

GROUP FOR REGIONAL STUDIES IN MUSEUMS

NEWSLETTER No. 1 - December 1975

Contents:

The Newsletter, some Introductory Remarks	p. 1
Editorial	p. 1
Regional Sub-groups, a proposal	p. 2
Future Meetings	p. 5
Report on the Oral History Seminar, Norwich	p. 6
Editor's Request	p.12
Membership	p.12
List of present Members	p.12 13 14
A week-end meeting, Penrith	p.15

The Newsletter. Some Introductory Remarks

It was decided at the inaugural Conference of the group held in Leeds in October of last year that its publications should consist of information sheets, bibliographies, standardised recording forms or the proceedings of meetings and conferences. However, as editor, I feel that the group would benefit from a publication which appeared on a more regular basis and which could incorporate the subjects listed above; particularly in view of the difficulties we have experienced in our first year. I have taken it on myself to produce this newsletter for which I accept full responsibility and it will be necessary for the next Annual General Meeting to decide whether or not to continue with this publication.

I would suggest that the Newsletter is published twice a year, appearing in November and May. Its main function will be to maintain contacts between members throughout the country by carrying reports on meetings and other activities held in local areas (see p. 5), and on the annual conference. It will also provide a means of exchanging ideas on matters of professional interest and concern, through the publication of letters and short articles. It is not intended that it should print academic papers; these are best dealt with by the relevant specialist journals; rather that it should explore the more practical areas of our subject and concern itself with matters of museological interest. In addition it is hoped to include annually a list of books, museum publications and articles which have appeared during the course of the year, relevant to our work.

It may also be useful to bring out, perhaps at two-monthly intervals, a brief news-sheet. This can carry notices of forthcoming meetings or other activities and brief topical communications.

I hope that this first Newsletter meets with the approval of members and I welcome your thoughts on how you would like to see it develop.

Editorial

The group has just celebrated its first anniversary, and it can hardly be claimed that this first year has been one of auspicious achievement nor even one of modest success. The responsibility for this lack of activity must rest with those of us on committee, and it is to be hoped that our inertia has not exhausted the goodwill of members. That the group has a valuable role to play in promoting the specialist interests of regional studies in museums was amply demonstrated by the response of those who attended the inaugural conference in Leeds, and yet one year later we appear to be on the verge of collapse. I personally feel that the break-up of the group would be unfortunate and would like to re-examine in this Editorial some of the areas where it can make an important contribution to our work.

The Group provides an excellent framework for the continuing discussion and exchange of ideas and information on all matters of professional interest, for example display and interpretation, conservation, storage, collecting policy or documentation and record keeping. Where particular problems arise on subjects which require detailed consideration it should be possible to set-up working parties to examine these. In addition a committed and critical membership should provide the stimulus for experiment into new approaches and techniques and at the same time be concerned with the constant improvement of standards.

On a more practical level again, we can perhaps be of assistance to the smaller museums, both public and private, where the range of staff specialisation is limited and finance short. Such help could be in one of two ways; either in the form of advice on aspects of their museum work concerned with regional studies or by providing a labour force out of our membership to work on a particular project, which might be setting up a display for example, or cataloguing collections.

While perhaps concentrating more on the practical museological aspects of our subject, the group has a useful part to play too, in providing its academic side. Success in documenting and displaying regional culture can only be achieved through thorough field-work and research and the necessity for such work is the stronger since museums are often the only institutions or organisations working in this field in their area. We are not seeking to pre-empt the role of those specialist societies which are concerned with the academic study of our subject (for example, The Society for Folklife Studies, the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology or the Oral History Society) and membership of which we should encourage to our own members, but rather to compliment their work. We can usefully hold meetings to consider the methodology, approaches and techniques available in the study of regional culture, as for example, the Oral History seminar held at Norwich and reviewed in this issue (p. 6); or practical meetings where members would have an opportunity to participate in and study in depth particular activities. For example, both Bewdley Museum and The Welsh Folk Museum have recently held experimental charcoal burns and this type of activity provides an excellent understanding of the practicalities of such processes; one can envisage a wide range of topics which could be looked at in this way with success. At a local level, too, the group is well placed to initiate co-operative studies of features peculiar to the area, such as the study being undertaken by the East Anglian Museum on Sugar Beet described in the report on the Norwich seminar (p.6); or on a national level to co-operate in, or, co-ordinate wider comparative studies, as we recently did with a study of clogs being undertaken at the Institute of Dialect and Folklife Studies at Leeds University.

