



## Bad Weather Affects Museum Attendance

### Museum's Plans Constrained

**The exceptionally bad weather in August has depressed visitor attendances at the Museum and the final figure for the year will be disappointing at a time when the Museum needs more than ever to make its own way by earning its living through admission income and trading income in the shop.**

Grants, donations and sponsorship are increasingly difficult to find, not only because of the country's economic situation, but also because there is increasing competition. Much of the money available is concentrated in areas of high need such as inner cities and places of high unemployment and therefore a substantial proportion of the money spent by public and private organisations on museums is not available for projects in prosperous areas such as ours.

Most of us would agree that this policy is right. But we should not be backward in putting forward confidently our own role within the community. The Museum is there primarily to serve the community, whether volunteers or visitors, whether young or old. It is there to enhance people's understanding of their history and to provide a place of enjoyment. In the busy heavily-populated South East such places have an important role to play and should be supported.

The Museum's immediate future is constrained by lack of funds and for the present we will be unable to do many of the things that we have considered to be necessary and important. That is not to say that we will not succeed in establishing current projects firmly.

The Horsham/Reigate Project will continue and new interpretive facilities in buildings and out on the site will be prepared – but the completion of all these projects will be further away than originally envisaged.

### Visitor Statistics (Running Totals)

	1985	1984	1983
AUGUST	33,211	40,970	35,846
Accumulative Total for Year	139,542	149,868	132,485

**Whilst we are over 10,000 behind last year we are over 7,000 ahead of the 1983 total. The August total was particularly disappointing although after a slight improvement in the weather the month finished on a slightly brighter note. On August 15 we were 27 per cent down on the August 1983 total, and by the end of the month this had been reduced to 7.5 per cent.**

## Newick Plumber's Workshop Arrives at the Museum

**The Museum has rescued a 19th century plumber's and glazier's workshop from Newick in East Sussex. The building, which was transported complete by lorry, is standing on temporary pillars behind the Museum shop. This winter it will be permanently sited close to the Joiner's Workshop, helping to re-create a builder's yard behind the Market Square.**

The Plumber's Workshop was due to be demolished to make room for a garage, and was donated to the Museum by Mrs. J. Hunt who lives next door. The building was lifted from its site by crane and hoisted onto a lorry owned by Horley Road Services. The roof had to be stripped so that it would go under bridges along the route

to the Museum. Even so there was only 1½ inches to spare at a foot-bridge in Shoreham.

The building housed a plumber's workshop on the ground floor and a glazier's workshop on the first floor. It represents a humble type of structure which was once very common in every village and town. Constructed in timber, it provided relatively cheap workshop space.

The lifting operation was watched by Mr. Alf Fuller, the plumber who last used the workshop.

The Museum is grateful for a grant of £800, half the cost of the removal operation, from the Science Museum.



Police escort for the Plumber's Workshop at the beginning of its journey.



The building is hoisted into position behind the Museum Shop.

## Diary Dates

- October 7** Members' Lectures. "The Farmer Brickmakers of the Weald" – Mrs. M. Beswick. 7.30 p.m., Crawley Hall.
- October 26–27** AUTUMN ACTIVITIES WEEKEND
- November 4** Members' Lectures. "Plough Crops and Weeds in Pre-History" – Peter Reynolds. 7.30 p.m., Crawley Hall.
- November 9** FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2.30 p.m. at County Hall, Chichester. (See enclosures)
- November 11** Volunteers' Party at West Dean House. 7.30 p.m.
- November 21** Travel Road Show. Fund-raising event. 7.30 p.m. at Grange Centre, Midhurst. (See enclosures)
- December 2** Members' Lectures. "From Sussex to the New World – 19th Century Emigration" – Kim Leslie. 7.30 p.m., Crawley Hall.
- December 19** Carols in Bayleaf. 7.00 p.m. (NOTE: Space is limited in Bayleaf, and because of the potential safety risks it has become necessary to limit numbers. Entry will be by free ticket, obtainable in advance. Last date for tickets is December 1)
- January 20** Members' Lectures. "The People Who Used Our Buildings" – Marjorie Hallam. 7.30 p.m., Crawley Hall.
- February 17** Members' Lectures. "The Restoration of the West Front of Wells Cathedral" – Martin Caroe. 7.30 p.m., Crawley Hall.
- March 3** Members' Lectures. "The Restless House: A Study of Farmhouses and Cottages in Surrey" – Joan Harding. 7.30 p.m., Crawley Hall.
- Early April** Cookery Demonstration by Katie Stewart. Fund raising event. (See enclosures)

