

Horsham Shop Re-erection Under Way (Further Funds Still Needed)

Work on the re-erection of the frame of the Horsham Shop will be under way by the time this newsletter is received. The timbers have been repaired and restored by Peter and Martin McCurdy. Immediately after the framework is in place the construction of the modern link between the Crawley Hall and the Horsham Shop/Reigate Town House project will begin.

This work was put out to tender and the successful contractor is A. Booker and Son. When this phase of the work is finished it will result in a framework and extension which is weathertight, but incomplete. Further work is dependent on the success of the fund raising drive.

Recent examination of the Reigate Town House Timbers by an expert in wall painting has revealed far more surviving paintwork than originally thought. Conservation of these paintings is now being planned, although once more, we will not be able to start until sufficient funds are available.

The results of the Horsham/Reigate Project Appeal so far are:

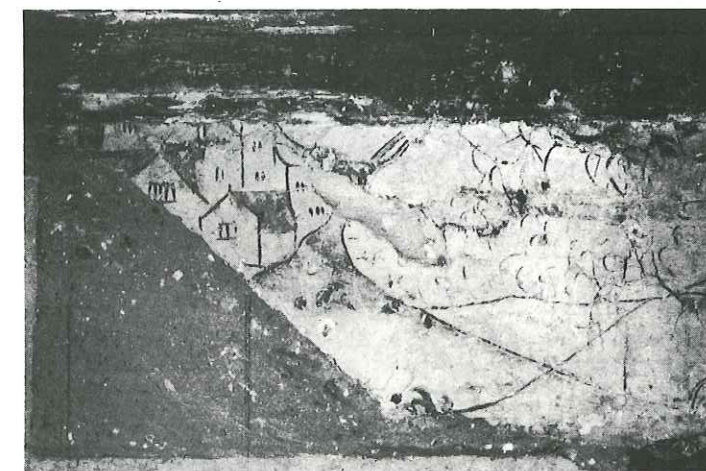
| Received | £ | |
|---|--------|----------------|
| Rush and Topkins Plc (developers of the Reigate site) | 200 | |
| Gleeson Homes Ltd | 500 | |
| IBM | 500 | |
| Rank Foundation | 2,000 | |
| Ernest Kleinwort Trust | 1,000 | |
| Birthday House Trust | 300 | |
| I. V. Askew Trust | 250 | |
| Robert Kiln Charitable Trust | 750 | |
| Henry Vyner Charitable Trust | 150 | |
| Friends of the Museum | 7,173 | |
| Activities organised by the Friends: | | |
| Country Fair, 1984 | 1,772 | |
| Grand Draw, 1984 - net | 2,000 | |
| Sale of Gordon Beningfield prints to date - net | 1,600 | |
| Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) | 76 | |
| Individual donations | 3,308 | 21,579 |
| Anticipated | | |
| Future income from Deeds of Covenant receivable over next 4-5 years | 2,126 | |
| Museums and Galleries Commission Budgetted within Museum funds for year ending 31.12.84 | 20,000 | |
| Plus offers of materials and practical help | 8,500 | 30,626 |
| | | 53,705 |
| TOTAL | | 105,910 |

The Museum is very appreciative of the support which has been shown by all the above donors and sponsors. As all concerned realise still more support needs to be found. Ideas for further organisations which might be approached would be very much welcomed by Carol Hawkins who is co-ordinating the Appeal.

Reigate Site Excavation Report

Off-prints of the excavation report on the Reigate High Street site of the 17th century building now in store at the Museum are available from the Museum. The report by David Williams covers the building site itself and remains of a malting kiln and similar structures which were found within the curtilage.

The report also deals with the documentary evidence of the site and ownership of the site is traced continuously from 1382. A short summary of the building by Richard Harris is included. Copies are available from the Museum, price £2 plus postage at 30p.



A fragment of wall painting from 43a High Street, Reigate. This section was found over the fireplace.

Spring Auction In Horsham

Friends Asked To Donate Items

The Friends' major event in 1985 is the auction to be held in Horsham on Thursday, April 12 to raise money for the Horsham Shop/Reigate Town House project in the market square.

Sotheby's of Pulborough are to conduct the auction on behalf of the Museum and will be making no charge for their services. The Friends are particularly grateful to Sotheby's for their generous help and advice.

