

interpretation

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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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Old Hall, Tatton

INTERPRETING OLD HALL, TATTON PARK
Dolly Pile, Cheshire County Council

The Americans from the National Park Service who came to write the Interpretive Plan, got excited about it, as did those who had been intimately involved from its conception in 1974. But would the public share our enthusiasms when it was eventually opened to them in September 1979? After all, Old Hall which one journalist described as 'resembling a Victorian warehouse' had to compete with an existing attraction only 3/4 mile away across the park in the shape of the grand neo-classical mansion packed with art treasures and curios.

Looking back after one complete season there is no doubt that if visitor numbers can be taken as an indicator, Old Hall is in no way eclipsed by its neighbour, it is probably the contrast it offers to the mansion, in its simplicity and informality, that is one of its greatest strengths.

The presence of the 'old' and the 'new' in the one parkland presents the interpreter with a unique opportunity to tell the story of the evolution of a typical English manor and estate. In fact evolution is the central interpretive theme at Tatton.

Like the mansion with its formal gardens and out buildings, the Old Hall does not stand alone. Associated with it are:-

- a deserted medieval village site
- a small stable block converted into a reception area and a/v theatre seating 50 people
- a cruck barn furnished to show its original functions for threshing and storage
- Old Hall itself which embraces

the shell (including the original fine timber roof) of a late medieval Great Hall (1475); rooms of late 16th century origin and rooms which were significantly 'Victorianised' in the 1860's to provide accommodation for estate servants like the gamekeeper. So far only the Great Hall is open to visitors but next year bedrooms restored to 1610, based on an inventory for Old Hall at that period will be opened followed in 1982 by reconstructed gamekeeper's apartments. In this way visitors will be able to follow through the Hall's evolution from its heyday as the home of the manor's early lords to its relative obscurity as servants' quarters. All the furnishings in the Great Hall are reproductions made either by a 'Job Creation' carpenter or by local colleagues and schools with oak which we supplied.

Interpretive methods used are:-
- a small display to orient



Interior, Great Hall

visitors and introduce them to the significance of the area in the context of the total Tatton story.

- a 10 minute automatically operated slide-tape sequence which outlines Tatton's early history and traces Old Hall's development. The equipment used is an Electrosonic ES unit linked to two Kodak projectors. Even though this operates in a relatively damp, unheated projection room and runs through as many as 15 shows a day in busy periods it has not failed us yet. All visitors see the programme at the beginning of the tour

- Guided Tours. Although these are manpower intensive it was felt that self-guiding tours would be ineffective owing to the special circumstances here. Guides are recruited locally and work on a part time basis. In the main season they work from 12 til 5pm and may lead five tours during that period, each tour taking about 40 minutes and involving demonstrations of hand threshing and sometimes hand spinning. Five tours is about the most that any one guide can cope with especially as he/she has to contend with the smoky atmosphere of the Great Hall.

Management

Old Hall is managed by one full time member of staff and one temporary member who also do some guiding particularly of organised parties such as schools which come before main opening times.

Operational problems have been minimal to date though initially doubts were expressed about the wisdom of a system which relied entirely on guided tours in that it was possible that massive blockages in circulation could occur or long waits for entry which would reduce enjoyment and effectiveness of the experience.

Obviously, efforts to create an appropriately authentic atmosphere do generate work. Amongst the daily or regular duties are chickens to look

after, a fire to be made up and kept alight, rush lights to be made, and floor rushes to be replaced as they disintegrate by constant trampling under foot. None of these have caused a major problem. Occasionally a vociferous cockerel or a pair of amorous ducks may compete with the guide for visitor attention but these minor distractions are more than compensated for by the feeling of life they generate. Fears that the rushes on the floor of the great hall would become infested with "nasties" were groundless as was the prognosis that they would create a fire hazard. Staff who have tried to use them as tapers will vouch for that - they just will not ignite.

Visitor Numbers

This season (Easter to mid-October) - 28,000 visitors have seen Old Hall of whom 7,000 have come in school parties. Response from schools has been most encouraging. One group came all the way from Cumbria, others from Bolton and Preston but the majority are from Liverpool, Manchester, the Potteries and Cheshire.

Visitor Response

A 'thank-you' letter to Old Hall staff from an 8 year old sums up the reaction of visitors: "I thought it was very realistic and even had the right smells". He went on to say that one of the reasons he particularly liked it "was that you could touch things on display ... I liked flailing very much ... I think I'll ask my Mum and Dad if we can go again sometime"

As a response this tells us nothing new but simply reinforces the importance of those age old techniques of demonstration and participation.

The child's last comment and our own observations lead us to the conclusion that one effect of visitors being able to do something themselves is the

desire to return to have another go. This is reflected in the large number of repeat visitors, some people returning 3 or 4 times.

Predictably, there has been some adverse reaction to the 'guided tours only' concept but only about 5% of visitors have objected, most being National Trust members (Tatton is a Trust property run by Cheshire County Council) who feel that they should have the right to wander independently. However, having done the tour, most objectors are sympathetic and appreciative of the "guided only" approach.

Emphasis on detail in any historic reconstruction is very important, for children especially notice and comment on anything that does not gel. One child referring to the deer skins representing the servants' bedding asked a guide: "Please Sir, why have they got bullet holes in them? They didn't have guns in them days".

As yet we are unable to comment on the effectiveness of

interpretation in evaluating the extent to which visitors gain understanding and awareness of the history behind Old Hall and how it slots into the complete Tatton story. We do know that no matter how clear the guides' presentation, misconceptions amongst visitors do arise. Children, as revealed by their 'post-visit' letters tend to replace the accurate facts with others which evoke a greater degree of excitement or relevance to their own lives. 'Anglo Saxon' for instance, becomes 'Vikings' and 'fallow deer skins' become 'reindeer skins'.

The Future

While a system of management and interpretation has been established which has proved to run smoothly and apparently effectively, we do not intend to sit back and say "That's it". There is scope for many developments including Son et Lumiere, living history, role playing with school groups as well as dramatic re-enactments, but ... like everything else it all depends on the availability of money.



Guide with group. In background cruck barn and old stables, housing reception area and theatre.

Montgomery Canal

Andrew Guest, Prince of Wales
Committee

In 1973, with the offer of financial support through the National Sponsorship Committee and the Variety Club of Great Britain, The Prince of Wales' Committee put forward proposals to restore 7 miles of the Montgomery Waterway from Gallowstree Bank Bridge on the outskirts of Welshpool north-east to Maerdy Bridge near Four Crosses. With the approval of the British Waterways Board and the Support of the Shropshire Union Canal Society, the Inland Waterways Association and many other interested bodies, the Committee set up its Montgomery Waterway Restoration Group and work on the seven-mile length got under way during 1974.

In addition to the sum of £348,000 raised to meet the agreed restoration costs, a further sum of money was raised through the Variety Club of Great Britain to finance the operation of a canal boat, "Heulwen-Sunshine", specifically designed and built to carry handicapped children on the restored stretch of canal.

Further Involvement

The restoration of this stretch is now complete, with navigation as far as Burgedin Locks, and the Heulwen-Sunshine is in its fourth year of operation. The impetus that restoration of this stretch gave to work on the canal is maintained by an increased British Waterways Board staff and the voluntary organisations who are working on other stretches of the canal north and south of Welshpool in England and in Wales. As a further move to continue this process of bringing a canal back to life, The Prince of Wales' Committee now employs a Montgomery Canal Interpretive Projects Officer who is permanently based in Welshpool.