NOTE: Tickets for Members' Lectures available in advance from Museum Office (SAE please), price 50p each Lecture.

## Agricultural Exhibition with a Difference

The Central Southern Branch of the National Farmers' Union approached the Museum some years ago with a view to mounting an exhibition at Singleton which would be an agricultural exhibition with a difference.

Instead of being a line up of old implements it would seek to demonstrate how the farming industry has been and still is one of the most important influences on the countryside.

The exhibition will take farm buildings as the symbol of different stages of agricultural history and demonstrate how farmsteads, farm processes and the rural economy have changed over the years.

The exhibition will be housed in a building close to the Kirdford Shed, probably on the site of the one lost in a fire some years ago. Work is now in progress on developing the exhibition theme and on fund raising. The principle initiative for this comes from a sub-committee of the parliamentary committee of the Central Southern NFU.

## North Cray

The daubing of North Cray Hall House is being undertaken in association with John Ashurst of English Heritage who has analysed a number of different daubs extracted from buildings which the Museum has dismantled.

Heather Champion is applying a variety of mixes in order to widen our understanding of how daub works.

The experiments will produce a better product for use in restoration at the Museum and will also assist the Museum in advising others wanting to use daub.

## Looking Sheepish



The sheep that escaped from the sheepdog demonstration at the Rare Breeds Show and amused visitors by swimming the lake and landing on the island – a haven of peace! By the next day the sheep had found its way into the garden of Park Cottage and was duly returned to its owners.

## Alan Waters Raises £1,000

Alan Waters raised just over £1,000 for the Museum from his sponsored bicycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats in May.

Alan completed the ride of over 800 miles within 108 hours, qualifying for the silver medal of the Audax Club, the international cycling club, which organised the ride.

The Museum would like to thank Alan for his supreme effort in completing the ride successfully and also to all those who contributed towards such a high total.

## Horsham Auction

The Friends' Auction held in Horsham in April was a success raising £6,700 towards the re-building of the Horsham Shop.

The Museum would like to express its thanks to Sotheby's in particular for running the auction, and to all those who contributed items and helped on the day.

## Open Evening

The Museum held a special open evening in August for residents of the villages of East Dean, Charlton, Singleton, West Dean and Chilgrove. About 200 people came including many who had not been to the Museum before. All the buildings were open and in Crawley Hall videos of television programmes made about the Museum were shown, together with a carousel of slides about the Museum's development.

## Jimmy Woollings

Jimmy Woollings, until recently Manager of Barclays Bank, East Street, Chichester, and a long standing member of the Council of Management, has been appointed as Company Secretary and Treasurer of the Museum.

Mr. Woollings is giving considerable time to the Museum's affairs; in particular examining the management structure and paying close attention to the Museum's financial affairs.

Current financial constraints require a new look at many aspects of the Museum and over the next few months Jimmy Woollings and the Museum Director will be working on new ideas which hopefully will lead to a stronger and healthier Museum.

## Andrew Hodby

Andrew Hodby was appointed to the post of resident caretaker at the beginning of the season. Andrew was previously employed as assistant caretaker at Edward James' residence, Monkton House. He is living in Gonville Cottage. We are pleased to welcome him to the Museum staff.