Supporters of the Museum are asked to donate good quality items, to be auctioned as outright gifts or for a percentage share of the sale price. Among lots already offered are Georgian silver, pre-1900 cut glass, antique maps of South America and Africa, jewellery, books, pictures and china.

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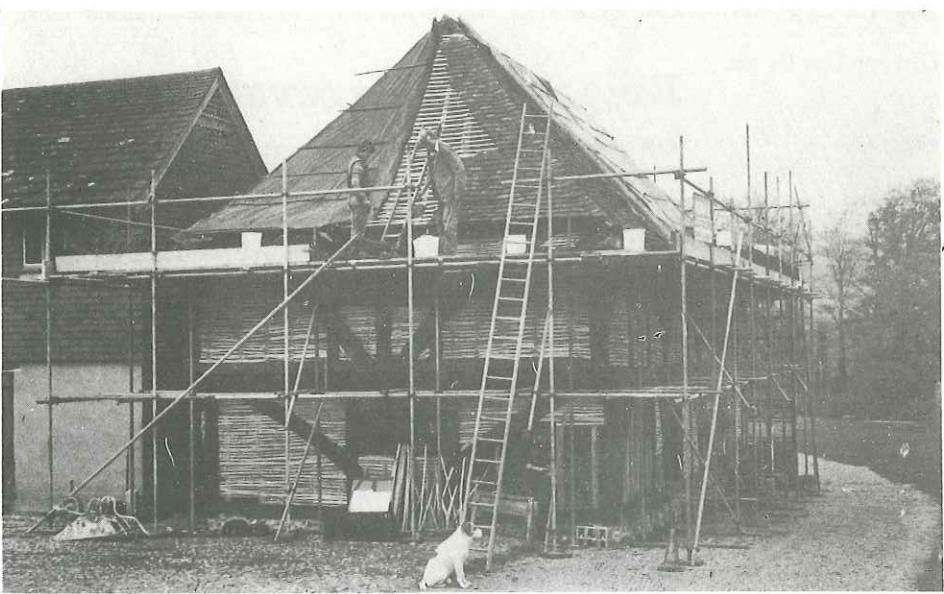
Dates for 1985

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Cavalcade of Costume, Bognor Regis Centre, Bognor Regis | February 23 |
| Auction at Horsham, organised by the Friends | April 12 |
| Friends' Spring Field Trip to Kent | April 15 - 18 |
| Country Fair (Note: change to Sunday) | June 9 |
| Area Museums Service for South East England travelling exhibition on "Victoria Tiles" | June 1 - 30 |
| NEW EVENT Rare Breeds Display and Show (in association with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Southern Region) | July 21 |
| Autumn Ploughing and Threshing | October 26 - 27 |

Education Programme

The Museum's Education programme includes two dates at the beginning of the year - February 14, when there will be a reception for teachers aimed at introducing them to the wealth of material available at the Museum; and March 15 when there will be a seminar for teachers on the use of the Museum. Among the speakers on this occasion will be the Museum Director, Chris Zeuner, and Kim Leslie, a founder member of the Museum who is Schools Liasion Officer at West Sussex Archives.

At the beginning of January the new teachers' sheets prepared by Elizabeth Newbery will be available as part of a new pack. Mrs. Newbery is continuing her work as Hon. Education Officer at the Museum and for the West Sussex Countryside Trust based at Goodwood.



Tiling of the North Cray Hall House being carried out by A. Booker and Son. The next stage is to daub the cleft oak wattle panels.

Museum Officers at Seminars

The Museum's Chairman, Mr. David Biart, was a speaker at an Association of Independent Museums (AIM) seminar in November at The Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port on "How To Be A Good Trustee".

The seminar was designed to explain to trustees of independent museums their diverse responsibilities and roles. Mr. Biart's contribution, as Senior Partner of Thomas Eggar and Son, Chichester, was on the legal responsibilities of trustees. His paper was particularly welcomed by participants and will be included in an AIM Guideline on Trusteeship to be published in the Spring.

Chris Zeuner was a speaker at a weekend course on historic farm buildings held at Rewley House, Oxford in October for the University of Oxford Department for External Studies.

...Continued from page 1

To add an extra dimension Friends are also asked to consider "opportunities" to be auctioned - among those suggested so far are Sunday lunch for two at the Horse and Groom in Singleton, dinners in private homes, and a weekend course at West Dean College.

