

interpretation

NUMBER 12

SPRING 1979



Electric Tramcar at Beamish

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THE SOCIETY

The Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage was formed in April 1975 to provide a forum for people engaged in studying Britain's heritage and in both planning and managing interpretive programmes and facilities which relate to this heritage.

It draws its members from a wide range of organisations - including local authorities, statutory and educational bodies and major voluntary organisations - engaged in interpretation of one kind or another.

Copies of the constitution, of the consultative document which led to the formation of the Society and membership application forms may be obtained from the Secretary.

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THE NEWSLETTER

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INTERPRETATION

BOWING OUT

In the last issue, we indicated that the time had come to hang up our editorial boots. The die has been cast and a new editor will take over from the next issue. Let us hope he or she is not superstitious.

Apart from the minor headaches, the in-between-issues lethargy, the panic, yes panic, of promised copy dates, we can promise our successor the wholehearted support of our readers - as writers.

Reminders go and material comes, usually unfailingly. Whether public axes or private hobby-horses are being ground or ridden, whether self-interest or society interest is the motive, the newsletter receives a pot-pourri of contributions.

It is our guess that there will be more direction in future. It is needed. There will be more planning of articles and features. There are many willing hands to help our successor past the traps and pitfalls and we wish him or her - and the newsletter - well.

It is sad to write these lines, for we are bidding farewell to our progeny. But the weaning and rearing are over, and the time is due for handing over responsibility. If there is nostalgia, or even a little grief, then it is more than compensated by a strong sense of gratitude for being given a free hand and a free rein for four years. We have made many friends and grant ourselves this one luxury of a rambling, mixed-metaphorical, good bye, and a most sincere thank you for the encouragement and help we have received.

Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held during the North East meeting in Durham, on Sunday 8 April at 9.30 am. Details have been circulated.

LOOK NORTH

IMAGES OF COUNTY DURHAM

Brian K Roberts

One of the pleasures available within the British Isles is the diversity of landscapes found over quite short distances. Differences in terrain, climate, vegetation, land-use and settlement, coupled with differences in people and their social attitudes, cultural variations, create a rich tapestry of scenery and life which are a delight to the senses.



Photo: D Hudspeth

The recognition of elusive regional personalities is rather like the study of Shakespeare, open to all men yet amenable to a host of personal perspectives and interpretations, while scholarly studies as far apart as geology, anthropology, medicine and linguistics find common ground in the study of local populations, their illnesses, blood groups and dialects.

H J MacKinder, writing in 1907, recognised the importance of the contrast between those landscapes

developed upon the old hard rocks of Coal Measure age or older, the Highland Zone of Western Britain, and the gentler, softer landscapes of the midlands, south and east, moulded from younger post-Carboniferous rocks.

There is a beautiful Welsh story of three river spirits meeting on Pumlumon Fawr (Plynlimon): one decided to head straight for the sea, and plunged westwards across falls and through gorges to become the Afon Rheidol; the second decided to seek out beautiful countryside and add to its splendour, winding between great mountains, wooded eminences and verdant meadows to the shores of the Severn Sea, the river Wye; the third, Sabrina, the Severn, sought out the great cities of the plains to the east, and following the longest route of all, gave vast areas of rich farmland to support them.

COMPLEX ORIGINS

Pleasing as it is, such a story can hardly be an adequate explanation of differing landscapes and three more serious points must be kept in mind. First, the origins of landscapes are complex, and as Vidal de la Blache noted 'the geographical personality of a region is not something delivered

complete from the hand of nature'; it is, in Hinvig's words 'a quality which unfolds itself in the course of time as a result of the interaction between man and his physical and social environment'. Landscapes have evolved, they have been created, they are products of time, they are susceptible to change, and in recognising these qualities the historical geographers' rôle (and the author is such) is not to judge, it is to reconstruct, record and present.

A second point concerns certain consequences arising from the presence of varied regional characteristics: regional disparities, of location, of resources and of population create differences in the lives and expectations of citizens. These arise, often quite directly, from variations in environment and economy, and the solutions to these problems are

political. QED can never be written in such cases, for a rise in oil prices, over quite a short term, can create difficulties where none existed and can isolate communities as thoroughly as the natural hazard of winter snowfall. Thirdly, as John Berger wrote in his study of the life of a country doctor 'Landscapes can be deceptive. Sometimes a landscape seems to be less a setting for the life of its inhabitants than a curtain behind which their struggles, achievements and accidents take place'.

FIGURES WITHIN THE LANDSCAPE

County Durham, straddling the Highland-Lowland Zone boundary, provides vivid examples of these three perspectives, and while biographical and personal landmarks are an essential part of each inhabitant's perception, as an outsider, and an academic to boot, this brief view must be of figures within the landscape, that 'faire felde ful of folke' Langland saw, 'worchyng and wandryng. as the world asketh'.

To understand the county, a temporal perspective is essential: originating in pre-Conquest times in grants to the deceased but undecayed St Cuthbert, the territory of Durham lies between the Tyne and Tees, is almost bisected by the Wear and has the Derwent (British for 'river where oaks are common') as a north-western boundary. These estates provided the basis for the landed power of both the Bishops of Durham, who exercised almost vice-regal control from their castle at Durham and palace at Bishop Auckland, and the great monastery attached to the cathedral whose lands, after the Dissolution, passed to the hands of the Dean and Chapter. These spiritual and temporal heirs of St Cuthbert possessed an administrative centre at Durham, the 'island hill' almost surrounded by a deeply incised loop of the Wear, where lay St Cuthbert's body, and their rights extended over many types of land.

INHOSPITABLE UPLANDS

To the west lie the high limestone and sandstone ridges of the northern

Pennines, bleak inhospitable uplands where Arctic-Alpine flora survive, refugees from post-Ice Age temperature rises, and a region of which in about 600 AD a Dark Age nurse could sing 'when your father went to the mountain he would bring back a roebuck, a wild pig, a stag, a speckled grouse ... and a fish from the falls of Derwennydd' (Derwent). They owned also extensive manors in the open vales of Tyne, Wear and Tees and upon the yellow limestone slab which lies between the Wear and the sea to the east; their beasts took advantage of the sea-coast grazings and saltings skirting the flat estuary of the Tees and their fish-weirs and cobbles took the salmon of Tyne and Wear and the seals of the coastal waters.