## Major Farm Collection Acquired

The entire contents of a farm in Ashdown Forest which had been worked by horses until last year has been acquired by the Museum.

The collection includes wagons, carts, ploughs, and a wide range of farm machinery and equipment used by Mr. Stevenson at Furnace Farm, near East Grinstead until his death last year.

The small farm on unimproved land was almost entirely worked with horses. Mr. Stevenson still built hayricks of loose hay and cut it out with a hayknife. The tractor he owned was used only to drive the threshing machine and other barn equipment. He hauled hay and peat with horse-drawn grass sledges, of which a number still remain.

The collection was bought for the Museum by the Friends, and will form the basis of a first class display when the Museum eventually deals with the later era of farm buildings and farming.



Mr. Stevenson with his horses and dog during ploughing on his Ashdown Forest farm.

## John Friar

At the end of December John Friar, one of the first members of staff at the Museum, retires. John joined the staff in the very early days of the Museum's development, when resources were slim, when equipment was almost non-existent, and has made a significant contribution to the development of the Museum.

In particular, John played the major role in the dismantling and re-erection of Lurgashall Mill, and his skill with stonework and with flint-work has been much appreciated. As an amateur archaeologist John has taken for many years a great interest in archaeology within the region, and this interest has greatly contributed to his work at Singleton.

John has, however, some unusual skills. His assistance in dismantling buildings, particularly in arranging for large sections or complete structures to be removed, has been one great asset. The lifting of the brick walls of the Redford Roundhouse, the removal of the small Labour Exchange from Wembley for the Borough of Neasden, and a number of other similar projects, have been undertaken largely by John. His skill with explosives has also on one occasion been a great asset!

We hope very much that John will continue to take an interest in the work of the Museum and feel sure that there will be occasions when he is back on site assisting with a project. We wish him a happy retirement.

Chris Zeuner



## Children's Farming Pack

A new educational pack developed to help children compare old and modern farming methods has been published jointly by the Museum and the Goodwood-based West Sussex Countryside Studies Trust. Called "Side By Side" it has been devised by Elizabeth Newbery who was recently jointly appointed by the two organisations as education officer.

Designed by Susan England the pack contains activity cards for work at the two sites, projects to do at school, diagrams, suggestions for further reading and a game.

At the Museum children can see how farming was carried out in the past and they are asked to imagine what it was like to be a farmer 200 years ago. At Goodwood they are invited to look at modern farm machinery and to draw the machines and farm buildings.

The game is based on the modern farming year and uses farming terms which will be unfamiliar to many children. Notes for teachers suggesting ways of using farm visits in the school curriculum are included.

## Fund Raising Events

Two unusual fund-raising events are planned over the next months. On Thursday, November 21, Meon Villa Holidays of Petersfield will be holding a Travel Road Show at the Grange Centre, Midhurst, with proceeds going to the Museum Development Fund.

The Company specialises in villa holidays and Silk Cut Far-Away Holidays and the one-hour long sound and slide holiday show is a must for anyone who is planning or dreaming of an exotic holiday with a difference. There will be wine and cheese after the presentation, which will start at 7.30 p.m.

A cookery demonstration by Katie Stewart, cookery correspondent to Good Housekeeping and The Times, will take place in early April in Chichester, with the proceeds again going to the Museum Fund.

Further details about both of these events are enclosed with the Newsletter.

## Library

Caroline Hallam has now left the Museum for another job in the computer industry. Her place has been taken by Louise Jaggard, who will supervise the continuing MSC scheme cataloguing material for the library.

New members of the MSC team are settling in well but two part-time places remain. Recruitment is proving difficult and if anyone is interested or knows of anyone who would be, please would they contact the Museum office.

## Carnegie Interpret Britain Commendation

The Museum has won a commendation in the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust's Interpret Britain Awards for its children's publication "Look Here", written by Elizabeth Newbery and designed by Susan England.