To provide a coherent picture of local culture requires the specialist attention of a number of complimentary and overlapping disciplines, Regional Ethnology, Local History and Social History. Here, too, the group provides the opportunity for specialists in these disciplines to come together and consider their various roles in the study of regional culture.

Finally the group can be most useful in providing the interests of our specialist subject within the wider museum world and to institutions and organisations outside. In the past we have, perhaps, suffered in comparison to other disciplines in museums and the group should give us a voice to press for a wider recognition of our aims and our needs.

These, then, would seem to be the most important functions of the group and of sufficient importance for us to make the effort to ensure that its future years are nor active than its first. I would like to examine now a proposal for the establishment of regional sub-groups which do seem to offer the opportunity for increased and better directed effort and through them it is hoped we can capitalise on the enthusiasm of our members.

Regional Sub-Groups. A Proposal

In discussing the problems of the group with members during the year, the idea of breaking the group up into a number of smaller regional units, each with its own local secretary, is one which has come up with great

frequency. Such an idea has much to recommend it, especially when our membership is so widespread and the cost of travel to meetings at distant centres is constantly increasing. The idea, however, needs the approval of the Annual General Meeting, but in view of our present difficulties it would at least seem worthwhile putting the proposal to the test. It can then be considered at the next Annual General Meeting with at least some knowledge of its practical implications. I will list at the end of this section the proposal regions, with those members who have agreed to serve as local secretaries.

It is not proposed that the local groups will replace the national organisation, but rather supplement it; obviously meetings or other activities held by any local group will be open to all members who wish to participate. Reports of the work carried out by the local groups will be published in the Newsletter and advance notice of meetings and activities carried in the news-sheet. It would be the responsibility of the local secretaries to provide such information and reports, as well as co-ordinating the work in their area. However, it is hoped that all local members will play their part in organising meetings and activities in their area, the wider the involvement the more successful the scheme will be.

There are many advantages in an active regional organisation to supplement the more infrequent national meetings. In the first place it offers simply the opportunity for the local members to come together informally for discussion. Secondly, it provides the opportunity for more frequent meetings of easier access than those held further afield and allows such meetings to be directed more towards matters of local interest and concern. The local group, too, will give a framework for greater co-operation between museums in a region. This might be, on the one hand, a joint study scheme such as that being undertaken by East Anglian museums on Sugar Beet Cultivation (p. 6), which brings together material and information on a particular aspect of regional culture. Or it might involve longer term co-operation where the museums in an area can come together to consider how they might best approach jointly documentation of local culture and ways to co-ordinate their work. Such co-operation will be particularly valuable in those areas where, following re-organisation, some museums went to the county and others to the district in helping to develop a more integrated approach to the regional culture and in making the best use of available resources. In addition, the local group will be an ideal unit through which to establish contacts with universities, schools or other organisations working on the subject in that area and whose co-operation would be of great value. Finally, the local groups are well placed to recruit new members.

How the local groups wish to approach their task will be for them to decide and ideas and approaches adopted by individual groups can be reported and communicated through the newsletter.

To set this scheme in motion the following areas have been drawn up, and the following members have agreed to act as local secretaries:

1. The North-West, local secretary - Richard Langhorne, Lancashire Museum, Preston.
2. Yorkshire, local Secretary - Alan Garlick, Abbey House Museum, Leeds.
3. Midlands, local Secretary - Stephen Price, Birmingham Museum.

