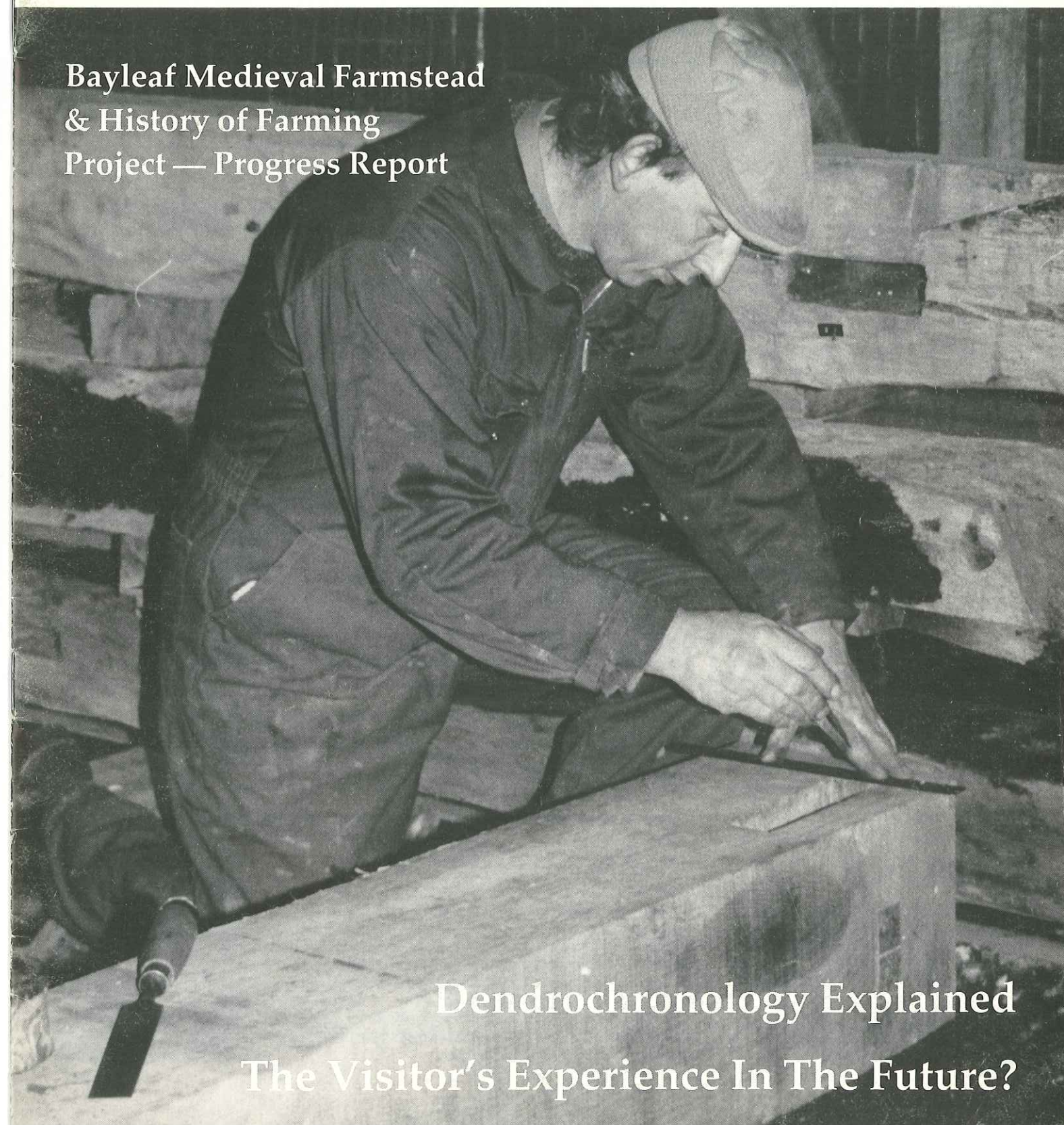


WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM MAGAZINE

Bayleaf Medieval Farmstead
& History of Farming
Project — Progress Report



Dendrochronology Explained
The Visitor's Experience In The Future?

CONTENTS

Visitor Numbers Dip — Christopher Zeuner	2
Cowfold Barn	4
History of Farming Exhibition/Bayleaf Garden	5
The Library — fulfilling one of the Museum's objectives — Roy Armstrong	7
Education/Publicity	9
Dendrochronology at the Museum — Richard Harris	10
Lurgashall Mill	11
Medieval Hall from Chislehurst — Richard Harris	12
Friends News	14/15
Diary of Events	16

Cover Picture: Roger Champion, Museum Carpenter, working on the timbers for Cowfold Barn.

Photographs in this issue taken by: Richard Pailthorpe, Lee Weatherley and Diana Zeuner.

Drawings and plans are by Richard Harris, except for Bayleaf garden plan, by Dr. Sylvia Landsberg.

Opening Arrangements 1988-89

March 27th - October 31st
11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Open every day

From November 1st - March 19th the Museum is open Wednesdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Parties and School Visits

Parties and School Visits by appointment only. For party rates please request a special information sheet.

ADMISSION CHARGES — 1988

(Admission Charges include VAT at current rate)

Adults £2.20, OAP's £1.70,
Children, Students £1.10

Museum Office Tel. No. 0243 63 348

The Museum is a non-profit making company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity. Its work has depended on the support of many individuals and trusts. If you are not already involved in its development and would like to be, please contact the Museum Director or complete the Friends of the Museum Membership Form on Page 14 of the Magazine.

Visitor Numbers Dip: Time to Re-appraise Visitors' Experience at the Museum?

THE attendance figures for 1987 are disappointing: 162,081 (1986: 165,285). A number of the special days were badly affected by the poor weather, the Rare Breeds Show in particular. However, there seems to be an underlying trend for fewer adult/children family groups. If this is so we must take a careful look at the way in which the Museum is presented.

I suspect that one of the problems is that the Museum is an essentially static experience and that people increasingly look for activities that involve them more. Added to this is the growing trend for 'shopping' to be a recreational activity, as demonstrated by the success of DIY Centres and Garden Centres, both of which have become places of recreation as well as shops. Even on days when we have many demonstrations the relationship between visitor and demonstrator is of observation rather than participation. To enhance the experience for our visitors we shall need to find ways by which they can become more involved.

The lead given by the new Science Centres is interesting in this respect, and may be modified to suit our circumstances.

Science Centres set out to teach concepts by presenting visitors with working exhibits and with equipment that the visitor must use to explore and investigate. These exhibits are known as interactive exhibits, and provide the visitor with a totally different experience to the traditional Museum one. The Bayleaf project will give an opportunity for extending the interest to new visitors, and the garden may well play a central role in this. However, it will remain essentially a static presentation.

A variety of methods have been used to enhance visitors' experience in other Museums throughout the world, but it is not sufficient to transport other ideas to our circumstance. We need to develop our own approach.

The use of role play is a well-known device, and has been successfully applied at Wigan Pier. In the reconstructed school room visitors are subjected to the attentions of a school master who succeeds in bringing back the worst memories in those who can remember and provides a glimpse of a past system for those who cannot. Imagine having your hands and neck inspected for cleanliness on arrival, and indeed, having to pay for the experience! The technique does, however, work well if done in a skilled fashion, and the way in which the Wigan experience captured the attention of a group of teenagers as well as my small daughters, (I also rather enjoyed being chalk monitor), demonstrated to me the possibilities.

A Museum in the open air should offer many opportunities for visitors to become involved in small ways. For instance, the operation of the treadwheel by visitors is a simple way in which they can experience the feel of the machine, but also it offers the possibility for expanding on the experience and understanding of how it works. A school party could indeed build a whole science lesson around this machine and see its historical context as a

minor aspect. Visitors could be given facilities in which they could explore the different bonds in brickwork by building dry walls; they could assemble model stones to build an arch; or timbers in miniature to investigate the way in which a framework behaves. The possibilities are great. At first these ideas sound like experiences designed for children; however, adults can be just as eager to seek information in these ways.

The Launch Pad gallery at the Science Museum is one of the first Science Centres to be opened in this country, others are under-way, most notably The Exploratory at Bristol now to be housed in Brunel's Temple Meads Station, and Eureka! the children's museum to be built in Halifax. The experience gained by these places should be noted for it will have implications for the way in which we develop our approach to interpretation, and to the involvement of visitors at the Weald and Downland.

Ideas are perhaps the easy part of the problem. Putting them into practice with the small resources available, and then successfully promoting them to the potential visitor is another challenge.

Because an independent museum such as the Weald and Downland needs to finance most of its operation by attracting visitors through the gate, and by developing income generating activities on the site there is a constant concern to see that the income of the Museum keeps pace with its expenditure. The solutions that are developed to increase the income must, however, also contribute to the better fulfilment of the aims of the institution which are essentially educational.

If we are right in detecting a downward trend in our attendances, then we shall need to solve these problems and adjust our attitudes to the Museum promptly. It may be that it is our own desire as members and helpers to retain the image of the Museum as it is that hinders our ability to see it from the visitors' stand point or indeed from the point of view of the person we failed to attract as a visitor.

Despite these concerns we look forward to a warm and dry summer, one in which we are again organising a programme of activity that is full of interest. The diary on the back cover of this magazine gives the principle events, and the demonstration programme is to be published from week to week during the year. The peak comes during August when once again we shall be seeking to ensure that every day has something of 'live' interest going on.

Christopher Zeuner
Museum Director

Nigel Stephens

At the last AGM of the Trustees Nigel Stephens was appointed as Chairman of the Trustees and the Executive Board. Nigel was a senior partner of Whiteheads Estate Agents in the South East, and has taken an interest in the affairs of the Museum for some time. He lives at Boxgrove, within easy reach of the Museum.

As Nigel's current business responsibilities allow him more time he looks forward to tackling some of the major funding problems at the Museum.