The awards were presented by the Duke of Gloucester in Edinburgh on September 19. The Trust makes the awards each year for new interpretive facilities at a variety of sites throughout the country. There were eight awards and 14 commendations.

"Look Here" was introduced at the Museum in order to provide an activity book which could be used by children visiting in school parties and also by children enjoying the Museum in family groups. Sales have been very good and the response of families to the booklet is particularly gratifying.

## Assistant Required

Walter Greenway, Vice Chairman of the Friends, has been organising field trips for Friends of the Museum for some four years and has now asked for an assistant! If anyone would like to help please would they contact Walter on Chichester 783057 or Richard Pailthorpe at the Museum office.

# Letter from the Chairman of the Friends

Enclosed with this Magazine are the agenda and annual accounts for the Friends' AGM in November. Since the last meeting we have had a busy and on the whole successful time. In particular, the Development Fund Appeal launched in April last year has achieved over £80,000. Much of this has been raised directly by the Museum and therefore does not show up in the Friends accounts, but it is all being spent for the purposes set out in the Appeal – which means, for the time being, the Horsham/Reigate project.

The target for the Development Fund was set at £250,000 over ten years, to be used on a variety of projects. To have reached £80,000 so quickly is obviously very satisfying, but we cannot rely on that rate continuing. Many of the known sources of funds, and personal contacts of those associated with the Museum, have now been tapped. However, we will keep pursuing grant-making trusts, the Livery Companies, and others whose business – or practice, or pleasure – it is to donate money to worthwhile causes.

Events brought about by ourselves will also continue to provide funds as well as, we hope, interest and diversion. The Country Fair now seems set to be an annual affair, providing an excellent start to the Museum's season. There are thoughts of holding another Cavalcade of Costume and with Richard Pailthorpe's help we are planning gatherings which will focus on long-haul travel, cooking, and antiques.

One of the themes of the Friends' activities has been to spread interest across the Weald & Downland area. Hence the auction last April in Horsham, the Cavalcade of Costume in Bognor Regis (with the next one, it is hoped, in Farnham), the possibility of a presentation in Brighton, and a committee member's very successful 'open garden' in Slindon. May I here make a plea to all members – please consider holding some sort of event at home or in your own town or village in aid of the Museum. Whether you open your garden to the public, organise a jumble sale, invite friends for a coffee morning or indulge in a sponsored swim, walk, slim or anything else you can think of, you can be sure of help from the Friends Committee. Please also let us know if you have any connection with a trust or a Livery Company (the Drapers and the Plumbers already support us) or a commercial organisation looking for interesting sponsorship opportunities.

On a different matter, you will see from the agenda for the AGM that the Committee are proposing an increase in subscriptions. This is to ensure that they keep pace with the costs of postage and printing, and, as membership provides unlimited free entry to the Museum, do not get out of line with the admission charges. The present subscription level has been held for three years and, if approved at the AGM, the new level will not be changed again for at least another three years.

The number of Friends, I am glad to say, is increasing steadily, thanks largely to the efforts of the volunteer stewards. I hope new members will feel able to take an active part in our affairs. The Committee itself would welcome some new blood – which in practice means ideas and energy – but short of actual Committee membership there is plenty of scope, for example by button-holing those who serve on it, to influence what we do and how we do it.

Sir James Waddell

## 1986 Field Trip – Coventry

The 1986 trip will be based on Coventry, and will include at least one morning exploring Spon Street and admiring the Cathedral. Visits will be made to the Chiltern Open Air Museum and to Maxstoke Castle. Both will be opening especially for us, and we will have it entirely to ourselves. The Castle is a small moated red sandstone castle with its walls, corner turrets and gatehouse and mediæval hall still complete, and with a timber framed Jacobean house built into one corner.

The trip will start on Tuesday, 15th April and return on Friday, 18th April. The cost will probably be about £105 per head, but it will be necessary for those wanting a single room to pay an extra £15. This year we will not be collecting packed lunches from the hotel, but lunch stops will be made at places where there are facilities for getting your own lunch.