The Future

The canal is beginning to lead a new life, and this must be made clear for the benefit of those who live near it and who visit the area it passes

through. At the moment, the canal probably means less to fewer people than at any time during its history, yet it has vast potential for recreation - fishing, walking, canoeing, boating - and will reward those with an interest in architecture, industrial history, nature study, as well as in its significant role in the growth of the area. Its special potential for use by disabled people can be further explored. Even with what has already been done to remove some forty years of silt, weed and dereliction, all this is possible. The setting up of a new Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust, to co-ordinate restoration over the entire length of the canal, and the continuing commitment of the British Waterways Board should see even more possibilities opening up.

Work of the Interpretive Projects Officer

The Interpretive Projects Officer seeks to encourage the fullest possible realisation of the canal's potential for public benefit. Links are being made with organisations in the area and sponsors for further projects on the canal continually sought. A group of children from Welshpool spent part of their holidays this summer looking at the canal with a series of different guides, and an exhibition of their work is being shown. A permanent 'newsboard' will fill the gap in information about the canal and a S.T.E.P. scheme is to produce a series of leaflets on the canal and how to enjoy it. Two cottages in the Canal Yard in Welshpool are being leased by The Prince of Wales' Committee as offices - a first step in bringing back canal life to the canal yard, where the great warehouse still protectively overhangs the town water. A survey of canal buildings and structures has been made by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments, and it is hoped that use can be found for those that are neglected, and that others, such as the banks of limekilns, can be preserved and protected. There is ample scope for local groups to become involved in the canal and thus contribute to the development

of this valuable asset.

The Prince of Wales' Committee

The Prince of Wales' Committee was set up in 1971, under the Chairmanship of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, to continue and develop the

initiative which grew in Wales during the campaign for European Conservation Year 1970. The Committee is concerned with promoting an awareness of environmental problems and with encouraging voluntary action to tackle specific schemes.

Stanley Jeeves

I first met Stanley Jeeves in 1974 soon after joining the Countryside Commission. I was recommended to see his work while in the area and an appointment was made with just a few hours notice. This Stanley accommodated with his characteristic generosity; his greeting was warm and within minutes it was like talking with a friend of long standing. He insisted on showing me two of his slide-tape programmes and I was moved by his enthusiasm and their excellence.

Stanley's landscape photography was without blemish to my eye and his deep love of natural surroundings was clearly shown in his work. His sensitive use of music too showed that he understood its use in making his presentations highly evocative. On showing me the business end of the operation I was surprised to find his superb performances were presented by hand, each one being no less than an individual artistic creation.

Since 1974 I have seen Stanley and his work many times; the last just a few weeks before he died. He had come to the conclusion that, to meet increasing demand, it was time to make a permanent record of his work. Sadly no one could have known that he was, even then, too late.

However, his decision was made and preliminary work was underway. I believe the best and most appropriate memorial to Stanley

Jeeves would be to see this work through to fruition as he wished it. Then, even those who never had the good fortune to know him personally, could know something of him through his inspiring slide-tape work.

Philip Eden
February 1981

Stanley Jeeves was convinced that his new slide-tape programme using photographs of the Himalayas and the music of Mahler, "where the Highest Mountains Touch the Sky" was his best work. He lived long enough to give it one public preview at Samlesbury Hall. He strove to see order in all things and his death on the completion of a work that satisfied him must give us some solace in the face of such a sad loss.

Stanley was a man who seemed to be able to receive impressions and wisdom from everywhere around him. No ideas or areas of knowledge appeared to be closed to his interest. He expressed his vision without using words yet with great eloquence. Programmes such as "The Return of the Carpenter" and "Britain Beautiful" were able to convey a series of unwritten truths about Man's relationship with the environment and the spiritual order of existence. They were at the same time challenging us to do better while giving consolation in Man's ability to see beauty. They made one both proud and ashamed to be human.

The loss is great indeed; he had a message for us all and we are much the poorer for losing this uniquely gifted interpreter.

Terry Robinson

Felin Isaf

A working water mill in North Wales.

Ken Howarth, North West Sound
Archive

FELIN ISAF is situated a little over half a mile south of the village of Glan Conwy on the main A470 to Llanrwst Road. The car park is at a lower level than the main road and is easily missed, a roadside sign near Glan Conway Village would be an advantage.

Discrete noticeboards near the car park point the visitor in the direction of the mill pond which is picturesquely hidden in trees a few hundred yards away. From the mill-pond the path to the mill follows the shallow feeder channel down through the woods towards the mill site. There is no real distinction between the water in the feeder and a natural stream flowing through a wood, only perhaps the speed of the water serves to remind the visitor that it is providing power at the mill.

The path veers away from the feeder at the end of a small wood and the mill and its buildings come into view. A field forming roughly a triangle (and a suntrap) has the feeder on one side and woodland on two others, has been set out with picnic tables, and there are refreshment facilities and discretely hidden toilet facilities.

The millsite has changed a great deal since I first visited it ten years ago. Then it was overgrown and showing serious signs of dilapidation. Mostyn Estates in conjunction with Brian Lingard, architects, and Peter Welsh, Millwright have worked wonders in transforming the site. No mean amount of the credit has also to go to the Job Creation Team that cleared much of the site and helped to restore buildings.

The visitor is received at the shop where in the season a guide conducts parties round the mill. In the absence of a guide a printed booklet is given to each visitor. The booklet is a building by building

guide, and mentions important features including the 18ft diameter waterwheel. Next to the working mill is a smaller stone building, probably the original mill going back to the 17th century.

This mill still has a small water-wheel which operates from the same feeder as the main wheel. The next building on the site is the Drying House, which was used to dry oats on an earthenware griddle above a kiln. This building is unusual for North Wales and the North West of England and is an important survival.

The main mill building is used to produce flour on a commercial scale using traditional techniques. Only a few concessions have been made to modern technology such as the grain silo skilfully hidden near the rear of the building. Much of the equipment in the mill still survives and it is possible to watch the miller at work at certain times. The millstones are French Burr and are kept in good condition by Peter Welsh the millwright.

Milling is an all the year round venture, and apart from sales of flour in the mill shop, Felin Isaf Millers also supply the needs of local bakers and confectioners.

The mill complex was opened to the public in 1979 and has yet to establish itself on the local tourist scene. Interpretation has been given a low profile partly because the miller is working in a food production area with all its attendant regulations, and partly because too much signboard interpretation would ruin the atmosphere of the place.

Felin Isaf is situated on the Nant y Garreg Ddu, and its unspoilt country watermill, only a few hundred yards from the busy A470, is well worth a visit.

SIBH(arites) in America

Derek and Claire Baylis

A brief tour of interpretive sites in the Eastern USA was undertaken by members of SIBH in June 1980. The original idea of a full coach-load dwindled away, but a small group of six met in Washington in early June. The tour was arranged by Martin Orrom, in conjunction with Marc Sagan, Chief of the Interpretive Design Branch of the US National Park Service. Unfortunately Martin could not travel with us, but we are grateful to him for the excellent arrangements he made for accommodation and travel.

