition

**The Competition, run throughout the 1983 season, was a great success, with nearly 500 entries in all.**

The prizes winners were as follows:

### Adult Section

1st prize Mr. Herriott of Croydon  
2nd prize Miss S. Kemp of London  
3rd prize Mr. Stone of London  
Highly commended - Mrs. Slocock of Haslemere, and Mrs. B. Martin of Ripley.

### Junior Section

1st prize Damian Lilly of Tonbridge  
2nd prize Elizabeth Bell of Chippenham  
3rd prize Clive Grimwood of Tonbridge  
High commended - Eileen Godfrey of Godalming.

Whitby's of Chichester very kindly supplied the winning prizes, which included two disc cameras as first prizes for both sections.

## To all Stewards from Doug and Marjorie Bryant.

**We feel we must take this opportunity to say how very much we appreciated your great kindness and generosity on the occasion of our "retirement".**

The most attractive engraved yew tray and goblets will always be a reminder of the many happy years which we all spent together working for, and furthering the cause of the Open Air Museum. When we return in Spring 1984 we shall decide the most effective use to which we can put your most generous cash gifts.

We have so enjoyed seeing this great project flourish and grow, and greatly value the many friendships it has brought us. Our warmest thanks and very best of wishes to you all.

## MSC Schemes

**Two Manpower Service Schemes are currently running at the Museum. The first is a Youth Training Scheme, organised by Youthforce, West Sussex, and under the leadership of Nicky Deakin, designed to provide young people with environmental conservation work. At the Museum the team has been working on fencing, the nature trail, paths, tree-planting and maintenance of the lake.**

The other project is for adults, who have been constructing new covered space in the railway cutting to improve the Museum's storage of its historic buildings and large items from the collection. This scheme is part of the Community Programme Scheme, run by West Sussex County Council.

Application has now been made to the Manpower Service Commission under the Community Programme Scheme for a group of people to work in the library. If this scheme is approved it will be possible to extend the cataloguing and indexing project considerably. People on the scheme will undertake individual projects but will also receive training in cataloguing and indexing and in the use of the micro computer.

The exhibition will remain at Singleton for three months, and will then go on tour to the Norton Priory Museum in Runcorn, Durham Archaeological Museum, Edinburgh University, Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and Nottingham Museum.

The exhibition is on loan from the Polish National Archaeological Museum on the initiative of George Lambor of Agora Antiquities in conjunction with the Museum.

Two senior archaeologists working full time in Biskupin will accompany the exhibition and they will be available during their stay for a limited number of lectures.

## Junior Friends Launched Information Sheets for Teachers Planned

**The Junior Friends, launched at the beginning of the year, had already attracted 40 members at the time the Newsletter went to press.**

The club is the idea of Elizabeth Newbery, the Museum's education officer, who ran last year's Summer School for children in the summer holidays.

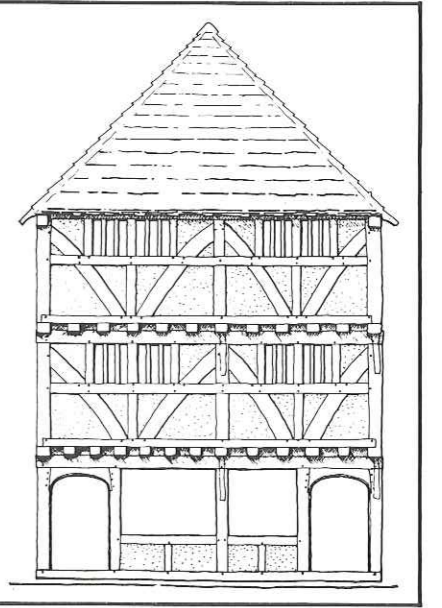
Membership of the Junior Friends is open to children from the age of seven, and each member is given a badge and membership card. A number of meetings have been arranged at the Museum during the year on Saturday mornings, and Elizabeth hopes that the members will be able to contribute to the Museum in their own way through a variety of tasks.

The Summer School will this year be arranged in two lots of two weeks, and will have "building" as the general theme.

Elizabeth is currently working on two major educational projects for the Museum. The first is a new children's guidebook, which will be activity-based, of 32 pages with three colours and will be available at the beginning of the season for around 50p.