Scottish armies were an ever present threat, in 1327 carrying several hundred cattle away from Weardale and being defeated just outside Durham at the battle of Neville's Cross in 1346, but it was not within their power to hold for long against the might of England when not fighting upon home ground. Furthermore, Durham avoided the persistent and harrowing raids and warfare found in the march zone proper, along the borders. In the uplands felling, grazing, iron and leadworking cleared finally what few woodlands had escaped the pre-Conquest backwoodsmen, while in the lowlands dozens of villages, arranged in neat formal order around an open area of grassy ground or green (suitable for the playing of 'lawful games' and grazing commonable beasts) were surrounded by islands of improved land, much of which was allocated to peasant farmers in open strips. Even here, open rough grazings remained an important part of the scene until the eighteenth century - and it was the old juror at an enquiry in Brancepeth who recognised good grazing when he saw it because when an ox was lying down the tips of its horns were barely visible!

COAL BECAME KING

Beneath the fields, beneath the moorish soils of the grazings, beneath the sandstones and shales lay the black seams of coal, to bring work and hard-

ship to many and prosperity to some, not least the Churchmen. In Durham coal became King. The first collieries clung to the Tyne and Wear valleys where easily draining adits could be driven up-seam, and the manor of Gateshead and Whickham was the premier producing area of Elizabethan Europe.

Nef paints a vivid picture of the scene in about 1650, the hilly slopes to the north and south of the Tyne covered with hundreds of small carts and waggons, many of them owned by local small farmers, leaving behind trails of black refuse on the green countryside and of the muddy, narrow river Tyne jammed with four or five hundred keels, coal-barges, and two or three hundred sea-going colliers. As Defoe wrote in 1724-6, when he saw these boats crowding into the Thames 'we wonder how it is possible for them to be supplied, and that they do not bring the whole Coal Country away; yet when in this Country we see the prodigious Heaps, I might say Mountains of coals, which are dug up at every Pit, and how many of those Pits there are, we are filled with equal Wonder to consider where the People should live who consume them'.

The nineteenth century brought to the Durham scene a new crop of villages, 'Harsh serrations of brick and stone
A field gone mad'
bearing a crop of houses, not grass or grain.

Out of this past has been forged not only contemporary industrial landscapes - and these in the north are less dominant and less oppressive than the outsider believes - but also social attitudes. Their accidents speak loudly: 95 men lost at Haswell in 1844 as the result of a firedamp explosion; 204 men and boys lost at Hartley colliery, Northumberland in 1862. The beam of the pumping engine broke, fell down the shaft and blocked it. There was one shaft.

A CATHARSIS

Martin Bulmer and others have documented with loving care, vigorous humour and penetrating comprehension the rise and

decline of these industrial communities, where one man reputedly raised his leeks on 'pure mother's milk' (the scrapings of the baby's nappy!). In a curious way the industrial folk museum created by Frank Atkinson at Beamish represents a vital step forward for the region: a catharsis, an expiation of an industrial heritage which broke men's bodies but not, completely at least, their spirits - and as late as 1860 working in hydrochloric acid gas was seriously proposed as a cure for consumption! From bitterness has come some pride. As Councillor Stan Heathie recently wrote 'Beamish is about people, how they worked, played, lived and died' and, he might have said, built and achieved.

The past is the soil in which the present and future grow, and no one concerned with present problems, with policies concerning jobs, transport, houses, schools, social services and landscape conservation can seek answers unless it be within the inherited framework which provides a constraint upon much, if not all, future action.

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DO IT YOURSELF

A Saturday school, 'What you and your society can do' was organised by the Nottingham University Department of Adult Education, the Derbyshire Environmental Federation, Derbyshire County Council and the Arkwright Society. It follows on from one held a year ago, and took a more practical approach.

The main speaker was Arthur Percival of the Civic Trust who spoke on the philosophy of interpretation and the different media that could attract grants through the Carnegie UK Trust/Civic Trust scheme. He then went on to explain in detail how the Fleur de Lys Heritage Centre at Faversham, was planned and carried out. The Faversham Society raised money through a charity shop and saved a great deal by making use of local art college students.

Tony Herbert, Special Projects Officer at Ironbridge Gorge Museum, spoke about guided walks and the basic training needed for the guides and also explained how listening posts worked. Finally, Christopher Charlton talked about the Arkwright Society's local history trails. Each text is approved by an editorial committee and 'walked' by a non-expert before printing.

Ruth Tillyard

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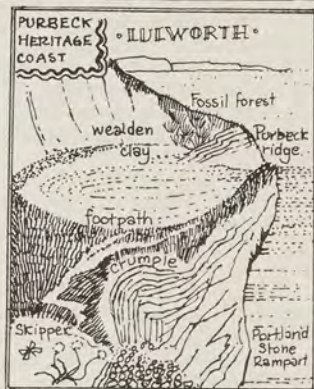
Brian Hunter of London has just completed - at his own suggestion - a mammoth task. He has indexed in great detail the first ten issues of 'Interpretation' and this will prove, we hope, invaluable to many of our readers and 'users'.

The length of the index precludes its being included within this issue, but it has been produced separately. As not all members may require it, those who do should send a 7p stamped addressed A4 envelope to Michael H Glen, Ryeford Lodge Ryeford, Stonehouse, Glos GL10 2LA

APOLOGY - 1

The last sentence of Geoff Stansfield's article in issue 11 on Interpretation at Rutland Water gave the impression that a freeze on grants had delayed the Visitor Centre. We understand from the Countryside Commission that they offered assistance but acknowledgement was not forthcoming before the freeze was imposed by the Government some months later. A further offer of help has since been made.

APOLOGY - 2



Issue 11 included an article by Roland Tarr called 'Interpretation on the Dorset Coast'. He also sent two attractive illustrations which the gremlins mislaid. We are sorry for this and thought they were worth including here.



BOOKSHELF

Ward, C, *The Child in the City* (London, 1978, Architectural Press, £5.95)

Colin Ward is a member of the Society. On the strength of this book alone (apart from his other credentials) he has a message we should all consider.

Though we may be uneasy about the way life in the city becomes more depersonalised and hostile to its inhabitants, it needs the very clear attentiveness of someone like Colin Ward to open our eyes to how insidious and widespread the decay is. He describes how a rich city environment, which nurtured a healthy community life has been replaced, through institutionalised decision-making by a barren and clinical one, conceived in isolation from those living in it.

The pictures, which are an essay in

themselves, illustrate the child's capacity to colonise the new city (or what is left of the old) and turn it to his own ends.

The book makes all its cases elegantly, not least that for access to an enlarged environmental experience, and anyone who claims a role in environmental interpretation should be concerned at what this book is saying. Illustrating how children have saved features of their environment, Ward says, 'the key to their future lies in their own awareness' and, elsewhere, 'if we teach the skills to manipulate the environment, we are also teaching the skills to sabotage the activities of its destroyers'.