2nd exhibition of BUILDING CONSERVATION

The Museum is holding its second Exhibition of Building Conservation from August 5-7 this year, when a large number of organisations and individuals concerned with the care of old buildings will meet together to demonstrate their particular skills and activities.

The first Exhibition, held in August, 1986, was a great success (the weather aside!) and attracted both members of the public with an interest in building conservation and many professionals who have to deal regularly with traditional and historic buildings.

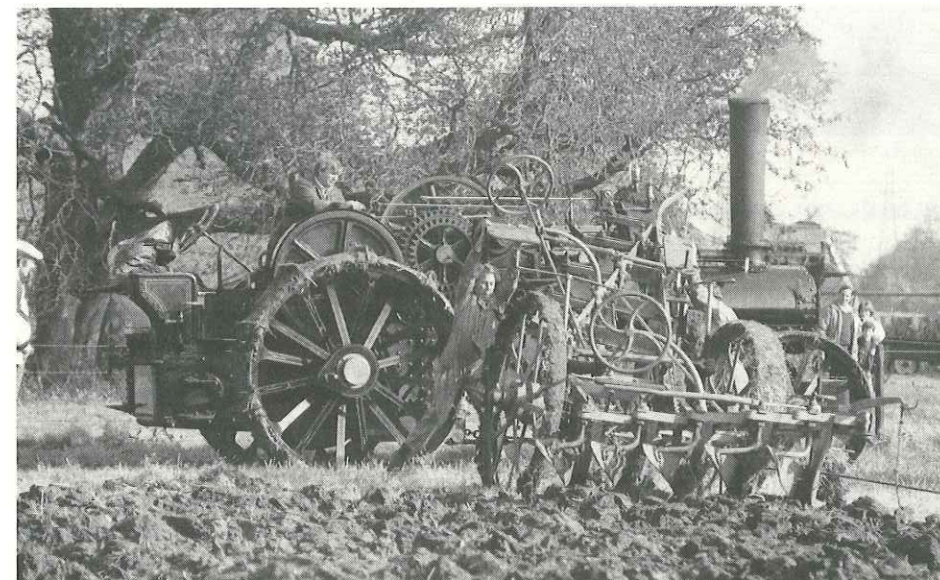
The promotion of building conservation is of course paramount to the Museum's central aims, and the Exhibition was conceived as a way of furthering this.

Invitations to participate in the 1988 Exhibition have been sent to suppliers,

contractors, craftsmen, architects, amenity groups, councils and many individuals concerned with building conservation. The three-day event will include a series of lectures and workshops on the Friday, and demonstrations and displays in marquees throughout the weekend.

Organisations, manufacturers or providers of services for Conservation interested in taking part in the Exhibition should contact the Museum Office for further details.

Ploughing Engines Return for Autumn Activities Weekend



Steam ploughing in operation at the Museum in October

Two steam ploughing engines returned to home ground during last October's Autumn Activities Weekend at the Museum. The engines were purchased from Mr Drewett's farm at Colworth, near Chichester, in 1972 by their new owners, Graham Thomas and Colin Wait of Nailsea in Avon. They completely restored the engines and regularly use them for demonstrations.

This is the second time steam ploughing has been a feature of the Museum's Autumn Weekend, but ploughing engines are rarely seen at work and their appearance attracted many visitors.

The cost of transporting the 20-ton engines and the huge plough on three low loaders from Avon were met by ACE Packaging of Chichester.

Among the "part-time" ploughman behind the wheel was horseman Alec Deadman, who took time off from his pair of Shires during the weekend to have a go at the new-fangled steam. Rumour has it he was only partly impressed!

Several teams of horses and a number of vintage tractors were also ploughing the fields next to the Museum.

The other major attraction during the weekend was the steam threshing by Bert Dibben of Martin in Hampshire of the wheat crop grown by the Museum to produce combed straw for thatching. The engine was driven by Arthur Thompson's Foden traction engine. Both Mr Dibben and Mr Thompson have become familiar figures in Autumn at the Museum.

CATERING CHANGES

This year changes in the arrangements for the provision of catering facilities at the Museum will be introduced. The concession for catering has been given to Mrs Alison Ellis, owner of Clinches Salad House, in Southgate, Chichester, and to Rachel and Guy Ellis who operate 13 Southgate as an evening vegetarian restaurant.

The existing building is being modified inside to provide a larger counter area, and on a temporary basis covered space will be provided under canvas. This will be close to the lakeside to the north of the cafe, in a part to which the public have until now not been admitted.

Over the next three years it is intended that a scheme to provide permanent space will come to fruition. At the moment the newly landscaped area and the new approach to the food provided will make a substantial difference for our visitors.

The Ellises intend to develop a menu that is in tune with the Museum's approach, using natural products, including Lurgashall Mill flour, as far as possible.

In addition to the cafe the Ellises will provide the catering needed for events taking place in Crawley Hall, and be responsible for providing catering for the Museum's special events.

Catering needs in Crawley Hall will be met on some occasions by volunteers, organised by Virginia Lyon, as a way in which the Friends can assist in making this new aspect of the Museum a more profitable fund raising exercise.

Grants and Donations

Received for current projects and recent events

Bayleaf/History of Farming Project
ICI Plant Protection
The Idlewild Trust
The John Lewis Partnership
The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust
The Rank Foundation
Barclays Bank plc
The Church Commissioners
National Westminster Bank plc
Charta Furniture

Development Fund and Other Projects

Carless Exploration Ltd
Wimpey Homes Holdings Ltd
Interbuild Fund
Victoria and Albert Museum

Special Events

Pearson plc
Nationwide/Anglia Building Society
Eastbourne Building Society
Portman Building Society
Summerdale Garage, Chichester
Cynamid of Gt. Britain Ltd
Karova Farms, West Dean
Ace Packaging, Chichester

Cowfold Barn — The Beginning of a Reconstructed Farmstead



Roger Champion using the adze to shape a new sole plate.

During Easter this year Roger Champion will be erecting the frame of the barn from Cowfold.

The barn was offered to the Museum by its owner, Mrs Godman, in August 1979 as it was due for demolition. It was dismantled in Summer 1980 and has been in store since then.

The felling date of the timbers has been established by dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) as 1536. This date, together with its construction (crown-post roof) and origin in a Wealden parish made it the ideal companion for Bayleaf farmhouse. Its site at the Museum is to the west of Bayleaf, and the area between will form a small foldyard for cattle.

In order to create a workable farmstead based on the Bayleaf and Cowfold buildings we need to add at least two buildings: a shelter for carts and a shelter for cattle in winter. Minor buildings of this kind rarely if ever survive from the late medieval period, and opinion differs as to what form they would have taken on a Wealden farmstead like Bayleaf. It has been decided, however, to take advantage of clear evidence discovered on the timbers of the Cowfold Barn that it originally, or at an early date, had outshots on one side and one end. The end outshot

will be the cart shelter, and the side outshots — open to the foldyard — will be for cattle.

The re-erection of the barn from Cowfold is the beginning of the recreation of the Farmyard that will form part of the total complex at Bayleaf. The building of fences to form a yard, a well, woodsheds and other structures needed in the farm will soon begin. At the same time research is going on to choose those items of equipment that will be replicated. Later in the year a start will be made on the production of the many items needed.

The animals will create special difficulties, as the types needed are unavailable.



Albert Peacock, cleaving chestnut tile battens for Cowfold Barn.



Interior view of Cowfold Barn.



Close-up of tie-beam and crown post.

Token stocking will be possible, and should be introduced in time for next season.

The Farmstead will be set up and equipped as a working steading where visitors can see replica medieval tools and implements and animals that are as similar to their medieval ancestors as possible. However, we do not intend to try to run a medieval farm as this is neither in keeping with our aims as a Museum nor feasible in terms of cost. The Farmstead will be supplied and serviced from modern stores and equipment without compromising the authenticity of the exhibits.

Work on Cowfold Barn will start on Friday 1st April when Roger Champion, Museum Carpenter, will lead the operation, using poles and ropes to re-erect the framework, and will continue over the Easter Holiday. Readers wishing to watch are advised to check with the office on progress.

The whole complex will be opened at the end of May 1989 and a week of special events and activities are being planned. The exhibition and the events will be a major contribution to British Food and Farming Year.



Paul Russell cutting a mortice on the timbers of the Redvins cattle shed.



John Winterbottom fitting timbers in place.

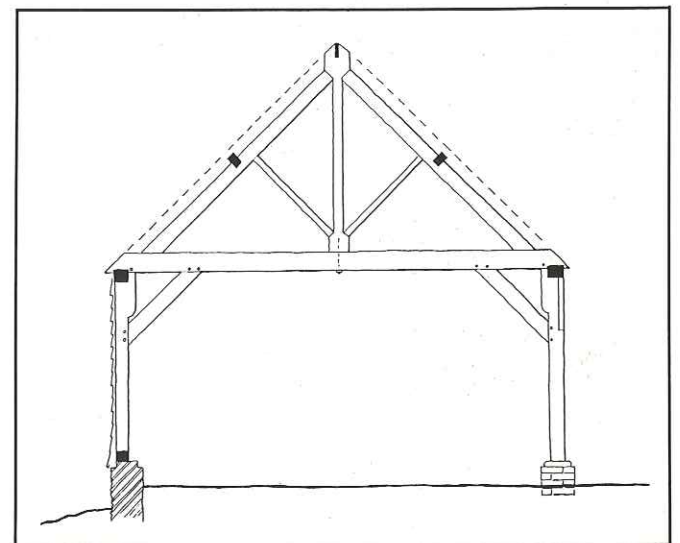
Cattle Shed from Redvins Farm, Goodwood — the home of the History of Farming Exhibition.

As has previously been reported in the Newsletter, the Museum is co-operating with the National Farmers Union Central Southern Branch to produce an exhibition on the history of farming — provisionally entitled "Historic Farms and Farmsteads" — to be opened in 1989 in celebration of British Food and Farming Year.