Washington had charm - and warmth! A trip to the National Visitor Centre at Grand Union Station gave us our American bearings and we were ready to go. Some of us explored the museums of the Smithsonian Institution - we were particularly impressed by the National Air and Space Museum, which used a variety of imaginative techniques to put across the story of flight: we liked the reality of Lindbergh's own plane, contrasted with a simulated moon landing. A visit to George Washington's home at Mount Vernon was interesting from an historical rather than an interpretive point of view, as interpretation here is replaced by the conventional guided tour.

Our SIBH Tour proper started with a long drive north into Pennsylvania to Hopewell Village National Historic Site. Michael Quinion handled our Club-Wagon admirably throughout the tour, assisted by Bill Lanning. Hopewell had an early iron foundry, and played an important role in the American Revolution. The village and foundry have been

restored to their 1824 appearance, though the roughness of contemporary life seemed a little understated. There are strong Ironbridge connections here, and the visit formed a useful coda to the SIBH Ironbridge visit of September 1979.

It is the policy at Hopewell to minimise signs - there are almost none - and to allow the place to speak for itself. Village life and craft are interpreted by living history personnel, and the use of a self-guide leaflet. A barefoot elderly lady tending her cottage garden spoke to us of the difficulties of housekeeping in 1824 - a very convincing performance. Discussion with National Park Staff Michael Johnson and Elizabeth Disrude was lively and honest, and we learned something of the problems of visitor pressure - Hopewell is within day visit reach of Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington. National Park Staff generally seemed imbued with an enthusiasm and commitment that was very infectious.

On to Gettysburg - site of the most devastating battle of the Civil War, and freely accessible from an extensive public road network. NPS administer the Park and Visitor Center, but there is a conflict between commercial and interpretive interests. Visitor pressures - c. 1 1/2 million p.a. - and a stormy Park/Town relationship were discussed with NP staff in a most refreshing way. The traditional introduction for the visitor is the "Electric Map" programme explaining the battle and showing troop movements. There is also a spectacular sound and light programme on Picket's Charge at the Cyclorama Center - a new building, which although it has some design faults, does help to recreate the battle scene. Gettysburg town also offers a number of commercially operated facilities

including a huge and ugly viewing tower, bus tours, and numerous museums. The Eisenhower residence has just been opened to the public by NPS, and is well worth a visit, as Edward Brownlow and James Boston found.

Turning south-west, we followed the course of the Civil War to Antietam National Battlefield Site - a battle which greatly altered the course of the War. We arrived in a drenching thunderstorm, which added greatly to the atmosphere of the place, and viewed the battlefield from the wide windows of the auditorium. A tape-slide programme presented here was confusing, and made no reference to the places seen from the building. However, Marc Sagan is well aware of its shortcomings, and hopes to have it improved.

One of the highlights of the trip was a day spent at Harpers Ferry. The National Park Service consolidated its curatorial services and interpretive production facilities at the Harpers Ferry Center in 1970. With this move, the Park service brought together many experts working in separate but related fields, so that they could use each other's talents and could co-ordinate projects for the parks. The focus of Harpers Ferry Center is the Interpretive Design building overlooking the Shenandoah River, where we were received by Marc Sagan and his staff. Its location next to the Mather Training Center encourages an exchange of ideas between the staff, and rangers who come from parks around the country to attend courses. By working on all of the presentations for a Park in this one Center, coordination is ensured. A film which a visitor sees in a park must support the exhibits, publications and other presentations: each medium is assigned a specific job to complement the others.

Harpers Ferry is an historic early nineteenth century town at a strategic location on the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. It is also the site of John Brown's famous raid on the Armoury, and this fact poses a problem for interpretation, as John Brown tends to get in the way of everything else! A comprehensive statement, for interpretation, presented by Paul Lee, Chief of Interpretation at Harper's Ferry outlined the difficulties, and did not shirk the problem of restoring dilapidated buildings, of which there are many, and the conflict of tourism and conservation. Once again we were impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of the staff.

We'd never really believed in the "The Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia" until we saw them from Shenandoah National Park's Skyline Drive, which was the next driving challenge Michael tackled. This is an imaginative piece of road-making - 75 miles in length along a ridge so narrow, that in some places one had sheer views on either side. Here in Shenandoah we realised how necessary it is to woo the American away from his car and teach him to experience the countryside. This seems to be an overwhelming problem for National Park Staff. At the delightful Dickey Ridge Center, visitors were invited to "please touch" exhibits, and the tape-slide programme was a complete surprise. We had expected an explicit introduction to Shenandoah National Park, but instead we were given an impressionist programme of lovely slides, with a beguiling female voice-over exhorting us to forget everything, "reach out, live, breathe". It underlined the fact that Shenandoah does serve a large urban population, and while there is a strong conservation message, the approach is a direct appeal to a simple appreciation



Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park Left to Right - Edward Brownlow, James Boston, Michael Quinion, Claire Baylis, Bill Lanning, (Photo: Derek Baylis)

of nature rather than identification of species. This was emphasised yet again during an "Evening-Light Walk" with a young interpretive ranger who had us silently on our knees, on the dewy grass at dusk, emulating the animal world, taking in the sounds and smells of a forest glade at the end of the day. The necessity for people to use their senses fully was also underlined by the tape slide programme at the Harry Byrd Visitor Center at Big Meadows. This Center also had some excellent display panels - good design, clear type-face and illustration. They also made very good use of artifacts. Walking on a self-guided trail through the woods, we felt that the on-site labels were contrived, placing too much emphasis on the element of "change" in the landscape, giving no explanation of the richly diverse plant communities.

Leaving Shenandoah, we headed for Jamestown, site of the first English Colony in America (1607). Here, a prestigious visitor center, opened in Bicentennial year, contrasts oddly with the paucity of remains of the colony. An introductory film spells out the hardships of the early settlers, and conveys the atmosphere of the site, and there are extensive reception facilities for education visits. However, we learned that of the

450,00 visitors p.a. to Jamestown and Yorktown National Historic sites, only 10,000 of these come in school parties. The staff are aware of the difficulty of attracting school parties, and their school packs are especially appealing. Special provision is required at Jamestown because the site is almost bereft of relics. James Haskett and his staff are innovative, and we liked the "Programme Box" - cabinet displays containing costumes, drawings, articles to be handled, scripts to be acted etc. It is possible to design a programme to illustrate the life of a slave, an indentured servant, or a young gentlewoman. Jamestown also offered presentations by living history personnel, and Paul Sagan described how he had researched the character he was portraying.

York town, battlefield and site of the surrender of the British force at the end of the Revolutionary War, also had an impressive Bicentennial Visitor Center overlooking the site, with its original and reconstructed earthworks. The Center has valuable museum relics displayed effectively, and impressive dioramas and reconstructions. We liked a tape-sequence of the battle story, synchronised with dioramas sequentially illuminated. Visiting the Moore House, where the surrender was signed, we were accosted by a "French Officer", who

commiserated with us British on our defeat, and assuming we were refugees, offered us clothing and shelter. This was a clever piece of interpretation, and when we finally persuaded him to break character, we had an interesting discussion on the value of living history.