The second is a series of information sheets for teachers, based on single leaflets, which can be readily updated and costing about 10p each. The sheets are arranged in four groups; water, wind and animal power, available in mid-March; houses, available by mid-April, farm buildings and trades and crafts.

On both projects she is working with Chichester artist and designer Sue England.



*The front elevation of the medieval shop from Horsham, drawn by Richard Harris, which is to be re-erected in the Market Square.*

# Letter from the Chairman of the Friends – Sir James Waddell

A modest start has been made with helping the Museum to strengthen its educational and academic work. At the top end of the scale the Friends are contributing £2,500 towards the cost of cataloguing in the library, and at the lower end the Junior Friends are now at work, under Mrs. Newbery's guidance.

As work goes ahead on the Horsham/Reigate project adjoining Crawley Hall (which will enable the library to be extended and seminar facilities to be improved) our help will be needed on a considerable scale. In the first place we shall devote the proceeds of this season's raffle to that project. Meanwhile we are bearing the cost, probably about £1,000, of providing durable information boards beside some exhibits which at present are left to speak for themselves.

As far as possible, however, we relate our assistance to specific projects, particularly where the project is, or can be made, a matter of special interest to part of the Museum's territory. The North Cray House, whose foundations can now be seen beside the Market Square, came from Bexley, and I hope that that building and the Horsham/Reigate building project, will attract support from those parts of Kent and Surrey. The barn to be erected at Bayleaf comes from Cowfold, at the other end of West Sussex, and we are meeting the cost of the Benningfield prints on the basis that the profit will go to the Cowfold scheme.

We have not hitherto made any great effort to

recruit new members among visitors to the site. With the Museum's help we now propose to make a point of drawing visitors' attention to the benefits of membership. The rising cost of admission is bound to prompt more people to consider subscribing, and we are working out ways of enabling those who join on the spot to have an immediate refund of the admission charge. There are obvious complications, but we hope to get round them.

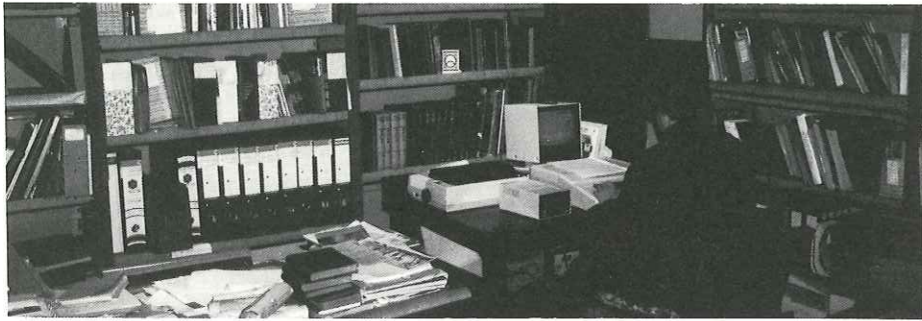
Elsewhere in this Newsletter are details about Museum activities in the coming season. Notable additions to the normal programme are the Biskupin Exhibition, the Benningfield preview on August 3, the North Cray opening and other

activities in the following week and the series of evening concerts. I draw attention particularly to the request for help of various kinds for the Country Fair on May 19.

I feel slightly apologetic about our decision to run a raffle during the season. The justification is that with a bit of effort a remarkable lot of money can be made by selling tickets in the shop and elsewhere on the site. The prizes will be mainly, if not entirely, in money, but if any Friend is in a position to offer something spectacular by way of a prize that would be most welcome – and in that event Richard Pailthorpe should be informed at once so that it can be given full publicity.

We look forward to a highly successful season. What we need most is simple – good weather on all Bank Holidays, weekends and special occasions.

## Putting Members on Record!



Val Price feeding Apple II with Friends' data. You will see from the address label on the envelope containing this newsletter that the Friends mailing list is being held on the Museum's computer, which will greatly facilitate the circulation of material to members. If you find an error in your address please let us know.