Friends and their friends are of course also urged to come along to the auction and join in the bidding.

Items for the auction will be received between January 28 and March 1 at Bishop's Move, Worthing Road, Horsham (during office hours, at; The Open Air Museum, Singleton (every day except Saturdays); and Sotheby's at Pulborough (office hours). Alternatively you can contact Carol Hawkins (Farnham 726195); Richard Pailthorpe at the Museum (Singleton 348) and John Cann at Sotheby's (Pulborough 3831) who lives in Reigate and could help with collection of items there. A proper record will be kept, receipts given and insurance cover obtained.

The auction will be held at The Barn, Church Centre, The Causeway, Horsham. A special preview, with selected items for sale, a licensed bar and light refreshments will be held from 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 11.

On Friday, April 12 viewing will be from 10 a.m. The auction starts at 6 p.m. Admission on both days will be by catalogue, available in March for £1 (or £1.25 by post) from Sotheby's, Bishop's Move, or the Museum, or at the door. Advertising space in the catalogue is available.

High Visitor Numbers for 1984

1984 was close to a record year, with 179,000 visitors. This significant increase was not only due to the large number of special events. The year was generally a buoyant one, with high visitor numbers spread throughout the season.

Most heartening was the very much improved results from the museum shop. While one would expect gross takings to rise in line with increased visitors, a marked increase in per capita expenditure has been achieved. For some time the per capita expenditure has been about 42p. In 1984 it was 52p, a 24% increase.

Keith Bickmore, who as Senior Warden is responsible for the running of the shop, has made a special effort with the development of book sales, and is to be congratulated on these improved results.

There has also been an increase in per capita receipts from entrance charges. This is of course largely due to the rise in our entrance charges, but also to changes in the balance between adults and concessionary entrances.

More Books for the Library

The Library would like to express its thanks to those Friends who have recently donated books, particularly to Mrs. Garstang, who in response to the plea in the last newsletter has sent two copies of the Oxford English Dictionary; and to Lord Watkinson, who has given several books including one which is in itself a rare antique and will be of considerable value for its illustrations of buildings of the 19th century which have now completely disappeared.

The Library is keen that other Friends should consider it as a good and appreciative home for surplus books on our subjects. It would be especially helpful if it could be agreed that any duplicated books might be sold to produce a fund for book purchases.

Lime Seminar

A special training day on the use of lime in conservation work for an invited audience is being held at the Museum in January. The seminar is intended for those practically involved in conservation and will be led by John Ashurst of the Department of the Environment. The course has been arranged because of the importance of lime in conservation work and the need for museum staff to be fully conversant with its use.

Cavalcade of Costume

Period costumes dating from 1690 to 1920, from topcoats to underwear, from military uniform to flappers' dress, will be on show in the Cavalcade of Costume, to be presented in Bognor Regis in February.

The Cavalcade of Costume is a parade by live models with a commentary given by its presenter Mrs. Penny and promises to be of interest to historians, theatre-lovers and admirers of fashion.

Mrs. Penny and her team give some seventy shows a year around the South and West of England, all for charities, and charge only for their transport costs from Dorset.

The show is being organised by the Friends of the Museum in support of the Museum Development Fund. It takes place at 5 pm on Saturday 23rd February in the Royal Hall, Bognor Regis Centre. Refreshments will be available in the interval, when there will be a raffle (donations of prizes welcome please!).

Tickets are £3.00, or £2.75 each for parties of ten or more, from the Museum or from Friends Committee member Miss E. Buvyer, 32 Braemar Way, Bognor Regis (s.a.e. please and cheques payable to the Friends of the Open Air Museum).

Letter from The Friends's Chairman

At the AGM in November I reported that the subscribing membership of the Friends had grown to 1,825, largely through recruitment of visitors on the site. Since many of that number are families, the total must be around 3,000 people: a very creditable measure of support for the Museum.

I was also able to say that the Development Fund Appeal had reached over £50,000. This represents a good start towards achieving the objective of £250,000 over 10 years. If we went on raising money at that rate we would reach the target in less than half the time - but to be realistic we have to admit that many donations in this first phase are not likely to be repeated. So we must not let up on our fund-raising.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter are the further details which were promised on the Cavalcade of Costume and the Horsham Auction. The foreseeable expenses connected with both events are fairly modest and so long as we sell all the tickets for the Cavalcade and secure a good attendance, and attract plenty to bid for at the auction, we shall do ourselves a lot of good financially as well as arouse interest in the Museum in areas where membership at present is not very large.