Having settled on the existing yard north-west of Bayleaf as the best site for the exhibition, we needed a suitable building to house it. Luckily in 1986 the Goodwood Estate kindly offered us a disused mid-19th century cattle shed from their farmstead at Redvins, which was ideal for the purpose.

The building was dismantled in December 1986 and has been repaired and re-erected by Paul Russell and his assistant John. As well as providing space for the exhibition the building will be an excellent example of the construction of farm buildings of the period. The roof trusses are of bolted king-post construction (see drawing) and all the timbers are softwood except the main posts and braces which are oak. The walls are covered with beech boarding which has kindly been donated by the Edward James Foundation.

Cattle Shed from Redvins Farm.



Bayleaf's "Medieval" Garden Takes Shape

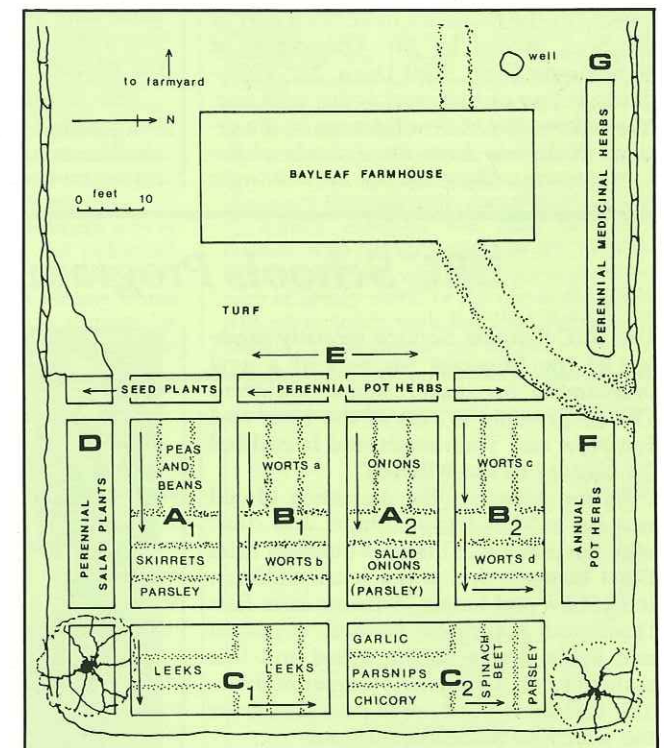
During the winter months the design and planning of the garden for the Bayleaf farmstead was considered and planting started. The plan for the garden has been researched by Dr. Sylvia Landsberg, a garden historian who was responsible for the garden at the Tudor House, Bugle Street in Southampton.

The Garden is laid out in a formal pattern, and this is supported by contemporary map evidence.

Bob Holman has been doing the bulk of the practical work, digging over the beds and laying out the paths. Previous hedges have been removed and replanted elsewhere.

The replica Wealden shaw has been planted to the north of Bayleaf near the pigs enclosure.

Plan of Bayleaf "Medieval" Garden, showing the bed layout and rotations.



Staff Visit to South Wales

During December the staff of the Museum travelled on a training visit to South Wales. The purpose of the trip was to visit two other establishments and compare them with our own. The opportunity to look in detail at someone else's day to day management problems and solutions was seen as a useful contribution to the development of expertise amongst the staff, and nearly all the staff were able to come.

The trip was led by Chris Zeuner. The first visit was to the Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagan's Castle. A number of members of their staff had been made available to us to answer our questions. The shop, exhibits and demonstrations all provided opportunity for discussion. Of special interest was the newly-completed terrace of six mining cottages — Rhyd-y-Car. The cottages have been re-erected to show how their interiors changed with time, as well as to show the changes made to the buildings' fabric over nearly two centuries. Each of the cottages in the terrace has been re-erected to a different date, the oldest 1805 and the latest 1985. The furnishings extend to the garden and even the sheds in the gardens. We were able to discuss with those in charge of the buildings how the public were controlled in the small exhibits and observe people's reaction to the exhibits.

At the end of the day Dr. Eurwyn Wiliam, Keeper of Buildings and Domestic Life, was available for a question and discussion session.

On the following morning the group visited Big Pit Mining Museum. Once again we were interested in the way in which the Museum handled its visitors. In this case the problem of taking visitors underground in small groups created special problems.

Our underground visit turned out to be a privileged one as the group was conducted by Brian Davis, Curator of the Museum, throughout the whole public area and one or two extra passages. A two hour underground walk gave us all a new perspective of mining, even in the silence of a disused mine.

Visitors are taken from the pit head in the miners' cage down 300ft of shaft. All visitors wear safety helmets and lamps,

and indeed depend on the lamp to light their tour.

The two contrasting visits provided much material for discussion, and indeed both places are highly recommended.

Late Openings

This year we shall be experimenting with a number of special evening openings.

The Museum will remain open until 9.00 p.m. on Wednesday June 22nd, Wednesday July 20th and Wednesday August 24th.

Other extensions to the Museum's opening times are: an extra few days during the schools half term, in February (Feb 23rd, 24th, 25th). If the weather is good we usually have to turn away disappointed visitors during this week, and at Christmas next year we shall be open from the 26th December until the 2nd of January. This will be a more easily understood arrangement. Despite the poor weather over 650 visited the Museum during the Christmas openings.

Southdown Sheep Bought by Museum

For many years the Southdown Sheep grazing at the Museum have been part of the flock owned by Mr. Humphrey of New House Farm, East Dean. Mr. Humphrey is one of the most active and successful breeders of Southdowns in the region. With help from the Friends of the Museum, the Museum has now bought

from him 15 ewes which are due to lamb in the coming spring. Mr. Humphrey will continue to advise and, indeed, assist when needed.

A traditional fold area has been built on the Museum site and the sheep will be lambing in this area.

The lambs will be sold later in the year, as the intention is to keep the flock to its small size, a scale suitable to the Museum site and available grazing, especially in the Winter.

The Southdown breed has recently been added to the Rare Breed List so we shall be making a small contribution to its future by keeping the flock.



David Humphrey, left, with Horace "Shep" Oliver, at the Museum during a sheep shearing demonstration.

BBC Schools Programme made at Hangleton Cottage

The BBC Schools Service recently made use of the Museum for part of a new programme for junior school children. The programme is part of the Near and Far: Now and Then series and is entitled "A History of the Kitchen".

At the Museum the sequence filmed was set in Hangleton cottage, and dealt with the making of bread. Volunteer Miss Ethel Buvyer, and three local children, John Shaw and Emma Williams from East Dean and Francesca Zeuner, prepared and made coarse maslin bread and fine manchet rolls using the Hangleton oven. The costumes used were provided from the wardrobe at Bedales School.

The programme was broadcast in February.

In medieval mood — left to right, Francesca Zeuner, Emma Williams and John Shaw. (Ethel Buvyer was taking a well-earned rest in Boarhunt!)



The Library — Fulfilling One of the Museum's Objectives

In the past the Newsletter has often included items on the Library. Below Roy Armstrong describes its function and contents.

THE Library is not merely a collection of books and printed material, but of photographs, plans, drawings and surveys with notes and memoranda by surveyors, architects, and others concerned with traditional buildings.

Briefly stated the Library should do what the exhibits by themselves do not. Whereas the latter can provide a few selected examples of buildings typical of a limited area and period, the library provides details and explanation of their setting within a larger context. Whereas the Museum generates, one hopes, an interest in traditional building, the Library can take that interest further, providing the material necessary for increasing understanding and sound judgement in matters of conservation, contemporary planning, and design. The following is a brief summary of its development to date, and the immediate way ahead.

The Background

From the earliest days of the Museum the Library was considered to be a major objective. It was conceived as the centre round which educational work and research should develop. Considerable collections of books, surveys, and photographs of buildings were held by individuals ready to give these to the Museum once accommodation could be provided. The over-riding need to establish the viability of the Museum had to come first. Nothing was done until the erection of the Crawley building in 1983/1984 provided the minimum accommodation.

The decision to use the ground floor of the Crawley building as the Library made it possible to bring together all the material that already had been collected and also to start on the considerable task of indexing and cataloguing the growing collection of books, periodicals, and photographs.

Cataloguing

After consideration of other methods, ranging from the simplest form of card-indexing to various forms of punch card, it was agreed that computerisation would be the best and most versatile method. For devising the software adapted to the special needs of the Library the Museum is indebted to Richard Harris.

During the next three years, 1984/1987 under the Honorary Librarianship of Mrs Marjorie Hallam the foundations of the Library were truly laid. Mrs Hallam's appointment coincided with the acceptance of the Library as a training centre under the Manpower Services Community Programme Scheme and for three successive years a team of six, under a supervisor was employed on arranging and cataloguing and other work connected with the Library. The supervisor of the first year's team was Caroline Hallam and the final improvement and development of the cataloguing system was largely due to her. The Manpower Services teams varied greatly in background, ages and experience, and at the end of each year it was sad to lose individuals who, having mastered the complexities of the system, could be relied upon to work well. Without this help from the MSC the organisation of the Library would not have got off the ground so soon.

Plans for the Future

It was agreed that when the third and last of the yearly MSC teams ended in 1987 that a

full-time officer of the Museum should be appointed with responsibility for the Library and artifacts of the Museum. An appointment was made as reported in the last Museum Magazine which welcomed Miss Sally Stradling; but in October Miss Stradling was offered another job in the county where she had been working, Oxfordshire, and Jonathan Roberts, who had been a member of the last MSC team was asked to take charge of the Library under an agreement which had been extended to a two year contract.

With the completion of the Horsham building the Library will be almost doubled and the appointment of a full time Librarian will make it possible for the Library to be generally accessible during the week. The value of any Library turns on how far it is used and the time has come to publicise its existence and the facilities it can offer. This in turn may lead to an increase in the donation of material which, combined with selective spending, will increase the Library's scope.

