

Grant For the Reigate Town House from the V and A

The Victoria and Albert Museum has offered the Museum a grant of £9,500 towards the re-erection of the 17th century town house from Reigate, planned for 1986.

The Museum has benefitted from a newly set ceiling on grant aid by the V and A towards building rescue projects, which has been raised from £5,000 to £10,000.

The Worshipful Company of Drapers have awarded the Museum a grant of £500 towards the current phase of the Market Square development, for which the Museum is very grateful.

The Horsham Shop framework was re-erected during snow and rain in the winter by Peter McCurdy and his staff. The buildings linking the Shop and the Reigate building to the Crawley Hall, and the construction of the lavatories is being undertaken by John Booker and Son, whose tender was successful and accepted by the Council of Management.

The fund raising campaign continues and to date £58,931 has been raised by the Museum and the friends, including £25,000 from the Museums and Galleries Commission. The aim over the ten year period 1984 - 1994 is to raise a total of £250,000.

Museum Takes Sheep to London for AIM's "Heritage At Work" Exhibition

The Museum took a small flock of Southdown sheep to a very different pasture in the City of London last month and folded them in the courtyard of the Guildhall, as part of an exhibition by the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) called "Heritage At Work: The New Museum."

The sheep were from Mr. David Humphreys' East Dean flock, part of which is kept at the Museum, and included several rams and some ewes with lambs. The Museum also transported the Shepherd's



Princess Michael of Kent and Lord Montagu of Beaulieu visiting the Museum's outdoor exhibit at the Guildhall.

Diary Dates

May 19	COUNTRY FAIR
May 25	Folk Dancing
May 26	Chichester Folk Dancers: 11.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.
June 1 - 30	Exhibition: "Victorian Tiles", prepared by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum
June 9	HEAVY HORSES DAY
June 29	Magog Ladies Morris Dancers
July 13	Country Dancing 2.30 p.m. (Chichester Festival)
July 21	SHOW FOR RARE BREEDS
August 31 - September 30	Exhibition: "Cast in Iron"
September 9 - 29	Exhibition: Children's Work
October 26 - 27	AUTUMN ACTIVITIES WEEKEND

Hut to London to complete the display, which attracted a great deal of interest from City office workers unused to such rural sights in the centre of London. The display was manned by Richard Pailthorpe and Alan Waters, who braved the constant rain.

Inside the Guildhall crypt, the Museum had a further display, including panels of photographs and the furniture from Walderton House. Roger Champion demonstrated his carpentry skills on a table he is in the process of making. Also present from the Museum were the Director, who is Hon. Treasurer of AIM, Diana Zeuner, Editor of the AIM Bulletin, and Elizabeth Newbery, the Museum's Education Officer. Among the 250 guests was David Biart, the Museum's Chairman. Bob Harding, AIM's Executive Secretary, who has an office at the Museum, was one of the organisers of the Exhibition.

Some 20 museums from all over the country and representing the wide variety of subject matter covered by independent museums took part in the event, which was organised jointly with ABSA (Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts).

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Stop Press!

The Friends' Auction in Horsham was a great success raising a net total in the region of £6,000. Although the auction was not particularly well attended the results are very satisfactory. Special thanks are due to the organisers, Sir James Waddell, Carol Hawkins and Richard Pailthorpe, to Sotheby's, Sussex for running the auction, to Bishop's Move (Horsham) Ltd. for their assistance and to Eager Typesetters Ltd. of Brighton.

Show For Rare Breeds Planned for Summer

For the first time the Museum will be hosting a Show for Rare Breeds in the summer in conjunction with the Sussex Branch of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

The Show, which will take place on Sunday, July 21, will include classes for sheep, cattle, goats and pigs culminating in the afternoon with a Grand Parade of entrants.

In addition to a variety of rare breeds on show there will be traditional craft and animal husbandry demonstrations throughout the day.

If any member is interested in participating in the Show, the closing date for entries is June 1 and further details are obtainable from the Museum Office.

Winter Lecture Programme

A programme of lectures has been arranged for winter, 1985-86. The meetings will be open to Friends and to members of the public.

October 7	Mrs. M. Beswick	"The Farmer Brickmakers of the Weald".
November 4	Peter Reynolds	"Plough Crops and Weeds in Pre-history".
December 2	Kim Leslie	"From Sussex to the New World - 19th century Emigration".
January 20	Marjorie Hallam	"The People who Used Our Buildings".
February 17	Martin Caroe	"The Restoration of the West Front of Wells Cathedral".
March 3	Joan Harding	"The Restless House: A Study of Farmhouses and Cottages in Surrey".

All lectures will begin at 7.30pm in Crawley Hall. Tickets are available in advance from the Museum Office (SAE please) at a cost of 50p for each lecture. A limit of 50 persons will be operated. Tickets will be issued in order of receipt of request.

Winter Statistics

Despite the coldest winter for many years visitor numbers over the winter months were marginally better than in 1984. A total of 5,297 people visited us between November and March compared with 5,184 over the same period last year.

Unfortunately the bad weather has continued into April, resulting in the worst Easter on record with visitor numbers about half the normal average over the holiday period.



