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Bayleaf Farm Project Planned

Detailed decisions about the form of the planned Bayleaf Farm project are now taking place. The project will influence both the interior of Bayleaf and its curtilage, and will mark another significant step forward for the Museum.

The Garden. Based on the report of garden historian Dr. Sylvia Landsberg, the garden wil be laid out in front of Bayleaf Farmhouse using 1500 as the dateline. The garden will concentrate mainly on growing vegetables as a garden of this period would have done, being an integral part of the farmstead. The Bayleaf garden will be the first of its kind. Most of the recreated historic gardens concentrate on the more decorative gardens of buildings of higher status.

The Museum aims to operate the garden fully and hopes to set up a specialist group of people to carry this out. There is great interest in the preservation of varieties of early vegetables and other institutions and groups of people employed in this will be assisting the Museum.

Bayleaf Interior. The production of vegetables in the garden will enable the Museum to bring parts of Bayleaf to life, through the drying of herbs and the storage of crops in the service rooms.

To extend the understanding of the medieval hall house, the Museum will undertake a furnishing project using replicas of furniture, domestic equipment and textiles.

The problems of achieving accuracy in both the garden and house interior are enormous but the project is considered worthwhile as a way of assisting visitors to understand the ways in which different parts of the house worked and to get a flavour of the life style of the inhabitants of a farmhouse of this period.

One of the great advantages of using replicas inside Bayleaf is that visitors will be able to walk amongst them, to touch them and to assimilate the atmosphere, using all their senses to enhance their enjoyment and understanding.

The Barn and Farmyard. To the west of Bayleaf the Cowfold Barn will be re-erected and a farmyard constructed typical of the period. The farmyard will be furnished with artefacts and livestock. There is

no intention to create a working farm and the farmstead will be supplied and serviced from modern stores and equipment, without compromising the authenticity of the exhibits. The re-creation of a fully working farm of the medieval period, with all the attendant problems of accuracy, is considered to be beyond the Museum's resources.

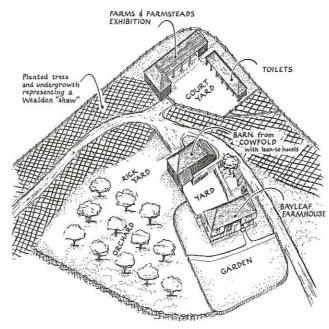
History of Farming Exhibition. A fourth element of the project is the special exhibition being prepared in association with the NFU. This exhibition will relate the history of farming within the region by taking farm buildings at different periods of history and using them to show some of the major landmarks in the development of farming.

The exhibition will be housed in a cattle-shed type building situated at right angles to the Kirdford Shed behind Bayleaf. The exhibition will take the form of a number of scenes, using diaramas, furnished rooms and models. It will seek to show farming as a continually changing activity and will demonstrate the theme from medieval times to the present day.

Richard Harris is responsible for writing the exhibition which will be designed by Ivor Heal, who was responsible for the National Horseracing Museum and is designing the Domesday Exhibition at Winchester.

The yard by the Kirdford Shed will be turned into a more formal area screened by the Bayleaf complex and will provide better visitor facilities at that end of the site.

The whole Bayleaf Farm Project is being developed by a working party, whose members are: Chris Zeuner, Roy Armstrong, Marjorie Hallam, Richard Harris, Roger Champion, Heather Champion, Elizabeth Newbery and Louise Jaggard. This group meets every fortnight, and is also concentrating its efforts on new methods of interpretation in other areas of the Museum.



Drawing of the proposed farm layout. (Richard Harris)



Cowfold Barn.

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Museum Boundary Extensions

The Trustees of the Edward James Foundation have recently agreed to extend the boundary of the Museum by another 20 acres. The areas in question are the field in the centre of the Museum, known as Greenways, and used for events and sometimes as an overflow car park; and also the area to the west of Gonville Drive to a line running north towards the main road from the western edge of the site near Bayleaf Farmhouse.

The addition of these areas to the Museum will enable events to be run on a regular basis, and also enable a range of demonstrations such as the threshing and ploughing activities to take place independent of the needs of the Farm.

The co-operation the Museum has received from our neighbours, Karova Farms (Edward James Foundation), has always been good, but the new relationship will enable a more formal relationship to be established. The Museum is very grateful to the Trustees of the Foundation for this extension.

