

VILLAGE PLANS for QUEXPO '71

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Birchington's Quexpo '70 Fair has poured more than £2,000 into the village centre fund. The Village Centre Association, which has been busily making out the balance sheet for its tremendously successful Bank Holiday venture, was able to announce this week that it made a profit of £2,200 after all expenses had been paid.

The Chairman (Mr Wally Wanstall) is getting out his ladder to paint out more "bricks" on the associations notice board in the Square to show that the total in the Village Centre "kitty" is now £6,000, approximately a quarter of the way to paying for the building.

At a meeting of the committee this week the decision was taken to have another Quexpo in 1971. Mr. Christopher Powell-Cotton told members they could have the two meadows again next year for a repeat fair.

RE-ELECTED

The hard-working action committee which carried out the successful arrangements for Quexpo '70 and sweated in anticipation until the last three weeks of preparation, when it became obvious that Quexpo was going to succeed, was re-appointed to do the job again.

They are, Mr. Wanstall, Mr. Peter Bloor, as secretary, Mr. "Sonny" Miles, who travelled miles contacting exhibitors and Mr. "Timber" Wood who astutely and with a lot of experience put Quexpo on the map even before it began, with publicity and ideas.

They began making arrangements for next year's event on Monday.

STEAM ENGINES

"We hope once again to stage the steam traction engine display, which was such a point of interest and there will be a number of new attractions." said Mr. Wood. "Given luck with the weather again and with the same magnificent support we got from everybody this year I believe there is no reason why Quexpo '71 should not be a bigger success than its predecessor.

"As I don't mind sticking my neck out and saying that if we raise money as fast as we have done in the past few months, there is no reason why by Christmas 1971, building could not start on the long awaited Centre."

The Village Centre Fund Committee has swung into action already and application has been made for a government grant of £10,000. All things being equal, it has been told, this would take about a year to go through.

EXPERIENCE

"We have learned a lot by our mistakes", said Mr. Wood. "Our expenses were heavy, but then with such a vast project, expenses were bound to be heavy. This time we shall go in to the job with a lot more knowledge and some of the groundwork will be prepared from our experience. But it will still be a terrific job and we shall be grateful for the encouragement and help of residents and friends from outside. Without such help last year we could not have made Quexpo such a success.

"One thing that gives us a shot in the arm is the vital and unflagging support we had from all the village organizations. There can be no doubt that they are behind us, to every man and every woman. And when you get that sort of dynamo humming you know it means business." They will have a chance of seeing Quexpo in retrospect in the film which Mr. Reg. Linington took of the fair, and which will be shown at a cheese and wine party at the Bungalow Hotel on 31 October.