4. East Anglia, local Secretary - Kate Walters, Museum of Rural Life of East Anglia, Stowmarket.
5. South East and London, local Secretary - Val Bott, The Grange Museum, Neasden.
6. South West and Wales, local Secretary - John Griffin, Blaise Castle Museum, Bristol.

This division is somewhat arbitrary and based to a large extent on the present distribution of members. In practise, no doubt, it may well prove that more satisfactory groupings can be arrived at, especially as membership grows, and the local groups are best placed to decide on this. No mention is made of Scotland or Ireland in the list of areas, as membership in both countries is very small, but their thoughts on the subject would be most welcome.

Future Meetings

Three meetings are presently being arranged to take place within the next six months and members will be circulated as information is available. The meetings will be on the broad theme of site museums and will be concerned with some of the latest ideas on projects of this nature.

1. Penrith, Cumberland

A week-end based on the Penrith area of Cumberland. The meeting will concentrate on two recent schemes in the area, both commercial, Weatherhigs Pottery and Little Salkeld Corn Mill.

See later notes.

2. Staffordshire County Museum, Shugborough

A meeting to examine some new approaches being planned for farm museums. It will be concerned with the plans of the County Museum to establish a farm museum using a farm complex in the museum grounds and look at their proposals for incorporating into the scheme some of the disappearing breeds of livestock once found in the county. It is also hoped to include other speakers who are involved in planning new approaches to farming museums. The meeting is being arranged for March.

3. The Finch Brothers' Foundry and Museum of Rural Industry, Sticklepath, Devon.

A weekend meeting based on Finch Brothers' Foundry at Sticklepath. From 1814 - 1960 the "Foundry" was well known in the south-west for the quality of its agricultural edge-tools. After it closed in 1960 it fell derelict and was rescued from destruction and restored to working order through the effort of Mr. R. Barrow and the Finch Foundry Trust. The foundry is water-powered with a pair of trip hammers and grinding wheel and in addition to the forge there is also a display on the history of water power, and examples of the tools produced by the forge. There will be a talk on the restoration work and an opportunity to look in detail at the forge and hear about the methods and techniques of tool making. It is hoped to arrange other speakers for the weekend who will examine the local industries of the area and a visit to neighbouring sites may be arranged. The meeting is planned for May.

Report on the Oral History Seminar at The Castle Museum, Norwich,
on 18th October, 1975.

The seminar was attended by nearly thirty people, including members of the local University Oral History Society, a representative from the History Workshop Journal, and a student from the Leicester Museums course, as well as representatives from museums.

1. The seminar opened with a talk by George Ewart Evans, well-known author and lecturer. He emphasised the importance of oral material in museums in providing the human background to objects in the museum's displays. It is too often assumed that the visitor knows a lot about the objects, and can put them into the context from which they came into the museum. The museum which uses oral accounts in its displays gains in three ways:

1. The material is local and specific.
2. It is in the dialect and everyday language of the local visitor, and therefore speaks his language, and establishes a vital link between the museum and the community.
3. Out of this link, more interest and more material is brought into the museum. This wider view of the role of the museum brings dividends in the long run.

Evans drew an analogy between industrial archaeology and the collecting of agricultural implements. Fifteen years ago industrial archaeology was scarcely recognised, but as it gained acceptance in the 1960s it developed into a kind of object-study, with no attempt to set the object in its context (although unlike the archaeology of earlier times, the context was still alive, though dispersed). From this has emerged a greater enthusiasm to record the processes, conditions and communities which surrounded the objects themselves, particularly with tape recordings. But there is an urgent need to work fast, while the informants are still alive, and accessible: for example, Melton Constable, a "rural Crewe" in the north of Norfolk, ceased to be used as a railway interchange more than ten years ago and it should be studied now while the memory of the railways is still alive.