Those interested in the trip must apply to Walter Greenway at 21 Cavendish Street,

Chichester in writing, and they will be put on the provisional list in the order of receipt of the application. His telephone number is Chichester 783057, and he will gladly answer questions about the latest details. An announcement will be made at the Annual General Meeting, by which time the whole programme will be clear, and the exact cost will be known. Payment of the fee will be required by the end of February.

## This Year's Trip to Kent

Three things contributed to making this trip a complete success: Mrs. Shelley's stirring work in preparing a welcome for us at Charlwood, Dr. Hudd's personal greeting of us at Tenterden and the weather, which produced the only four fine days in the whole Spring especially for us. Wherever we went in Charlwood we were greeted by at least one helpful and friendly guide.

On our way to Kent we touched our hats to Winkhurst Green and Bayleaf Bay in the Bough Beech reservoir, and then enjoyed the chestnut timbers of the hall roof at Penshurst. Smarden is full of Wealden houses, and the Flying Horse served as a good HQ. Leeds was rather overwhelmed by a television crew on location, but those who managed to walk from the car park were rewarded by peacocks displaying and lovely spring flowers in profusion. The new Museum of Kent Rural Life opened especially for us, and the Chairman of their Friends, Nick Dodd, gave us a personal guided tour.

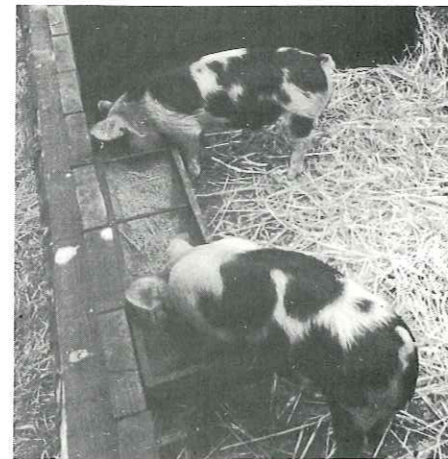
Tenterden, with its mathematical tiles and false fronted houses, gave us plenty of vernacular architecture to admire, and Winchelsea's spacious town planning breathes an air of peaceful serenity which cannot be bettered anywhere in the home counties. We had to limit our Romney Marsh churches to Brookland, because we had been overambitious in our planning. Great Dixter's entrance garden was a mass of fritillaries, whose smell had to be forgiven, but the hall helped us to forget. By the time we reached Michelham some of the less hardy were beginning to wilt, and the guide found that his following got smaller as the tour went on, but the tea shop thrived instead. Frank Gregory got Nutley mill turning for us and a school party which joined us there.

## Pigs Come and Go

The two pigs scheduled to take up residence in the pig sty in the Toll Cottage Garden came in April, and in the way of pigs, have already gone.

The pigs, Gloucester Old Spot/Berkshire crosses donated by Ashdown Forest Farm at Wychcross, a centre for rare breeds, took to their new home rapidly, and spent some days tethered near the Horse Gin, a great attraction for visitors.

They have been replaced by two Saddleback pigs, another old breed, which have been bought from The Old Rectory, Singleton.



The newly-arrived pigs.

## Poland

Marjorie Hallam, who is organising the trip to Poland next year has had sufficient response to go ahead with plans for the visit. Details will be sent to everyone who has expressed an interest by Christmas, or early January at the latest.

## Bayleaf Garden Report

A report on the design of the planned garden of Bayleaf Farmhouse has been written for the Museum by Dr. Sylvia Landsberg, garden historian.

Bayleaf is thought to have formed part of a south-facing farmyard complex with a south-facing garden of about 8,000 sq. ft. To show the relationship of the garden to the site Dr. Landsberg suggests associated farm buildings of the period should be demarcated by patterns of stones enclosed within a fence.

