

WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM MAGAZINE

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Dr Alan Hayes Appointed Museum's New Chairman

Dr Alan Hayes CBE of Fernhurst, West Sussex has been appointed Chairman of the Museum Trust following the retirement of Nigel Stephens.

Dr Hayes, a Trustee of the Museum for six years, recently retired as Chief Executive Officer of ICI International Agrochemicals and Seeds.

Dr Hayes joined ICI in 1945, serving for over 25 years in ICI Pharmaceuticals before being appointed Chairman of the Plant Protection Division in 1979. He became Group Chief Planner at Head Office in 1983 and moved to his final post in 1985. His professional commitments led to membership of the Biochemical Society, RASE and RHS. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Chairman of the European Trade Committee, a member of the British Overseas Trade Board and a Vice President of the Society of the Chemical Industry.



Dr Alan Hayes



Christopher Zeuner

LONGPORT HOUSE *Museum offered Building by Eurotunnel Group*

The Museum has been given the chance to acquire an interesting house from the site of the Channel Tunnel Terminus at Cheriton, near Folkestone.

The building is to be dismantled to make way for part of the Terminus facilities and has been presented to the Museum by the Eurotunnel Group.

The house is a complicated building consisting of a medieval range attached to a 16th century crosswing. There are also 17th and 18th century changes. At this stage the analysis of the building has not been completed.

The house will be dismantled by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, working together with the Museum. Richard Harris will be responsible for the recording of the house. The Canterbury Archaeological Trust has already undertaken an investigation of the site and the building and they will be completing this work.

The cost of dismantling and re-

erecting the historic structure will be met by Eurotunnel. The project provides the Museum with an opportunity to solve a very pressing problem. For many years we have needed an improved arrangement for visitor reception and Longport House can provide the solution. The generous support of Eurotunnel for the rescue of the building will supply the key to the resolution of this long sought-after improvement to the Museum's facilities and at the same time an interesting building will have been given a new home and a new life.

At the time of writing, the plans and decisions are at too early a stage to elaborate. However, the time scale is such that progress will be rapid. The building must be removed from its site by early November. A planning requirement also stipulates that it should be re-erected within 18 months.

The Spring magazine will carry details of the final form of the project.

Dr Hayes is also a member of the Council of the University of Surrey and Chairman of the Executive Finance Committee and member of the Council of King Edward VII Hospital. He was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours List in January 1992.

His new task will be to steer the Museum through the difficult early years of the 1990's to the more buoyant period expected at the end of the decade, whilst retaining the vision and values of its founders. At the Museum prudent spending and careful programming of events together with quality exhibits and displays and a continuing

high profile have been vital in maintaining good visitor levels during the current recession.

"I am confident that with continued care in our budgeting and the energetic commitment of the many people connected with this Museum, both staff and volunteers, we shall emerge from these difficult times a sound, healthy institution with exciting plans for the future", said Dr Hayes.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking our previous Chairman, Nigel Stephens, for his greatly valued work on behalf of the Museum.

Museum's Woodland Products in Great Demand

The Museum has experienced its best year so far for orders for cleft chestnut and oak laths, despite the recession. Twenty-five miles of lath and batten have been supplied to several major conservation projects in the UK — including the National Trust's Uppark House, Kings College, Cambridge and The Globe Theatre project, London. English Heritage and the Welsh Folk Museum are among other clients for these materials. As one of the few suppliers of cleft lath and batten in the country, the Museum is pleased to undertake orders nationwide.

The Museum carries a small stock of all sizes and will make any quantity to order.

The Museum's coppices at Charlton and East Dean are producing an annual crop of good quality hazel, and we currently have stocks of winter-cut thatching spars available for sale, made by Albert Peacock.

The Museum can also supply a number of other traditional woodland products, such as besom brooms, willow baskets, trugs and clothes pegs; an order for the latter was recently received from the BBC.

DISAPPOINTING VISITOR NUMBERS

We envisaged a difficult season this year in the current economic climate. By mid-August we were pleased to be only 6 per cent behind last year's figures, but disastrous weather, also affecting the important Bank Holiday weekend, meant that by the beginning of September we were more than 10 per cent behind our 1991 running attendance total, with 120,000 visitors. It now seems likely that we shall finish the season with some 150,000 visitors,

rather disappointing.