Evans himself has been recording farm labourers in East Anglia for more than twenty years, and played extracts from a recording which was one of his first (the quality, incidentally, was extremely high). He prefers to approach his informants with few questions, and to let them talk, to the "BBC interview" where the interviewer "fills" in pauses, and asks many questions. Pauses can easily be edited out afterwards. It was only by using this open, unstructured interview that Evans chanced upon the whole area of horse magic which he has described in "The Horse in the Furrow". The old horsemen of East Anglia were ready to talk, they were retiring from work and the horse had gone off the land when Evans began his work.

2. Bridget Yates described the recording programme at the Bridewell Museum of Local Industries and Crafts in Norwich, which was set up in a museum service mainly concerned with the fine arts, but which had established a strong element of fieldwork in its own sphere.

Specific projects are chosen by the staff, and studied in depth by all of them for a period of say, three months, rather than dispersing their energies among different projects. In the case of brickmaking,

contacts were found by looking at the 2½" Ordnance Survey map for former brickfields, and then asking in the nearest village for contacts. Tape recordings were made where suitable informants were found. In the case of Fiona Strodder's work on food and drink, a mention in the local newspaper had brought in a stream of contacts, recipes, etc. Questionnaires were circulated - through established contacts, through stalls at Agricultural Shows, and to people who brought objects into the museum - to cover a much wider area than the fieldworkers could possibly reach. The response was good. A similar questionnaire on games and pastimes, however, was much less successful - probably because of the nature of the subject, which has less immediate stimulus.

Tapes were already being used by the Education Department, as an accompaniment to projects centred on the museum displays, and seemed to have an immediate appeal to children, and to engage their interest in the life of the informant. They also filled out the existing collections and accounts of local crafts with an enormous wealth of material and of information, for example, about the movement of craftsmen in the area. Basketmakers would come from the East End of London 'as soon as they could tread six daisies', and would travel up through Suffolk and along the Norfolk coast, sleeping in the workhouses and working in the daytime. Pottery made in Swanton Hovers (in the north of the county) was made in the summer by a potter who caught the train to Melton Constable from Diss. He worked near there during the winter with a family of farmers and potters who laid off all their workmen except for the family during the summer, and concentrated on the harvest.

Other members of the seminar felt a conflict in their work between fieldwork and accessioning. For example, the Museum of Lincolnshire Life set out as a new museum with no collection of local interest. Now it finds that objects are still flowing in (at the rate of 1500 per annum), and they take up a lot of the staff's time; the only opportunity for extensive fieldwork is the preparation of the annual exhibition, centred round one topic. However, some people felt that fieldwork would itself provide the means and the information for acquiring local material: objects are a product of research and fieldwork.

3. Paul Thompson, conducting the oral history project at Essex University on the Edwardians, spoke about the principle which had guided the project. In order to make generalisations in history, it was important to find a representative group of informants, and to decide upon what were the important things to ask them. The Essex sample was drawn up according to the 1911 census, with the appropriate proportion of men and women (this is often overlooked in oral history projects, especially those primarily concerned with work); and with the appropriate spread of occupational and social class. Otherwise the poor working class and the upper middle and upper classes would not have been included since informal networks for making contacts tend to converge on the respectable, stable middle group.

The contacts used for interviewing were:

- Womens' Institutes
- Old People's Clubs and Homes (all levels)
- Doctors' lists
- Park benches
- Local essay competitions

The interviewers were recruited for each area by advertising in newspapers. A questionnaire was always used; in some cases the informants actually asked for it saying "It's alright as long as you ask the questions"; and some ran out of steam after the first burst of memory, but wanted to be prompted, and would be able to recall a much wider field than they otherwise would have thought of. The informant he compared to a document of historical research - one wants to know who wrote it? where did it come from? when? It was important to know on all tapes:

- The occupations of the parents
- The occupation of the informant
- Where he/she lived
- How many children there were in the family

as well as the basic information of name and date of birth, to give a wider picture.

The tapes were transcribed by an audio-typist for quick reference, and carbon copies of the transcripts were cut up and divided among different subject boxes; but the original document, the tape, was stored. It must be marked on the ends of the tape as well as on the spool, with the informant's name and the date of interview or reference number. It should be stored in a cool dry place away from magnetic surfaces and catches.