How the Friends can help

Some Friends have already given valuable material to the Library. It now holds duplicate copies of some of the many popular books on local history. These are set aside as a loan collection and may be borrowed. It is not, however, this kind of material which is now needed. What we should like for the Library — which is primarily a reference collection — are the rarer books, guides and specialist studies which at present we lack and for which the limited space we have must be reserved. This reference collection should cover as thoroughly as possible the central theme of the Museum — buildings; the crafts and furnishings associated with traditional buildings; design and planning; and social and economic history relevant to the central subject. Although for example we hold the 120 odd volumes published annually by the Sussex Archaeological Society we have not those for Kent, Surrey or Hampshire — all within the catchment area of the Museum. Not only books and published material, but unpublished surveys and plans of individual buildings will be welcome. Some of the most valuable material consists of surveys carried out by individual members of

LIBRARIAN

In the last newsletter we announced the appointment of Sally Stradling to the new post of Keeper of Collections. Unfortunately two months later Miss Stradling was attracted away from the Museum to a job offered by Cherwell District Council.

We are, however, pleased to report that the post has been re-designated as Librarian and that Jonathan Roberts has been appointed to the post. Jonathan is well acquainted with the library. He first came to the Museum on an MSC programme, and since then has acted as relief librarian on a number of occasions.

The library is available for use on any weekday from 9.00am until 5.00pm. For the present we ask users to telephone their intention to use the library in advance.

organisations such as The Wealden Building Study Group, the Robertsbridge Archaeological Society, the Surrey Domestic Buildings Study Group and the Vernacular Architecture Group.

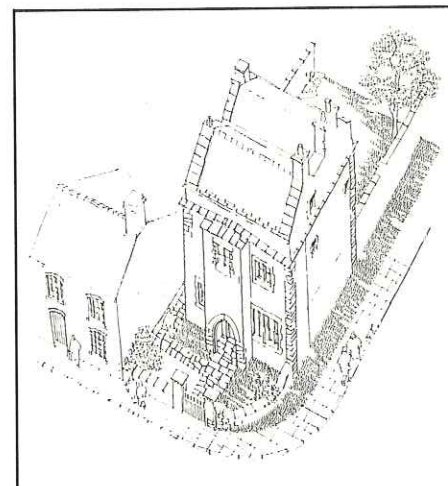
A number of complete individual collections of relevant slides, photographs and books have already been given or bequeathed to the Library and, where appropriate, will be kept together as individual collections.

Another way Friends may help as the Library expands will be in voluntary staffing, filing, cataloguing etc. A few Friends have for some years, given a great deal of time to it and have been a very great help in getting the collection established, but there has been no general appeal for help as there has been neither space nor the possibility of regular opening. This should be changed during the next few months; but development must be pragmatic and follow the demand for such services as the Library can provide. If the Library receives the recognition and support it deserves, we may within the next two years see it established as the kind of educational and research centre which, in the early days of the Museum, seemed a rather distant, but all important ultimate goal, complimentary to the Museum's exhibits. We shall be glad if Friends, who feel they might be able to help — particularly those who may have some experience of library work, or the use of computers, will get in touch with Jonathan Roberts, Mrs Hallam, Chris Zeuner or myself.

VIVAT TRUST

In the last issue of the magazine the Eyton-on-Severn Summer House restored by the Vivat Trust, and available for holiday letting, was drawn to the attention of readers. The Vivat Trust now offers another property of historic interest for rent from this April.

The medieval Chantry in Bridport, Dorset, is now completed, and offers very unusual holiday accommodation, within easy reach of Lyme Regis, Chessel Beach and Dorchester. As before, a donation will be made to the Museum for any bookings made as a result of this notice. For information, please telephone J Brinand, Vivat Trust administrator on Bristol 778770, evenings only.



The Chantry Bridport



Arthur Langridge placing turf against the structure of the charcoal burner's hut at the Museum watched by Mrs Langridge, who is taking a well-earned rest.

Staff and volunteers who were associated with the Museum in its early days will be sorry to learn of the death of Mr. Arthur Langridge who died last November at the age of eighty-six.

The Museum owes a great debt to Mr and Mrs Langridge who as volunteers constructed the charcoal burners' encampment, — kilns and huts — and demonstrated charcoal burning as practised in the Weald. This was of great interest to visitors at a time when there were very few exhibits. The setting up of the charcoal site took place in 1968 and boys from St. Andrew's Church of England School, Worthing, who were camping as a working party at the Museum, helped to collect wood and turf for its building.

Mrs Langridge, who died about two years ago, was an "hereditary" charcoal burner — the daughter of Mr Francis (of whom a

photograph taken in the Balcombe woods exists). She described Mr Langridge as "the boy who came to cart the coals" (i.e. the charcoal). He was born at South Heighton, near Newhaven, and after his marriage helped her father as a charcoal burner. Although, as the craft became obsolete he turned to other work, he retained his skill, and it was after the burning of a kiln near Kingsfold for demonstration purposes that the Museum came to know him.

For several years Mr and Mrs Langridge visited the Museum to construct and burn demonstration kilns and helped us to reconstruct a record of charcoal burning and hut building. Their patience and kindness is remembered with gratitude and affection by those who worked with them.

Lyn Armstrong

Examining North American Open Air Museums

News 009

During summer last year I visited a number of North American Open Air Museums as winner of the Grinstead Bursary. The Bursary was awarded by British Leisure Publications whose publications include the Museum and Galleries Guide.

The principal Museums visited included The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, both in Virginia. The Plymouth Plantation and Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts and Strawberry Bank at Portsmouth in New Hampshire. Staff at these Museums were extremely helpful, enabling me to study behind the scenes many of the areas of work in which I am directly involved at The Weald and Downland. Of special interest to me were marketing, the organisation of events and demonstrations, and fundraising.

The extensive range of demonstrations and events organised by all the Museums were particularly impressive. They formed part of each Museum's "living history" programme, and are carried out

by craftsmen and interpreters on a daily basis. These range from the skill of the carpenter and furniture maker to domestic crafts such as spinning and cooking or role-play interpretation.

Unlike the Weald and Downland where our buildings cover a number of centuries, the Museums concentrated on a particular period or date, ranging, for example, from the reconstruction of the 1627 Pilgrim settlement at Plymouth to the restoration of the 18th century town at Williamsburg. At all the Museums detailed research was applied to the restorations and reconstructions. Many beautifully maintained gardens enhanced the houses and the living history programmes helped visitors in the interpretation of the buildings and their social history context.

Richard Pailthorpe

CRAWLEY HALL

Now that the facilities in Crawley Hall have been improved we shall be developing the use of the building in a number of ways.

Firstly we hope to encourage the use of the building for educational purposes. It is available for booking by any group for seminar or lecture purposes.

Secondly we hope to encourage its use by local businesses as a small conference room. In the past it has been used in this way with success. New catering arrangements will enable us to offer a variety of services to users.

Further details can be obtained from the Museum Office.

During the early part of the year we shall be able to move into part of the Horsham Shop. The first floor will contain part of the library collection and can be used for study.

The second floor will be brought into use during the latter part of the year.

Walks arranged for 1988

SUNDAY APRIL 10th

A walk to Sargeant's tree in Charlton Forest — History and Legend led by Richard Pailthorpe

Meet 10.00 am at Newhouse Farm, East Dean. Walk takes approximately 3 hours. Charge 50p, payable on the day.

SATURDAY MAY 7th

"Dawn Chorus"

An early morning walk around the Museum's woodland led by A & R Tiffensor.

A chance to hear birdsong and observe wildlife. Meet 5 am in the Museum Car Park. Finish 7.30 am. Charge £3 to include breakfast refreshments. Limited number. Please apply in writing to Museum Office to participate.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9th

A walk around Bignor to view archaeological sites and recent excavations at the Roman Villa. Led by F Aldsworth, County Archaeologist.

Meet at 10.30 am at Roman Villa car par. Charge £2.50 to include entrance to Roman Villa, payable on the day.

EDUCATION

A Carnegie Interpret Britain Award for "Track Back"

The Weald and Downland Museum and the Goodwood Estate jointly have been presented with one of four awards under last year's Carnegie Interpret Britain Awards Scheme. The award was given for a family discovery pack called 'Track Back', which takes people on two trails dealing with the use of timber, today and in the past. The historical aspects of timber are dealt with at the Museum and the modern aspects are dealt with on a walk through the forests of the Goodwood Estate. The pack actively involves the whole family and it is this concept that attracted the attention of the Carnegie Awards scheme.

The publication was written by Elizabeth Newbery, Education Officer for the Museum and for the West Sussex Countryside Studies Trust, based at the Goodwood Estate. It was designed by Susan England.

His Grace, The Duke of Abercorn, presented the award at a special ceremony in the Harbour Office, Belfast.

The Award Scheme is organised by the Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage, with financial backing from the Carnegie UK Trust.

The other Awards given in 1987 were:

- **CARE Project Countryside Playscheme, Barnsley**

A scheme designed to involve young people

in a wide range of countryside projects. The scheme spans work in schools, the local community and doorstep environment and the wider countryside.

- **Giant's Causeway Centre, Co. Antrim**

A major visitor centre catering for over 200,000 visitors illustrating the history, beauty and legend of the Causeway coast area using panels, models, VDU's and AV.

- **Explore Surrey's Countryside**

A programme of guided walks, self-guided trails and a mobile information centre to stimulate the greater use and understanding of the countryside by local people. Organised by Surrey County Council.

Publicity At Shows And Parades

For a number of years the Museum's caravan display has travelled to shows and other sites throughout the area. This method of contacting potential visitors is most useful, and for those taking part, enjoyable.

This year we shall once again be attending a number of events, from the New Forest in the west, to Sevenoaks in the east, and in Regents Park to the north. The Caravan is one way in which we draw attention to ourselves; another is by taking part in parades and events with the cart horse William and his timber wagon. This turnout is often supplemented by the addition of our Sussex Wagon pulled by the Shire horses belonging to Bob Robinson of Dorking. This will again be the case at the Regents Park Parade on Easter Monday and at the May Parade on the May Bank Holiday in Portsmouth. The two turnouts together make an impressive sight.