While tending to underline the value of interpretation, the book gives no cause for complacency. Much of what has been done to devalue the environment was done in good intention. Interpretive services emanate from good intentions. Are interpreters another institutional

APRIL 1ST...

Yes, it's the start of yet another membership year and subscriptions are due for 1979-80. Please send your cheques or postal orders for £3.00 to:

T R Stevens
'Dol-werdd'
Heol Gorsaf
Maenclochog
Clunderwen
Dyfed

BUT, rather than the Treasurer having to remind you constantly every spring to pay up, why not use the very easy to fill in, painless to use, Banker's Order overleaf? It should also be sent to the above address.

interference with people's personal and vital contact with their environment? The fact is, they can be.

Terry Robinson

Binney, M and Hanna, M, Preservation Pays (London, 1978, SAVE, £2.00 incl p + p)

The sub-title of this report is 'Tourism and the economic benefits of conserving historic buildings'. The authors have done a great deal of homework to substantiate their opening claim 'that Britain's historic buildings ... are a major economic resource and an irreplaceable capital asset...'

Drawing on national and local sources, as well as market research in selected locations, Binney and Hanna attribute at least £500m in foreign exchange earnings in 1977 to historic buildings and areas. This, they say, compares unfavourably with the £25m being spent by the Government on preservation of

these buildings.

The book concludes with a proposal for a national heritage investment plan to spread more evenly the benefits of tourism and the pressures of visitors. Copies of the report are available from SAVE Britain's Heritage, 3 Park Square West, London NW1 4LJ.

Cross, D, Please Follow Me (WesseXplore, Wyndhams, Shrewton, Salisbury, Wilts, 1979, £1.00 incl p + p)

Sub-titled 'The Practical Tourist Guide's Handbook, this untidy but appealingly practical book has been around for a couple of years and has now been revised. It is unlikely that the word interpretation - as the Society understands it - is given a mention (the review copy arrived too late for a line-by-line check) but that doesn't mean that much of the general advice to guides is not equally applicable to those engaged in interpretive guiding. It's full of useful tips and some amusing quotations.

SOCIETY FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF BRITAIN'S HERITAGE

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Please pay National Westminster Bank Ltd, Palmerston Road, Southsea to the credit of the Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage, account number 01925695, the sum of THREE POUNDS now, and continue to pay that amount on the first day of April in every year until further notice.

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PARKIN'S PARKS

INTERPRETIVE RANGERS IN NEW TOWN PARKS

by Ian Parkin, Sue Adams and David Potts
Warrington New Town Development Corporation

The Development Corporation has recently launched an unusual Interpretive Park Ranger scheme in its new urban parks. Based on the broad principles and philosophy of visitor management in the countryside, the scheme will initially operate for 12 months but if successful will form the basis of the future urban management system within the New Town.

Although, under the provisions of the New Town Act 1965, the Development Corporation technically does not have the responsibility to develop parks and amenity open spaces, it became evident some years ago that the local authority would not be able to fulfil their function in phase with the general development of each new area. The Corporation considered it essential that the parks and general amenity landscaping should be seen as an integral part of the basic infrastructure of new development, and in the circumstances, took over the responsibility from the Borough Council.

The open space system in the town is based on a hierarchy of district parks (minimum 50 acres) and local parks (5 acres) linked, where possible, by linear parks which follow streams and other watercourses. The Mersey Valley forms a central east-west corridor of open land to which the rest of the system gravitates. When completed, there will be well over 3000 acres of open space in the town, but at present less than half has been implemented.

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

The Local Authority has its own Parks Department which is likely to take over the new parks some time in the future. At present it operates a traditional patrolling and horticultural maintenance service which is influenced by 'bonus' and productivity schemes. It was considered within the Development

Corporation that a different approach should be tried.

To date, some 12 parks of various sizes have been completed or are under construction. These include two district parks, four local parks, sections of five linear parks and Risley Moss. The Corporation has its own landscape management service which undertakes basic maintenance. So far, it has relied on a basic patrolling service provided by three 'rangers' employed by the Estates Department.

It was thought that unless a more positive approach was adopted the substantial capital investment in constructing the parks, some £15m to date, would not be maximised. Parks are for people, but people need to be made aware of new facilities and encouraged to use and enjoy them. It was for this reason that we decided to adopt the positive interpretive approach used in countryside recreation management and apply it to urban parks.

Under the provisions of the Manpower Services Commission STEP programme, it has been possible to appoint six rangers in two teams of three and operating from two very different new parks at opposite ends of the town. Each park is close to new and more established housing, and also to employment areas.

LINEAR ELEMENT

Woolston District Park, located to the east of the town centre, has a linear element following Spittle Brook southwards into the Mersey Valley, but it also includes a large area of typical urban park with the opportunity for formal and informal recreation. Sankey Valley Park is essentially a linear park following the course of the St Helens Canal and Sankey Brook, and is part of a proposed long-distance park from Widnes through to St Helens. It is narrow and more rural in character and has great interpretive potential in terms of the canal's heritage (the first completed modern canal) and in natural history terms.

The Rangers' function is to promote the greater use and enjoyment of these parks and to broaden the scope of their use

beyond the normal range of events and activities. They will be working in three specific fields:

a) a basic patrolling function to meet the park users, to reduce incidental vandalism and mis-use, and to undertake remedial maintenance, eg replanting a shrub or tree, making safe a piece of play equipment, clearing obvious litter from the paths. The landscape management service will fulfil the principal maintenance duties.

b) to visit schools, establish a dialogue with the headteacher and other staff and encourage the use of the parks in a variety of ways.

c) to work closely with the Corporation's Community Development Officer to meet and work with all the local community organisations, including youth groups, to encourage them also to use the parks.

Through the work of the Corporation's Environmental Education team extensive links already exist with the majority of schools in the town. It is hoped that the schools can be encouraged to use the parks for such things as:

a) environmental education, eg biology, social history, natural sciences, etc. The production of further teacher resource material by the Environmental Education team will be an important input to this.

b) recreation including simple children's play, cross-country running, even school sports in some areas.

c) the arts, by taking children into the parks to sketch, and in Woolston Park actually to perform plays and concerts on a stage constructed in the High School woodwork shop by pupils and teachers.

CONSIDERABLE IGNORANCE

Complementing the work with schools, however, is the need to gain the confidence and involvement of the general public. It is already evident that there is considerable ignorance of the existence of the parks. By visiting various community groups, by erecting

simple exhibitions in local libraries, by advertising in local shops and in the press it is hoped that the general public will firstly become aware of the parks and their potential, and as their interest is generated, they will want to organise events and activities in the parks. A medieval fair has already been mentioned and activities such as a local 'It's a Knockout' could also be envisaged. At the same time, the Rangers will be organising a Guided Walks Programme at various venues round the town, and to aid this, Sue Adams is currently preparing our second Town Trail.