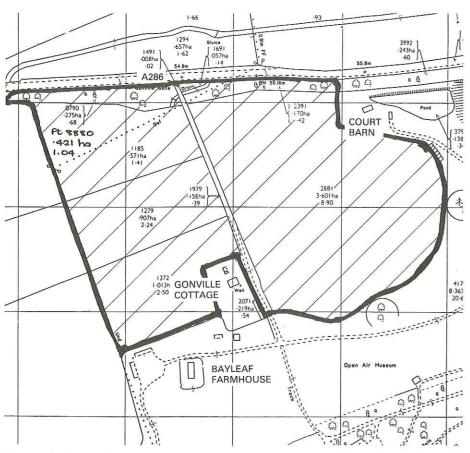
There will be no building on the new area, and public access will be limited to times when events are taking place.

Many readers may not be aware of the way in which the Museum has been assisted by the Foundation from the outset. The main 40-acre site is held on a long lease from

the Edward James Foundation on a peppercorn rent. This generous arrangement enabled the Museum project to get going without the problems of paying rent or buying a site. The founding group had no funds available and the Museum would not have been founded without such an arrangement.

The Foundation has assisted the Museum in a number of other ways. The Woods Department and the Farms Department have both given practical help and on occasions advice, and the Agent to the Foundation, Martin Heymann, has been involved from the outset with the Museum's development.

Now that the Museum has grown into one of the foremost attractions in the South of England it is able to make a valuable contribution to the fulfilment of the aims of the Edward James Foundation.



Map showing boundary changes

Changes in Hambrook Barn

The western end of Hambrook Barn has been re-organised by the addition of the main parts of the touring exhibition prepared by Richard Harris on traditional building materials in a joint project with the Area Museums Service for South East England, the Building Centre Trust and the Museum.

The core of this exhibition, which has come to the end of its tour, has been used to enhance and change the introductory exhibition.

The section of the exhibition on joinery will be installed on the first floor of the Joiner's Shop from Witley.

Other improvements to the interpretation of the Museum's exhibits include panels of text and drawings in the Horsham Shop and the North Cray Hall House.

Publicity Caravan

The Publicity Caravan donated by the Friends some years ago is being refurbished. The interior has been redesigned by Susan England and the exterior is being repainted.

A programme of visits has been arranged for it to attend both large and small events i.e. Coombes Farm Sheep Dog Trials, the Surrey Show, Goodwood Dressage, South of England Show, Parham Park Steam Rally, the Queen Elizabeth Country Park Country Fair and the Southsea Show.

Attending these shows and venues through the year is one of the ways in which the Museum publicises itself, and the Caravan has proved itself a great success time and again.

Two other publicity ventures are new to the Museum this year – coupon schemes on the side of Macleans Toothpaste packets, under the Company's Macleans Daybreak scheme; and in the "Piggy Press", the junior journal of the NatWest Bank.

Tools of the Trade

On May 18 the Museum will be the gathering place of many collectors and demonstrators of craft tools, particularly wookworking and timber-related tools in a day of demonstrations devoted to "Tools of the Trade".

Many fine collections of tools, particularly early examples, are in private hands and the day is an attempt to enable these enthusiasts to present them to the public.

The demonstrations will range from steam sawing by Jim Hampshire, pit sawing and side axe demonstrations by the Museum's own staff, to demonstrations of crafts such as walking stick making and hurdle making and displays of hand tools.

Anyone who is interested in taking part should contact the Museum Director on Singleton 348.

Toll Cottage

The existing exhibition in the Toll Cottage is to be moved during the summer into the front room of the building, and a grate inserted into the fireplace. The inner room is to be furnished as a bedroom using some artefacts already in the Museum collection and some replica exhibits.

Photographic Competition

The 1985 Photographic Competition was again popular with visitors and the two themes of "Animals or Craftsman at Work" and "Architectural Details" attracted a large number of entries that were of a particularly high standard. The two overall prizewinners were Mr W Quick from Sidcup, Kent, in the Adult Section and Paul Curtis from Eastbourne in the Junior Section.

We are most grateful to Trevor Chase and the Sussex Camera Centre of Bognor Regis for donating the first prizes and to Kodak Ltd and the Promoter Newspaper for their support of the Competition.