The wagon will also be used in the Chichester Gala, and at the Walton on Thames Parade.

At all these events we need help to make the effort as successful as possible. For the caravan we need people to take part in the rota, and on the parades, people to join us in giving out leaflets. Anyone who would like to come and help please let Richard Pailthorpe know.

South of England Show

This year the Museum's display at the South of England Show will be rather different.

We shall be mounting a display that shows the modern and the traditional methods of

Charcoal Burning. A traditional kiln will be built in section and a metal retort, previously burned, will be on site.

These will be supported by background information and by the Museum's usual caravan display.

For a number of years the Museum has been invited to mount a display in the Forest and Wildlife section of the show. We have found that this is a very suitable part of the show to be associated with. The three day show attracts over 200,000 visitors and gives us many opportunities to promote the interests of the Museum.

The dates are 9th/10th/11th June.



William drawing the timber carriage with Alan Waters and Chris Zeuner, preparing to demonstrate timber loading at the Southern Counties Heavy Horse Association's Spring Working, 1987.

A Schools' Art and Design Course based at Goodwood House

The Museum's post of education officer is shared with the West Sussex Countryside Studies Trust, based at Goodwood. Besides running both education departments independently, the post often involves projects which include both establishments.

One such activity is a schools' art and design project initiated and organised by Sylvia Kopecek, arts adviser for West Sussex County Council. It involves two schools working alongside Zadok Ben-David, a sculptor who works mainly in metal, and whose work is often inspired by animals.

Ben-David and the children will all work from a series of paintings by George Stubbs, in Goodwood House, of the 3rd Duke of Richmond and members of his family hunting, shooting and watching race horses exercise. They will also visit the racecourse and the stables at Goodwood where they will draw the horses from life.

They will be studying the buildings at the Museum associated with horses such as the forge, stable, wagon shed and Court Barn, and no doubt William too.

The project is being part funded by West Sussex County Council and part by Southern Arts.

Elizabeth Newbery

Association of Independent Museums Seminar at the Museum

As part of a series of Seminars arranged by AIM that looks at the ethics of conservation and restoration, a seminar that will concentrate on building conservation will be held at the Museum. The series known as "George Washington's Axe — Two Heads, Five Handles" has considered technological material (at the Boat Museum in 1986), rural and agricultural material (at the Museum of East Anglian Life), and the final part of the series on Buildings takes place on July 8th in Crawley Hall.

Non-members of AIM may take part and details will be available from the Museum office.

AIM Hon. Secretary

Chris Zeuner has been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Association of Independent Museums. For the last 10 years Chris has been Hon. Treasurer of the Association, of which he is a founder member of its Council.

The Association seeks to promote the interests of Museums that are independent of public authorities, representing their needs to government, to local authorities and other organisations.

It also runs an active programme of Seminars designed to improve standards in Museums and also to provide opportunities for those involved in independent museums to meet and exchange ideas and experience.

During the time in which Chris was Treasurer of the Association, the book keeping was undertaken by Mrs Dorothy Kent, one of this Museum's longest serving volunteers.

Dendrochronology at the Museum

The prospects for future dendrochronology at the Museum have been much enhanced by three recent events. The first was that Ian Tyers, a dendrochronologist working for the Museum of London, has agreed to help us by analysing and dating samples. Most of Ian's work is with samples obtained in archaeological digs in the Greater London area, so he is probably the closest dendrochronologist, geographically, to the Museum.

The second event was the generous gift, last summer, of a set of core-borers made by the technical workshop of the City of London Polytechnic, through the good offices of Gwyn Meirion-Jones. They are of an improved design which Professor Meirion-Jones has developed through his work in taking cores for dendrochronology from buildings in northern France. They allow a slender core to be taken from timbers in standing buildings, leaving only a small hole in the timber which can be plugged so as to become almost invisible.

Finally, desktop microcomputers have dropped in price and increased dramatically in speed. The Atari computer used by Ian Tyers now takes only seconds to perform the matching of a single sample against a master curve, whereas previously it took minutes or even hours. Thus the prospects for research have been greatly widened.

Ian Tyers has so far dealt with samples from four buildings at the Museum:

House extension from Reigate. Samples of attic floorboards came from trees felled in the early 17th century. Unfortunately some sapwood is missing, so the dating is rather imprecise since the number of sapwood rings can vary quite widely.

Cowfold barn. Slices were taken from the ends of two of the wall plates — in such a way as to be undetectable when the building is re-erected. One of them retained all of its sapwood rings, right to the bark surface, so we can say that it was felled in the winter of 1535-36.

Horsham shop. Two slices were taken from timbers not used in the reconstruction because of their poor condition. Unfortunately they have fewer rings than necessary (about 70 rings is usually reckoned to be the minimum required), so they cannot yet be dated.

Winkhurst Farm. In the course of changing the staircase arrangements slices were taken from the ends of the three joists that had been trimmed for the stairs. They have large numbers of rings but cannot be dated because the patterns resulting from woodland management — possibly the periodic 'shredding' of the trees — overlays and conceals the climatic pattern.

In all four cases research is continuing and it may well be possible to date the buildings more closely when cores are taken from other timbers for analysis. We are grateful to the Sussex Archaeological Society's Margary Research Fund for a grant supporting this research.

As well as working on these Museum buildings, Ian Tyers and I have successfully dated two other structures in the region. Harmondsworth barn, a magnificent building very close to Heathrow Airport, has been dated to the 1420's. Of more interest to readers living in Sussex will be the fact that the timber spire of Sompting Church, previously thought to have been pre-Conquest, was built in about 1310-20! A study of Sompting Church by Fred Aldsworth and myself has been completed and will be published next year.

Richard Harris

What Is Dendrochronology?

Dendrochronology is the science — or art — of dating trees by measuring the widths of the annual growth rings and comparing the result with a master curve built up from many dated samples and spanning a long period. If the curve being tested has a close 'fit' with the master curve at one particular position we can calculate the statistical probability of such a close fit arising purely by chance. If the probability is extremely low then it is very likely that the test curve has been correctly positioned on the master and, therefore, its date is known.

The theory lying behind dendrochronology is that climatic variations, year by year, are similar over quite wide areas, so that in dry years trees put on very little growth while in wet years they grow very fast. One problem that arises is that trees grown in soil which does not dry out significantly in dry years — so-called 'fast-grown' trees with very wide rings — do not respond to climatic changes sufficiently strongly to produce usable data. Another problem is that a sample must have a large number of rings, usually at least 70, to make dating possible; it is surprising how many large timbers turn out to be extremely fast-grown and to have very few rings. Also the sample must have some sapwood. If the latest ring is still heartwood it is impossible to estimate how many further heartwood rings have been removed. Best of all is a sample with all its sapwood rings right to the bark surface. Finally, of course, dendrochronology can tell us when a tree was felled but not when the timber was used. Most of the evidence suggests that the gap between felling and use was not more than a year or two at most, but it is always possible that a particular tree may have been kept in stock for a much longer period.

To measure the rings you must have either a slice or a core so that the cross-section can be examined. Slices are best, but they are not often obtainable from standing buildings! Cores can also be used very successfully but it is best to take several to guard against the presence of unforeseen irregularities of growth in particular areas of the cross section. Photographs of end grain, for instance the ends of jettied floor joists, can sometimes be used. The use of ultra-sound scanning has been considered but not yet successfully employed. Ian Tyers has used an X-ray Computer Tomography scanner (normally used to produce images of slices of patients for medical diagnosis) successfully on a group of timbers excavated from the Billingsgate waterfront, a technique which is completely non-destructive but expensive and extremely difficult to organise!

Medieval London Artifacts find a place at Singleton

One of the many finds made in London waterfront excavations last year is to have a permanent home at Singleton, and another is to be used to assist in the creation of replica medieval items for the Bayleaf complex.

The revetments of London's waterfronts commonly contain re-used timber. Last summer Jim Hunter, Site Director for the Abbots Lane excavation (for the Southwark and Lambeth section of the Department of Greater London Archaeology of the Museum of London) identified a re-used medieval door as part of the revetment. In its waterlogged state it is quite well preserved, but no funds are available for conservation so it must either be kept waterlogged or destroyed. The Museum has agreed to build a shallow tank in which it can be preserved for study.

Another exciting find was made last summer on the excavation at 37 Bankside — the site where it is intended that a reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre should be built. Site Director Peter Thompson identified some planks in the revetment as re-used pieces of a wooden wheelbarrow, probably of late medieval date. These are being specially conserved by Portsmouth City Museum, using the techniques applied to material from the Mary Rose, and will eventually be exhibited at the Museum of London. In the meantime, however, full-size tracings have been made, and will be used by Roger Champion as part of the evidence for building conjectural, but well-researched, late medieval wheelbarrows for the Bayleaf complex.

The Brooking Collection

With the help of a grant from the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Museum has been able to acquire selected items from The Brooking Collection.

The Collection comprises architectural details from 1660 to the 1960s and has been built up over the last 25 years by Charles Brooking. It now numbers some 25,000 items. A selection from the Collection was on show at the Museum during the 1986 Building Conservation Festival.

Much of the Collection is outside the direct interest of the Museum and a careful selection has been made that will contribute to the Museum's own growing collection of building parts.

The Brooking Collection was shown at the Building Centre in London in 1986 where the importance of the Collection for the use of professionals involved in old buildings and its value as an educational resource could be seen.

The bulk of the collection is housed at Charles' home, in a series of sheds. Indeed, it now overflows every available space. There are plans for another institution to hold part of the Collection. As soon as possible we intend to make available that part of the Collection that is at Singleton. At first it will be stored at Charlton in the main barn. In due course it will be arranged in such a way as to make reference possible.