Most museums and visitor attractions have experienced a very difficult season. Some are as much as 30 per cent down, a few even more than this. Seen against the overall situation, the picture is therefore not so grim. Whilst we may be able to contain the effects of the recession, we are of course completely powerless to do anything about the weather, which continues to be either our worst enemy or best friend.



Marks and Spencer Plc contributed £1,000 towards the restoration of the wall paintings from the 17th century Reigate town house and the exhibition of domestic interior design to be housed inside the building. Left to right, Bob Powell, Museum Curator, Mike Mason,

Manager, Marks and Spencer, Chichester and Richard Pailthorpe, Assistant Director (Visitor Services). The Museum is also grateful for funding for the Reigate project from the Peacock Trust (£2,000) and the Edward Lewis foundation (£500).

ROY ARMSTRONG RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

Roy Armstrong, Founder of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, received an honorary degree from the University of Sussex in May. In an unusual departure from their normal practice the University decided to hold the ceremony at the Museum.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Letters was presented by Sir Leslie Fielding, Vice Chancellor of the University. Mr Armstrong, who reached the age of 90 this summer, has already been awarded an MBE for his work. He continues to play a vital role in the running of the Museum, and with his wife, Lynn, works regularly in the library and attends Trustees and Board meetings.

Mr Armstrong received the doctorate not just for his establishment of the Museum, but also for his work as a historian and adult education tutor in Sussex. He is the author of *A History of Sussex, Traditional Buildings Accessible to the Public and Local Studies*, together with numerous articles in journals. His local studies teaching prompted the establish-



Roy Armstrong with Sir Leslie Fielding, Vice Chancellor of the University of Sussex at the degree ceremony in May.

ment of several local museums by some of his students, Arundel Museum and Heritage Centre for example.

His interest in vernacular architecture and its rescue in the face of modern planning and reconstruction was fostered at the end of World War II. He became involved in the Wealden Buildings Study Group and the Wiston Estate Research Group. His anxiety about the disappearance of rural and urban historic buildings led to the creation of the Committee for the Promotion of an Open Air Museum for the Weald.

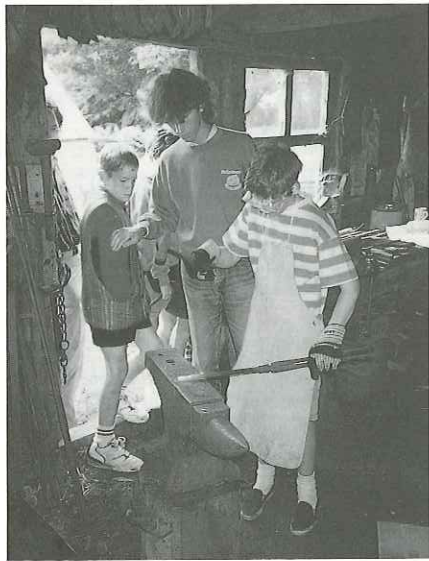
The Museum developed rapidly, gaining a prestigious reputation and expanding its broad educational and preservation roles.

Mr Armstrong's involvement with conservation issues outside the Museum includes his work for the Sandgate Conservation Society, established in 1974 to preserve nearly 1000 acres of mixed landscape near Storrington threatened by housing development and sand extraction.

SPECIAL EVENTS PROVIDE FASCINATING DAYS FOR VISITORS

The success of special events often tends to be measured in terms of visitor numbers. For the visitor it is the quality of their day which matters however. This year attendances have fluctuated from extremely good to disappointing, but the events themselves have been presented to a high standard and given visitors rewarding experiences.

The Traditional Food Fair held at Easter again proved very popular, with public and exhibitors. Sponsored by The Observer Series and Surrey Farm Shops, this year's theme concentrated on the diverse range of regional produce available at farm shops.



Bob Powell

Julian Stodd oversees children tackling smithing in the Southwater Forge during the Children's Activity Weekend.

Attendances at the Novice Sheep Dog Trials and the Heavy Horse Day were lower than usual, partly due to a very hot day at the former and an unsettled spell of weather at the latter. We are most grateful to Roger Linley, shepherd with Karova Farms, West Dean, for his help, and to Goodrowes of Chichester, Deosan Ltd and Chichester solicitors Fox and Kent for their sponsorship. The Nationwide Building Society again sponsored the Heavy Horse Day.