We feel justified in describing the project as 'interpretive' as the whole concept is geared to the classic principles of interpretation: developing an interest in, and understanding of, the parks, increasing the enjoyment of the visitor and lastly, helping to simplify the management problems by influencing visitor behaviour.

In bringing established countryside techniques into an urban setting we know that we are breaking new ground. Similar work is being undertaken in the Manchester River Valleys but we wonder whether anybody else has tried the approach, what success they have had, and what advice and suggestions they can offer. If you can help, please do not hesitate to contact one of us on Warrington (0925) 51144.

IN QUOTES

Terry Stevens asks if others, like him, have found quotations useful to help remember interpretive principles. He starts the ball rolling with one of his favourites from Maj Gen B E Kendal of the College of Armed Forces, USA:

Never fear to use little words,
Big words name little things,
Big things have little names,
Such as life and death, peace, dawn,
Day, night, hope, home.

Use little words in a big way,
Its hard to do but they say what you mean,

When you don't know what you mean
use big words,
They sometimes fool little people!

CIDER SITE

New home for the Cider Museum



Photo: Hereford Cider Museum Trust

H P Bulmer's old offices in Ryelands Street, Hereford, have been offered at a nominal rent to the Hereford Cider Museum Trust. The two-storey building was built about 1891 and designed originally as warehousing.

The Trust plans to remove the present partitioning, except for the panelled boardroom, and to establish interpretive displays, a 1920s working cider factory, a traditional cider mill and press, a cooper's shop and other exhibits. With development costs in the region of £120,000, the Trust hopes to open Phase One in 1980.

STEVENS' VIEW

Terry Stevens presents a very personal response to Andrew Pierssene.

'A PURE HAND NEEDS NO GLOVE TO COVER IT'

The absence of any response to 'Pierssene's View' (Newsletter 10) was disappointing. Perhaps Andrew Pierssene's excellent and timely article stated too many home truths to make it comfortable to think about for too long. There are others however who share his concern for the 'state of the art' and its future development.

The proliferation of interpretive facilities in Britain over the past decade, and in particular the last five years, together with the establishment of a rash of interpretive officers, must be apparent to us all, witness the growth of our own Society. Several authors have identified possible reasons for the emergence, almost the coup, of interpretation in these islands. A few have succeeded in diagnosing the causal factors; fewer still have attempted to evaluate the success, or otherwise, of this movement.

The conclusions of those who have tried appear restrained, consequently all appears rosy. This is far from being the case, only Pierssene in this Newsletter and Ray Taylor in his determined appraisal in The Planner are brave enough to question and criticise our achievements. The emphasis upon the creation of interpretive facilities has made us complacent. We have succumbed to the pressures of committees who see success only in physical building terms; the seduction of sophisticated media; the crafty persuasion of designers; all of which has created the false impression that we are well endowed with good interpretation. Unfortunately the quality of the content remains deficient in many cases. Interpretation has suffered from being a vogue; from its own popularity.

The gathering momentum of interpretation fired by, now ageing, legislation; the undiscerning provision of grants; and short sighted attitude that uncontrolled enthusiasm must not be stifled, has encouraged many to try their hand at 'interpreting'. This has resulted in diluting the desired quality of provision. There is more than one bad apple in the barrel, indeed perhaps it would be easier to look for the isolated healthy ones. More has developed out of enthusiasm than out of an understanding of the principles of interpretation (MacEwen). As Pierssene states 'the only thing these providers have in common is a lack of training and inadequate experience.' So much (by so many) masquerades as interpretation, the resultant clutter makes the job of the rest much more difficult.

This isn't to say that those entering the interpretive field aren't doing so with commendable ambitions and intentions. Their stated objectives are, however, easy to formulate. The translation of these theories (platitudes) into effective interpretation is where the problems begin. And why? For the very reasons that Pierssene identifies. Whatever the situation the principles of interpretation are the same, but these along with the 'essential skills for environmental communicators' do not appear in the background training of the vast majority of people attempting interpretation in Britain.

COMMON FORM OF CONTACT

Nowhere are the deficiencies of our efforts better illustrated than in the most common form of contact with visitor groups - the self-guided trail. Few have received proper consideration at all levels of their development, and not least in the written guide which accompanies them, whether that be a publication, a panel or a sound guide. The level of design and visual attraction is often high but the content reaches only modest interpretive levels, if any. 'A pure hand needs no glove to cover it.'

The flair, inspiration and thought so crucial to success is obviously missing. This is clear from the conclusions of recent workers, eg DART and my own study in Wales, where one could sadly dismiss most of the trails on the interpretive content of their guides. There are, of course, exceptions, including those of some major organisations

Surely we must get back to basics? And that means training, and teaching the discipline. Ray Taylor reminds us that Freeman Tilden accepts that 'we are not cluttered with sufficient genius' to interpret based on inspiration alone. Consequently the art can and should be taught on the basis of a set of teachable principles (Tilden). Should we expect and encourage planners, architects, archaeologists and other professions to become interpreters - a 'profession' in its own right - particularly without offering them an

opportunity to develop the necessary skills? Like it or not, we have to accept that we must adopt a professional approach to our work, and the role of this society must be to consider this and to evolve if necessary. Equally, those who can impose some degree of 'quality control' upon interpretive developments must exercise their full powers. One thinks immediately of those grant aiding bodies, eg Carnegie UK Trust, Countryside Commission, Nature Conservancy Council, Council for Museums and others, who can, as a prerequisite to signing the cheque, ensure interpretive standards. Pierssene's proposals for a stronger academic base for our work is sound, and reinforced by Gary Everhardt (Director US National Park Service) who states in the foreword to Grant Sharpe's comprehensive study:

'Environmental interpretation has evolved into a discipline requiring practitioners to be professional in the fullest sense. Interpreters must bring to their jobs a professional competence in subject matter, they must have mastery of the ever increasingly sophisticated tools of their craft, and above all they must have a complete grasp of the art of communicating with people.'

As a start - how many members can put hand upon heart and say they have read Freeman Tilden's 'Interpreting Our Heritage'?

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SOVEREIGN HILL BALLARAT



We were delighted to receive a letter from Desmond Kennard, Executive Director of Ballarat Historical Park Association. He gave us details of the Gold Museum at Ballarat which was opened in December and we quote from the material he enclosed. Further information can be obtained from Graeme Haycraft, Marketing Manager, Sovereign Hill Gold Mining Township PO, Ballarat, Victoria 3350.