Wall Painting Conservation Under Way

The conservation of the wall paintings found in the rooms of the 17th century town house from Reigate is now well under way. The work is being carried out by wall painting conservator Ann Ballantyne and her assistants Andrea Kirkham and Lucy Medhurst.

Most of the conservation has been taking place in the Museum's workshops at Charlton, where the conservators have been revealing the true patterns and colours of the decoration, found on the timbers and plasterwork of the house interior.

Using scalpels, brushes and white spirit they have carefully removed layers of dirt and later paint and wall coverings to uncover the 17th century painting. The original colours have faded but will be enhanced by the use of micro-chrystaline wax whose primary function is to protect the original paint, whilst being capable of removal if necessary at a later date.

The painting is very typical of its period, when this method of wall decoration was as common as wallpaper is today. Inevitably many fragments of 17th century painting exist beneath later materials in many houses, often unrecognised when they are revealed during alterations and destroyed accidentally.

Enough fragments of the Reigate House paintings survive to build up a picture of what the house interior was like – the decorators used repetitive patterns, floral style upstairs, and there are two fragments of pictorial scenes over a fireplace.

The house will be re-erected at the Museum this summer, and the intention is to mount an exhibition of house decoration, and to complete one room in the house as it would have looked when the decoration was new.



Andrea Kirkham working on the Reigate timbers.



Detail of the conserved painting

The Museum in Winter



Progress on the Horsham Shop – during the winter and in between milling operations, Neil Wilkins has been applying cleft oak battens to form the infill panels in the building.



The hayrick, traditionally built at the Museum and cut with a hayknife by Les Whitecall to provide fodder for the horses and oxen.

tools and equipment for the six sessions that are planned for them in the coming year. The sessions last from 9.30am until 12.00.

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Friends.

The links between the Museum and the West Sussex Countryside Studies Trust continue to strengthen. Five new guides will join the team at Goodwood and will also assist school parties at the Museum.

This year the Junior Friends have their

own site, to the south-east of the Tread-

wheel where a mobile hut will store the

The Summer School will run from July 21

- 25, and as the demand outstrips the places

available, will only be open to Junior

Junior Friends

& Education

During the summer there will be a small exhibition in conjunction with "Lego", manufacturers of precision constructional toys for children. The exhibition will draw on the exhibits relating to animal, wind and water power in the Museum, by demonstrating how they can be made in schools using lego and other materials.

The aim is to encourage teachers to use the Museum's resources in more adventurous ways and involve the Museum in the new school curriculum and in particular with the new emphasis on design and technology.

Site Foreman

Andrew Hodby, who joined the Museum staff last year as caretaker, has now been appointed Site Foreman in addition.

He will be responsible for the organisation and implementation of all matters relating to the Museum Site, with the exception of the exhibit buildings themselves, together with the purchasing of materials, their issue and their care.

Novice Sheep Dog Trials

Novice sheep dog trials will take place at the Museum on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5, reviving a traditional fixture that took place on the site until the foundation of the Museum.

Karova Farms of West Dean have kindly agreed to present a challenge cup and in addition to the trials there will be sheep-associated crafts, such as spinning, shearing and the milking of ewes taking place at the Museum on that day.

Letter from the Chairman of the Friends

At the Friends' AGM in November reference was made to the need for better communication with members. The suggestion was that events at the Museum sometimes took place without people realising they were in prospect. The Committee reckoned that in spite of difficulties, for example over settling dates with exhibitors and others, the two Magazine issues a year which are now customary did give fair notice of forthcoming events - which were also advertised in newspapers and otherwise over a wide area of Southern England. They acknowledged that loose enclosures with the Magazine do not necessarily compel attention but did not think the obvious remedy, which would be a third mailing in mid-season, would be justified, at a cost of over £300 for postage alone.

Many members will have enjoyed the "Country Fair" event held in May in the past. This year it is replaced by a "Tools of the Trade" day, with the emphasis on woodworking. The Friends will be running a produce and plants stall as at the Country Fair (gifts of cakes, produce, plants please!) and will be much involved in helping on the day with the displays.