## Grand Draw for 1984!

In the light of the great success of the previous Grand Draw, which raised £4,000, it has been decided to hold another one during the forthcoming season, to be drawn at the Friends Annual Meeting on November 10.

Instead of offering a variety of typical raffle prizes, we have decided to offer a selection of cash prizes. The proceeds from the draw will go towards the re-erection of the Horsham Shop and the Town House from Reigate.

In order to gain the maximum benefit from the Draw a Freepost envelope is enclosed. If you do not wish to participate we should be grateful for the return of the tickets.

## Spring Field Trip

A visit to the Welsh Marches is being arranged for Friends in mid-April.

The coach will leave Singleton at 9.15 a.m. on Monday, April 9 and will return at about 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 12.

Places included in the trip will be Avebury, Ledbury, Kilpeck, some Herefordshire villages, Stokesay Castle, Ludlow, Worcester, Bredon (where the tithe barn has been recently restored by the National Trust), Bibury and Newbury.

The cost will be £100 per head. Pencil bookings made after the last newsletter and at the annual meeting fill most of the available places, but there may be a few vacancies arising from cancellations. Anyone who has not had a letter about the trip and would like to be on the list should contact Walter Greenway at 21 Cavendish Street, Chichester; telephone Chichester 783057.

## Country Fair – May 19

This year's Country Fair will take place on Saturday, May 19. This event has been most successful in previous years, chiefly due to the large amount of help offered by Friends.

Once again we shall be most grateful for contributions to the stalls, which include a produce stall, book stall, and a tombola which we hope will attract items of good quality.

Below is a list of those in charge of the stalls:

Produce stall	–	Joan Brooks	Chichester 527332
		Mary Hum	Chichester 781357
		Ethel Buvyer	Bognor 863653
Plant stall	–	Elsie Kessler	Rustington 72274
Tombola	–	Walter Greenway	Chichester 783057
		Bruce Pailthorpe	Chichester 527272
Book stall	–	Eve Becher	Midhurst 2948

In addition to these there will be a number of sideshows and demonstrations of a variety of crafts and trades.

Richard Pailthorpe at the Museum will be glad to receive suggestions about other stalls or activities, preferably along with offers to run them! Any offers of help for the day will be greatly appreciated.

## New Acquisitions

An important addition to the Museum's collection of artifacts this year has been the mill and roller donated by Mr. Charles Lucas of Warnham Court Estate near Horsham. The machinery was housed on the first floor of the estate yard building in Warnham village, which also houses a carpenter's shop, granary, hand-operated wrack bench fitted with saw, stabling, cart sheds and engine sheds. All the machinery was initially steam driven.

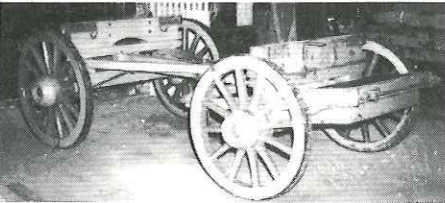
The mill hurstings are 20 feet long and three feet high. The shaft is operated by a belt-driven pulley wheel. The single pair of millstones are three feet in diameter and of peak stone. The bin floor containing one bin is situated above the staging and also feeds an animal feed crusher. Both pieces of machinery were used solely for milling feed for the farm animals on the estate.

The Southern Water Authority has donated a bench saw and engine together with the timber shed in which they are housed from beside the River Medway at Allington, Maidstone. The machinery was used for converting timber for use in the vicinity of the river and locks. The Blackstone engine, built just after the beginning of the century and the older circular saw and bench were last used about 20 years ago. At the Museum the plant will be re-erected for use in the vicinity

of the Witley Joiner's Shop.

The Museum has also acquired a timber carriage in good condition, which is undergoing some minor repairs prior to its use at the Museum for carrying timber.

Other items being catalogued and conserved are millwriting tools used by millwright Mr. Lee of Midhurst; a galvanised well bucket which was in use in the Catherington Treadwheel before it was dismantled and items connected with the hop industry including a hop plough, fork and dog.



Timber carriage to be used by the Museum.