The Gold Museum project, born in 1966, is the realization of a life-long dream of the late Paul Simon, who expressed the wish that his collection be offered

to the Ballarat Historical Park Association.

Paul Simon's vision was the idea of displaying in an educational sequence the geology of gold, the mining and minting of gold, and the story told in gold coins.

The recently completed Stage 1 of the Museum, costing about \$1 million, houses the Simons' magnificent collection, and it is one of Australia's most valuable. Within the collection are alluvial gold and nuggets, all found in the Ballarat



vicinity by Paul Simon. It was quite literally a life-time 'labour of love'.

The Museum is designed to tell the 'story of gold'. To do this, Museum Curator John Reid produced a scenario based on his general knowledge and that of his assistant Norman Houghton. The whole concept was one of anecdotes, and the story that evolved has been an attempt to make it a museum for the people.

The overall display is based on the coin motif, and visitors are introduced to transparencies depicting pre-coinage gold objects of ancient civilizations. Leading on, slide projectors tell of the great gold rushes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Gold coins of the world play an integral part in the display: numismatic terms are explained simply, as is coin production through the ages. In rough terms, the coins are presented in geographical sequence.

The display terminates with a look at modern uses of gold in medicine and industry. The exhibition is highlighted by recurring themes, namely those of the legend of the Golden Fleece and the Order of the Garter.

The Museum's architect is Ewan Jones, who believes the Museum will complement the Sovereign Hill Gold Mining Township, located directly opposite, by providing the 'compelling magic and interest of actual gold'.

The design for the interior of the Simon Gold Pavilion was the responsibility of Derek Hooper and Associates. The firm has worked on many Australian projects.

Stage 2 of the project is expected to commence in 1979, and will include display areas for the Ballarat Historical Society Collection, the Geddes Chair Collection, a workshop, and offices for additional staff.

The Gold Museum will be of international importance, and is the first of its kind in Australia. It is in many ways appropriate that it is in Ballarat, which was born because of the 'Quest for Gold'.

BURTON VISIT

The late-autumn conference of the Society was held in Burton-on-Trent on the theme of 'The Heritage of Beer'. The company of some members of Burton's Civic Society added to the interest.

Just to remind the meeting that there are other important brews, Michael Quinion started the proceedings by describing cider making. A precis of his talk is on page 15.

BASS MUSEUM

This was obviously a public relations exercise, and had had an impressive amount of money spent on it. The interior design was good, but the displays did not interpret enough, with the result that the story did not come over. It appeared as if the designer was not properly briefed; the display panels were fussy and difficult to read. A moving diagram was good but easily missed.

The slide-tape programme did not grasp the opportunity to make the story of



brewing really exciting and the temporary exhibition was possibly better than the permanent one. The shop did not sell a wide range of souvenirs; in particular, no beer was sold! Apparently, Bass are uncertain how to make the best of their investment. Other breweries cannot afford a similar museum, and so may donate items, thus making it a museum for the whole industry.

A film, made by Anglia TV, was praised for using a technique of sequences in sepia for the past, and criticised for being too long - it was obviously made for a half-hour slot.

VISITS AND DISCUSSIONS

Guided tours of a traditional maltings and a relatively unmodernised brewery were provided, and a visit was organised to a bottling plant. The guides at the brewery had clearly done the tour many times. At the maltings, the guides could have given us the same understanding by showing us a little less. The problem of preserving a maltings for interpretation was discussed; although it may not be possible to keep such an enormous building, which was too big to carry out the process merely for demonstration, it is possible to keep a small old maltings, and to 'shrink' the process.

Ruth Tillyard

QUINION'S BREW

In the traditional cider making process, special varieties of apples high in tannin and sugar ('bittersweets') were crushed in a circular stone mill and then had the juice extracted by pressing the pulp in horsehair cloths. Because milling and pressing had to be done when the fruit was ripe, the whole year's cider making took place between September and December, a much more restricted span than traditional brewing.

The fermentation process relied completely on wild yeasts brought in on the fruit or present on the cloths or equipment; it was essentially a wine fermenta-



Putting the pressure on the 'cheese'

tion. Some cider makers added nothing to the juice, but most diluted it with water, sometimes introducing raw meat to 'feed' the yeasts. The traditional product was low in alcohol (because of the dilution), very dry (because the fermentation could not be stopped with sugars still present) and very acid.

It was consequently a good thirst quenching drink for farm workers, particularly at haymaking or harvest; there were plenty of cases of individuals drinking 1-1½ gallons a day.



Filling a cider hair with pulped apple
Photos: Hereford Cider Museum Trust

Cider making was a wet-weather Autumn job for the farm workforce; typically three or four men could make 120 gallons of cider a day. Large farms would commonly produce 2000-5000 gallons each year. Orchards planted with 'standards' at 32 ft separation permitted grass to grow under and between the trees, so allowing the orchards to double as pasture.

ALABASTER & ALE

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF BURTON UPON TRENT

A short version of Dr Colin Owen's background talk

Burton's status as Britain's premier brewing centre during the past century has made it better known than most English towns of comparable size. Inseparable though Burton and beer may have been during the past century, brewing is only one of the many activities with which it has been associated. During mediaeval times Burton was noted particularly for its important Benedictine Abbey, its bridge of thirty-six arches across the Trent, described by a seventeenth century writer as 'the most notorious piece of work of a civil public building in this county or anywhere perhaps in England', and its alabaster-carving industry, which despatched images and church monuments to many parts of the Kingdom.

In the sixteenth century a woollen cloth industry grew up, which specialised in the manufacture of kersies for national markets. During the same period the alabaster-carving industry reached its peak, while the malting, brewing and leather-working trades also expanded significantly. By the early seventeenth century there were at least fifty licensed victuallers in the town and already consignments of superior ale were being sent regularly to London, where they were sold at a high price under the name of 'Darbie Ale' at 'The Dagger' in Holborn and 'The Peacock' in Gray's Inn Lane.

During the Civil War Burton suffered severely. By the end of the century it had become a depressed town, with many notable buildings in ruins, its once famous alabaster-carving industries extinct, its cloth industry struggling for survival and its population declining. Economic revival came after 1712 when the Trent Navigation placed Burton in direct contact with Hull and Northern Europe. Within twenty years it had become a bustling river port handling trade to and from the Baltic,

Birmingham and South Staffordshire, and London.