Colonial Williamsburg is, of course, very picturesque, and as a commercial undertaking, has many interesting facets. Outstanding are the well-equipped craft shops which attempt to recreate colonial life - without the hardships and smells! Living history is a big thing here, and if one suspends one's disbelief, it can really work. We fell in behind a fife and drum band under the noon-day sun, and being exhorted to rebellion by a young colonial soldier, marched behind the flag to the Governor's palace to demand independence. A grave lady at the Capitol almost convinced us of the value of Patrick Henry's "Give me Liberty or give me Death".

At Pope's Creek on the Potomac, we found a typical small plantation of the mid-eighteenth century, representing George Washington's Birthplace. Here, a beautiful Visitor Center, again from 1977, enables one to leave the twentieth century behind. An introductory film in the large auditorium prepares the visitor for the special atmosphere and beauty of the park, and stimulates interest in the farm husbandry and life style of the period. This atmosphere is sustained throughout by good landscape detailing and low-key interpretation, to give a good picture of rural industry combined with gracious living. About 200,000 people visit here every year, and interpreters in period dress in the house, outbuildings, fields and workshop involve the visitor in discussions of technical subjects - baking, weaving, carpentry,

tobacco and crops, oxen etc. The pride taken in the place by Visitor Services Chief Dwight Storke (whose family have lived in the area since the seventeenth century) and the living history personnel, was admirable.

On our way back to Washington we paid a brief visit to Fredericksburg National Historic Site, where we viewed an interesting tapeslide programmes on the horrors endured during the Civil War. Indeed, many of the interpretive panels at this Visitor Center bore mute witness to the futility of the war, and wove together threads of its history that we had acquired at other sites.

Two extra days in Washington enabled us (Derek and Claire) to see the Library of Congress and the National Arboretum, as well as visiting the Department of the Interior, where some excellent, if old-fashioned displays, showed us the history of the American Indian. We also visited the Museum of History and Technology where the reconstruction of colonial houses was a notable feature.

In all it was a stimulating journey, and we are grateful to Martin Orrom and Marc Sagan for making it possible. It would be useful to build up more contacts with the National Park Service, as the benefits could be mutual. Perhaps the overwhelming impression of the trip was the remarkable commitment to interpretation by NPS staff at all levels. There were few innovations, for those familiar with the scene on this side of the Atlantic but so much that is good, and reassuring impression that fresh ideas and new concepts are constantly at work.

Note (We would be glad to supply further details on any of the places mentioned in the article).

Cefn Coed Coal & Steam Centre

THE INTERPRETATION OF A MINING COMMUNITY

Robert Merrill

Cefn Coed Coal and Steam Centre is situated in the Dulais Valley, five miles north of the town of Neath in West Glamorgan. It is presently run by West Glamorgan County Council, with generous assistance from both the Manpower Services Commission and the National Coal Board, having been opened on a trial basis during May 1980 after several years of preservation work had been completed. During its first year the Centre has achieved a very positive and enthusiastic response from the general public, as well as more concrete recognition in the form of a Prince of Wales Committee Award for its efforts to preserve the industrial heritage of South Wales.

The Centre is based around the surface machinery of the disused Cefn Coed pit, which, when it was sunk in 1926 was the deepest anthracite mine in the world. The current exhibition comprises a rank of six "Lancashire" boilers, a compressor and one of the two original winding engines which were used to raise and lower the cages. To these have been added a small exhibition area, which traces the history of the pit from its sinking in 1926 until its closure in 1968 as well as an "interchangeable" exhibition area, which depicts various aspects of the rich history of the anthracite coalfield of South Wales. Future developments planned for the Centre include a simulated "drift" mine, situated in a tunnel beneath the present boiler house, and a new railway gallery, depicting the history of the Neath and Brecon railway. Plans are also under way to obtain power in order to turn the now static drum on the huge winding engine.

These facilities are, however, only a small part of the interpretive function which the Centre is attempt-

ing to fulfil. Dr Hywel Francis of the University of Wales, in a recent article in the magazine "Arcade", foresees a time when Wales, crammed full of industrial museums becomes "the biggest mausoleum in the world", and its inhabitants "a nation of museum attendants". Industrial museums, he feels, do not fulfil their correct function - "to teach the world about Wales, and the Welsh people about their own fatherland". Such a charge cannot, in all fairness, be levelled at the Cefn Coed Coal and Steam Centre. The designation "Centre" (as opposed to "Museum") reflects the wider aspirations involved in its development, and strenuous attempts have been made to avoid the "comfortable, convenient caricature" to Welsh Mining life so disliked by Dr Francis. Most of the information upon which the interpretive text at the Centre (both written and aural) is based has been obtained from men who actually worked at the colliery. (One of the guides at the Centre is a former miner at Cefn Coed. The unusual location of the Centre - adjacent to the still operational Blaenant drift mine - also helps to dispel the stereotype of an "industrial museum".

In pursuit of the aim to "teach the Welsh people about their fatherland" the Centre is now being developed as a major educational resource for schools in West Glamorgan, (parties from which are allowed in free of charge), and for schools in neighbouring counties. School project packs and childrens guides have been developed in conjunction with education advisers, in an attempt to interpret the (comparatively recent) history of industrial South Wales for its own children - the gap in understanding is one of generation as much as nationality.

Most important of all, the Centre relates very strongly to the community in which it is located. Cefn Coed is perhaps unique among the South Wales industrial "museums" in being located in a still active mining community - two mines, and several opencast sites are still in operation within the Dulais Valley. The Centre is therefore far from being a "preserved fossil" of the valley's

past and it is hoped that it will come to be regarded as a focal point for the valley community. To this end attempts have been made to encourage local involvement in the project. Meetings have been held with local organisations which have then been encouraged to undertake exhibitions at the Centre; the local community has been kept in touch with developments and events at the site by means of a newsletter and people have been encouraged to visit the Centre and to provide advice, information and artefacts relating to the various exhibitions. Most significant of all, a "Friends of Cefn Coed" organisation, encompassing everyone from ex-miners to ex-managers, academics to steam enthusiasts, is in the process of being formed. This organisation will hopefully, in time,

take over much of the responsibility for running the Centre.

The major task of the Centre in the coming year, therefore, is to emphasise to the local community that its history and culture is interesting to outsiders, that it is a worthy object of preservation and interpretation, and that it is something of which they can justifiably be proud. If it can achieve these aims the Cefn Coed Centre will be able to present itself as an interpretive study by the people of the Dulais valley, rather than a "potted history" as seen by outsiders. Only then will the Centre be able to depict, for paying customers and school parties alike, a true picture of a unique and historically rich valley community.

Freeman Tilden

We should not let the death of Freeman Tilden (on 13th May 1980 at the age of 96) pass without recording our appreciation of his unique contribution to interpretation. From the other side of the Atlantic Tilden has had a considerable influence on the development of interpretation in Britain. He played an important part in establishing the high standards of interpretation in the United States Park Service which has served as a model for so long, but to most of us he is best known through his book Interpreting our Heritage, well worn copies of which may be found on all our bookshelves.

Tilden was a master of the art of communication through the written

word. Ray Nelson, a close friend, records that as a young man, Tilden began by writing for newspapers before turning his talents to short stories, novels, plays and radio serials. It was relatively late in life that he became interested in the National Parks and not until 1951 that he published The National Parks - what they mean to you and me. From his mastery of one medium he extended his philosophy to other media of communication and it is a tribute to his work that his definitions of interpretation, his principles and his sage observations appear in the preface to so many interpretive plans.