The index system at Essex consists of an alphabetical name index,

Name	Interview Number
List of tapes and length (hours)	

a numerical index, containing considerable biographical detail,

Number	No. of children
Name	Occupation
Year of Birth	Where Lived
Sex	Religion
No. of siblings	Politics
Married or not	
Name of interviewer and note of contact	

and a subject index, which could be arranged under places or under periods or topics.

The question of copyright is still very uncertain, and the Essex interviewers do not insist on a written agreement (although the Norfolk Museums Service has one which is signed at the interview, and others recommend that a letter should be sent afterwards which asks the informant to sign a copyright form, and specify restrictions).

4. In the afternoon a general forum was held on co-operation between museums and local societies at a local level, and between museums at a regional level. The afternoon began with members of the seminar describing their work in museums.

The Chairman, Geraint Jenkins, works at the St. Fagan's Museum near Cardiff, where there is a heavy emphasis on fieldwork of all kinds. There are specialists in the oral culture - phoneticists, dialecticians - but he, as Keeper of the Department of Material Culture, feels that the separation of oral and material cultures is artificial: fieldwork will bring in objects, but only the people who used them can give them meaning. Research is being carried on on cooking, on death, on the dying crafts in Wales, and on the farm servant. Tape recorders, video equipment and film equipment are all used in fieldwork where appropriate.

Catherine Wilson and Christopher Page, at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, are the only two curatorial staff, and so rely heavily on local societies in their work. The museum started six years ago, and their first object was to build up a collection, now they are bogged down with objects, and much of their fieldwork is concerned with finding out more about the objects coming into the museum. Each year an exhibition is held on a specific topic, which is their basis for fieldwork, and contacts are made through agricultural shows and through Age Concern's essay competition. With local societies, they are embarking on a parish survey scheme and a study of domestic service, and are already drawing in material on vernacular architecture and on industrial archaeology.

At the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket, there are three curatorial staff and they work on themes for three or four months at a time, for example the history of the site of the museum. They have begun to cut down their acquisitions, and consequently less material is brought into the museum. The museum is closed during the winter.

Christine Blozhan, at the Oxfordshire County Museum, has been working with other members of staff on the history of Cogges Manor Farm, near Witney, as a basis for setting up a museum of agricultural life at the farm. ~~She has been interviewing~~ people who lived and worked there, in order to build up a picture of the use of the different rooms in the house in the early part of this century; while others have worked on the history and wild life of the whole site. The Museum Service now covers branch museums at Oxford, Wantage and Banbury; and it is hoped that when the new branch museums are established they will work together on specific projects. The museum has drawn up a collecting policy for the whole county which suggests the main priorities for future fieldwork and collecting.

At Waltham Forest a tape recorder has just been acquired "to collect what comes": people coming into the museum with objects or reminiscences are encouraged to write down their memories, or to be taped. One man has deposited tapes with the museum on which he recorded himself.

Jin Tildesley, at the ⁶⁰ Moore Edwards Museum, also in East London, described how the attendants approach visitors to the museum who are likely informants, and invite them to be interviewed or recorded. The success rate of this is very high. The museum also offers a copying service so that anyone wishing to deposit a copy of tapes that they have made, or wishing for a copy of a tape in which they are interested, can use the facilities. In this way the work of local societies and

schools is retrieved; but since the turnover of teachers in that area is very high, close contact with those doing oral history projects must be retained so that the material doesn't disappear. Tapes and equipment are part of the schools loan service offered by the museum, and the material coming back into the museum is very useful. Two weekend projects have been held, with an equal attendance of pensioners and sixth-formers, as residential history weekends which also help to integrate social groups.

Andrew Hulme, at Tyne and Wear Museums, hopes to combine the collecting programme which has already been worked out with tape recordings and filming. The Museum Service at present has no corporate feeling, and no tradition of fieldwork; the curators will accept anything that comes to the museum, although there are acute shortages of storage space. He sees his job to be in urban history, while Beamish deals with agriculture.