BURTON AND THE BALTIC

Under the guidance of Benjamin Wilson, the leading brewer in the town, a highly organised ale trade developed between Burton and the Baltic ports. The excellent keeping qualities of the ale, derived from the characteristics of the local water supply and the use of high grade malt, enabled it to reach St Petersburg, Danzig, Riga and Elbing in a fine sparkling state and thus command a high price. Moreover, the insatiable demand in the Midlands for Baltic iron, timber and other import commodities allowed the exporting brewers to develop a lucrative trade. By 1780 there were thirteen breweries in the town, including those of Benjamin Wilson (sold to Samuel Allsopp in 1807), William Worthington and William Bass, who was also the proprietor of a carrying business.

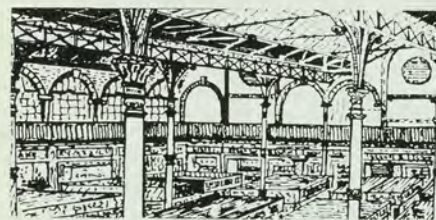


The Parish Church and Market Place

During the same period Burton also possessed a thriving iron-working and hardware industry which supplied Birmingham manufacturers and London dealers. The making of felt hats was also an important concern, one manufacturer holding contracts with the Army and Navy. The textile industry was well represented by tammy-weaving (manufacture of worsted gowns) and by cotton-spinning. The large firm of Peel & Co, which moved to Burton from Lancashire in

1780 in order to escape the activities of militant workers, employed at least five hundred workers at its four mills by 1800.

The opening of the local section of the Trent and Mersey Canal in 1770, the completion of turnpike roads to neighbouring towns, the establishment of two commercial banks around 1780 and a notable improvement in the town's services accompanied the industrial expansion. By 1800 the town's population had risen to six thousand compared with under two thousand a century before.



The Market Hall

INDIA PALE ALE

During the first forty years of the nineteenth century Burton's industrial and population growth slackened owing to the effects of the Napoleonic Wars upon the Baltic trade. Burton brewers had to content themselves with modest sales in Manchester, Liverpool and London until Allsopp and Bass began to brew pale ale for India in 1823. At the same time the hat, textile and hardware industries all declined markedly.

In 1839 Burton's economic problems were solved by the opening of the Birmingham to Derby Railway, which linked its breweries to national markets and triggered off unprecedented expansion. Between 1841 and 1891 the town's population rose from eight thousand to forty-six thousand as Burton rapidly became the foremost brewing centre in the world. By the end of this period there were thirty-one breweries in the town which between them produced three million workers. Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton Ltd, alone had an output of almost one million barrels and formed the largest brewing company in the United Kingdom. The reputation of Burton as a brewing centre persuaded a

number of large London firms (notably Truman & Co, and Charrington & Co) to open branches in the town for pale ale production. Huge brewery premises were rapidly constructed and linked together by a network of private railways. The opportunities for employment attracted many workers from other areas, including a seasonal influx of East Anglians, who worked in the maltings from October to May before returning home for harvesting.

ECLIPSE UNNOTICED

So successful were the breweries that the eclipse of the textile, hardware and hat industries passed almost unnoticed. Engineering, in the shape of steam engines and brewery equipment, grew steadily in importance however.

In 1901 Burton attained County Borough status, but far from forming the prelude to further expansion it marked the beginning of a period of economic stagnation. Increased competition for retail outlets, technological changes and the processes of amalgamation and take-over have since reduced production and, even more drastically, employment in the brewing industry. Fortunately, industrial diversification in the form of the production of rubber goods, footwear, textiles, foodstuffs and wood and engineering products has mitigated the effects of the re-organisation of the town's staple industry.

Burton has been somewhat unsuccessful in attracting new firms and industries with the result that its population is precisely the same today as it was at the beginning of the century at 50,000.

SETTING THE SCENE

Andrew Jenkinson has sent us the first two titles in his 'scen setter' series and feels his project might be of interest. The leaflets produced are 'The Meres' and 'Wenlock Edge'. (10p + sae from Andrew at Bircher Cottage, Little Stretton, Church Stretton, Salop SY6 6RE.)

The idea was born out of frustration: frustration first with the inadequacies of the existing (or non-existing) inter-

pretive material in the county, and secondly with frustration at devoting a large amount of time and effort to voluntary societies without seeing much reward for it.

Rather than try to interest a third party in our ideas for publication of simple, illustrated leaflets giving an introduction to landscape of specific areas of the county we decided to form a partnership and go it alone.

Two titles were ready for the beginning of 1978. But would they sell? A print run of 3000 each was reckoned a fair compromise between economy and investment and might last three years. The rather higher than usual charge of 15p was determined by (a) the desire to achieve some profit ourselves (b) the margin necessary for a middle-man's profit, for we had decided in favour of wholesale distribution, and (c) a feeling that much literature of this sort is underpriced.

We duly hawked our wares, and with varying degrees of enthusiasm the proprietors of newsagents, pubs, caravan sites, snack kiosks and even an antique shop were prepared to give them a try. The response amazed us. The essential factor in success seemed to be that they were specifically local publications without competitors and aimed at the widest possible audience.

I do believe that we have found a market to be tapped in many areas. Voluntary societies or statutory bodies concentrate for obvious reasons on their own rather specific sites, trails or work. Large scale commercial publishers see a future only in the retailing of generalised information. We aimed deliberately at the gap in the middle with something which we hope 'sets the scene' for any visitor going to a distinctive part of the county, perhaps for the first time, and wanting some introduction to its main characteristics.

I hope that something culled from this might encourage others to take the plunge in their own area. If it has any virtue at all, this is where I see the strength of our approach to the problem. It has been fun and mildly profitable!

FARMING THE PAST

COTSWOLD FARM PARK AND THE RARE BREEDS SURVIVAL TRUST

(Report of a visit by the Countryside Recreation Management Association)

The Cotswold Farm Park was established in 1970, during Conservation Year, on Bemborough Farm in the Cotswold AONB. The area used was 25 acres of uneven pasture with slate quarry remains and of little use for conventional agriculture. The site has been enhanced by the planting of small groups of forest trees - though the original sheltered hollows and scattered bushes have been left to provide pleasant picnic spots with views in all directions.

The Park has the most comprehensive collection of rare breeds of British farm animals in the country. The site is occupied by paddocks on both sides; animals on exhibition are individuals



selected from larger breeding groups, and regularly changed. During the visitor season, all the grazing animals are turned out at night and during the winter the Farm Park is cleared of stock and the animals moved to the many sheltered tree covered valleys of permanent grass on the 1000 acre farm.