The most effective way we can show our appreciation is to build on the sound philosophy which he did so much to establish.

G. Stansfield
Department of Museum Studies
University of Leicester

Pennine Heritage Network

Bill Breakell

There's a little bit of England squeezed between urban Lancashire and West Yorkshire and bounded to north and south by two National Parks. Fragmented and shared out by 4 counties and 10 districts, and seemingly neglected by each of them, the South Pennines has somehow managed to maintain a common identity and history. A strange spirit of radicalism has long been evident in all it has tried to do. E.P. Thompson, writing of the 1780's, called it 'self consciousness sharpened by loss and a quasi-nationalist sentiment'!

Two centuries later, the same independent, industrious, radical approach to problems is bringing new life to this land of moors and mills. Already the local Tourist Information Centre attracts over 35,000 visitors a year and it seems difficult to keep travel writers and television crews away. Little wonder that a scheme is now under way to pull together the many strands which make up the Pennine story.

The organisation behind these plans is a charitable trust called Pennine Heritage, already involved in the preservation and re-use of historical buildings and publishing a bi-monthly magazine for the region. With pump-priming help from the Countryside Commission and the Carnegie U.K.Trust, Pennine Heritage is producing a range of interpretive publications and other media for simultaneous launch in Spring 1982. Included in the package will be overview publications tracing the historical development of the area - its landscape, industry and people - together with specific publications on individual subjects.

There is a wealth of material already in print, including fifty trails, most of them produced by voluntary organisations, and there are also 20 small museums either operating or being developed in the area. Emphasis is therefore being placed on the publication and promotion of 'Pennine-wide' material, comparing and contrasting the different sub-areas, with a constant reference to locally-produced publications and facilities. Joint publications

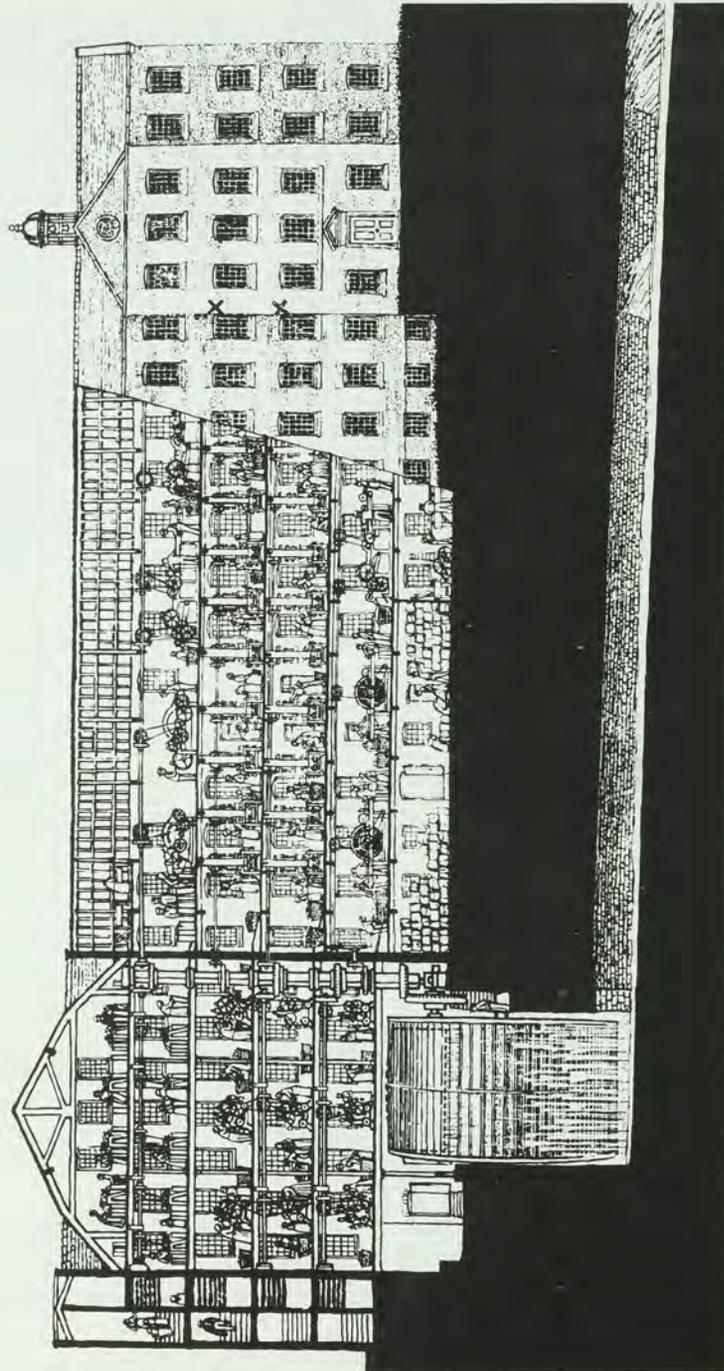
with voluntary organisations and local authorities are also envisaged and it is hoped that such partnerships will also lead to the development of a large number of external interpretive panels. It is also anticipated that the project will work very closely with the Countryside Commission/P.T.E. experiment being established in Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.

Pennine Heritage is operating in the 350 square mile gritstone Pennine region from Skipton in the north to Saddleworth and Holmfirth in the south; this is almost identical to the area which is the subject of some cross-boundary co-operation by the local authorities meeting together as the Standing Conference of South Pennine Authorities.

A data bank is in its development stage at the moment, but will become fully accessible to the public when the project is launched next year. Linked to the scheme will be the provision of study facilities and leisure-learning courses at the new 52-bed residential centre which Pennine Heritage is developing in a converted grade II listed building in Hebden Bridge.

Further information on the Pennine Heritage Network from : Bill Breakell or Maria Murtagh, Pennine Heritage Limited, The Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 8DG (telephone Hebden Bridge 4450/4804/3626).

Quarry Bank Mill, Styal



PLANS FOR STYAL AND QUARRY BANK MILL

David Sekers, Quarry Bank Mill Development Trust

The Industrial Revolution factory community at Styal is at last becoming widely recognised as the least altered and best preserved early factory colony in England. Quarry Bank Mill, the core of the site, has recently been described as the finest surviving Georgian mill in the country.

Such recognition is surely gratifying to the National Trust, who were given the Styal Estate in 1939, and who have spent thought, time and money on its conservation.

It is also a stimulus to the National Trust's tenants, the Quarry Bank Mill Trust, who have the task of bringing the Mill back to life as a working Museum, and of interpreting Styal as a whole.

It describes itself now as a 'Museum in the Making', open to visitors throughout the year, so they can see the various stages of the project's development.

When complete the Mill will be able to present, on an uncommonly large scale, an experience of the early Factory System as practised in the cotton industry. To do this it proposes to use not only the archives of the Greg's business, (by good fortune one of the most complete cotton industry archives), but also a number of rooms of working looms, and spinning and carding machinery.