Other current Friends' activities include:

- A grant of £8000 to the Museum's Development Fund to pay for the sewer for the new toilets in the Horsham/Reigate
- Financial assistance to the Museum to purchase a video player.
- The Spring Tour. This year's is to Coventry in April. Contact Brig. Walter Greenway, Chichester 783057. Next year's tour may be to York - more details will follow but an indication of interest would

be welcomed by Carol Hawkins, on Farnham 726195 or at the Museum on Wednesdays.

- · A cookery demonstration by Katie Stewart on 10 April at Bishop Otter College, Chichester. Proceeds to the Museum. Tickets £5 from the Museum Office.
- A food tasting evening on 25 July in Crawley Hall.
- A Christmas Fair details elsewhere on this

The Development Fund, owing to the combined efforts of the Friends and the Museum staff, now stands at £97,000. We hope to include in the next issue an account of what has been done and the further work especially needing support. Meanwhile, initiatives in local fund-raising (sponsored this or thats, garden openings and so on) would be much welcomed.

Sir James Waddell

Fund-raising

The Friends are planning a fund-raising food tasting evening in the market square on Friday, July 25, at 7.30pm, when for £3 you can taste five dishes and have two glasses of wine. See enclosed sheet for details.

The Museum is entering two teams into the Royal Military Police March on Sunday, August 10. Richard Pailthorpe is looking for participants and for sponsors. Further details and a form is enclosed with the Newsletter.

Horseshoes

Last year the Friends raised £1,700 for the Museum purely through the sale of some 3,500 horseshoes, which were cleaned by a few volunteers and sold in the Museum Shop.

Anyone who can spare a little time and elbow grease to help clean more for the coming year would be most welcome. Contact Bernard Rush on Midhurst 3928.

Exhibition of Building Conservation

The Museum is holding a four-day exhibition on the theme of building conservation from August 22-25 this year. The aim of the exhibition is to show the public the many aspects of building conservation and restoration, and to encourage them to explore the wide range of materials and specialist skills available.

Exhibitors will range from specialist brick and tile companies, thatchers, carpenters and joiners, to those engaged in the research and practice of conservation techniques and materials. Building conservation trusts, amenity societies and advisory agencies will also be represented.

A programme of demonstrations of techniques and processes will take place throughout the four days. On Friday there will be a programme of lectures and seminars open to the public.

Suppliers, conservators and craftsmen who would like to take part in the exhibition should contact Margaret Challen at the

Thatch Repairs

A programme of repairs to the thatched roofs of some of the Museum exhibit buildings is beginning this year. Some of the thatch is reaching the end of its life, although in some cases the first stage in repair will be re-ridging.

The most substantial repairs will be required on the Littlehampton Granary. which is being seriously damaged by a woodpecker who pulls out large quantities of thatch in its search for insects on a daily basis. For a long time it was thought that the culprit was a squirrel but now the woodpecker has been caught in the act. All attempts at persuading it to search for its meal elsewhere have failed. The thatch is plainly infinitely easier than a tree.

Joint Venture

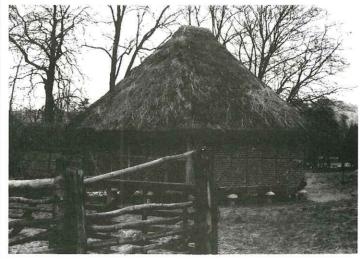
The Friends are in the early stages of planning a joint fundraising venture with the Friends of Chichester Cathedral and the Friends of Pallant House.

The event will be a Fair with good quality craft stalls plus our own souvenir items for sale. The venue is the Assembly Rooms in Chichester and the date will be Wednesday, 3 December.

The details have yet to be worked out but help with organisation and catering will be needed. Please put the date in your diary and encourage your friends to support the event.

Admission Prices

Admission charges for 1986 are: Adults - £1.80; OAP's and students - £1.30 and children - £1.00.



Littlehampton Granary, showing the roof damage

1985 Season Better than Expected

A total of 175,020 visitors came to the Museum during 1985 - significantly more than had been expected at the time of the last Museum Newsletter when the Museum was in the doldrums of an exceedingly wet and dull summer.

After the severe effect of the weather in April and August the dry Autumn boosted the attendance figures, culminating in the best ever attended Autumn Activity Weekend.