The Building Conservation Exhibition at the end of June brought together a wide range of suppliers, contractors, craftsmen, amenity groups and public authorities specialising in the care and restoration of historic buildings. The standard of exhibition was exceptionally high. This year there was no major sponsor, but we hope the event will attract a promoter for 1994, when the exhibition will next be held.

The Show for Rare and Traditional Breeds ran very smoothly, with improved use being made of the new show arena. Particular thanks go to Show Secretary Virginia Lyon for her

tireless work helping to co-ordinate this major occasion in the Museum's calendar. Probably the largest one-day show of its kind in the south of England, we again attracted a near record crowd, 5,500 visitors. Its future depends on continuing financial support. Our thanks for this year go to The West Sussex Gazette, the National Westminster Bank, Chichester, SCATS, P & O Ferries, Cyanamid of Great Britain and Cottons.

A new event organised in August, the Children's Activity Weekend was an enormous success despite unsettled weather which without doubt affected attendances. It will be repeated in 1993. Volunteers and many of our regular craft demonstrators, as well as new participants, hosted a wide range of activities and hands on experiences for youngsters around the Museum. It was so popular with some families visiting on Saturday that they returned on Sunday.

Special events provide the business community with an excellent opportunity to become associated with the Museum. Whilst sponsorship is our primary need, other means of support are also of assistance. Chichester Tractors and Michelin Tyres are supporting the Steam Threshing and Ploughing Weekend on 24-25 October by making available a vintage bus to tour the local area prior to the weekend advertising the event. Richard Pailthorpe would be pleased to discuss sponsorship or other forms of help with individuals or organisations who would like to assist the Museum.



Brian Dormer of Museum sponsors Carringdale (Bognor) Ltd received a Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme matching grant award of £1,000 in London from the then Secretary of State for National Heritage, David Mellor MP. Their sponsorship was for the Museum's publicity leaflet and poster, and the award will be put towards the production of short guides for overseas visitors for next season.

PETER BURTON

All at the Museum were shocked to learn of the sudden death of Peter Burton, one of our most stalwart volunteers, at the beginning of September. Peter's cheerful manner and depth of knowledge enriched the experience of countless visitors, particularly at Bayleaf Farmhouse, with which he will always be associated. Peter died as he would doubtless have wished, whilst out walking, his favourite pastime. His contribution to the Museum's work and kindly personality will be greatly missed.

We are also sad to report the death of Eileen Simmance, one of the Museum's earliest volunteers, to whom the Museum meant a great deal. Her illness had kept her from the site latterly, but her work as a volunteer steward has been invaluable. Fred Whitbread, also died earlier this year. He was a familiar figure for many years at the Museum. Both are much missed.

Museums Commission Appeals for Government help for Museums

The Museums and Galleries Commission has launched an important document calling for a national policy for museums and appealing for museums to benefit from the National Lottery.

As the new Department for National Heritage matures there are high expectations that museums may receive greater recognition for their enormous contribution to education, tourism, scholarship and community service.

More people go to museums than to football matches and the theatre combined! Graham Greene, Chairman of the MGC, has called for action now in order to ensure a healthy future for museums.

Underlying the work of all museums must be a foundation of scholarship, says the report. In this respect our own museum is mentioned. "Scholarship is not in any way confined to the large national museums. The display of more modest collections also needs a basis of scholarly research and interpretation. A good example — one of the many that could be cited — is the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton in West Sussex, where research into historic building methods and materials precisely complements its displays and reconstructed buildings."

ANIMALS ENRICH VISITORS' EXPERIENCE

The Museum's animal interpreters have had a busy summer season. Singleton Primrose, Rosie's foal, has been exchanged for six-year-old Shire gelding Radford Jim. He and William, and Rosie also, have been involved in many tasks around the Museum in the capable hands of horseman/stockman Peter Albon.

Rosy produced her second foal, Ben, a Shire x Dales, in May. His sire is Dales stallion, Babar, and judging by his shape and temperament, Ben will become a most useful working horse.