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust was formed in 1973 as a consequence of a working party set up by the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Zoological Society of London. There was concern that since 1900 over 20 breeds

of domestic livestock had become extinct - in the British Isles alone - due to changes in fashion, consumer requirements and intensive farming methods. This represented a considerable loss of genetic potential and the RBST was established to prevent further loss. In 1974 a comprehensive survey showed that 45 breeds of cattle, sheep, goats, horses and pigs were in danger of extinction unless immediate action was taken. The main work of the Trust is to strengthen the position of these breeds and to avoid the decline of others, which may have less than 100 breeding females (eg Gloucester cattle - which give milk for Double Gloucester Cheese, Portland Sheep and Middle White pigs).

Others are at risk because of their restricted distribution - such as the seaweed eating North Ronaldsay sheep.

The Trust is able to undertake projects far beyond the capability of individual breeders. Boars have been imported from Australia to provide a wider choice of blood lines for breeding purposes and a semen bank with AI service for rare breeds has been established to include three unrelated bulls from each breed. The Trust has also purchased an island



Interpreting by loud hailer (Linga Holm, Orkney) to establish a major self-contained flock of North Ronaldsay sheep and a field study centre to investigate developments.

The Trust see their work as vital to the conservation of both genetic resources and landscape, and the gene bank established at the Cotswold Farm Park has a valuable role to play in retaining a part of our heritage.

If you would like to help, the Secretary RBST Ltd, c/o The Ark, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8SQ, will be glad to hear from you.

Stan Frost

TAKE NOTE!

MUSEUMS IN EDUCATION

The Working Party on Museums in Education would be very glad to hear from museums and other bodies about training serving teachers, and students preparing to be teachers, in the use of museums and galleries.

Information on courses, conferences, and ancillary material should be sent to Margaret Thompson, The Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.

OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM GROUP

A group, open to professional staff, private museum curators, voluntary helpers, technical staff and anyone actively concerned with museums in Oxfordshire has been formed. The Group will be informal, there will be no membership fee, and there will be three meetings a year, supplemented by classes on technical and academic aspects of museum work. More details from Crispin Paine, Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock, OX7 1SN.

AMBERLEY CHALK PIT MUSEUM

In a huge disused chalk pit in Sussex, a start is being made on setting up the Amberley Chalk Pit Museum to display chalk-quarrying and burning, brick-making, iron-founding and other industries of the area. It is a large undertaking and it will be interesting to see how it develops.

FARM OPEN DAYS

Bruce MacGregor (a Society member) is the new Farm Open Days Officer at the Association of Agriculture. He already has a programme of over 100 open days for the coming year and would like to hear from anyone else wanting to organise an open day.

CANAL PROJECTS OFFICER

The Prince of Wales' Committee is appointing an Interpretive Projects Officer for the Montgomery Canal in Powys. This is thought to be the first job of its kind on a canal in Britain, and will last for three years, funded by grants from the Carnegie UK Trust and the Countryside Commission.

THOUGHTS AMONG THE TREES

While not entering into interpretive activities, the Economic Forestry Group does have an interest (albeit commercial) in conservation activities. The latest issue of their client magazine cites the NCB as a new buyer of hawthorn bushes for hedgerow replacement - target rate a mile a year. Gas and animal feed from wood are two other interesting topics.

MORE ON 1066 SCHEME

East Sussex' proposals, which we noted in issue No 10, have not met with the wholehearted approval of the Department of the Environment, which does not wish to hand over control of Battle Abbey. Work is being suspended while discussions continue between the Department of the Environment and the County Council to try to produce a complementary programme of action.

COMMENT ON NORFOLK FOOTPATH

Maps of a proposed Long Distance Path are being displayed locally; the route is from Cromer to Hunstanton to near Thetford. Comment is being sought by James Wilson, the Field Officer whose employment in Norfolk County Council is being sponsored by the Countryside Commission.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION ADVISER

Recently arrived at the Countryside Commission, from the staff of the National Railway Museum, is Dick Hanson, the new Conservation Education Adviser. His job is to establish the Commission's role in assisting both educationalists and countryside managers in promoting education in, for, and about the countryside.

WELL SHOD

A retiring shoemaker has offered his tools and stock-in-trade to the Blists Hill open air museum which has managed to obtain his shop and remove it to the museum.

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING

Brockhole, the Lake District National Park Centre, will be able to offer Russian visitors a tape-slide sequence in their own language this season.



Already introductory talks on the Lake District are available in French, German, Dutch and Spanish.

JOB CREATION HELPS AGAIN

Warrington New Town Development Corporation is establishing an Interpretive Ranger Service with the aid of the Manpower Services Commission. Six posts are being created for a year, operating as two teams based in different parks. Much of the work will involve visiting schools and working with the local community as well as park duties.

Under the provisions of the Manpower Services Commission STEP programme, the Corporation is running an Environmental Education team for the third consecutive year. The aim of the project is to research, collate and publish teacher resource material on sites and topics of particular environmental education interest within the town. In addition, the team will be working closely with a newly-formed Interpretive Park Ranger team to encourage schools to make better use of the new parks within the town.

There are still vacancies within the team and applications are welcome from unemployed graduates/teachers aged 19 or over. For further information, ring Ian Parkin (Ext 327), Sue Adams (Ext 328) or David Potts (Ext 110) on Warrington 51144.

CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA

The National Trust have recently completed a visitor reception centre at the villa. The building itself fits pleasingly alongside existing older structures and houses a shop, toilets, a small exhibition concourse and an auditorium. Michael Quinion is preparing a tape/slide programme for the site, in conjunction with Robert Erskine, who has produced the script.

WADE'S WORLD

Robin Wade's current projects include the converting of Coalbrookdale's warehouse into a museum of the Darby family, and the early history of Ironbridge. It will be opened 'royally' in June. For the US Park Service, he is designing a wallchart on the history of ironmaking. Add to this, work for the Venezuelan government on setting up a network of regional science and technology centres.

By March, his exhibition to celebrate 150 years of Scotland Yard will be open at the Museum of London but Robin himself will have returned (after 28 years) to the Antipodes for a month to study and assess various museum projects in both Australia and New Zealand.

INTERPRETING HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

A steering group has been formed to foster interest in understanding and interpreting historic landscapes, to provide advice and coordinate research, and to encourage greater popular awareness of them and their importance. Further details are available from the Secretary, Historic Landscapes Steering Group, Department of Geography, Polytechnic of North London, Marlborough Building, 383 Holloway Road, London N7.