Albert Peacock making spars during the winter in West Dean woods.

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The day was designed to encourage the business world to sponsor independent museums - the message was one of a new type of museum as lively exciting places attracting increasing numbers of visitors, yet in need of increased finance and particularly sponsorship from industry and commerce, which already pours a lot of money into the performing arts.

The exhibition was opened by Princess Michael of Kent. Lord Gowrie, the Minister for the Arts, was also present and spoke of new arrangements under his Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme which will benefit smaller independent museums.

New Library Team Needed

The Museum is seeking unemployed people who would enjoy working in the Library for a year. The present MSC Team comes to an end in June, and it is hoped that a second team will start soon afterwards.

Most of the work involves cataloguing and analysing Mr. Armstrong's photographic collection. The job will give experience in general library work, plus word processing and computer operating.

Applicants must be 18 or over, unemployed and receiving benefit. Anyone who is interested, or knows someone who might be, should contact Caroline Hallam at the Library.

Lime Day

A Lime Day held at the Museum in January designed to improve the use of lime in building projects on the site, was a great success. The Museum is constantly using lime in mortar, plaster, daub and limewashes. In the immediate future the North Cray house and Horsham shop are to be daubed and plastered, and the Reigate building will have a stone basement and chimney.

John Ashurst of the Department of the Environment led the seminar attended by Museum staff and some outside guests invited to communicate their own experiences in the use of lime.

Topics discussed included: the lime cycle, burning and slaking lime, current availability and characteristics; designing a mortar mix, pointing; plaster mixes, the use of hair and straw, application techniques, and historical development; daub materials and mixes; and limewash recipes, applications and technique.

Wall Paintings Seminar

The UKIC Wall Paintings Section held an all-day meeting at the Museum on April 27 on remounting detached wall paintings. Delegates will also have an opportunity to examine and discuss some of the wall paintings discovered in the Reigate Town House.

Publicity Workshops

The Museum has attended a number of publicity workshops this year designed to promote the Museum to visitors. The Museum has been present at the English Tourist Board's Excursions workshop, the Southern Tourist Board's Travel workshops at Southampton, Poole and Reading, and their Heritage Education Fair at Portsmouth. We also attended the South East England Tourist Board's Heritage Education Fair at Sussex University.

Expanding Education Service

Last September the Museum joined forces with Goodwood to appoint Elizabeth Newbery as Education Officer under the banner of the West Sussex Countryside Studies Trust. Both establishments are now concentrating on offering a more comprehensive education service.

The Museum now offers a well established summer school and childrens' club where the emphasis is on providing activities linked to the Museum's collection and which offer opportunities to children outside the scope of schools.

This year also sees the introduction of a teaching kit providing information backing up the guide book with sociological details, bibliographies and teaching ideas. There are also teachers' seminars and workshops planned, details of which are circularised to schools in West Sussex.

Goodwood offers a nature trail in Seeley's copse, the Home Farm, the forestry and the house for use by schools. There is now a nature trail guide specifically for teachers which will form the basis of a pack which will later include activities for children based on parts of the trail, for example: the flint wall. There is also a classroom on site. The farm tour also offers a classroom and the opportunity for children to handle old farming equipment on loan from the Museum.

An activity pack is being developed for children in conjunction with the Museum which will enable children to compare the modern farming methods at Goodwood with farming in the past as can be seen in the Museum.

The services will not however, be confined to schools. There are links being formed with St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, involving trainee teachers on various projects and also the West Surrey School of Art and Design, Farnham, with a photographic assignment.

Interest in the Museum is being shown by a toy construction company, which is considering developing packs using the watermill, windpump, treadwheel and horse 'gins' as a basis; and a major computer company has shown interest in connection with using computers in the introductory exhibition.

Biskupin Trip

Arrangements are now proceeding well for the study tour of Poland organised by Marjorie Hallam. The plan is to fly about 20 people to Warsaw in September, 1986 for about 12 days. Travel will be by coach with an English speaking courier aboard.

The cost will be around £300. Hotel stays will be at Warsaw, Cracow, and Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains. Single rooms will be at a premium, so participants should consider joining with a friend.

The tour will involve general sightseeing, visits to archaeological sites, such as Biskupin, open air museums etc., and some choices, i.e. a visit to a salt mine, or an art gallery.

The arrangements are being made with the help of George Lambor, who was responsible for bringing the Biskupin exhibition to the Museum last year. The available places are filling steadily. Anyone who would like to join the tour should contact Marjorie Hallam at the Museum.



Roger Champion demonstrating his carpentry skills at the Museum's indoor display in the Crypt of the Guildhall for AIM's "Heritage At Work" presentation.

Mardens Excavations Appeal

Donations are urgently needed by the research project established to excavate the early Saxon settlements in the Mardens, where archaeologists have made an important discovery of a pagan Saxon hill-top cemetery.

Three seasons of excavations have produced a wealth of information and finds shedding light on the "gap" between the end of Roman rule and the establishment of the South Saxon kingdom in the 7th century A.D. Archaeologists are now working to locate the settlements which the cemetery served, which were the forerunners of the present-day villages of Compton and the Mardens.