Nellie, a pedigree Tamworth sow, was bought in-pig in August, and produced nine live piglets on 9 September, a welcome addition to the Bayleaf farmyard.

Peter Albon is currently training the Museum's sheepdog puppy Bob to assist in the care of the sheep. The Dorking poultry, purloined by the fox, will be replaced in the Bayleaf yard over the next few months.

Haymaking at the Museum: horseman Peter Albon and volunteer Chloe Hill loading hay onto the wagon, drawn by William.



Diana Zeuner

The Penny Royal Theatre

After two seasons of presenting plays at the Museum the Penny Royal Theatre, the creation of John and Maggie Pollock, will not be staging further seasons at Singleton.

After an approach from the Pollocks three years ago the Museum agreed to enter into a two-year experiment to explore the possibilities of using the site as a venue for theatre.

From the Museum's point of view a key factor was that the addition of this substantial activity should not detract from the Museum's primary objectives, but complement it; and that the existence of the theatre should not be a visual intrusion during normal opening hours. In addition it was hoped that the Penny Royal would be prepared to put on plays that had some relevance to the Museum's interests and objectives.

The first season brought its successes and problems. There is no doubt that the audiences enjoyed their evenings, but the practical and organisational difficulties were very substantial.

The financial requirements and the pressures on the Museum led to a joint decision to present a shorter season this year, using local amateur direction

and actors.

The Museum had to reach a decision about the future. The theatre had certainly been a visual intrusion during the day; its presence in the centre of the Museum being seen by many as spoiling an otherwise carefully presented site. The Penny Royal had from the beginning been asked to use sympathetic material and design to ensure the integration of the two activities. Their success in this was variable.

The Penny Royal had been given the facilities of the Museum with enthusiasm. In exchange the Theatre presented a Gala Night each year, the returns from which were given to the Museum for its development fund. The Museum was very grateful for this contribution.

The decision not to renew the arrangements was not taken easily. The comments here attempt to explain to Museum supporters why it was felt necessary not to continue with the venture. The Museum hopes that John and Maggie Pollock will find an alternative venue for The Penny Royal, and wishes them success in the future.

FRIENDS' SPRING TOURS

● FRANCE — MAY 1993

A year ago early thoughts of a visit to Normandy in May 1993 were aired in the Museum Magazine, and were met with an enormous amount of interest. Plans are progressing well and those on the list will be sent details and an application form soon.

● BATH AND THE SURROUNDING AREA — 15-18 APRIL 1993

This year's UK tour will be based in Bath, staying at the Compass Hotel in the centre of the city. The itinerary is being concluded at the moment. Ideas for visits include: Sheldon Manor, near Chippenham; a cheddar cheese dairy; a rare breeds farm; Laycock Village and Abbey; Avebury Manor; Bradford-on-Avon, with its tithe barn; Clevedon Court, near Bristol; the Willow & Wetlands Centre near Taunton; Glastonbury; and, of course, a day in Bath with all that it has to offer.

Evening activities — Is anyone willing to take on the organisation of a speaker or other evening interest for one or two of the three nights?

The cost: £150 per person to include the coach from Singleton and return (cars may be left at the Museum), its use during our stay, bed, breakfast and evening meals in the hotel, admission charges and speaker's costs. All rooms have private bathrooms and tea/coffee facilities. There is a single room supplement of £12 per night and, as always, the number of single rooms available is limited. Those willing to share will, therefore, stand a better chance of a place.

To apply please complete the slip enclosed separately with this magazine and return it with a deposit of £30 per person (refundable if you have to cancel and we can fill the place). The number in the party is limited to 52. All applications will be held until 30 October. If we are oversubscribed the applications will be drawn "out of a hat" on that day (with priority for members of the Friends and those who were unlucky in last year's draw). Those names not drawn will be put on a waiting list.

If you have any queries ring Carol Hawkins at home on Midhurst (0730) 816101, or on Mondays at the Museum until the end of October.

Friends Produce Stall

Joan Brooks and her team will be running the Friends' annual produce stall on Sunday, 25 October during the Autumn Activities Weekend. All cakes, jams, preserves and garden produce will be gratefully received. Please contact Joan on Tel: 0243 527332.