COUNCIL TO EXPAND ACTIVITIES

The Council for Environmental Education has received the promise of more funds. The Department of the Environment has doubled its allocation to £12000 this year, but the Council must attract equal funds from other sources to continue its work as the national forum for the interchange of ideas and advice

on the promotion of environmental education, and develop further its publications programme, information service and cataloguing of resources.

The Council has appointed its first Director, John Baines BA Dip Ed. For the last three years he has been Editor/Education Officer with the Commonwealth Institute.

At the same time, Keith Wheeler from Leicester Polytechnic and consultant on environmental education to several cultural and educational environmental educational organisations has become Chairman of the Executive Committee.

C C PUBLICATIONS

The report of the Visitor Centres Study is due from the Countryside Commission in March. It will be a companion to the one on Self-Guided Trails. Also in the pipeline are advisory booklets on Self-Guided Trails and Farm Interpretation, and the interpretive plan for Exmoor.

DEFINITIVE STATEMENT

Ray Taylor, whose contributions to thinking on interpretive matters have been reported from time to time, has drawn our attention to what he calls his 'definitive statement' in the January issue of 'The Planner'. Its title supports his contention. Headed 'Countryside Interpretation: how to do it and why', it is worth reading.

REGIONAL STUDIES IN MUSEUMS

The theme of the Regional Museums Group spring conference will be to compare and contrast the towns of Gloucester and Cheltenham and to examine the role of the museum in each. Further details of this conference, which takes place from 6 to 8 April, from Richard Langhorne, Lancashire Museum, Stanley Street, Preston PR1 4YP

TRAVELLING GRANTS

Application papers for the 1979-80 grants scheme are available from Terry Robinson at the Countryside Commission. This is the third and final year of the experiment and it is hoped that the scheme will become permanent.

RISLEY MOSS CENTRE

Warrington New Town Development Corporation have given the go-ahead to a £150,000 visitor centre at their Risley Moss Country Park/Educational Nature Reserve project.

The centre, designed by Building Design Partnership, includes the usual ranger accommodation, information counter, sales area and toilets, plus an exhibition area incorporating a small audio-visual theatre and a multi-purpose room suitable for school parties, evening lectures and other activities.

The interpretive exhibition and on-site interpretation is being designed by Graham Duffy of Graphic Partners who will also assist with the production of a seven-minute introductory A/V programme. The research and basic interpretive planning for the exhibition, A/V programme, on-site interpretation and teacher resource material has been undertaken by Sue Adams and a small research team.

The present programme envisages a start on site on 1 June with the centre being completed ready for opening over Easter 1980. The Head Ranger, Kenn Watt, took up his post on 1 June 1977.

The Countryside Commission have been generous with their technical assistance and financial support for the project. An agreement has been reached with Peter Moore's Countryside and Recreation Committee who will take over the project together with the staff, in 1985.

Ian Parkin

COURSES

LOSEHILL HALL EVENTS

27 - 29 April, Practical Archaeology
18 - 20 May, Practical Country Crafts
26 - 27 May, Losehill Hall Open Days
Contact Peter Townsend, Peak National Park Study Centre, Losehill Hall, Castleton. Derbys. S30 2WB

GIBRALTAR POINT COURSE

20-22 Apr, Mounting Nature Trails and Guided Walks. Planning and writing self-guided walks and skills required for guided walks, with practical exercises on the Gibraltar Point-Skegness Nature Reserve. University of Nottingham Department of Adult Education and Countryside Commission. £11.00. Full details of all courses and application form from University Resident Tutor, Manor House, Alford, Lincs LN13 9DL.

ASPECTS OF INTERPRETATION

The Countryside Commission for Scotland will run two courses on interpretive topics in 1979.

In early June there will be a course on publications in relation to interpretive provisions and this will be held at Battleby, Perth. It will be similar to last year's successful pilot course (see Interpretation Number 10, page 10) and will be concerned with both principles and practice. It is designed for staff of parks and similar areas who need to develop a range of publications concerned with site interpretation. The emphasis will be mainly on the production of inexpensive pamphlets.

A course on Interpretive Planning will take place in late September/early October, based at Kindrogan Field Centre near Blairgowrie, and at Battleby. It will include a simulated local interpretive planning exercise and will also consider topics like local and regional interpretive planning; evaluation of interpretive provisions etc. It is aimed at planners working in local government, with other statutory organisations, or with voluntary bodies, park staff and others who may be involved in planning interpretive facilities.

Both of these courses will be based on practical workshop sessions rather than lectures, and course members will be expected to participate fully. Further details can be obtained from Mrs Ruth Grant, Education Officer, Countryside Commission for Scotland, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW.

LISTEN

Developed in association with the Countryside Commission the Listening Post is quite a breakthrough in information systems. It is a self contained cartridge tape playing device which is both audibly and visually unobtrusive. The sound is piped to the ear by a special tube costing only a few pence which can be sold, hired or recycled or given away.

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what's on ~ coming events

CONFERENCES

NORTH EAST NEXT

In April, the Society will visit the North East of England to look at its heritage, centred on Durham. The meeting begins after lunch on Friday 6 April with a talk on interpretive facilities in Tyne and Wear and a visit to Sunderland Museum and Monkwearmouth Station Museum.

In the evening, Dr Brian Roberts (who wrote the article on page 3) will introduce the region. After a talk on Saturday morning on the Industrial



Home Farm, Beamish Museum

Heritage of the North East, Frank Atkinson will describe Beamish open air museum and then lead a visit there. Saturday evening will end with entertainment.

The Society's AGM will be held on Sunday morning followed by a talk from Arthur Blenkinsop MP on 'The National Heritage - do we want more legislation?' A visit to Durham Cathedral is arranged for the afternoon.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

7 April, 'Our Past Before Us: Why do we save it?' A symposium on historic preservation. University College, London. £4.00. Contact Marcus Binney, c/o Country Life, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1

CRMA CONFERENCE

18 - 20 May, Recreation and Conservation. Countryside Recreation Management Association. Field Studies Council Centre, Box Hill, Surrey. £28.50 (£25.50 members). Contact Dr Stan Frost University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT.

SUMMER SCHOOL

30 July - 5 August, The Industrial Archaeology of South East Wales (with special reference to the Heads of the Valleys). The Hill Residential College, Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny, Gwent. £69.00 (£4.50 for single room, £57 non-res.) £10.00 deposit to the Registrar at The Hill.

DIRECTORY

The Prince of Wales' Committee has recently moved offices to: 10th Floor, Brunel House, Fitzalan Road, Cardiff, CF2 1UY. Telephone Cardiff 497048.

The Museums Association moved in December to 34 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1. The new premises will have a meeting room and a 'shop window' which will be used for displays.

interpretation newsletter