During July a part of the Collection will feature as 'item of the month' at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

New Miller for Lurgashall Mill

Robert Demaus, after a number of years operating the Mill under licence, has decided to move to the West Midlands now that he has finished his training in Civil Engineering.

Robert was responsible for taking over the Mill when restoration was part complete, and seeing the project through to the point when flour suitable for sale could be produced.

The sales of the Mill have been built up and it is now one of the most successful 'live' parts of the Museum.

The job of taking on the project has been given to Neil Wilkins. Neil, who lives in Lavant, has been assisting Robert for some time. He will be running the project, developing the sales and planning the rota of 'volunteer millers' who enable the Mill to be operating throughout the season. Neil joins the staff of the Museum, and during the winter he will be employed on a variety of maintenance tasks. He is particularly concerned to develop some new customers for the flour in local towns and villages.



Neil Wilkins weighing flour in the Mill.

BAYLEAF PRINTS

The sale of Limited Edition signed prints of Bayleaf Farmhouse by Gordon Beningfield, has been a great success so far, and more copies are available through the Museum Shop. When all are finally sold the project should raise about £6,000.

OAM'S and Environmental Education

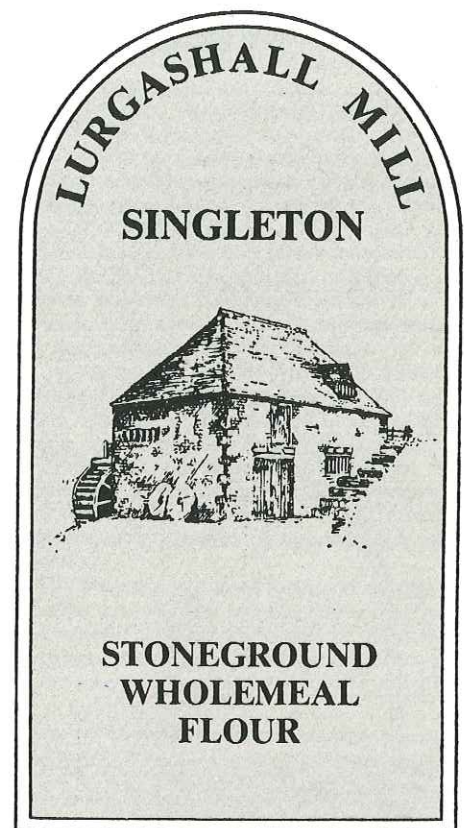
Chris Zeuner is representing the UK on a special committee of the Council of Europe looking at the role which open air museums might be encouraged to play in environmental education throughout Europe. It is likely that the meetings will lead to a conference to be held in West Germany next year.

MUSEUM COOKBOOK

Thoughts are at an early stage for the production of a cookery or recipe book in 1989 in connection with British Food & Farming Year.

The idea is that it should be very relevant to the museum.

Specialist advice from historians, editors, publishers, illustrators, etc would be very welcome. A small working party is to be formed. Please let the Museum Office know if you can help.



Does your local store stock our stoneground wholemeal flour?

We are looking for more retail outlets but transport costs often make it unprofitable to deliver small amounts. Therefore, we are looking for stewards or friends who could pick up flour (usually sold in packs of 10 x 1.5kg) on their days at the Museum and deliver it to shops in their area. Most shops only take about one pack of ten every couple of months so it is not too big a commitment.

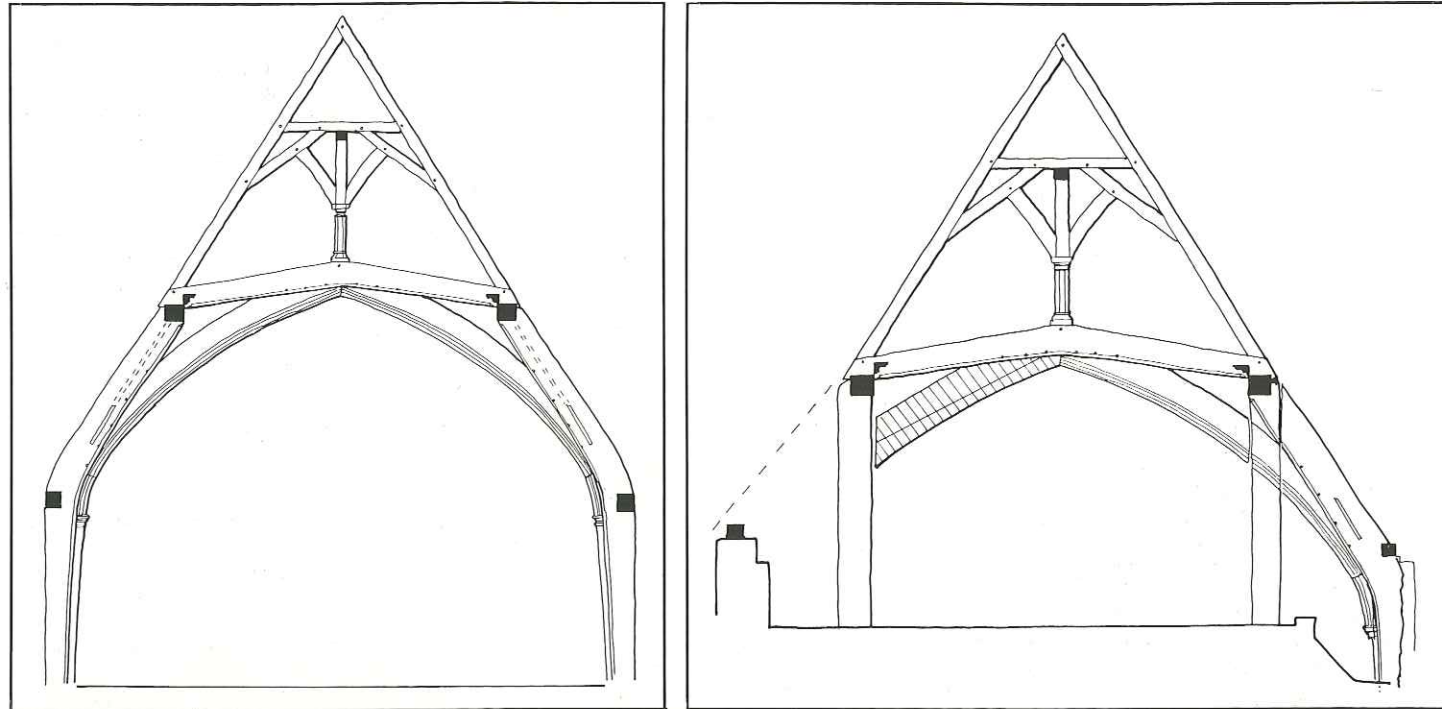
We are particularly looking for people to do this in the Bognor, Emsworth and Petworth areas where we presently have no sales at all, but wherever you live, if you think you might be able to help please see the miller, Neil Wilkins, at Lurgashall Mill.

Neil Wilkins

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to Jackie and Robert Demaus on the birth of their son, Anthony, on Wednesday 20 January.

Medieval Hall from Chislehurst, Kent



Left: The base cruck truss in its probable original form at Manor Farm, St. Mary Cray.
Right: The base cruck truss as reconstructed at Scadbury Manor in 1936. From tie beam upwards the structure is well preserved, but below that level it is fragmentary. Only one cruck blade and one original arch brace survived, and floor level was raised by 6-8 feet. Posts were inserted under the arcade plate, and this necessitated mutilating the cruck and arch brace. The posts themselves are of interest, however, as they probably came from the original 'spere truss' between the hall and cross passage.

IN Autumn 1986 we reported that the Museum had been offered the remains of a medieval hall from Chislehurst, Kent, of base cruck construction. Dismantling was carried out in November 1987 by Paul Russell, and the timbers are now in store at the Museum awaiting detailed examination.

The building has had an unusual history. For most of its life since the 14th century it was Manor Farm, St. Mary Cray. The surviving remains consisted of a hall and cross wing, together with a porch in the angle between them. The hall had a central truss of base cruck construction, a classic example in its pure 'aisle derivative' form, and the hall, cross wing and porch all had moulded crown posts.

In 1936 the building was to be demolished, but the medieval timbers were recognised and saved by Philip Street, a local architect with a lifelong interest in the historic buildings of the area. No drawings were made, unfortunately, but Street was a keen photographer and his photographic record of the building consists of about forty five excellent pictures, with a full written commentary. These have enabled us to reconstruct the plan of Manor Farm with reasonable accuracy.

After the demolition the owner of the nearby Scadbury Estate, H. S. Marsham-Townshend, purchased the timbers and had them re-erected on the moated site of Scadbury Manor in the form of a picturesque garden house. The reconstruction effectively preserved many of the timbers but was not very faithful to the original

design. In essence, only the hall was rebuilt, but some timbers from the porch and cross wing were incorporated in it. The height of the building was reduced by some 6-8 feet, and the structure was embellished with large quantities of fake gothic elements. A minstrels' gallery was invented, and medieval banquets were held.

The dwelling house at Scadbury, where H. S. Masham-Townshend lived, was a Victorian mansion outside the moat. It was destroyed by fire in 1976 following the death of the last resident owner, Major J. Marsham-Townshend, and the condition of the garden house and the medieval timbers deteriorated rapidly. Fires were started by vandals and the building became dangerous. Miraculously, however, it escaped damage in the October hurricane and was successfully dismantled in November.

The Scadbury Estate was purchased by Bromley Council in 1983, since when it has been much improved. New paths have been created to allow public access to areas of special interest. The moated site is being dug by members of the Orpington & District Archaeological Society, and we are much indebted to them and to the London Borough of Bromley for their help in achieving a successful dismantling.

The timbers are safely in store, but reconstruction of the building will not be possible for some time, if at all. Our only commitment is to store the timbers, to study them, and to publish the results, and we hope that they will be examined

in detail this summer. They are important, indeed priceless, medieval remains, but their condition is in most cases so poor that any reconstruction would be very largely, if not completely, a replica.