Paul Thompson felt that museums should act as repositories and in stimulating local societies and individuals to collect oral and other material much more actively. Universities suffer from their distance from local people, and museums are a better base for establishing contacts and maintaining them. Tutors in the W.E.A. and in extra-mural departments should be encouraged to link up their work in any aspect of local history with museums, acting as a stimulant and then passing over people to the museum. In this way, people who wish to pursue some aspect of history would not feel in a vacuum. They might meet monthly at the central museum, meeting others working in the same way and receive encouragement and advice. In Essex the W.E.A. and members of the Oral History Project at the University have held a series of open meetings around the county to attract the help of people with tape recorders and people with information to be recorded, as well as meetings of the twenty or so historical associations in the county.

At the University of East Anglia an Oral History group has formed which meets every three weeks, and attracts teachers and technicians as well as postgraduates. The meetings consist of talks from visiting speakers and general demonstrations, and use the material of the University's audio-visual centre. They hope to embark on a project on "Education in Norfolk", for which a questionnaire has been compiled. In Oxfordshire the Oral History Group which arose out of a series of talks given by Alun Howkins continues to work on a different project each year, and to publish its own "Broadsheet" of extracts from its work. All its material will eventually be deposited at the Oxfordshire County Museum.

In Suffolk, George Ewart Evans gave a series of lectures at Bungay which ended with a session on interviewing, jointly with the museum at Stowmarket. Several individuals are now working as a result of this course, but the museum has set a condition that all tapes coming to the museum must be transcribed - and consequently has received nothing. (Alun Howkins and Paul Thompson suggested here that an alternative to the very time-consuming process of transcribing was to write a summary of the material on the tape, if possible with the counter numbers in the margin of the notes. This was best done as soon as possible after the interview).

Although links are being made between museums and individuals and groups doing fieldwork in recording many people at the seminar felt that the contacts are uncertain, and that there is possibly very much more material being collected than ever reaches the museums. They are certainly not strongly established as centres for local work.

Graene Farnell described the regional grouping which has been formed between museums in East Anglia - Ipswich, Colchester, Stowmarket, Norwich - as study groups. The group has chosen two projects: the sugar beet industry and the contents and use of ground floor rooms. The first would lead, in twelve or eighteen months, to a travelling exhibition and perhaps to a popular publication. The exhibition would circulate not only in museums but also, hopefully in the factories where sugar beet is processed, and where conditions are generally very poor. The project is supported by the Area Museums Service.

The advantages of co-operation, he felt, were:

- (i) The meeting provided an opportunity for objectivity and for discussion of theory and of problems in general, because one was not just talking to the people one worked with.
- (ii) Material was both collected and distributed over a much wider area.
- (iii) The shared resources of the group might enable them to seek advice on technical problems, for example to have a talk on sampling procedure.
- (iv) It made more economic sense than a national grouping for Regional Studies.

Such a regional grouping might also be a basis for getting groups to set up in different places to encourage fieldwork; and for making people known to each other who are already doing research. In the East Midlands, the University of Nottingham produces a bulletin of local history research, to keep people in touch with each other. Alun Howkins suggested that another important function of museums might be to establish more formal contacts with universities and academic historians, whose work is often highly relevant but unknown to the museum. This might be done through an occasional newsletter, or through a bulletin like the one mentioned above.

The general conclusions were: that regional grouping would be encouraged in future by the Group for Regional Studies; and that individual museums should take on a more active part in fieldwork, both in their own jobs and also in encouraging and co-ordinating the effort of other bodies in their area.

Editor's Request

The newsletter is for your use and its value will depend directly on your use of it. This first issue has been rather slender in content as it was planned and put together in something of a hurry; however, I welcome your contributions for future numbers. These should be in the form of short articles, notes or letters on any aspect of museum work which relates to regional studies, either on the general philosophy of the subject, or such topics as planning new types of museums, galleries or displays, approaches to fieldwork and collecting, use of questionnaires, study programmes on particular areas of local culture, archives record-keeping etc. or on more practical subjects like conservation, restoration of exhibits, storage or the problems involved in restoring and converting such buildings as farms or mills into museums etc. I would, also, like to carry once a year a list of books, museum publications and relevant articles or papers from other journals and would be grateful to receive from members details on those which they found useful and particularly on their museum publications or articles which appeared in local archaeological or historical society journals and which have a wider interest for our subject.