There was an increase during the year in the number of free entrants, due partly to the increase in the number of Friends and partly to participation in voucher schemes involving one free entry. One of these schemes was organised in asociation with Goodwood House and West Dean Gardens and involved a joint voucher ticket available to visitors from a few selected local outlets such as Tourist Information Centres, camp sites and hotels, which all three participants considered to be a success. The advantage to the Museum in goodwill created by these sorts of scheme is enormous.

Visitor Statistics

	1985	1984	
Jan - March	5,297	5,184	+113 (2%)
April	11,675	22,216	-10,541 (47%
May	28,086	22,028	+6,058(27%)
June	29,515	29,552	+37(-)
July	31,758	29,918	+1,840 (6%)
Aug	33,211	40,970	-7,759(19%)
Sept	17,187	15,586	+1,601 (10%)
Oct	16,178	11,551	+4,627 (40%)
Nov-Dec	2,113	2,216	-102 (5%)
	175,020	179,220	-4200(2%)

Throughout the year the Museum conducted a monthly visitor survey and daily ones during August, in conjunction with the Chichester Visitors Group, their primary purpose being to discover more about our visitors and assist with publicity and advertising

66% of visitors were staying in the area, of which 7% came fron North America and 4% from Australia. Of these 36% were staying with friends or relatives, 23% in camp sites, 20% in hotels or guest houses, 6% in self catering accommodation and 2% in holiday

42% of visitors came on the recommendation of friends or relatives, 17% from picking up our leaflet, 7% through newspaper advertising and a further 7% through advertisements seen in other publications, 6.5% through television, 4.5% on impulse whilst passing, 4% on recommendation of school children who had made previous visits, 1.5% through Museum poster, and 1.5% through radio.

In order to establish how successful our advertising and publicity was in attracting people to the Steam Threshing and Autumn Ploughing Weekend, 382 visitors were asked how they had heard about it. 53% had seen the event advertised in a newspaper or journal, 21% from a poster, 21% from other sources, mainly through the Friends Newsletter or as a result of coming previously and 5% from the "What's On" programmes on the TV and local radio.

The event attracted over 5,600 people which if applying the above percentages, somewhere in the region of 2,500 people came as a result of advertising which cost us approximately £750.

65% of visitors were making their first visit to the Museum.

Because of the Museum's dependence on the weather visitors were asked when they made their decision to visit. 29% decided on the day they came, 20% the day before, 26% within the previous

The majority of visitors spent between 2 and 4 hours at the Museum. Many spent more time than anticipated, whilst a few commented that they thought their visit would have taken longer.

Visitors were asked what attracted them to the Museum. The majority came because of their interest in architecture, building history or carpentry. Other reasons for coming included comparison with other Open Air Museums, personal recommendation, day out in the country, curiosity and an interest in a particular building such as Walderton and Bayleaf.

The exhibits or activities that visitors most enjoyed were the Mill (by far the most popular), Bayleaf, Walderton and the School. A number of other features were mentioned such as log fires, plumbing exhibition, shepherd's hut, charcoal burning, introductory exhibition and craftsmen at work.

Visitors were also asked for their comments. There was an overwhelming response in the form of "having had a very enjoyable"

Below is a small and selective sample of those comments which were made more than once.

- "Very well organised and maintained".
- "Polite and helpful staff".
- "More taped commentaries".
- "Very worthwhile project".
- "More furniture in buildings".
- "More benches". "More working demonstrations such as charcoal and blacksmith".
- "People dressed in period costume".
- "Progressing well"
- "Excellent plumbing exhibition".
- "Lovely to be able to touch things".
- "Very good value for money".
- "Nice to see fires".
- "Slippery and rough paths".
- "Why wasn't the Joiner's Shop open?".
- "The addition of a church and inn would be nice".
- "More information about the social classes of people that lived in the
- "Useful to have mother's room in W.C.'s".
- "A shame to use bailer twine in Hangleton". "Good litter facilities".
- "Better information at entrance about the extent of the Museum".
- "Woodland area good".
- "Too many rowdy school children" "Refreshment facilities inadequate".
- "Refreshment staff rude".
- "Dogs should not be allowed"

West Ashling Granary

A small granary has been moved from West Ashling, near Chichester, and resited next to Lurgashall Mill, where it will be used for its original purpose, storing grain, for use in the Mill.