Richard Harris

West Germans to Visit Buildings in the South

Arbeitskreis für Hausforschung, the West German equivalent of the Vernacular Architecture Group, is to hold its 1988 annual conference in this country, based in the South of England.

The conference, which takes place in September, is to be organised by Richard Harris who will be arranging field trips and visits for the delegates.

Open Air Museum for Madeira?

Chris Zeuner travelled to Madeira recently with Klaus Ahrens, President of the European Association of Open Air Museums, to advise the Department of Tourism and Culture on the establishment of an open air museum in the old part of the island's capital, Funchal.

The Organisation of the Museum

by Jimmy Woollings, Hon Secretary and Treasurer

It is now two years since the Museum Trustees adopted revised Articles of Association which made considerable changes in the manner in which the Museum was controlled. Prior to November 1985 the Council of Management, consisting of all the Trustees, was responsible for the direction of all matters concerning the general operations; certain authority was given to a General Finance and Purpose Committee and the Museum Director was responsible for all the day to day operations.

At the time of the change, the Trustees appointed an Executive Board from their own membership, that Board having the responsibility for the management of the Museum and having to report back to the Trustees at least three times a year. This arrangement does not diminish the responsibilities of the Trustees who still must establish and maintain the public policy, financial viability, safeguard and care of collections, and oversee the collections' acquisitions policy. Thus it will be appreciated at the Trustee Meetings that the Board have an onerous duty to report to their fellow Trustees.

The President of the Museum acts as Chairman at all meetings of the Trustees and it is indeed fortunate that our present President takes a keen and active part in the Museum's affairs. The Vice-Presidents have all been of considerable assistance to the Museum and they continue to show an on-going interest.

The Executive Board appoints the Museum Director and Research Director. All other staff are appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Director who has full responsibility for day to day management of the Museum's affairs within a financial budget agreed by the Board and subsequently by the Trustees.

Costings and work schedules are prepared by the Director and his staff each autumn for the following year, agreed with the Treasurer who presents them to the Board and Trustees. There is then the need for continual monitoring of the financial position with monthly figures being produced. Whilst the income from entry fees and profits from the shop covers all normal outgoings there is continual

need for fund raising for the Development Fund and it is through this fund that all the new buildings and additions to the collections are financed.

The Trustees, Board and Staff are assisted by the Friends in the major task of raising money and all efforts in this direction are on going and so important to the future of the Museum and the displaying of its collections together with additions to the amenities on the site.

There is one committee which has continued since the start of the Museum and that is the Sites & Buildings Advisory Committee; as its name implies it is a specialist body that advises on matters concerning the buildings and site. In moulding the way in which the Museum has developed, this committee has had more effect than any other group. It has spent long hours considering the details of landscaping the siting of buildings and complicated and sometimes insoluble problems of interpretation of the historic buildings. The Committee consists of a number of experts, staff and Trustees.

The Museum is indeed fortunate to have an effective and efficient organisation where there can be full and frank exchanges on all matters to further the original thoughts and proposals of the founder, Roy Armstrong, who still gives us a guiding hand.

MUSEUMS AT LARGE

The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum is one of the larger independently-funded museums and an important part of the tourist/leisure industry in the South of England. Partly by its own efforts and partly in its capacity as one of the founder members of AIM, (Association of Independent Museums) the Museum has influenced and been influenced by the wider world of museums at large, both in this country and abroad, and we can learn a lot by looking at other museums' activities.

I hope you find this digest of goings-on in the wider world of museums of interest.

★ ★ ★

In some places there are just too many museums for comfort. Terry Suthers, the outgoing Curator of the Yorkshire Museum, warned recently that the rash of new heritage developments in North Yorkshire could be detrimental. Advisory services would have to be boosted to ensure high standards, and more grant aid would be necessary to carry out the advice, he said. "It is my view that care of collections and the financial viability of some museums may become major issues if the rate of expansion is allowed to develop at anything like that experienced in the past decade," he added.

★ ★ ★

The London Transport Museum ran an unsuccessful experiment recently. They started a "Stay and Pay" scheme in which visitors were able to enjoy the first half-hour free but had to pay (£2.40 for adults) if they stayed for longer. They hoped this would boost their visitor numbers. But when the half-hour struck there was a rush for the door! Only 25 per cent stayed on to pay the charge. The scheme was abandoned and life returned to normal. At least they tried.

★ ★ ★

Robert Hewison's recently-published book "The Heritage Industry" caused a stir among all those responsible for presenting our history, and not a little criticism. To cut a long story short, his argument is that our interest in heritage is indicative of a dying society: we are spending too much time looking back and not enough looking forward. "While the real economy crumbles a new force is taking over, the Heritage Industry, a movement dedicated to turning the British Isles into one vast open-air museum," he says.

Not fair! we shout, although it should be said there are certainly points on the book worth examining more closely. However, David Sekers, Chairman of AIM, put the museums' view succinctly in the AIM Bulletin when he said: "What we don't want to perpetuate is a nostalgic, unhistorical view of the past. If we are accused of this, then our response must be to establish and underline the nature of the museum, its purpose and the historical approach which it adopts. It is nothing for us to be ashamed of if, within this framework, visitors appear to be enjoying themselves ...

"The past is a necessary yardstick, by which change can be measured. Further our museum collections represent a "gene bank" for the inspiration of our own and future generations ...

Mr Sekers ends: "My own feeling is that the country's enthusiasm for its heritage may soon have passed its peak; and that independent museums should have enough riches, and sense, to survive."

★ ★ ★

AIM recently became the first organisation to publish a booklet dealing with "The Role of Trustees in Independent Museums". Much of the guidance given in the booklet is also relevant to other institutions established as charitable trusts.

"The plain fact is that many of the conscientious people who take on a trusteeship are not aware of their actual responsibilities, especially their legal and financial responsibilities," said the AIM Bulletin. "In a crisis this lack of awareness could prove irreparably damaging to the projects they seek to help. However, well-chosen and dedicated trustees who have an accurate understanding of their role can make the difference between a mediocre project and a great project."

David Biart, former chairman of the OAM, contributed to the Trustees Booklet.

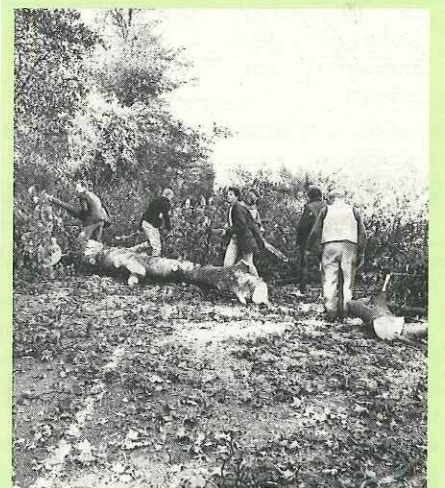
★ ★ ★

The Ryedale Folk Museum at Hutton-le-Hole last year staged the first national championship of the ancient game of Merrills, otherwise known as Nine Men's Morris. The 3,000-year-old game, was popular in the dales of Yorkshire. Locally it is played with wooden pegs and boards, but in medieval times it was played with Morris Men as the pieces. (Is there scope here for a new event at the Museum?!)

★ ★ ★

Diana Zeuner

THE STORM



Museum staff and local people clearing the main A286 of fallen trees.

The great storm of last October fortunately did comparatively little damage to the Museum.

Many of the trees on the roadside fell, and a number of mature trees in the woodland have also been damaged. The most sad damage is that sustained to the coppice where a number of the Hornbeams came down. The replacement programme for these mature trees was started some years ago so we have a head start.

The buildings survived well; many have been damaged a little, mostly tiles and thatch. Court Barn suffered the worst damage, but we were well served by local thatchers, Tompkins and Croucher, who made very quick repairs.

The clearing up of fallen trees has been very time consuming and will have affected other winter work, indeed much will remain to be done into next winter.

Many members of the Friends telephoned when the lines had been repaired to enquire how the Museum fared: we are grateful for this concern.

MONEY MATTERS

The Development Fund launched four years ago has raised over £200,000, all of which has been spent on the Horsham, Reigate and Bayleaf projects.

At least another £70,000 is needed to complete these. For this a fresh approach, with a well-designed folder of information, is now being made to grant-giving trusts and to companies, with the offer of sponsorship opportunities. This is in addition to all the usual, and unusual, ways of raising funds.

Can you help please?

Here are some suggestions:

- Support the "Site-Call" ride — a sponsored cycle ride by Alan Waters to the original sites of the Museum's exhibits.
- Support the Grand Autumn Plant Sale.
- Arrange a fund-raising event of your own in your home area, such as an open garden or a quiz.
- Provide personal introductions to trusts and companies.
- Persuade your friends and families to join the Museum Friends. There is also a Corporate Membership for companies, clubs and societies.
- Give regularly a small part of your pay or employment pension to the Museum instead of to the taxman, through the new "Give As You Earn" scheme.
- Make a larger donation by Deed of Covenant.
- Be forward thinking — the long-term future of the Museum's development will also rely on the support you give now by mentioning it in your Will.

Carol Hawkins, Hon. Secretary of the Friends, looks forward to receiving ideas or answering questions c/o the Museum or on 0252 726195.

A Thank-you to the Volunteer Stewards

I welcome the opportunity given by the enlarged newsletter to say a special thank-you for the invaluable work carried out by the Museum's volunteer stewards.

Their contribution to the day to day running of the Museum is enormous and is the envy of many similar establishments: without them the Museum would not exist.

At the time of writing we have 135 active stewards. We inevitably lose the services of some each year, but are fortunate that new volunteers always come forward to fill the gaps. I am not complacent however and I shall be pleased to hear from anyone interested in helping!

The duties involve interpretation of the exhibits, conducting guided tours, assisting with the reception of the public at the ticket offices and car parks, the staffing of the Museum shop and the watermill.