FRIENDS AS VOLUNTEERS

Database of Friends' Skills to be Collated

Not all Friends are volunteer stewards, and vice versa. Many Friends are unable to help regularly but would like to help the Museum on a voluntary basis with special needs as they arise. There are many ways in which this help would be greatly appreciated.

The first stage is to find out where Friends' interests and skills lie. Nothing is more disheartening than joining an organisation full of enthusiasm and offering to help only to be told that there is no suitable work available at present. On the other side of the coin, jobs, particularly of the maintenance kind, do not magically appear on Tuesdays or Thursdays, or on the day a volunteer turns up. Often they need doing immediately, or it is quicker and simpler for a member of the Museum staff to do them, rather than to collect the tools

and explain, or perhaps supervise, the work concerned.

It would therefore be most valuable to have a database of information, strictly for Museum use only, containing information on skills and interests of possible voluntary helpers who could be contacted when the need arises. Once we have collected the information the Museum will need to appoint a volunteer co-ordinator to ensure effective use of those on the list and close liaison with the Warden and his stewards.

Enclosed with this Magazine is a questionnaire to be completed by all those who would like to help the Museum in this way. Please complete it if you would like to be more closely involved with the work of your Museum, and return to Virginia Lyon, Chairman of the Friends, at the Museum.

Junior Friends' 17th Century Experience



Junior Friends gather for games and entertainment in the Market Square.

Junior Friends gathered together for Summer Activities went back in time to 1666 to represent citizens of London evacuated to the countryside from their fire-ravaged city.

Groups of children were befriended by "the villagers" keen to set them to tasks enabling them to learn the countryside way of life. A camp shelter was made and cooking prepared. Real fires and fire fighting under the watchful eye of the West Sussex Fire Brigade gave the children a lasting understanding of the damage done by fire to timber-framed buildings.

Geoff King, Education Officer, explained the aim was to bring together some of the well-tried and popular activities Junior Friends have experienced, along with a number of experimental ones. The week was most successful.

TWO AUTUMN EVENTS

Wednesday 4 November 1992

WHAT'S THIS?

Quiz and short talk on some of the smaller items in the Museum's care.

Devised and presented by

Neill Wilkins

(formerly the Museum's Miller)

and

Bob Powell

(Curator)

Wednesday 18 November 1992

UPPARK UPDATE

— after the fire...

Talk with slides by John Eyre, former Administrator of Uppark and now a Museum Volunteer and Friends Committee Member

Both events will be held in Crawley Hall starting at 2.30 p.m.

Both are free — but please obtain tickets from the Museum Office in advance as numbers have to be limited. First come, first served. If applying by post please send an s.a.e.

Initially, these events will be for Friends Members, Museum Volunteers and Staff only. However, from 28 October and 11 November respectively unissued tickets will be available for guests.

THREE FUNDRAISING OCCASIONS

All profits for the Museum's Building Development Fund. Organised by The Friends. Non-members welcome.

Thursday 29 October 12.30 p.m.

Three-course lunch to be held in the Coronation Hall, Slindon.

Speaker: Simon Brett, creator of "After Henry" and "Dear Diary". Tickets £10, payable to The Friends of WDOAM from Miss V.E. Lyon, Timbers, School Hill, Slindon, Arundel BN18 0RA. Please send s.a.e.

Thursday 18 March 7.30 p.m. Assembly Rooms, North Street, Chichester

The World of Nature — Music & Images in Consort and an exhibition of wood sculpture by David Purslow.

David Purslow is a master not only of wood sculpture but also of photography. His superlative slides of the natural world — birds, animals, flowers, trees, and scenery in all seasons — fading into each other through the use of twin projectors and accompanied by skilfully selected music, provide a most memorable evening's entertainment.

His programme on 18 March will include "Birds of Horse Island", a detailed study of a sea bird colony, revealing not only the beauty of their plumage but also fascinating details of their behaviour. The apparent chaos shows, on close study, an organisation of surprising complexity.

"Reflections" is a short sequence of unsurpassed beauty, reminiscent of Impressionist paintings, of the seasons reflected in the water of lakes and rivers. The programme will end with "The Heritage of Nature". By looking at the beauty of the nature remaining in our environment we question, without the use of spoken commentary, the world we are creating for our children.