The building, which measures only 10ft by 10ft, was given to the Museum by Lady Portal of West Ashling House. It was built in the early 19th century as part of the farmstead

The granary was prepared for removal by volunteers, and towed to the Museum in December, where it has been placed on staddles and the roof has been re-tiled by John Booker and Son.



West Ashling Granary

Changes in the Museum's **Management Structure**

The Museum's management structure has recently undergone changes to enable a more efficient organisation befitting the substantial enterprise which the Museum

mon with the great majority of independent of Management, numbering as many as 30 people, who have delegated authority to a been felt that the system needed revision.

One of the main problems was that the large body could meet only four times a year and was unable to respond with sufficient speed to the demands of the much greater level of activity now taking place at the Museum. The result was that many matters were decided by the General Purposes Committee which did not actually have the formal authority to act.

This state of affairs needed to be rectified and during this last year the Chairman, David Biart and Treasurer and Company Secretary, Jimmy Woollings, have been concentrating their efforts to establish a new structure more relevant to the Museum which would also enable an increased input of ideas from the many people involved with the project.

At its meeting in November the President of the Museum, Lord Watkinson, presided over the procedures necessary to make the changes proposed. These changes had already been submitted to the Charity Commissioners for their approval.

The basis of the changes are as follows: The Museum has a group of TRUSTEES to replace the Council of Management. Up to pletely up to date.

The Museum is a Company Limited by 50 Trustees are responsible for the overall Guarantee and registered as a Charity in compolicy of the Museum. They will meet four times each year. The Trustees will elect an museums. It has been managed by a Council EXECUTIVE BOARD. The Executive Board will act as Directors of the Company and will be responsible in the same way as General Purposes Committee. This system they would be if they were Directors of a nonserved the Museum successfully in the early charitable company. The day to day running years of development but in recent years it has of the Museum will be the responsibility of the Museum Director. The long standing Sites and Buildings Committee will as before advise the Director and Research Director on matters relevant to the main activities of the Museum, especially the collection and reerection of buildings.

The effect of these changes will be to improve the way in which the Museum reaches its decisions and to expand the number of people who are involved. At present the following people are members of the Executive Board:

David Biart, Chairman Roy Armstrong, Founder Jimmy Woollings, Treasurer and Company Secretary

Marjorie Hallam, Hon. Librarian Robin McDowall, Chairman, Sites and **Buildings Committee**

Sir James Waddell, Chairman, Friends of the Museum

Geoffrey Godber, Past Chairman All these members hold office until the next AGM.

A complete list of Trustees will be published in the next newsletter which will be after the AGM and will therefore be com-

The Builder's Yard

The area around the Witley Joiner's Shop will be developed during the summer as a traditional builder's yard. Building materials will be stored there, including tools and equipment, lime pits and piles of sand, giving the appearance of an operating

The Plumber's and Glazier's Workshop will be placed on its permanent site within this area and forming one of the boundaries of the yard. The area will be enclosed and display material developed to explain the exhibits.



The Builder's Yard area.

1986 Special Events and Exhibitions

May 5

Novice Sheep Dog Trials.

May 18

'Tools of the Trade". A special day with displays and demonstrations of traditional tools used in timber and allied trades.

Heavy Horses at Singleton. Working demonstrations in association with the Southern Counties Heavy Horse Association.

July 20

Show for Rare Breeds. In association with the Sussex Rare Breed Survival Trust Support Group.

August 22 - 25

Exhibition of Building Conservation.

October 25 - 26

Steam Threshing, Ploughing with Horses and Vintage Tractors.

Throughout the season regular craft and trade skills demonstrations will be taking place on Sundays, whilst charcoal burning and spar making will once again be happening on weekdays. (Further details about demonstrations will be available on request.)

Publicity Leaflet

The Museum's reputation for imaginatively designed publicity leaflets will surely receive another boost this year with the latest design by Bruce Williams Designs which features the door of Bayleaf Farmhouse on the front cut down the middle to open out revealing pictures and information about the Museum inside. The Museum distributes some 100,000 leaflets per year and they are a vital tool in publicising the



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

Museum Director: Christopher Zeuner Telephone: Singleton 348

The Bourne, Farnham

Research Director: Richard Harris Magazine Editor: Diana Zeuner

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