The plants grown by the families which occupied Bayleaf would have been largely utilitarian, reflecting the daily diet and simple health and medicinal needs of the family, says Dr. Landsberg. A ditch and bank hedgerow is suggested, showing the additional countryside plants which would have been used.

The proposed garden takes into account the need to keep cultivation to a minimum,

by cultivating only a few beds of herbs and soft fruit, and only one of the vegetable squares, the layouts of the rest being indicated by grass patterns. Dr. Landsberg's proposal involves removing the eastern hawthorn hedge and extending the garden to the east of its present position.

A hedgerow is suggested as an optional extra, although it may be necessary for orchard protection. It might over the years, Dr. Landsberg adds, become a useful piece of research on the development of an ancient hedgerow where domestically useful plants would have been collected or encouraged.

The report will be considered by the Sites and Buildings Committee.

## Thatching Straw Harvest A Good Crop



The harvest, pictured in the fields below Boarhunt. Despite the weather it was a good crop. By rough calculation the lower of the two fields yielded some 17,000 sheaves. The major part of the harvest was of Marris Wigeon, grown for the length of the stems, ideal for thatching. The crop will be threshed during the Autumn Activities Weekend and the week afterwards to produce combed wheat reed and long straw for two different types of thatch.

## Summer School

The third annual summer school for children at the Museum took them into the world of the charcoal burner. About 50 children, aged between seven and 12, constructed a charcoal burner's camp, including a hut for living in, furniture for the hut, ovens and kilns.

They used the ovens to cook their lunch in, and made their own charcoal in the kilns.



Jamie Carter making a walking stick during the Summer School week. Behind him is the charcoal burner's hut the children made in front of the traditional ovens.

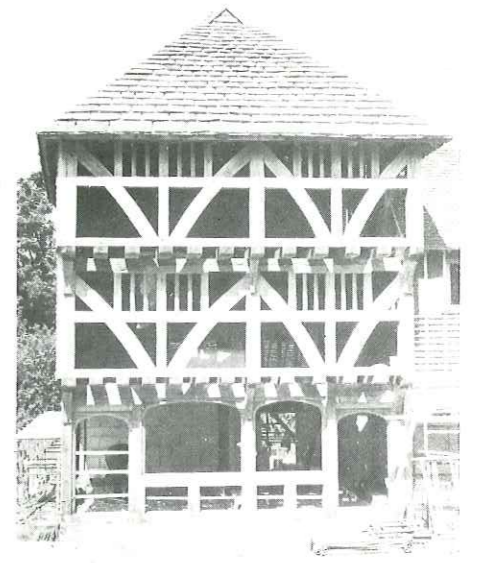
At the end of the week they used the charcoal they had made for a barbecue, to which their parents were invited.

The children also learned about other aspects of the charcoal burner's life, how he used the animals and plants around him for food, and how he undertook work in other woodland crafts for extra money.

Demonstrations and talks by experts in these fields included one by ecologist and broadcaster Richard Mabey on edible plants, and another by forester, Keith Weal on gathering and preparing animals for food. Sue Chaplin demonstrated basket making, and helped the children to have their own go at the skill.

The summer school was led by Elizabeth Newbery who was assisted by a number of voluntary helpers. The project was helped financially by a grant from Shippam's of Chichester.

## Horsham Shop



The Horsham Shop with its roof complete.

Work has continued through the summer on the Horsham Shop project. The frame has now been roofed with Horsham stone by Chandlers of Lewes. The tile hanging and roofs of the surrounding buildings are now nearly complete: this work has been undertaken by John Booker and Son.

Restoration work on the wall paintings found in the Reigate Town House is being undertaken by Ann Ballantyne, a wall painting conservator, with the aid of a grant from the Ernest Cook Trust of £2,500.

## Winter Volunteers

During the winter on weekdays there will be a number of tasks which would be undertaken by volunteers. A regular team assembled at the Museum on Tuesdays during the winter month last year, undertaking jobs ranging from rebuilding of the pig sty to general maintenance work.