Some of David Purslow's fine wood sculptures of wildlife will also be on show and for sale during the coffee break. This promises to be a truly memorable evening of both general interest and great beauty.

Tickets £3 by post from Miss V.E. Lyon as above, or, for callers only, from Hammicks Bookshop, East Street, Chichester from 22 February.

Friday 28 May — In a marquee at the Museum

Sotheby's Advisory and Valuation Day

More details nearer the time — but please put in your diary now!

THE EUROPEAN HOME CELEBRATED IN MUSEUM'S EUROPEAN ARTS FESTIVAL EXHIBITION

A major exhibition on the homesteads of Europe was mounted by the Museum from 8 September - 11 October as part of the European Arts Festival, which celebrates Britain's presidency of the EC.

Taking *the home* as the theme, the exhibition explored the diverse traditions and the common inheritance of European domestic rural architecture, concentrating on farmhouses preserved in open air museums throughout the continent.

Museums in 16 countries contributed photographs and architectural models of particular farmhouses together with information placing the buildings in their social, economic and historical context.

The exhibition was organised by Chris Zeuner, Museum Director, who is currently President of the European Association of Open Air Museums. In August he embarked on a whistle-stop tour of many of the museums involved to collect the models, which form an important element in the exhibition. His ferry crossing was sponsored by P & O

European Ferries.

The text for the exhibition was written by the Museum's Research Director, Richard Harris, probably this country's foremost expert on timber-framed buildings, who regularly attends architectural conferences in Europe. He was also responsible for the design of the exhibition, housed in the Crawley Hall.

"We responded with enthusiasm when the Museums and Galleries Commission asked museums to submit proposals for the European Festival," said Chris Zeuner. "Our Museum has close and valued links with colleagues in Europe, and this exhibition seemed a wonderful opportunity to expand our aim of interesting people in traditional buildings to include the rich culture of European domestic architecture, at an important moment in common history."

From Singleton the exhibition is travelling to Avoncroft Museum of Buildings at Bromsgrove, Worcestershire and to the Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket, Suffolk.



James Clevett

The European Home was opened by Museum Vice President The Duke of

Richmond and Gordon, seen here examining one of the models with Chris Zeuner.

CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM

Have you thought of coming to the Museum to do your Christmas shopping? The Museum shop, stocked with a wide range of products on a countryside theme, is open every Wednesday and Sunday from 1 November, with a special shopping day planned on Sunday 29 November when a number of craft products and new ideas for Christmas from some of our regular demonstrators will be available.

The Museum's Christmas Carols will be held in North Cray House on Monday, 21 December at 7.00 p.m.

An extended Christmas opening is planned, from 26 December-3 January, providing an excellent day out over the holiday period when many attractions are closed.

The Museum will be open for its Winter season every Wednesday and Sunday between 1 November and 28 February.

Winter Dates

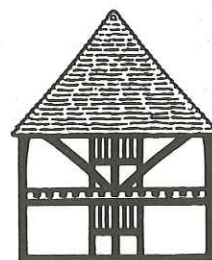
24/25 October	Steam Threshing and Ploughing Weekend
25 October	Kay Matson — Art Exhibition in Crawley Hall
29 October	Fund-raising Lunch at Coronation Hall, Slindon; speaker, Simon Brett (12.30 p.m.)
23 November	Volunteers Party at West Dean College
29 November	Christmas Shopping Day at the Museum
21 December	Christmas Carols in North Cray House (7 p.m.)
26 December-3 January 1993	Special Christmas Opening of the Museum

TRAINING COURSES AID BUILDING CONSERVATION

The Museum's aim of encouraging high standards of conservation of traditional buildings *in situ* is being furthered through a range of courses offered in association with the Joint Centre for Heritage Conservation and Management at Bournemouth Polytechnic.

The Museum, one of three partners in the Joint Centre, has hosted training workshops on the ownership and control of listed buildings, recording traditional buildings, timber-frame repairs, and to encourage the continuation of relevant crafts, traditional charcoal burning. These courses have been led by Richard Harris, the Museum's Research Director, with our carpenter, Roger Champion, and in the case of charcoal burning, Alan Waters.

A longer article about the extent of the Museum's educational work will appear in the March 1993 Magazine.



WEALD &
DOWNLAND
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MUSEUM

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