## Snippets

Two more Sussex bullocks have joined the stock at the Museum. Weald and Downland, as they have been named, have spent the last few months getting acquainted with the Museum, and soon will begin training in earnest. The aim is to use them with their older cousins, Hearty and Heedless, to form a plough team for demonstration at the Museum and at special events elsewhere. They will also be able to pull the Sussex Wagon. The oxen were bred by Mr. P. Cleary of Upwaltham, who also bred Hearty and Heedless.

The Friends have given a £1,000 grant towards small interpretation boards, designed to improve the interpretation of exhibits on the site (see main article). The first one to be prepared will be for the charcoal burners' area.

The Friends have also given a grant towards the purchase of a two-way radio system, designed to improve the operation of the car park and to help in maintaining security on the site. This radio system will be especially useful at major events.

Heavy horses will be visiting the Museum again this year, on June 10, following the successful show last year held in conjunction with the Southern Counties Heavy Horse Association. They will again be joining the Museum to arrange a programme of demonstrations by a variety of heavy horse teams.

Whiteheads, the estate agents, have again offered an interest-free loan to the Museum for the re-printing of the main guidebook. The Museum is most grateful for their continuing interest in this project, which requires considerable capital outlay.

The Museum will be exhibiting its restored timber carriage and timber bob at the South of England Show at Ardingly this year, where we

will be joining the forestry and wildlife section and illustrating the theme of "timber". The publicity caravan will also attend the Show.

The Museum sends congratulations to miller Robert Demaus, on his engagement to Jacqueline Watts of Wickham, Hampshire this year.

The Museum held another successful Autumn Activities Weekend last October, featuring steam threshing of the Museum's crop of Red Standard wheat, ploughing and cultivating by several teams of horses, oxen from the Museum and from Butser Hill, and tractors, including a steam tractor. This year a similar weekend is planned.

In an effort to save the hornbeam standards in the Museum coppice above the Woodlands Exhibition from further depletion by wind-blow, it has been decided to pollard the branches. At the moment more are lost with every gale and it is hoped that reducing the weight will prevent further loss. The work is being carried out by Jim Hampshire.

Demonstrations of traditional plumbing techniques will again be organised at Court Barn during the year by Phil Mead of Chichester College of Technology.

Walter Greenway and Richard Pailthorpe gained a moment of notoriety recently when they appeared on Channel 4's Treasure Hunt programme.

They narrowly missed the £1,000 prize in their efforts to direct helicopter-based Anka Rice around the wine-growing areas of Northern France using maps and reference books, but won £500 between them, after successfully solving four of the five clues.

Considering they had the French language to cope with and a bottle of wine without a cork-screw it is generally felt they did extremely well!

## Medieval Players Visit the Museum

This June the Museum is host to four days of entertainment by the Medieval Players, a touring company based on the professional travelling troupes of the late middle ages, which has established a lively reputation since its foundation four years ago.

The Players will use the Market Square as their "stage" during their performances at the Museum which will be very varied, ranging from street theatre, such as juggling, stilt-walking, singing and music, to illustrated lectures on early drama, workshop presentations, and performances of their main fare for the 1984 season – The Great Theatre of the World.

The play is considered the last great medieval play, in which God takes the role of theatrical producer and brings on a band of players to present a social comedy. The play has the uniquely medieval combination of earthly humour and simple passion. The adaptation of the play will make use of bold visual effects, masks and giant puppets, and popular songs and music of the period, as well as traditional circus skills.

Further details about the Players' visit to the Museum, which takes place from June 20–23, and may include a special evening for the Friends, will be announced in due course.

## Michael Holdsworth

This year Michael Holdsworth, County Secretary with West Sussex County Council, is retiring as the Museum's Company Secretary.

He has served on the Museum's Council almost since the foundation of the Museum and has been of particular help in a variety of matters over those years. The Museum is especially pleased that he is to remain on the Council as Honorary Solicitor.

Mr. Peter Careless, a solicitor from Littlehampton, has agreed to act as company Secretary in the future. It is expected that the Council will approve his appointment at the annual meeting.

The Company Report and Accounts of the Museum will be available for Friends and Stewards to see in the office after the annual meeting of the Council on April 17.

## Site Road and the Toll Cottage

This year will see the implementation of the road system provided for in the Museum's master plan of 1979, which will involve the removal of the existing site road from the central clump to the Toll Cottage, making the main route the one through the market square area. This will improve the historical accuracy of the road layouts at this part of the site.