I would also be grateful to hear from the local secretaries on planned meetings and activities to go into the news-sheet and reports on those that have taken place for inclusion in the newsletter. It might also be useful to carry in the news-sheet information on meetings arranged by other organisations such as Universities, at W.E.A.s or other Societies on subjects of interest generally to members and I would be pleased to receive details from anyone on such meetings in their area which they feel are of wider interest.

The newsletter can become a valuable forum for the exchange of ideas, information and experiences, for identifying the problems of our subject and examining these and helping towards an improvement in standards. To achieve these ends, it depends on your contributions.

Membership

Membership of the group, is £1 per annum, due on 1st April each year. Details are available from P. Brears, Castle Museum, York and subscriptions should be sent to Mrs. P. Murray, Staffordshire County Museum, Shugborough.

List of Present Members

Officers and Committee: Chairman, J. G. Jenkins (Welsh Folk Museum); Secretary-Convenor, P. Brears (Castle Museum, York); Treasurer, Mrs. P. Murray (Staffordshire County Museum, Shugborough); Editor, R. Langhorne (Lancashire Museum, Preston); Committee - G. Cruickshank (Huntly House, Edinburgh), J. Gall (North of England Open Air Museum, Beamish), D. James (Art Gallery and Museum, Bury), B. Turner (Ulster Museum, Belfast), Miss B. Yates (Castle Museum, Norwich).

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Richard Langhorne
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8. Scotland:
Graeme D. R. Cruickshank
C. Harvey
Miss Deborah Rolland
Truckell, A. E.

A Week-end Meeting, Penrith, 13th - 15th February, 1976.

A week-end meeting has been arranged at Penrith from the evening of Friday, 13th February until lunchtime of Sunday, 15th February, 1976.

The week-end will consist of visits on the Saturday to Weatheriggs Pottery and Little Salkeld Corn Mill, both close to Penrith.

Weatheriggs Pottery was built in 1955 and has been in continuous production since that date. It manufactures traditional Cambrian slipware articles such as salt-kits, bowls, jugs, bread-crocks, mugs etc. The pottery is now run by a young couple - who have recently taken it over from Mr. Thornber who had been associated with it since 1915. They were trained by Mr. Thornber and continue to produce traditional ware. The pottery is also open to the public.

Little Salkeld Corn Mill, water powered, was until recently still milling commercially. It has recently changed hands and has been restored and opened to the public. In addition the Mill is again milling corn commercially.

At both sites talks will be given both on the practical aspects of the work, potting and milling with working demonstrations and on the problems of running centres of this kind. On the Friday evening as an introduction to the pottery, Mr. Peter Brears will give a talk on Country Slipware Pottery and it is hoped to have on site at the Mill, the Millwright responsible for the renovation who will talk on this subject.

On Sunday it is hoped to arrange a visit to examine a local agricultural collection and to talk with a farmer on local farming methods, together with a tour of Lowther Model Village, built for an estate farm.

Accommodation

This will be booked through a local hotel with rooms in the hotel or nearby guest-houses. All meals will be in the hotel. To save on costs accommodation will be in twin-bedded rooms and anyone with strong wishes for a single room should let me know. The cost for bed, breakfast and dinner will be £4.50p per person a day, single rooms would be more.

Travel and Transport

Penrith is conveniently situated just off the M.6 Motorway and is also on the main London - Glasgow railway line.

It would be a great help if those with cars would consider bringing them to save the expense of hiring coaches for the visits, all of which are within only a few miles of Penrith.

Booking

The weekend will have to be limited to a maximum of 25 people and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.