Archaeology students working on the project cost £25 a week; £1,750 for 10 students for a period of seven weeks. In addition a similar sum is required to cover machine hire, conservation, staff wages etc. Anyone able to make a donation to this extremely important project should contact Chichester Excavations Committee, East Pallant House, East Pallant, Chichester.

Photographic Competition

Following the success of the competition held two years ago another photographic competition is being organised this season. This year there will be two main themes: "Architectural Details" and "Animals or Craftsmen at Work".

Prizes including a Yashica Partner AFD Camera, two Kodak Disc Cameras, and £50 worth of Kodak film, have been kindly donated by the Sussex Camera Centre of Queensway, Bognor Regis, and Kodak Ltd. The Promoter Newspaper of Bognor Regis is kindly "promoting" the competition during the season. Competition details and entry forms are available from the Office.

Titchfield Market Hall

Some serious decay has taken place on new timbers in the gallery of Titchfield Market Hall, and until these are attended to the building will have to be closed to the public.

New panels have been produced to improve the appearance of the exhibition in the Market Hall and will be in place when the building is re-opened.

Seventeenth Century English Country Dancing

Saturday 13th July: 2.30 p.m. John Dibdin directs dances of the time of Charles II. Musicians will accompany. Visitors welcome to join in. £2.25 (children £1.50). Tickets from Museum or at gate. Organised by the Southern Early Music Forum.

Inhabitants For The Pig Sty!

The Toll Cottage pigsty is the home of two newcomers to the Museum this month – two piglets donated by the Ashdown Forest Farm at Wych Cross, East Sussex.

The piglets are weaners and are a cross between a Berkshire and a Gloucester Old Spot, which is similar to the traditional Sussex pig that the early 19th century agricultural historian Arthur Young recorded as being a Berkshire or black and white cross.

The piglets will be an undoubted attraction during the season; however it is intended to fatten them, and they will leave us at the end of the season!

The Prince's Trust

The Museum hosted some 20 young people recently as part of a scheme organised by the Prince's Trust to give stimulus and ideas to the young unemployed, particularly to those who might set up their own small businesses.

At the Museum the young people, from all over the country, were introduced to the various activities and jobs undertaken on the site by staff. The Director, Chris Zeuner, together with Education Officer, Elizabeth Newbery and Gus Pollard from West Sussex Rural Engineering (who also hosted some young people) went to a reception in Middleton attended by the Prince of Wales at the end of the scheme. Other local organisations who helped by hosting young people included West Dean Estate, Goodwood Estate and Chiltdown Vineyard.

Portsmouth Heavy Horse Parade

The City of Portsmouth is introducing a heavy horse parade into its events calendar this year, on May 6 (the May Bank Holiday). William will be entered, drawing the timber tug, and Bob Robinson will horse the Museum's Sussex wagon with his two Shires.

These same combinations were present on Easter Monday at the Centenary Regent's Park Harness Horse Parade. The Museum now has newly painted sign boards designed to hang from its horse-drawn vehicles to increase the publicity value of entering these sort of events.



The Horsham Shop being re-erected by Peter McCurdy earlier this year.

Archaeology Symposium

Richard Harris, the Museum's Research Director, attended a symposium "Professional Archaeology in Sussex: The Next Five Years" in March and contributed a paper summarising the contributions of various bodies and individuals to the recording and preservation of buildings in Sussex.

Speaking about the next five years he expressed his hope that more people would deposit copies of their work with the Open Air Museum where it could be indexed and built into a resource available for other research projects. The amount of material being deposited with the Museum Library concerning the recording of buildings is expanding constantly. Further information about this will be available in the next Newsletter.

Cavalcade of Costume

The Cavalcade of Costume held at the Regis Centre in Bognor Regis in February raised more than £400 towards the Friends' fund-raising campaign.

The event was attended by many members of the general public as well as Friends who formed an appreciative audience. The Cavalcade is presented free of charge by Mrs. Penny in aid of different charitable causes. The parade included period costume dating from 1690 to 1920.

Sponsored Bicycle Ride

Alan Waters is undertaking a sponsored bicycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for the Museum Development fund. The ride of over 800 miles is being organised by the Audax Club, the international cycling club.

Alan, who will be travelling with four others, hopes to complete the journey in 108 hours, to qualify for the Club's silver medal. The ride takes place on May 26. Sponsorship forms are enclosed with this newsletter and it is hoped Friends and volunteers will support him – the more sponsors, the more funds will be raised for the Museum. Good luck Alan!

Historic Farm Buildings Group

The Historic Farm Buildings Group will be holding its first autumn conference at the Museum. An interesting and varied programme is being devised to run from 11th October – 13th October including contributions on recording, listing and restoration of farm buildings; a field trip to the Petworth estate, and a practical session at the Museum itself. Non-members of the Group will be welcome.

Book Success

"Discovering Timber-framed Buildings" by Richard Harris is breaking records for the publishers, Shire Publications. The book, which is now in its second edition, is one of their best-selling books with a print-run to date of 50,000.



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

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