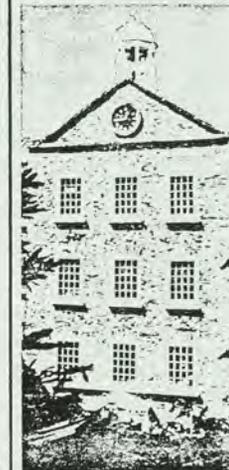
The Mill was notable in its heyday for its 100 h.p. iron water wheel. The Trust now has plans to bring back a similar iron wheel, to replace the original which was scrapped 80 years ago. An appeal has recently been launched, to raise £115,000 to acquire a wheel, built by William Fairbairn in 1850, restore and instal it, and repair the Mill pool and headrace. The appeal, and the wheel project itself are making excellent progress, but waterpower driven machinery is not expected to return to the Mill until 1983.

Visitors to Styal in 1981 can therefore expect to see power loom and hand spinning demonstrations, displays about the Greg family and their contribution to the development of the Factory System, and an audio visual presentation introducing the Museum project. Three rooms in the Apprentice House house displays on Styal's Social History. The Styal project is therefore, already well on the way to becoming a major attraction, worthy of a major historic site.

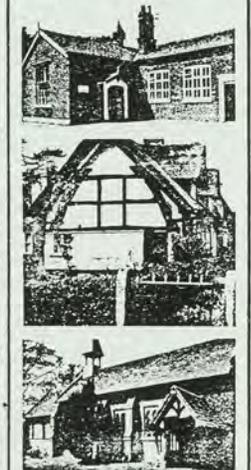
STYAL

Country Park & Quarry Bank Mill

The Mill is being brought back to life as a museum illustrating the pioneering days of the Cotton Industry.



The old Village is as alive as in the Mill's heyday - its School and Chapels still focal points of village life.



The surrounding countryside - a Country Park - offers outstanding woodland scenery in the valley of the Bollin.



Styal - a community surviving intact which illuminates the Industrial Revolution.



Acclimatisation

Gillian Binks, Centre for Environmental Interpretation, Manchester Polytechnic.

It was with some trepidation that I, and I suspect, several others, arrived at Losehill Hall with sceptical comments of colleagues (fortified by Private Eye) in mind, for the workshop on Environmental Awareness tutored by Steve van Matre of the Acclimatisation Experiences Institute U.S.A. But vague fears of sharing a weekend with "ageing hippies" and taking part in "West Coast feelies" were rapidly dispelled on meeting other participants (teachers, rangers and others professionally involved in countryside interpretation in some way), and on hearing Steve van Matre's introduction to developing environmental awareness - what he calls 'acclimatisation'.

Steve van Matre has developed the philosophy and techniques of acclimatisation based on his passionately held beliefs about the relationship between man and the natural environment, on his experiences as a teacher, and on his early work as a summer camp organiser devising programmes for 'nature study' which would compete with the more appealing activities of sailing, back packing etc. Acclimatisation is a fundamental approach to environmental education arising from belief in the need for people to be in touch with the natural environment; for people to develop a sense of relationship with the natural world; to appreciate their dependence on it and the need to care for it; for them to be aware of "man's place in the thin film of life around planet Earth".

The educational activities which have been devised to develop this awareness and understanding are based on well accepted theories of child-centred learning and concept building, and on the fact that "people learn when the adrenalin flows" - what 'acclimatisation' does is to apply them in imaginative ways to learning about and encouraging a

love and care for the natural environment. The activities involve learning through experience, through being involved. They are activities which are fun and often use fantasy, designed to excite, to increase personal awareness of the environment in an immediate and very tangible way and many aim to encourage an emotional response to the environment. At the same time programmes of activities are carefully structured so that an understanding of basic ecological concepts is built up. "Sunship Earth" for example uses all these techniques in its programme of environmental education for 10-12 year olds.

After this introduction Steve van Matre then demonstrated some of the techniques which are used to increase personal awareness of the natural world. Many of them are techniques which probably many of us use almost unconsciously when out in the countryside - heightening our awareness of patterns, sounds, smells, textures, and the minutiae and enormity of the cycles of natural life which go on around us and of which we are a part. Again, what Steve van Matre has done through his acclimatisation techniques is to emphasise and structure some of those activities so that they can be taught and shared. He talks of "helping individuals build a life long relationship with the natural world". Some of the language of these activities doesn't translate too well, but most of the activities do.

Steve van Matre expressed his ideas with almost evangelical fervour; he was fresh, entertaining and inspiring. For those of us in this country who are involved in environmental education and interpretation as a means of sharing enthusiasm for the natural world, and of provoking concern for its care and well-being the 'acclimatisation' approach is worth considering, translating and carefully applying.

For more information see the following publications by Steve van Matre: "Acclimatisation", "Acclimatizing" and "Sunship Earth" and also "Earth Magic" and "Snow Walks" which are a set of acclimatisation walks (10 in each) or contact the Acclimatisation Experience Institute, PO Box 288, Warrenville Illinois 60555.

Clifton House Farm

A brief progress report

Pat Newman

A few issues previously a plea for sensitive development of a site of outstanding interest in the Irwell Valley appeared under the heading of 'Clifton Marina'.

Readers might wish to explore this area, if they have time, over the spring meeting, and a few notes might help update the earlier article.

Background

1. A plea. Please do not call it 'Clifton Marina' a singularly inappropriate title for a steep sided gravel hole the excavator omitted to landscape. There might have been 'ground designs' for a boating pond 'Marina', in the realms of 'once upon a time', but it is Clifton House Farm Recreation Area now.

2. The Local Councils have spent many years trying to amend the image of the site, a remotely rural piece of riverside meadow and woodland, with the remains of Wet Earth Colliery and Fletchers Canal - the site where Brindley harnessed the power of the Irwell to successfully drain an early deep mine.

3. The value of the site, for its beauty, openspace, natural history, industrial archaeology and social past are appreciated in this urban area, (that is why student research projects have been encouraged). Little difficulties such as lack of staff, and an approach road with two hairpin bends before a blind tunnel have still to be overcome.

Progress

Clifton House Farm lies within the Croal Irwell Study area, for which an interpretive framework was produced by Warden Rose Lewis (since departed to the heights of the Rockies). The Framework set Clifton as an 'Interest Area', linked by riverside footpaths to 'Activity Areas' north

and south along the Irwell, and agreed to concentrate interpretation here primarily on Wet Earth Colliery, Brindley and Fletchers Canal which linked the colliery with the Manchester-Bolton-Bury Canal.

To safeguard the site local residents, members of voluntary societies, and participants in riding and angling are involved in assisting with wardening this site they care so much about. Temporary wardens are now employed, have an information caravan as a base, and Eric Thornley, a retired headmaster, is an honorary voluntary warden and the best of on site interpreters.

Prior to her western wanderings our ex-warden set in chain the production of a trail guide for the sites industrial archaeology, with the keeper of Salfords museum of Mining, Geoff Preece. August Bank Holiday saw this detailed trail leaflet published, and its launch with a guided walk and press coverage. Local memories of the colliery, which was still working in the 1920's have meant steady sales of the publication and considerable local interest.

To attempt to make safe the route of the interest trail, full time warden Andy Poore organised a summer work-camp of UN volunteers. Under the guidance of the museums keeper and wardens, this international gang worked hard to clean sections of the leat, footbridges, repair sluices and selectively clear undergrowth to allow visitors to actually see the points of interest. Gradually local groups have made 'ponds' of some sections of the described canal to diversify the habitat, and the repaired towpaths open some impressive views of the Irwell some thirty feet below. Eventually a minimum of site marker posts will also be installed, on an experimental basis.