The response to the preliminary notice about the auction (issued with the October newsletter) has been encouraging. But if we are to make a real success of it we must attract both contributions and bids from people of goodwill who are not, in the technical sense, Friends of the Museum. Our local publicity, therefore, will be widespread in Horsham and Reigate in particular from mid-January onwards. Many Friends may be able to spread the word about the auction. A leaflet is enclosed with this newsletter for you to display if you can. The museum office will gladly send a further supply on request.

Finally, offers of help will be much appreciated for all the events being planned - in Bognor, Horsham, and at the Museum - during what shows signs of being another busy year ahead for the Friends and for the Museum.

James Waddell

Biskupin Trip

Several people have expressed interest in the suggested trip to Poland for 1986. The plan would be for a study tour of at least 12 days, costing somewhere between £300-£400.

It is not possible to give detailed proposals at this stage as the enquiries are referred to Warsaw which is taking quite a time! Some of the topics being considered are:

By air from England to Poland and then small coach accompanied by English-speaking courier.

Visit to Biskupin and nearby nature reserve which contains the surviving species of wild horse.

Visit to one or more open air museums and to places which have surviving early buildings and/or historic cultural material.

It is hoped to arrange one or two introductory talks in English. If anyone is interested in joining such a trip, but without any definite commitment at this stage, please contact Miss Buvyer who is keeping a list of names, telephone Bognor 863653.

British Association of Friends of Museums

The Friends of the Weald & Downland Museum is a member of the BAFM, which keeps us in touch with the activities of other Friends of Museums. Its membership is varied including the friends of such institutions as the Victoria & Albert Museum, NADFAS, the R.A.F. Museum, the National Piano Museum, the Sainsbury Centre, Ironbridge Gorge and the National Maritime Museum. The latter was the host to the BAFM's Annual General Meeting in October at which we were represented by Bernard and Betty Rush, Brigadier Walter Greenway and Mrs. Eve Becher. The BAFM produces a regular "Broadsheet" and a superb year-book. Both may be borrowed from Carol Hawkins, Hon. Sec., Friends of the Weald & Downland Museum.

Friends Committee

Following the AGM on 10th November, the officers of the Committee remain the same as last year: Chairman - Sir James Waddell; Hon. Treasurer - Bernard Rush; Hon. Secretary - Carol Hawkins.

Two members of the Committee retired - Mrs. Lyn Armstrong and Mrs. Elsie Kessler. They are extended sincere thanks for their active membership of the Committee. Both will of course continue their participation in the Museum. Mrs. Kessler is much involved in the organisation of the Cavalcade of Costume in February; and Mrs. Armstrong is of course deeply involved in the Museum as a whole, and the Library in particular.

A new member of the Committee is Mike Doran, already a member of the "Tuesday Group" of volunteers. Other Friends are to be co-opted to help with the particularly busy year ahead.

Members of the Committee providing continuation from last and previous years are: Brig. Walter Greenway, Peter Lewison, Miss Joan Brooks, Mrs. Mary Hum, Miss Ethel Buvyer, Dr. Bruce Pailthorpe, Bernard Johnson, Miss Virginia Lyon, Mrs. Eve Becher, and Mrs. Elizabeth Newbery, with the Museum Director and Richard Pailthorpe co-opted ex-officio.

Volunteers Party

The end of season party for volunteers given by General Hawes and the Friends of the Museum as a thank you for their unstinting work during a busy year was particularly successful. This year it was held in West Dean College, which provided delicious food for the occasion, which was an opportunity for many volunteers to meet each other socially for the first time.

Stewards Sessions

The first special volunteers' training session, for new stewards has taken place, with Roy Armstrong explaining the foundation of the Museum. The series continues into the new year.

Raffle

The raffle, drawn at the Friends annual meeting, raised £2,000 - a valuable contribution to fund raising efforts for the Horsham Shop/Reigate Town House project.