Keith Bickmore

Site-Call Ride

A sponsored cycle ride with a difference!

Alan Waters of the Museum staff has offered to test his strength again, following his successful sponsored ride from Lands End to John O'Groats when he raised over £1,200 for the Museum.

This time, on 11th and 12th May, his route will wind around S. E. England visiting the original sites of the Museum's exhibits. He aims to call at every site of buildings or structures already re-erected at the Museum, plus the Petersfield brick-drying shed and Cowfold Barn which are soon to go up.

There are 38 sites in an area stretching from Titchfield, Hampshire (the Market Hall) in the South West of the Museum's region to North Cray, Kent (the red-timbered hall house) in its North East and from Windlesham, Surrey (the carpenters shop) in the North West to Pevensey, East Sussex (the windpump) in the South East corner. At each site he will either obtain a signature or send off a postcard to register his call.

Sponsorship is to be calculated per site-call. Use the form enclosed with the magazine or, to help you collect more sponsorship from your friends, families or colleagues, multiple sponsorship forms are available from the Museum.

The distance is a secret because you are invited to have a guess. The nearest "guesstimate" to the correct distance, as recorded on Alan's bicycle milometer for the whole ride, will receive a voucher to the value of £25 to spend in the Museum shop. You may enter the competition if you sponsor at least 5p per site-call on the slip below and return it with the money by 11th May. In the event of more than one winning guess, the final winner will be decided by a draw.

A friendly face or emergency help. If you live near any of the sites it would be helpful and encouraging if Alan could have your name, address and telephone number. If you could make a point of looking out for him, so much the better. A detailed list of the sites and estimated time of arrival at each will be available nearer the time.

Publicity. Museum supporters can, please, help by spreading the word along the route in their own locality to give publicity to the ride — and hence also to the Museum. Information will be sent as widely as possible to local papers, local radio and TV and to the owners of the sites.

Grand Autumn Plant Sale

Saturday 1st/Sunday 2nd

October 1988

HELP NEEDED

The purpose of the sale, which will be held in a marquee at the Museum, is to raise money for the Bayleaf Garden Project.

Items for sale will not only include cuttings, seedlings and plants you have divided from your own gardens, but fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, jams and preserves (*not cakes*). Also garden accessories, e.g. cushions, aprons, kneelers, boot jacks, bird tables and feeders, tools, labels, string etc.

Help is needed for the following:-

1. Advertise the event among your friends and ask for plants etc.
2. Co-ordinators willing to collect goods from their village/friends and deliver to the Museum on the previous Thursday or Friday.

3. People willing to contact their local garden centre/shop and ask for donations in kind — (NB Please contact Virginia Lyon before doing this so that the same shop does not get asked twice).

Points to note:

1. Please do *not* use cream cartons etc for putting plants in. Plastic pots or black plastic bags look much better.
2. Please suggest a price for all items if possible.
3. Label all plants clearly.

Please will anyone who would like to help in any way contact: Virginia Lyon, Timbers, School Hill, Slindon, Arundel BN18 0RA. Tel: Slindon 382.

GLORIOUS GOODWOOD Afternoon Race Meeting Tuesday, June 7th

The Earl of March and Goodwood Racecourse Ltd have once again very generously arranged a race in the name of the Museum and are offering the Friends the opportunity to watch the racing from the Richmond Enclosure.

The Weald and Downland Museum Stakes will be run during the afternoon of Tuesday, June 7th. The Richmond Enclosure badges are being offered at a considerable discount and included in the price will be a glass of wine or soft drink.

Last year's Race was very well supported by the Friends despite the dreadful weather. We are hoping that many of you will once again take advantage of Goodwood's generous offer. The race is for 3 year old Maidens and will hopefully attract more runners than last year!

Please note that for administrative purposes, the badges, and further information about race times and refreshments will be sent out at the end of May.

Friends Evening Visit to Hampshire Farm Museum: Wednesday, June 22nd

The Friends and Curator of the Hampshire Farm Museum invite us to join them at their museum at Manor Farm, Upper Hamble Country Park, Botley (near Southampton) at 7.30pm for a guided tour of the Museum by the Curator, Ian Edelmänn, followed by coffee and biscuits.

Transport will be in private cars. Please complete the form and let Carol Hawkins

have it c/o the Weald & Downland Museum as soon as possible so that drivers and passengers can be matched up and starting points agreed.

The cost will be £1.50 per person payable to the Friends of the Weald & Downland Museum. Contribution towards petrol will be agreed between drivers and passengers (suggested 5p per mile approx).

VISIT TO USA

If sufficient members of the Friends and supporters express an interest, a visit to either New England or Virginia will be organised for the "fall" of 1989. The suggestion is to go for say, 10 days, to visit open air museums, and other related institutions. A very approximate cost would be £800, to include flight, coach travel and hotel accommodation. If in principle you are interested, please let Carol Hawkins know, c/o the Museum, preferably by the end of April this year.

Junior Friends Ever-Popular

The Junior Friends are again planning a programme of monthly meetings and the Summer School during the Summer Holidays.

The Group has remained popular and membership is high. There is a waiting list of people wanting to join. The Junior Friends are organised by Elizabeth Newbery, the Museum's Education Officer, assisted by a number of volunteers.

More volunteer helpers, preferably with experience of running activities with young children, are needed. Anyone who is interested should contact Elizabeth Newbery at the Museum.

The Friends of the Museum 1987/88 Committee

Chairman: Sir James Waddell CB
Vice Chairman and members: Miss Virginia Lyon
Hon Secretary: Miss Carol Hawkins
Hon Treasurer: Mr A Bernard Rush

Members

Miss Ethel Buyver
Dr D Bruce Pailthorpe
Mr Nick Hutson
Mr Peter Vincent
Mrs Kathryn Gunns
Mr John Hutson
Mr George Bevis
Mrs Eve Becher
Mr T (Mike) Doran
Mrs Mary Hum
Mr Stan Snow

Ex-officio: Mr Christopher Zeuner
Co-opted: Mr Richard Pailthorpe and Mr Keith Bickmore

Forms... Forms... Forms... Forms... Forms...

Please see the enclosed sheet for booking forms etc. to go with some articles on these pages.

Friends Subscription Form

If you are not already a member of the Friends, why not support the Museum and use the form below to join.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
I wish to become a member of the Friends of the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum and enclose my subscription. (Please enter amount with class of Membership required)

Individual Membership *(minimum £6)

£

Special Membership Rate for OAPs *(minimum £4)

£

Full name and title (in block letters)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Post Code

Signature

Date

Family Membership (household of two adults with or without children under 18 years old) *(minimum £11)

£

*It is hoped that many people will feel able to subscribe more than these minimum rates.

Societies and companies are welcomed as members. Please write for details.

Singleton, West Sussex (0243 63)348

March	12	Museum Trustees Seminar	22	Museum late opening until dusk	
	13	Special Mothers' Day Opening	22	Friends Evening visit to Hampshire Farm Museum, Botley	
	23	Volunteers' Briefing Session	July	8	Association of Independent Museums seminar at the Museum: Building Conservation
	26	Volunteers' Briefing Session		9	Southern Early Music Forum, 2.30pm-5pm in the Market Square. A chance to join in informal dancing, to early music coached by John Dibden.
	27	Main Season starts		9	Junior Friends Meeting
April	1	Cowfold Barn re-erection commences	9-10	Display caravan at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, and Museum stand at Smallholders Self-Sufficiency Show at Ardingly	
	4	Regents Park Parade (William and wagon)	20	Museum late opening until dusk	
	9	Junior Friends Meeting	24	Show for Rare Breeds, in association with the Sussex Rare Breeds Survival Trust Support Group	
	10	Sargeant's Tree Walk. A walk to Sargeant's Tree in Charlton Forest — History & Legend — led by Richard Pailthorpe	25-30	Summer School — Junior Friends	
	14-18	Friends Trip to Cheshire	27-28	Display caravan at New Forest Show, Brockenhurst	
May	26	Teachers' Workshop at the Museum	August	1-31	Special Daily Demonstrations and Activity Programme. Further details available from Museum Office:
	27	Ironbridge Institute seminar at the Museum: Period Paint: The imitation of natural materials		5-7	Exhibition of Building Conservation
	1	Novice Sheep Dog Trials		24	Museum late opening until dusk
	2	Portsmouth May Day Parade (William and wagon)	September	10	Junior Friends Meeting
	7	Dawn Chorus. An early morning walk around the Museum's woodland led by A & R Tittensor	October	1-2	Friends of the Museum Grand Autumn Plant Sale
June	7	Junior Friends Meeting	8	Junior Friends Meeting	
	8	Display caravan at Cowpie Rally, Nr Dorking	9	Bignor Walk. Archeological sites including the Roman Villa — led by F. Aldsworth	
	11-12	Sitecall Ride. Sponsored cycle ride by A. Waters in aid of the Development Fund.	16	Display caravan at Southern Counties Ploughing Match	
	30	Display caravan at Surrey Show, Guildford	22-23	Steam Threshing. Ploughing with Horses and Vintage Tractors	
	4-5	Sheep Shearing and Spinning Demonstrations	November	12	Friends of the Museum AGM at County Hall, Chichester
June	7	The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum Stakes. Goodwood Afternoon Race meeting	December	19	Carol Service — 7.30pm
	9-11	Display caravan at South of England Show, Ardingly	20	Junior Friends Party	
	11	Junior Friends Meeting	26-January	2	Christmas Opening
	12	Heavy Horses at Singleton in association with the Southern Counties Heavy Horse Association			
	15	Trustees' AGM			
	17	Longleys' 125th Birthday Party at the Museum (private party)			



Hon Secretary of the Friends:
Carol Hawkins
Hon Treasurer of the Friends:
A. B. Rush, Black Lion Cottage,
Cocking Causeway, Midhurst,
West Sussex