To compliment interpretation of the industrial archaeology management measures to limit abuse of the site are gradually progressing with some capital development works. Cooperation between authorities (Salford, GMC, NWWA, NORWEB) means continued selective improvement of footpaths, excavation of further shallow ponds (the 'Marina' being

about 10m deep in places), woodland restoration, undergrounding of power cables, softening of the lake edge and, with the help of Fred Dibnah and a television crew, reshaping of an island.

For some years problems have been encountered with unauthorised horse riding on the site. Woodland regeneration on steep slopes was limited, other visitors were at times endangered. Since your previous article, local council members and riders have agreed a permit system to be operated by the wardens, with concessionary routes, some of which should be in operation this spring. An educational trail, using the woodland, is also available for schools. At the farmhouse, the death of the farmer has meant a renegotiation of the horse grazing licence on agricultural areas, and land management and fencing improvements are underway.

To the south of the recreation area, (very visible from the M62) is Pilkington Tile Company's active waste tip. Unobtrusively and glaringly white though this is, it does illustrate part of the districts industrial development, and an alkaline flora is developing. In cooperation with the firm and the District Council, GMC are working to get the tip regraded, screen active areas, undertake some planting, and leave a range of flora for later interpretation.

It will be many years before Clifton approaches its full potential as a recreational 'interest' area. Much could be done with the tales of the sites famous families and social conditions associated with the mine, a small 'on site' museum, excavation and explanation of a drydock, site interpretation boards, or regular guided walks by experienced local volunteers. Somehow this will be a year or two ahead while wildfowl introduced to the area are still being shot, saplings vandalized and cross country bike scrambling prevalent. It is an 'urban fringe' area, but progress is being made. Overall, what is most impressive at Clifton is the cooperation between local residents, interest groups, warden service and authorities to care for this outstanding area.

Site Location

West bank of river Irwell, stretches for about 1 mile north of M62 crossing of the Irwell. Approached from A666, turn east down Clifton House Road, but preferably come by bus (No. 8 from Manchester) or train from Manchester Victoria (15 minutes walk from Clifton Station, following the railway north).

Publications

Exploring Wet Earth Colliery

25p. Keeper of Mining, Buile Hill Museum of Mining, Ecoles Road, Salford

1. Wet Earth Leaflet 25p
'Like topsy' it grew, until the exit of a warden specialising in interpretation

First of detailed 'interest' leaflets produced for the Valley.

Copies from 1) Mining Museum
2) Warden Service

2. Prestwich Leaflet 25p.
A reunite of original work by interested local naturalists. Again started by Warden who went overseas, supervision continued by Warden Andy Poore, who specialises in maintenance normally.

Copies - Warden Service

3. Byways 1. 10p
Produced by Rose Lewis, to spread visitors out from intensive area at Moses Gate. Encouragement and organising on local history aspects from here, graphics from Bolton Design Unit - as for all other publications. A No. 2 should be underway soon.

Copies - Warden Services

4. Water Rat 10p
Idea from Interpretive Framework and Rose Lewis. Layout Bolton Graphics/Rose Lewis. No. 1 & 2 by Rose as Editor, No. 3 by temporary warden replacement. No. 4 now underway.

Copies - Warden Service

Thoughts of changing format to a Chief Warden feel time consuming and costly - but high numbers given as complimentaries and standard and interest level getting high level of response from public.

News and Notes

NEWS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION

Study of Event Programmes in the Countryside

During the Summer of 1980 the Countryside Commission carried out an investigation study of event programmes in the Countryside with a view to making available advice on their organisation. The study has been restricted to events of an interpretive nature and it is hoped that an advisory booklet can be produced during 1981.

A variety of objectives for events were quoted by organisers, among them increasing income, attraction of interest in the site and provision of dynamic forms of interpretation. The administrative effort in organising a programme often turns out to be sizeable.

Theatre in Interpretation

The more exciting exhibitions, slide-tape programmes and personal interpretation performances often employ a theatrical approach that invites the visitor to engage in some mild role-play or make believe. The Countryside Commission carried out an investigative study in the Summer of 1980 into the use of theatrical events and techniques in interpretation. It covered the full range from a formal sonet-lumiere to the almost entirely unpredictable theatre events put on by some community theatre companies. It found that technique when used in the right way are extremely potent in interpretation, adaptable to a variety of situations and capable of communicating any idea. Many of the companies or amateur groups involved are keen to work in environmental interpretation and it is hoped some time in the future to try out various types of event.

A report of the study is being prepared.

Study of Effective Scripts, Graphics and Exhibits

Geoff Stansfield is soon to complete

a desk study collating the findings of researchers and practitioners on the way communication effectiveness of the written word, graphics and exhibits is affected by the way they are deployed. It is the intention of the Countryside Commission, sponsors of the study to publish a report and advisory booklet to cover points so often overlooked in exhibitions and publications.

The study has included a review of the monitoring and evaluation techniques used by researchers. It is planned to publish an advisory booklet on the simpler tests that managers of facilities can administer themselves.

In view of the delay in publishing both the study on "Design Aspects of Visitor Centres" by Robin Wade Design Associates and John Allwood's study on "Signs in the Countryside", these two studies will be issued at the same time as that by Geoff Stansfield. They will constitute an extremely valuable set.

In-service Training for Countryside Staff

The programme of in-service courses sponsored by the Countryside Commission has had another successful season this Winter. Of special interest to members are the course on Contact with the Public which ran successfully at the Hill College, Abergavenny and those on Countryside Interpretation and Development and Organisation of Volunteer Programmes at Losehill Hall, both of which were well booked. The course on Guided Walks however failed to attract sufficient demand. New for the 1981-82 programme are courses on Audio-visual Techniques in Interpretation at the Centre for Environmental Interpretation, Marketing in Countryside Recreation in the Lake District, Environmental Education Services in the Countryside at Losehill Hall, providing for the Disabled in Countryside recreation in the Home Counties and a course on Coastal Management and Recreation in Dorset. Apart from that on Guided Walks, other current courses will be repeated in 1981-82.

New Publications from the Countryside Commission

During the Autumn, two new booklets

of interest to members in the advisory series were published. They concern self-guided Trails and Audio-visual Techniques in Interpretation and are available free of charge from the Commission's Cheltenham headquarters. Also published is the report of the experiment on running Guided Walks in the Dartmoor National Park. It appraises the various benefits of guided walks, the recreational and social as well as the interpretive and records the lessons learned concerning the organisation of guided walks.

BORDER MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE

A.J. Robertson

The South of Scotland has a long and interesting history but comparatively little of the agricultural and rural history has been recorded and few of the artefacts of the past are on view to the public. There are indeed museums from Berwick to Wigtown which display agricultural and rural material but, up to the present, there has been no one institution specifically devoted to the subject which can specialise in this important field.

The Border Museum of Agriculture and Rural Life is a company limited by guarantee which has been formed to create and run what will be a most important educational, interpretive and tourist centre for the whole of the Borderland. It has been recognised by the Inland Revenue as a charity. The Board of Directors under the Chairmanship of Lord Polwarth is widely representative of the area. It is intended that the main location of the Museum will be at Broadloan, a farm steading with about 10 acres of land just north of Kelso, generously made available by the Duke of Roxburghe.