The Toll Cottage gates, made by Jim Cartmel,

will be hung in place for the new season. Their design has been based on a photograph of the Beeding Toll House's sister at Bramber, and will make better sense of the Toll Cottage's new position at the entrance to the Museum exhibit area. The gates will also assist in disciplining those who bring cars onto the site unnecessarily.

Inside the Toll Cottage the exhibition on the Cottage and turnpike roads, by Kim Leslie, will be mounted for the season.

## Pig Sty

A late 19th century timber framed cottage pig sty in the garden of a house at Coultershaw has been given to the Museum by the Petworth Estate.

The sty will be re-erected in the Toll Cottage garden and in the future it may be possible to fatten a pig in it.

The building is being restored by a small volunteer working party including David Kemp, Walter Greenway, John Munro-Thompson, Jack Tregear and Fred Whitbread.

# Museum's First Summer Workshop

In August the Museum is organising its first workshop to provide experience and training in the repair of traditional buildings – the four-week course will be open to people from the building industry, the associated professions and students.

About eight participants will be accepted for the course, which is being directed by Richard Harris. They will spend their time in three main areas – workshop experience, subject days and fieldwork days.

In the workshop set aside for their use they will undertake the repair of a small timber-framed building due for re-erection at the Museum under the supervision of an experienced specialist.

On subject days the group will examine the four most common building materials – brick, stone, timber and lime. Visiting specialists will

discuss the traditional production and use of the materials and their repair. The evenings will be spent in lectures and discussions covering further aspects of historic buildings and their materials.

On fieldwork days the group will visit buildings to gain experience in working out their historic development. They will learn to measure and draw buildings and will also use some evenings

further work in this area.

The aim of the Workshop is to increase participants' experience of historic and traditional buildings, giving them the chance to meet experts and share knowledge. The emphasis will be on the importance of well-informed decisions being made by craftsmen responsible for conservation jobs.

## Exhibition by Gordon Benningfield

Gordon Benningfield, the artist, broadcaster and writer has very kindly agreed to produce three paintings of the Museum. One of these will be of the Bayleaf complex, from which a limited edition of 250 prints will be made.

An exhibition featuring the paintings and about Gordon Benningfield's work will be held at the Museum between August 4 and September 2. During this time the limited edition prints will be on sale, the proceeds going towards the re-erection of the Cowfold Barn, and the Ashurst Granary.

Details about a special preview of the exhibition are enclosed, at which Gordon Benningfield will talk about his work and the production of his latest book "Hardy Country". In addition Robert Gittings, who lives at East Dean, has very kindly agreed to read extracts from some of Hardy's poetry.

An exhibition called "Portraits of Craftsmen" from the John Hansard Gallery of Southampton University, is being staged at the Museum from August 6–31.

The photographs of traditional crafts in Hampshire, by Adrian Ford, were commissioned by the Southern Arts Association. The photographs show craftsmen who work at their skill to earn a living rather than indulging themselves at a pastime.

On Oct. 6 "The Joy of the Craftsman" opens. This exhibition, prepared by the Area Museums Service for South East England, illustrates wood-working tools and the craftsmen who made and used them, and includes tools from the collection

of Edward and Cecilia Audsley.

The professional toolmakers of the 19th century were of high quality and handsome design, but above all they worked wood to the joy of the craftsman. The tools exhibited were proud possessions of craftsmen who worked with pride, understanding and individuality. The exhibition features such craftsmen as H.T. Barnard, who specialised in ecclesiastical furniture; W.A. Downham of Surrey, a local joiner; and Leslie Ward, who designed and built musical instruments.

(from page 1)

and set aside an area where the main themes of the Museum are explained and help given to visitors to make the best use of their time at the Museum. This will be achieved by traditional displays, the use of audio visual or similar equipment and by staffing with volunteer stewards.

Associated with new visitor reception facilities would be a series of explanatory panels in other parts of the site. At present one or two of the buildings are very difficult for visitors to understand. In some of these buildings improvements might include the extension of furnishing with replicas and in others audio or visual presentation may be more suitable.