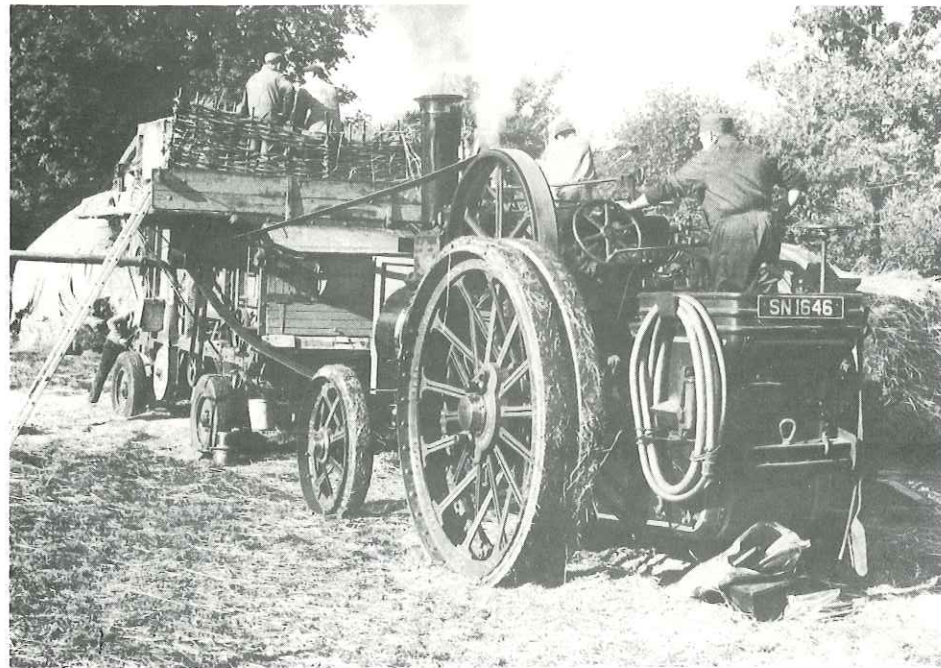
Second-hand Books

Good quality books, not paperbacks, are required for the book stall at the Country Fair in May. Please contact the Museum office if you can help.

Mr. Edward James

Mr. Edward James of West Dean died in Italy on December 2 at the age of 77. He was buried in St. Roche's Arboretum at the top of the hill above the Museum a week later.

The Museum is indebted to Mr. James, for without his support it is quite unlikely that the project would exist. Roy Armstrong had been unable to find anyone willing to give or rent a suitable site until he contacted Edward James, who offered the superb beautiful 40-acre site at a peppercorn rent. Without doubt the beauty of the countryside in which the Museum is set is one of our greatest assets.



Autumn Activities Weekend

Ploughing and threshing took place under a certain amount of cloud in October, but the event nevertheless attracted the usual interest from visitors. On Saturday, when the sun came out, 2,000 people came, while 1,200 visited on Sunday.

Visitors saw a number of teams of horses ploughing, together with cows from Butser Hill, and the Museum's own oxen harrowing the ploughed ground. There was a wide variety of tractors ploughing the field below Pendean Farmhouse.

Threshing went well and continued during the week following the Activities weekend, although the erratic weather took its toll of both grain and the amount of thatching straw from the harvested crop.



The Museum's oxen, Hearty & Heedless, harrowing ploughed land during the Activities Weekend.

A.I.M.

A newcomer to the office on certain days of the week this year is Bob Harding, who is the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the Association of Independence Museums (AIM).

The Museum has long-standing associations with AIM, as one of its founder members: the Museum Director, Chris Zeuner, is Hon. Treasurer of the Association and Diana Zeuner is the Editor of its Bulletin.

AIM represents some 550 independent museums all over the British Isles and as part of its supportive work on their behalf arranges seminars and publishes "Guidelines" on a variety of topics concerned with the running of museums.

Roof Truss

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission (English Heritage) has donated a crown post roof truss from Bishops Waltham Palace Barn, which will form part of our Building Collection.

Binderton Chapel

Brian Boseley was seconded to carry out restoration brickwork on the Binderton Chapel at Binderton, near West Dean, which was preserved with the help of a Manpower Services Commission scheme under the guidance of County Archaeologist, Fred Aldsworth.

The Chapel, built in the 17th century and now owned by the Edward James foundation, has been derelict for many years. Brian, whose aim was to stabilize the structure, has been attending day release classes at Chichester College of Further Education, where he was recently top in his group for practical brickwork.

The work has been completed as far as funds now permit.

SPAB

The Technical Committee of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings will be holding one of its committee meetings at the Museum on February 19.



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

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