Anyone wishing to be involved in this winter's team should contact the Museum Director during October.

## Typewriter

The Museum Office is desperate for a good typewriter to replace the one which is worn out. Firms quite often turn out typewriters after about two years and such a machine would be ideal for the Museum. If a Friend has connections with a firm which might be able to help please contact the office.

## Competition

The Museum's photographic competition is open until October. Entry is free and the themes are "Architectural Details" and "Animals or Craftsmen at Work". Details can be obtained from the Museum office.

# Rare Breeds Show



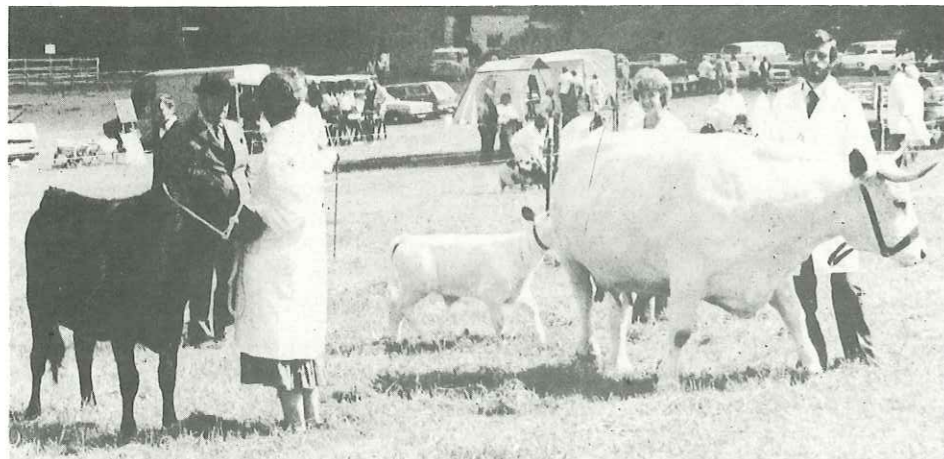
The grandest horns at the Show on a Manx Loughton ram, Bolney Charlemagne, owned by Mrs. J. Cooper, which won its class, Primitive Breeds, ram born before 1985.

The Rare Breeds Show, which took place at the Museum on one of this summer's rare fine days, was a great success, attracting more than 4,000 visitors and pleasing both competitors and organisers alike.

More than 200 animals were entered for the Show, the first of its kind to be held at the Museum, which organised the event in association with the Sussex Regional Group of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

The animals were entered from all over the South East and included rare breeds of sheep, goats, pigs, cattle, poultry and rabbits. All the classes were sponsored by local and national firms, and there was a grand parade of prizewinners at the end of the day.

The Museum is hoping the event will become an annual one.



The cattle class is judged.



Sheep champions taking part in the grand parade.

## STOP PRESS!

### Mailing List

In view of the cost of printing and postage the mailing list is checked in November. If your subscription is overdue on 31st October your name will be deleted. So to ensure receipt of future members' magazines please renew your subscription before then. The rates of subscription are:

Individual - £4.00

OAPs - £2.00

Family - £7.00

## Adult Education at the Museum

The University of Southampton adult education department is holding a 26-meeting course on "The English Village" at the Museum, beginning this autumn.

Course participants will be among those attending a day school at the Museum on Saturday, 30 November, on "William Cobbett and Rural England", held to mark the 150th anniversary of Cobbett's death. The course will include three sessions. One will examine the neglected area of radical politics in the rural south. The fee is £6.

## Reception

The Society of County Secretaries met at the Museum this summer for a reception given by West Sussex County Secretary Michael Holdsworth, former Hon. Secretary at the Museum. The reception was held in the Market Square and the buildings open for viewing by the County Secretaries, many of whom have similar museum projects in their own areas.



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

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Founder: J.R. Armstrong

Chairman of the Friends:  
Sir James Waddell

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