The re-erection of the buildings from Horsham and Reigate will be a notable addition to the buildings collection in themselves. Others from the Museum's stores will be chosen to enhance visitors' appreciation and enjoyment.

Most importantly the medieval barn from Cowfold will be re-erected with its associated

wagon shed near Bayleaf Farmhouse, enabling a small 15th century farm complex to be established at this end of the Museum site. With expert advice it is hoped to establish a garden, which would be historically accurate for the period. It is also possible that further livestock could be accommodated within the farmyard, and carefully selected farm equipment could be housed within the complex, for demonstration purposes. The public can see many reconstructed farmsteads dealing with the 19th century, but the Museum is seeking to provide a window to an earlier period of agricultural life, as well as illustrating how farmhouses and buildings have developed to suit changing agricultural practice, a theme with direct relevance to the problems of agricultural buildings today.

Central to the Museum's subject is the presentation of crafts and trades relating to buildings. The Museum already has on site a pugmill house, and it is proposed to complete a rural brickyard by the re-erection of the drying shed and stable from Petersfield, and the recreation of a small clamp or possibly a kiln. The drying shed is large enough to house an exhibition on brick manufacture, brickmakers and brick buildings.

In addition to these main building projects other smaller schemes will run alongside. These would include a granary next to Lurgashall Mill, to enable the storage of bulk grain and help make the Mill complex more complete; the medieval Poplars Cottage from Washington; the 16th century Tindalls Cottage; and small projects undertaken by volunteers (like the privy and the pig sty).

## Timber Festival

In July the Museum is planning a two-day timber festival. The aim of the weekend will be to demonstrate the variety of ways in which wood is converted to use by man. There will be many demonstrations by craftsmen including hurdle making, wood turning, cleaving, charcoal burning, carpentry skills, and steam sawing.

There will also be a forestry element to the weekend with demonstrations of the skills of forest workers by staff of the Edward James Foundation at West Dean. The Festival will be on July 7–8.

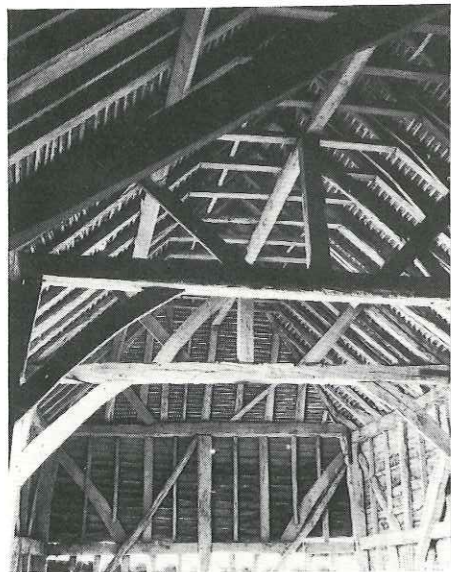
## Martin Bossom

Martin Bossom will be leaving the Museum staff on April 18 to take over his father's boatyard in Penryn, Cornwall.

Martin, who lives in Singleton, first came to the Museum on a day release scheme from school in 1974. When he joined the staff on a full-time basis he assisted John Friar on the re-erection of Lurgashall Mill. For much of his time at the Museum he has undertaken general site maintenance duties as part of the team who labour to keep the Museum's grounds to a high standard.

Last year he started work full-time on the new charcoal burning project. In recent weeks he has been training a successor, Gary Browning.

The Museum wishes Martin the best of luck in the future.



The interior of the medieval barn from Cowfold, which will be re-erected in the Bayleaf Farmhouse complex.

WEALD & DOWNLAND



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

Chairman: David Biart

Founder: J.R. Armstrong

Chairman of the Friends:

Sir James Waddell

Hon. Secretary of the Friends:

Carol Hawkins, 4 Vicarage Lane

The Bourne, Farnham

Surrey.

Museum Director: Christopher

Zeuner. Telephone: Singleton 348

Research Director: Richard Harris

Newsletter Editor: Diana Zeuner

DESIGNED BY CITYSET LIMITED, CHICHESTER  
PRINTED IN ENGLAND BY ACORN PRESS (HASLEMERE)