From the point of view of those who live in the area it is essential that their rural past is properly recorded and displayed so that present and future generations can learn how their forefathers lived. But the area is also very important as a tourist centre and tourism in the coming years will make an increasing contribution to the economy. A museum, such as

that planned at Kelso, will have a very great deal to offer as an interpretive and educational centre. It will help in many ways to promote a better understanding of the rural scene at a time when this is very critical.

The museum will, of course, have static displays of every aspect of farming and rural life but it is also intended that there should be demonstration areas featuring crops and stock, and workshops so that the public will have the chance to see at first hand the actual development of techniques. Additionally there is planned a collection of farm, estate and rural records so that it will provide a centre for the serious study of rural life.

The museum has from the start enjoyed the interest and support of the farming community and national bodies such as the Countryside Commission for Scotland and the Scottish Tourist Board. It has also already forged links with such diverse technical and professional bodies as The National Museum of Antiquities in Scotland and The Centre for Environmental Interpretation at Manchester.

The Museum hopes to open its doors to the public in 1982 and is now launching an appeal for funds and also for material for its collections. This is an important and exciting new project and one of which everyone in the area will have cause to be proud.

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN

Newtondale, the 400 feet deep cleft in the North York Moors, is finally getting its railway station.

Trains have been using the 14 mile long dale for the last 145 years, since George Stephenson decided it was the best way to get from the rich farmland around the North Yorkshire town to Pickering to the harbour of Whitby. Several times the railway has almost been persuaded to build a station there: the last unsuccessful attempt was ninety years ago!

Finally the combined efforts of the Forestry Commission, the Countryside Commission, the North York Moors National Park Authority and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway have

pulled the dale, kicking and screaming into-well-the nineteenth century at least'. From the commencement of the 1981 timetable, the privately operated Moorsrail has enabled visitors to reach what has been called the first railway station planned specifically to support a programme of interpretation and education. The Forestry Commission and National Park have constructed and waymarked paths in the adjacent forest and moorland and a descriptive leaflet has been produced.

Newtondale Halt forms a part of the interpretive scheme devised for Moorsrail and the National Park by a 2 year Countryside Commission experimental project. Also implemented during the project were Listening Posts at all the stations, a series of display panels and orientation signs, a guided walks programme, publications and an exhibition and audio-visual presentation at Pickering Station. Linking the various elements of the project was the simple catch phrase 'STOP, LOOK, LISTEN' - emphasising respectively, the exhibitions and walks; the display panels and descriptive booklet; and the Listening Posts.

A Countryside Commission report on the project will be published shortly.

PEAK PARK STUDY CENTRE

Study Reports

Losehill Hall has recently published reports of studies made by members of staff.

European 'National' Parks - a Study Tour report by Peter Townsend

Includes case studies of several protected landscapes (U.K. National Park equivalents) in Belgium, Luxembourg, West Germany and France.

Price: £2.00 inc. p + p

Tourist Information and Countryside Management - by Rosie Simpson

Comparison of tourist information methods and an assessment of the implications for countryside management in the Lake District, Peak District and Northumberland National Parks.

Price: 71p inc. p + p

Guided Walks - a Study Tour report by Stewart Anthony

A survey of the organisation and leading of guided walks in Dartmoor, Pembrokeshire Coast and Shropshire; a concise account of leadership techniques is included.

Price: 71p inc. p + p

Also published are various conference and seminar reports. Ask for list.

Available from: Peter Townsend, Principal, Peak National Park Study Centre, Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire. Please make cheques payable to the Peak Park Joint Planning Board.

NOTES FROM ROBIN WADE

We are involved in the project to interpret Tower Bridge to the Public. It is due to be open in 1982, and we are involved in methods to get the public round the bridge itself, over the walkways and into the big engine room on the South Bank. The scheme involves various exhibitions, view points and interpretation of the history of the bridge.

We are attempting to interpret the Bucklers Hard Village (in the Beaulieu estate) by means of set-pieces and displays round subjects such as the Inn, the Master-Builder's office, a Shipwright's house and a worker's cottage. This is due to be open this year.

We are doing a small interpretive centre for the National Trust at Housesteads on the Roman wall.

We are designing an out-door museum on the wool industry in Australia.

LEISURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM ABSTRACTS

For the past five years Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux has produced the information journal Rural Recreation and Tourism Abstracts. In order to reflect the growing emphasis on the whole area of leisure the subject coverage is to be widened and the title amended to Leisure, Recreation and Tourism Abstracts from 1981. Abstracts of literature are provided on such topics as Planning, Conservation, Parks, Travel, Accommodation, Recreation facilities and activities,

interpretation newsletter

and User behaviour, as well as leisure theory and policy.

In order to ensure good coverage of the literature relating to all aspects of these subjects we would be pleased to receive copies of relevant publications for inclusion in the journal. We have the facilities to translate from a number of languages.

LRTA has a world-wide circulation and is available for on-line searching through Lockheed DIALOG Retrieval Service, SDC ORBIT and ESA/RECON systems.

Sample copies are available from: Central Sales, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Farnham House, Farnham Royal, Slough, SL2 3BN U.K.

COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

One day meeting Wednesday 6th May, 1981 "Creating a Country Park at Buxton". A unique opportunity to discover the background and discuss the policies which have resulted in the Poole's Cavern Country Park at Buxton on the edge of the Peak National Park.

9.30a.m. Introduction to Poole's Cavern and Ivor Morten - the Buxton Country Park Story. Frank Walmsley-

The Countryside Commission - Role and Contribution. David Alsop - Visit to Cave - Management for Visitors and Conservation.

Lunch

p.m. Land Restoration on the site. Keith Garton Guided walk round park Cost £3.50 including lunch and refreshments.

Cheques payable to CRMA. Details from Joyce Gunn at Dept. of Biology, University of Salford, Salford M5.

5-7th June 1981. Seminar - "Vandalism a design and management approach" at Warrington.

Speakers include:-
Inspector Will Hughes - Community Relations GMP

Dr Alice Coleman - University of London, King's College (Vandalism and Agriculture)

Bob Broxap - commercial designer of vandal resistant materials.

Paul Burrell of The Design Council

There will be two site visits to Crompton Country Park - Liverpool and Risley Moss, Warrington.

Cost:- £40 Details from J. Gunn at above address.

Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage

SPRING CONFERENCE AND AGM 1981

to be held on April 24-26th at the Centre for Environmental Interpretation, Manchester Polytechnic

The theme of the weekend is 'Interpretation and the Community' and the programme offers the opportunity to hear about the Tame Valley Project, interpretation in Warrington New Town, the North West Museum of Inland Navigation at Ellesmere Port, Quarry Bank Mill Museum and Styal, aspects of interpretation in Manchester, and the newly established Centre for Environmental Interpretation.

The A.G.M. will discuss new directions for the Society.

Cost: Residential £42.50. Non Residential: Friday and Sunday £8 each, Saturday £20.

Conference details, A.G.M. papers from Centre for Environmental Interpretation, Institute of Advanced Studies, Manchester Polytechnic, All Saints, Manchester M15 6BH (061 228 6171 Ext 2216, 2195)